



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



*"Souls Being Carried Up to Heaven"
United Kingdom, 1390*

November 6, 2022
9:00am & 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.

NOTE OF GRATITUDE: The volunteers helping with today's worship services are Chris Abbott and Wayne Hamman (lay leaders); Chris & Kate Abbott and Charlie & Becky Burks (communion stewards); and Robin Miller and Peggy Vitek (greeters).

Worship service volunteers for next Sunday, November 13, are Kate Abbott and Linda Fitzwater (lay leaders), and Victoria Junek and Abby Diaz DeLeon (greeters).

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.

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Day, also called All Hallows Day, Halloween, or Feast of All Saints, in the Christian Church, commemorates all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have entered into God's marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). It is celebrated on November 1 in the Western churches and on the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Eastern churches.

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.

PSALM FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 17:1-9, NRSV

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit. From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right. If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

****CALL TO WORSHIP FOR ALL SAINTS DAY**

Dan De Leon, Brooke Dooley

One: Beloveds, let us remember with thanksgiving and give praise to God for those faithful servants who, throughout the centuries, have witnessed amidst prosperity and in the day of trouble to God's holy name. Bridegroom of poverty, our brother Francis of Assisi, follower of Jesus and friend of creation:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: Apostle of nonviolence, Gandhi the Mahatma, a challenge to the churches:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: Peacemakers in the world, Dag Hammarskjold, Martin Luther King, Jr., Menachem Begin, Anwar Al-Sadat, Oscar Romero, and Nelson Mandela, called children of God:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: Faces of the Christ, Gautama the Buddha, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Maya Angelou, fountains of compassion:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: Confessors in chains, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Philip Berrigan, and all who resist war:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: Victims of prejudice and hate, Matthew Shepard, James Byrd, Jr., and Trayvon Martin, in your despair and dying:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: Citizens and children of Hiroshima, Coventry, Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, and Ukraine, and all the innocent victims of drone attacks, bombing, and war caught up in a sea of fire:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: Innocents of Darfur, Rwanda, Sudan, Syria, and all who are victims of genocide; and all who are victims of institutionalized and environmental racism; innocents of HIV/AIDS and Ebola, our brothers and sisters who died alone and in despair:

All: Stand here beside us.

One: O God, make us ever aware of the presence of this great company of your saints. As we join our worship and labor to theirs, may we know ourselves to be part of that great cloud of witnesses so that your church may live to serve and praise you in the one unbroken fellowship of your love.

All: Amen.

****OPENING HYMN:** NCH No. 299 - For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

****INVOCATION**

Chris Abbott (9:00)
Wayne Hamman (11:00)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Trent Williams

Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen for the children's message. All are invited to sing a verse of "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 (oh let it shine)!**

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you!

EPISTLE READING: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17, NRSV

Chris Abbott (9:00)

Wayne Hamman (11:00)

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here.

Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal - Traditional Hymn, arranged by Larry Schakley

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore, as I near those swollen waters, with their deep and solemn roar. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.

And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day, passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb; oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.

Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest; and I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb; oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 20:27-38, CEB

Dan De Leon

Some Sadducees, who deny that there's a resurrection, came to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a widow but no children, the brother must marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first man married a woman and then died childless. The second and then the third brother married her. Eventually all seven married her, and they all died without leaving any children. Finally, the woman died too. In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? All seven were married to her."

Jesus said to them, "People who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy to participate in that age, that is, in the age of the resurrection from the dead, won't marry nor will they be given in marriage. They can no longer die, because they are like angels and are God's children since they share in the resurrection. Even Moses demonstrated that the dead are raised—in the passage about the burning bush, when he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He isn't the God of the dead but of the living. To him they are all alive."

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Chris Abbott (9:00)
Wayne Hamman (11:00)

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends
Text to give: Text **Friends** to 979-500-2523
Venmo to 979-446-5746 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 uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Trent Williams

God of Transformation, may the love and efforts of the wise saints echo blessing upon us. May we pick up their torch, co-laboring towards liberation. Bless our offerings to this purpose. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trent Williams

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Cathy Hansen & Susan Fontaine (9:00)
Nancy Bertsch & Kelly Wellman (11:00)

Linda Coats	Ginger Younts	Mary Lindsey
Jim De Leon	Stephen Lyon	Ricardo Nuñez
Eduardo Rodriguez	Aubrey Ashley	Jake Jacobs
Ann Bishop	Dorkier Meyer - "Dork Mom"	Leslie Jordon
Charlie Bug Baker-Wilkinson	Dean Lewis Turner	Glen McAdams
Robert Alexander Robinson	Kathryn Greenwade	Delores Tate
Doris Gardner - Granny	Toni Christopher	John McConnell
Rosalie Buffington	Will Taegel	Judith Yost
Marti Parr	Selinda Larson	Geneva Kruse
Bob Johnson	Jo Nelson	Norman Durham
Ron Sousa	Betty La Pointe	Sissy La Pointe
Jim Schanhals	Beverly Sajna	Julie Loftin
George Feldwisch	Papi Hoffman	Rocky Hoffman
Biscuit Hoffman	Trixie Hoffman	Amanda Coleman
Debbie Clayton	Robin Starr Pace	Randall Williams
Bernardino "Chichi" Mainegra	Cipriana Vasquez Ramirez	J.R. Vasquez

Those who died homeless & forgotten known by name only to God

Our Saints who passed passed in previous years

Wayne Wranosky	Gene Fitzwater	Ralph Blevins
Flo Blevins	Harry N. Howell, Jr.	Terry Sayre
Mike Sayre	Trish Sayre	Ann Harper
Wes Harper	Kim Harper	Barb Stone
Tina Watking	Sandi Smith	Ashley Machinski
Baja Ann Robinson	William A. Brune III	Delores L. Brune
Walter Bertsch	R. K. Share	Gertrude Herder
Richard Poling	Maggie Shaker	Doris Clark
Jackie Shirley Champion	Clark & Frances Shoemaker	Nell Shirley
Julius Scott	Cledia Witt	Leonard Witt
Bobby Warren	Butch Hamilton	Carol & Dave Tag
Donald Blake	Caroline Blake	Bobby Gibson
Jan Gibson	Jane Junek	Grammy Blake
Beverly Campbell	Carol Smith	Richard Smith
Irene Ambrus	Zolten Ambrus	Barb Blaine
Steve Gartner	Wes Leid	Roy & Pat Leid
Karen Gartner	Anthony John Palmer	Nelda Shade

Opal McMullen Johnson
Ann Schoenemon
Darlene Fontaine
Joaquin Hinojosa Espino
Manuela García García
Juana Sánchez Alvarado

Gregory Palmer
Félix Tijerina Rocha
Mary & Berkley Bush
Dominga Garcia Gracia
Wilfido Elizondo Quintanilla
Encarnación Ramírez García

Mary Junek
Richard Fontaine
Lou & Ed White
George Corolla
Ronald Baird
Shirley Petrich

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams, Brooke Dooley

SUNG RESPONSE: vv. 1, 2, & 3 of NCH. No 330 - Let Us Break Bread Together

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Brooke Dooley

**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.**

****CLOSING HYMN:** NCH No. 597 - Shall We Gather at the River

Hanson Place

****BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Ave Verum Corpus - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Offertory: Deep River - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Larry Shackley
Communion: Shall We Gather at the River - Robert Lowry, arranged by Joel Raney
Postlude: Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious - William H. Monk, arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for Nov 13: James 1:17-27; Mark 6:30-44

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

INQUIRY CLASS: New to Friends Congregational Church or the United Church of Christ, or just want to know more about our mission and ministry? You are invited to join us for an Inquiry Class today following the 11:00 worship service. Lunch will be provided, and we will gather in the double classroom.

NOVEMBER IS FOR NURTURE!:

- 20s and 30s – November 13, after the 11:00 service, potluck lunch at Harper House (2065 Carter Lake Drive, CS)
- FAA (Fabulous At Any Age) – November 16, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Brown Bag Lunch at the church (double classroom).
- Wonderful Wednesdays with Women – November 16, 5-7 p.m., Downtown Uncorked Wine Bar (note new location: 1551 Greens Prairie Rd., Suite 102, CS). Not limited to women!
- Breakfast focusing on men and those who identify as men – Watch for an update for the future we discussed at the November 5 breakfast.
- Coming Soon! Families with Young Children AND Parents of Teens!

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS COMING!: December is just around the corner and we've already started planning Friends' Christmas Pageant. Please let us know we can count on your child/youth for the pageant by completing this survey using the link: <https://forms.gle/A2CkPBfzFekXTRzp6>.

ADVENT IS AROUND THE CORNER: We will be ordering the UCC Advent Daily Devotional books for the season. To receive one, you are invited to sign-up in the narthex or electronically here <https://forms.gle/y9k52HQPAHoeiLkF9>, by November 25th. Limit is one per family, please.

SHARE FEEDBACK WITH YOUR CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: Did you know that there are two congregational representatives for Friends Church that serve on Church Council as a voice for members of the Congregation? These representatives are available for you to bring questions, comments, issues, and ideas to Church Council. The representatives are Jacque Halverson and Christine Gravelle. You can either catch them at church or you can email them at congregationalrep@friends-ucc.org.

MISSION TRIP MEETING TODAY: At the conclusion of this afternoon's CROP Walk at the pavilion is an informal meeting for parents and youth about the 2023 mission trip. Contact Pastoral Intern Brooke Dooley for details: pastoralintern@friends-ucc.org.

PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP: We will be offering a Planned Giving workshop after the 11:00 worship service on November 13. Lunch will be provided, and we will welcome a guest presenter from Fries Financial Services in Bryan to lead us in learning about ways to give and answer your questions. All are welcome--even if you're not at retirement age yet, this can be valuable learning as you think about creating wills and planning for the future. You can sign up to let us know you'll be coming here: <https://bit.ly/friendsplanned-giving>.

HAVE YOU BEEN ON A JOURNEY OR OTHER CURSILLO WEEKEND?: Join the Brazos Valley Journey Community for our next Community Gathering! The Brazos Valley Journey Community will be gathering on Sunday, November 13, 4-6 pm at PJ Ellison's home "Buffalo Moon Rising" 2900 Peach Creek Lane, Brenham. Interested in carpooling? We will leave from Friends about 3:15 pm. Please bring either a snack (Last names A-P) or a drink (Last names Q-Z) to share. Wear your Journey (or other cursillo) cross and name tag. We will hear a Fourth Day talk, share in the Feast of Holy Communion and welcome the new pilgrims from NTJ17 to the community. For more information, please contact Laura Wimberley l.a.wimberley@gmail.com.

BIG GAY BBQ: Join Pride Community Center for our annual BBQ, held in the cooler temps of fall again this year, at KinderHill Brew Lab for free BBQ and fixins from 2pm to 6pm on November 13th. This is a family friendly event. Entertainment will include live music from Roo & the Preacher Dad (Ruthie De Leon & Pastor Dan), live drag performers, activities and games. Volunteers are needed, please email volunteer@pridecc.org. Sponsors are also needed, please email richard.burgess@pridecc.org. Finally, if your organization would like to have an info table at our event, please contact info@pridecc.org.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL: Pride Community Center and Friends Congregational Church, UCC with supportive LGBTQ+ inclusive organizations of the Brazos Valley invite the public to a vigil of remembrance for all of those in the past 12 months who have lost their lives due to anti-transgender violence. This event is open to all ages. This is a safe-space event for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Volunteers are needed. For more information, email info@pridecc.org.

CROP WALK TODAY: Join us at the American Pavilion at Veterans Park this afternoon for the CROP Hunger Walk. Registration at 2:15pm, roll call for teams at 2:50pm, and the walk starts at 3pm. Ice cream in the pavilion afterward. Join and/or donate to the Friends Congregational Church CROP Walk team at our team page: <https://events.crophunger-walk.org/2022/team/friends-congregational-church>.

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*)
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Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)
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Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
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Pastoral Intern

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