



Love and Faithfulness Meet (1850)

September 28, 2025 II:00am

WELCOME TO FRIENDS CHURCH!

We are honored that you have chosen to spend your Sunday morning with us. Friends Congregational Church is an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all people into the full life and ministry of our church—people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS? If you are a guest with us today, please let us know. Welcome cards are located in the chair backs to fill out and leave in the offering plate during today's offertory. If you are joining us online for today's service, you will find an Online Visitor Card at https://www.friends-ucc.org/your-first-visit. We are so glad you are here, so please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

CHILDCARE: We invite children to participate fully in our community and worship life. Children of all ages are welcome in worship or you may choose childcare, offered for ages 1-5 in the nursery down the hall through the piano side double doors. We currently have Covid Protocols in place, which you can find posted outside the nursery door.

WiFi: To access church WiFi, please use this login information:

WiFi – The Promised LAN Password: stillspeaking

RESTROOMS are located through the double doors on the piano side of the sanctuary. Gender assigned restrooms are straight down at the end of the hall, and a gender neutral restroom is to the immediate right.

LEADING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Lay Leaders: Rick Smitherman & Jackie Womack Greeters: Adrian Capetillo & Lanette and Rick Schulte

Next Sunday, October 5:

Lay Leaders: ?? & Kennedy Mayer Communion Steward: ?? & ??

Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Carol Wilson

We give God thanks for our volunteers sharing their gifts. To volunteer for a Sunday as a lay leader, communion steward, or greeter, email **worship@friends-ucc.org**.

COMMUNION ON REQUEST: While the sacrament of communion is observed in worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at Friends, communion is available any Sunday on request. If you would like to receive communion on a 2nd, 4th, or 5th Sunday, please find one of our pastors to serve you at the conclusion of the worship service.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 146, NRSV

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"All of the goods of this world are finite and limited and radically incapable of satisfying the desire that perpetually burns within us for an infinite and perfect good." —Simone Weil

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jackie Womack

One: In the presence of God, let us consider

All: What makes a life abundant?

What stands in the way of satisfaction?

What truly pleases the heart?

One: We question the stories we are sold by empire

All: We consider the values we hold dear

Seeking the guidance of God's love for all life

We open to the possibility of change

One: Trusting God and each other,

All: let us grow in faith

An asterisk* indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body or spirit.

*Opening Hymn - No. 3 Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

Lacquiparle

*Invocation

Jackie Womack

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front. All are invited to sing a verse of NCH #524 "This Little Light of Mine" to begin the children's message.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.'

Invitation to Confession

Trent Williams

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Trent Williams

Compassionate God, we confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor. We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kin-dom enables all to flourish. Meet us as we turn back to your way of justice, mercy, and love for all. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Trent Williams

*Passing of the Peace

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

***Hymn Of Response:** Take Time to Be Holy



Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, the notables of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel resorts! Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

CHORAL ANTHEM - A Native American Prayer - Nolan E. Schmit

Let me walk, let me walk in beauty. Make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands, make my hands respect the things that you have made. Make my ears, make my ears sharp to hear your voice.

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me! I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

Make me wise, make me wise so I may understand the things you've taught, the things you've taught my people.

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me! I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

I seek strength not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy, myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear me! I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. I need your strength and wisdom.

EPISTLE READING

I Timothy 6:6-19, CEB

Dan De Leon

Actually, godliness is a great source of profit when it is combined with being happy with what you already have. We didn't bring anything into the world and so we can't take anything out of it: we'll be happy with food and clothing. But people who are trying to get rich fall into temptation. They are trapped by many stupid and harmful passions that plunge people into ruin and destruction. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some have wandered away from the faith and have impaled themselves with a lot of pain because they made money their goal.

But as for you, man of God, run away from all these things. Instead, pursue righteousness, holy living, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. Compete in the good fight of

faith. Grab hold of eternal life—you were called to it, and you made a good confession of it in the presence of many witnesses. I command you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and Christ Jesus, who made the good confession when testifying before Pontius Pilate. Obey this order without fault or failure until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. The timing of this appearance is revealed by God alone, who is the blessed and only master, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He alone has immortality and lives in light that no one can come near. No human being has ever seen or is able to see him. Honor and eternal power belong to him. Amen.

Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others. When they do these things, they will save a treasure for themselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way they can take hold of what is truly life.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE "What do we love?" Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jackie Womack

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at bit.ly/givetofriendsucc Venmo to 979-307-8860 or @friendsucc

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts, Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifits, Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Trent Williams

Gracious Redeemer, generation after generation is deceived into believing that riches will fill the unsatisfied places within. Help us break these cycles, O God! In service to the deliverance of us all, we offer you our gifts. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trent Williams

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Megan Rios, Trent Williams

*CLOSING HYMN - No. 407 How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

*Benediction Dan De Leon

*SUNG RESPONSE - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 2 only)

Bring Forth

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLl #20046014 Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - William B. Bradbury, arranged by John Carter

Offertory: For the Beauty of the Earth - Conrad Kocher, arranged by Joel Raney

Postlude: All Creatures of Our God and King - Music from *Geistliche Kirchengesang*, arranged

by Phillip Keveren

Scriptures for World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

GET CONNECTED! On Fridays we email out a newsletter called "This Week at Friends" that shares important information and all of the activities and events going on at Friends. Subscribe by contacting **office@friends-ucc.org**.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK, SEPT 28: Family Promise of Bryan-College Station a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission "to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence." Friends Church will be hosting three families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting today. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping include preparing a meal or providing food from a grocery list. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship starting September 21. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell mhowell61@gmail.com or Sally Manthei manthei_sally@aol.com.

JOYFUL NOISE REHEARSAL, SEPT 28: A Joyful Noise – Friends Children's Choir (ages 5–12) will sing during the 11:00 a.m. service on Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 19th. Practice will be Sunday mornings @ 10 am -- Sept. 28, Oct. 5, and Oct. 12. Please plan to arrive on time so we can make the most of our rehearsal and avoid conflicts with other church act.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, OCT 3: First Friday with Friends is held in conjunction with Downtown Bryan's First Friday activities. We have a meet up at Blackwater Draw and always have a few people there for the 5:30-7:30 timeframe. Some folks stay at Blackwater all evening and others stop by on their way to or from dining and playing in downtown Bryan.

BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY, OCT 4: First Saturday of each month (Oct. 4). Volunteer here: **https://bit.ly/BrazosPantry**. Contact Becky Burks at **BeckyBurks4@gmail.com** for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS YOUTH GROUP GARDEN PROJECT: Following their environmental justice trip to Denver, the Friends Youth Group decided they wanted to bring what they learned back home and create a community garden. We're starting with a small bed so they can learn basic gardening practices, and sustainability measures such as rainwater collection, composting, and use of recycled materials. Here is where we need your help. Do you have knowledge of compost maintenance, water collection, or gardening? Are there materials you have at your home such as gloves, spades, and sheers that you'd like to donate? Be part of this great opportunity to help out the Youth Group by signing up at https://bit.ly/FriendsYouthGarden, or reaching out directly to Pastor Brooke (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

FRIENDS WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join our Friends Church worship team! We are in need of additional folks to help on Sunday mornings to serve as greeters, lay leaders and communion stewards to make our worship services flow smoothly. Sign up with these links.

9am Service bit.ly/1000worship

IIAM Service bit.ly/1100worship

TEACHING SUPPORT NEEDED FOR GRADES 3-5 CLASS: The 2025-26 Sunday School year is off to a great start with classes for Grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-12, co-led by two teachers for each class.

However, our stellar teachers for the Grades 3-5 Class, need some help to assure we have consistent support for them and the children in their care. Our Grades 3-5 Class teachers having several Sundays coming up where one of them will need to be absent, so having an additional co-teacher is a must, and a few substitutes as needed will be very helpful. Feeling called to co-teach Sunday School? Please contact Christian Education Committee Chair Loretta Mendez: christian_ed@ friends-ucc.org.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE: SIGN CHANGERS: Our church sign is prime real estate for spreading love, hope, and maybe even a holy chuckle. If you've got a creative spark (or a pun or two), help us reimagine our message to the world. Let's make passersby know that we are united by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. Interested? Sign up to help change the sign—literally! Connect with Megan Alvear at evangelism@friends-ucc.org.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING: On World Communion Sunday, October 5, we will receive the Neighbors in Need offering, one of the quarterly special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. Gifts to Neighbors in Need support UCC justice ministries, with one third of the offering designated for the work of the Council for American Indian Ministries. You can give by check, indicating Neighbors in Need in the memo line, or online by selecting SCC Neighbors in Need in the Fund drop down menu. Thank you for your generous support of these vital ministries!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO TV: We catch glimpses of the Gospel message in a play or a Broadway show. Movies tend to have lessons about religion and spirituality. What about a TV series? The shows we consume can teach us something about the faith we practice. Starting October 12th, our pastors explore this with a six-seek sermon series. Each Sunday, "The Gospel According to TV" will look at a different show and hold its prominent themes up to scripture to craft the sermon. We'll look at anything from what King of the Hill has to say about loving your neighbor, to what The Good Place tells us about grace and growth, to what The Incredible Hulk teaches us about anger. So, tune in and don't miss an episode in this special sermon series at Friends Church!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: Help us spread the good word! Share this week's sermon with those you love with our "Friends Congregational Church Sermons" podcast, available wherever you can find podcasts! Easily access and publicize our mission to follow the model of Jesus: to live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. With over 100 episodes published (since Advent of last year) we've expanded (since Eastertide this year) our efforts to include the wider library of sermons offered before this podcast kicked off. We would love to have your support by either showing this podcast to friends and loved ones, and/or contributing your voice to introduce an episode. Volunteers can reach out to av@friends-ucc.org (Jeremy) if interested, or you might get approached after service. Recording takes less than 10 minutes and is almost entirely scripted.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Charity Stokes: worship@friends-ucc.org.

Be an Acolyte: All children aged 8 and up are welcome to join us in assisting in church services, bringing light and spirit to our worship. Children younger than 8 can participate with an adult partner. Sign up via the sheet in the narthex, https://bit.ly/FriendsAcolytes

Youth Group Looking for Extra Help: We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Youth Group events for the new school year. Contact Pastor Brooke at pastorbrooke@friend-ucc.org. Sunday School Teachers Needed: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

Coffee Crew/Kitchen Angel: "All I need is coffee; all we need are volunteers to make it!" Sign up via sheet on kitchen counter, at bit.ly/friendschurchcoffee or email Marisa at Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org.

Be a Curbside Steward: Recycling occurs once every two weeks early on Fridays and trash pick-up is weekly, early on Mondays. Bins need to be placed at the curb the afternoon or evening before the scheduled pick up day and returned to the side of the church after pick-up. Contact Property@Friends-ucc.org

Serve the Community: Help out at the Brazos Church Food Pantry, the Friday food distribution at Peace Lutheran, or Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN) as an English or citizenship class tutor. And more! Visit the Friends Church website (Friends-ucc.org) Get Involved Volunteer or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

HELPS THE FRIENDS CHOIR GET TO ITALY, OCT 5: Our amazing Friends Choir has been invited to perform in a series of concerts throughout Italy in June 2026. To help offset travel costs, the Choir is putting on a Fundraiser Concert on Sunday, October 5, at 7:30 pm. They will be singing famous choruses from the operatic and musical theatre worlds - something for everybody. Refreshments will be provided, and a silent auction will also be available. We hope you can come out and support these wonderful singers, as they prepare for a very memorable and meaningful trip. If you have any questions please reach out to Chris Hoffman, Director of Music Ministries.

JUSTICE & MISSION FAIR AND SOCIAL HOUR, OCT 5: Immediately after the II am worship service at Friends, you will be able to visit exhibits from many of the Justice & Mission ministries that will be set up around the sanctuary. This is a chance to talk and ask questions directly with folks who lead these efforts e.g. Brazos Church Pantry, Family Promise, Creation Justice Church Initiative and many more! There will be fun snacks available to share as you peruse the exhibits. Do not miss out.

"TEXAS BELONGS TO ALL OF US": TRANS TEXAS FALL TOUR, OCT 5: Feeling anxious for LGBTQIA+ neighbors and want to know what to do? Join the Trans Texas Tour at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley, 2-5:30pm, October 5th. Discussion about knowing our rights will be followed by an opportunity to vent and peer support. For more information contact info@pridecc.org.

Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

Friends Church Staff

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (he, him)
pastor@friends-ucc.org

Executive Pastor
The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman (he, him) choir@friends-ucc.org

Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*) pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant Michael Rangel (he, him) office@friends-ucc.org