



Alpha and Omega 20th Century

May 18, 2025 11:00am

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: Dinah Anderson & Sydney Zentell Communion Stewards: Kathy Yeager & Larry Dooley Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Dwight Roblyer and Adrian Capetillo

Next Sunday, May 25: Lay Leaders: Kathy Miller & Tom Vogel Greeters: ?? & Alex Cannon and Doris Machinski

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.

Eastertide - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter is not just one day—it's a whole season. Throughout these 50 days, we celebrate and ponder the mystery of the resurrection and the promise of new life.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 43:18-19a, NRSV

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"Saying yes to 'What is' ironically sets us up for 'What if?"" —Richard Rohr, "This is an Apocalypse," in *The Call to Unite: Voices of Hope and Awakening*

Chiming of the Trinity

WORDS OF WELCOME

Prelude & Lighting of the Altar Candles

*Call to Worship

- One: Come all who are weary
- All: of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.
- One: Come all who are heavy-laden
- All: with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.
- One: Come all who have hope
- All: for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kin-dom.
- One: Hear these words:
- All: "See, I am making all things new."

Kyle Riley

Sydney Zentell

*OPENING HYMN - Here, O Our Lord, We See You

Morecambe



*INVOCATION

Sydney Zentell

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

Recognition of Class of 2025 Graduates

El Abbott Treston Bacak Santiago Gomez Gavin Gutierrez Ariana Hinojosa Sofia Mackin-Plankey

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you all. Many: And also with you!

*Hymn of Response - No. 451 Be Now My Vision

FIRST SCRIPTURE READINGJohn 13:31-35, CEBSydney Zentell

When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself and will glorify him immediately. Little children, I'm with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—'Where I'm going, you can't come.'

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

Brooke Dooley

Brooke Dooley

Slane

CHORAL ANTHEM: I Will Be a Child of Peace - Traditional Shaker Hymn, arranged by Elaine Hagenberg

O Holy Father, I will be a child of peace and purity; for well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 21:1-6, NRSV Dan De Leon

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

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

The Message	"Look Harder"	Dan De Leon
Moment For Reflection		Alex Brunstedt, piano

Stewardship Moment

INVITATION TO SHARE

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

Collective Creator we thank you for the gifts of the people – from our ancestors to our elders to those who have still yet to come, we share what we have so that all can flour-ish and follow you. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Anouncements

Kyle Riley

Sydney Zentell

Trent Williams

Trent Williams

Kyle Riley, Trent Williams

Martha Newsome

Hanson Place

*Benediction

Dan De Leon

*CHORAL BENEDICTION - The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Postlude

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

Prelude:Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah - John HughesOffertory:Great Is Thy Faithfulness - William M. Runyan, arranged by Larry ShackleyCommunion:Shall We Gather at the River? - Robert Lowry, arranged by Joel RaneyPostlude:Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Ludwig van Beethoven, arranged by Joel Raney

Scriptures for Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 25, 2025: Acts 1:1-11; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

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

OFFERING OF LETTERS TODAY: Friends Church is participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters campaign. This Christian organization advocates for policies and programs to end global hunger. You can write a letter today after our 9am and 11am services to our congressional representative, Michael McCaul, telling him to use his power to fight against funding cuts to hunger relief programs. Letter-writing materials, sample letters, and guidelines will be provided. Alternatively, you may bring a prepared letter to Friends Church by June 1. See bread.org for examples and videos that explain how to write an effective letter and why letters can be a powerful force for change. Our letters will be combined with those from other local churches and delivered to Rep. McCaul's College Station office.

LAST DAY FOR K-12 SUNDAY SCHOOL, MAY 18: This Sunday is the last for K-12 Sunday School before we take a break for the summer. We want to thank all of our wonderful Sunday school teachers for the time and dedication they've devoted to Friends children and youth this year.

FRIENDS-PEACE FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY 23: Friends-Peace food distribution needs you! Come to the Peace Lutheran parking lot any time between 2:30 to 6:00 on Friday and meet some of your neighbors. Our Friday Friends team will be there May 23 giving out fresh fruits and vegetables and maybe some desserts. Enjoy some camaraderie and put your faith into action. Direct any questions to Anne Wehrly.

CROCKETT ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR COLLECTION, MAY 22: We have a date! Our book fair at Crockett will be Thursday, May 22 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. On Wednesday, May 21, we will be meeting at the church in the double rooms to separate books at 9:00 am until done. We need volunteers for both days! The day of the Fair, we will have three 2-hour shifts for volunteers. Please continue to donate new or gently used books for Pre-K to 4th grade and place them in the box outside of the office. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Pam Engler or Jodie Robinson. Book fair shifts on May 22. 8:30-10:30 10:30-12:30 12:30-2:30

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, MAY 25: On May 25, we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon (pastor@friends-ucc.org), Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org).

FINAL FRIENDS YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS, **#7**, **MAY 25**: The seventh and final confirmation class for the Youth Group will be Sunday, May 25, at 2pm. This class will be led by Pastor Dan, and will cover Statements of Faith. Confirmands will share how they will affirm their faith by writing their own statement. These classes are open to all youth, whether or not they are part of the confirmation class. Reach out to Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECORD YOUR VIDEO HONORING PASTOR JO HUDSON: The Rev. Dr. Jo Gayle Hudson, pastor of Friends Church from 1997 to 2004, and current pastor of New Church, UCC, Dallas, is retiring after 30 years of ministry. To honor Pastor Jo, a video montage of gratitude and well-wishes will be shown in her last service presiding at New Church on June 1st. Friends Church faithful are invited to contribute a brief message for that video. See A/V Tech Sean Dudo after the worship services on May 18 or 25 to record your on-camera message honoring Rev. Hudson. Thank you.

HAVE YOU TRIED THE 9AM SERVICE?: Our IIam worship services are full most Sundays. This is great! But if you prefer smaller crowds and a more contemplative worship experience, try the 9am service. Like the later service, 9am worship includes a children's message and sermon, but unlike it, the 9am service offers the prayers of the people and lighting candles for intercessions, silent meditation, and does not include an anthem from the choir. In an effort to be hospitable to newcomers and guests who might attend the IIam service, you can provide that welcoming space for others by giving the 9am service a try. Thank you for helping our church family be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

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/0900worship** IIam Service **bit.ly/II00worship**

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.

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 Jan 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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED, MAY 26: The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day. Normal business hours resume on Tuesday, May 27.

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, MAY 29: Linda Coats Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 29th at 6:30pm. Our book will be Beloved by Toni Morrison. Contact Becky Burks for more details.

ALL ABOARD! JOINING ON GOD'S JOURNEY – VBS REGISTRATION DUE MAY 30: Please fill out the registration by May 30 if you intend for you PreK - 5th grade child(ren) to attend Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 9-13 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm with a light meal provided at 5:30 each evening. Use the link: https://tinyurl.com/2025FriendsVBS.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, JUNE 6: 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.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JUNE 8: Join us in the Ham service on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, as we confirm our confirmands. They have spent the last few months learning about theology, church history, and spiritual practices, as well as visiting other faith communities in B/CS. Through the guidance of their teachers and mentors, they have been tasked with writing their own statements of faith, and to put into words what it is they are saying "yes" to on their faith journey. We hope to see you on Confirmation Sunday!

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

Executive Pastor The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*) pastortrent@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

2200 Southwood Drive College Station, Texas 77845 979-693-7021 • office@friends-ucc.org www.friends-ucc.org • Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00-3:00 Pastor Dan's weekday off is Friday. Pastor Trent's weekday off is Monday.