



# Friends Church

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Segundo domingo ordinario*  
Cerezo Barredo

January 14, 2024

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: Ann Wild & Jackie Womack  
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Lanette and Rick Schulte

Next Sunday, January 21st:  
Lay Leaders: David Manuel & Dwight Baker  
Communion Steward: Kathy Yeager & Holly Scott  
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](mailto: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.

## *Second Sunday of Epiphany*

Epiphany is the Season of Light, when we remember the revelation of Jesus as the beloved Child of God, while recognizing the lengthening of the days and the growing of the light.

### **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

“Along with the call to go into all the world, was there also a call to go home?”

-Garret Keizer

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Dan De Leon

### **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jackie Womack

One: God calls us by name in our dreaming

**All: and in our waking;**

One: in the Divine voice

**All: and human voices.**

One: God comes to us in the quiet

**All: and the noise;**

One: in the calm

**All: and the chaos.**

One: Always, God calls to us.

**All: Always, God comes to us.**

One: Let us now call God's name.

**All: Let us now come to God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #531** God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Tune: Canonbury

**\*INVOCATION**

Jackie Womack

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

*Children in the sanctuary are invited to come to the front, and children watching online are invited to get closer to their screen. 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 (oh let it shine)!**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Trent Williams

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trent Williams

**Almighty God, we confess that we do not listen well. We make assumptions, we interject and interrupt, and do not understand what others are going through. We dismiss other's pain. We make judgments based on our own experience and not the experience of others. Forgive us for not being silent when another shares their pain. Forgive us for not having empathy. Forgive us for trying to be quick to fix as well as quick to judge, instead of listening with compassion. Call us into Your ways of loving-kindness, mercy, and justice that is restorative instead of retributive. In the name of Christ, who is calling us—may we listen to that call. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Trent Williams

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

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

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord's temple, where God's chest was.

The Lord called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

Again the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(Now Samuel didn't yet know the Lord, and the Lord's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Make Them Hear You (from “Ragtime”) - Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens (Chris Hoffman, tenor)

**GOSPEL READING**

John 1:43-51 (NRSV)

Brooke Dooley

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

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

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

**THE MESSAGE**

Brooke Dooley

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**INVITATION TO SHARE**

Jackie Womack

**OFFERTORY**

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://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 uplifts,  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Dan De Leon

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 our 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 & INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS CHURCH**

Dan De Leon, Trent Williams

**\*CLOSING HYMN #448** Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Tune: Vienna

**\*BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

## POSTLUDE

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### Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Here I Am, Lord - Daniel L. Schutte, arranged by Jack Schrader  
Offertory: As the Deer - Martin Nystrom, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner  
Postlude: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise - Traditional Welsh Melody,  
arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 21, 2024: Psalm 62:5-12; Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

## 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](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org).

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**28TH ANNUAL MLK FREEDOM MARCH & PROGRAM:** The Brazos Valley Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host their 28th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom March on Monday, January 15, 2024. The march will allow our communities to join together in walking for world peace, as well as recognizing the life and contributions of Dr. King. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority invites you and your organization to wear your logos or carry your organization’s banner and join them as we walk for peace and unity. The march will begin at 10am at Sadie Thomas Park, 129 Moss Street, and conclude at Kemp Carver Elementary School, 750 Bruin Trace, Bryan. This year’s guest speaker is Minister Donnie Nelson, local musician, educator, and youth advocate. And due to pending weather conditions, we will have to adjust our MLK March to accommodate upcoming weather conditions. With the projected freezing temperatures, we will meet at the park and caravan to the school. We will then allow our audience to prepare for the program which should start at 11 AM. KBTX will give directives on Monday morning if we have icy road conditions. We will then make a decision based on the safety of everyone.

**THEOLOGY ON TAP, 1/18:** At 6pm on January 18th, Theology on Tap (T.o.T.) is held at Kinder-Hill Brew Lab, 800 S. Bryan Ave. T.o.T.’s informal discussions bring our lives more in tune with God’s will and way as we get to know each other better beyond church walls. The venue has an assortment of great beers on tap. You don’t need to be fond of beer to join us, nor do you have to be 21 or older. Non-alcoholic beverages are available, and minors are welcome, as are four-leggeds.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW WEBMASTER!** Welcome to Jeremy Dudo who will be keeping our website up-to-date and dynamic. Feel free to email him with your comments, updates and compliments at [friendswebmaster@friends-ucc.org](mailto:friendswebmaster@friends-ucc.org).

**VOLUNTEER VOICES NEEDED FOR FRIENDS CHURCH PODCAST:** Our new weekly podcast, featuring the messages from Sunday worship services, is introduced by Friends Church members giving a brief testimony of what Friends Church means to them. To volunteer to introduce an episode, contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo at [av@friends-ucc.org](mailto:av@friends-ucc.org).

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY:** The church office will be closed on Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, January 16.

**GIVING STATEMENTS 2023:** Giving statements for 2023 will be available for pick up by Sunday, January 21. This year, since we transitioned systems, there will be two statements: one for January to June from Church Office Online, and one for July to December, from Realm. Thank you for your generosity and support of the mission and ministry of Friends Church in 2023!

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

**CROCKETT ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR:** Last year our free Book Fair at Crockett Elementary School in Bryan was a great success. Each child received three books to keep. Even the teachers were able to pick two books for themselves. We are doing it again this spring, so it's time to collect books! You can donate books by placing them in the box outside the office, or you can donate gift cards or money, and we will buy books with your donations. If you have questions, please contact Jodie Robinson ([jocelinbrune@gmail.com](mailto:jocelinbrune@gmail.com)) or Pam Engler ([penglertx@gmail.com](mailto:penglertx@gmail.com)). Thank you!

**SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS:** There are plenty of opportunities for you to share your time and talents both here at the church and in the community.

**Be a Greeter and Communion Steward:** To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at [pastorbrooke@friend-ucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org).

**Coffee Crew/Kitchen Angel:** Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Signup via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Sign-up Genius ( link provided in Friday church email) or by contacting [Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org](mailto:Fellowship@friends-ucc.org). Training available by request.

**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](mailto: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](http://Friends-ucc.org)) ▶ Get **Involved** ▶ **Volunteer** or email [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATE

**JANUARY BOOK CLUB AT FRIENDS: JOIN US** on January 25th, as we discuss the book *Trust Women, A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice* by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters. For many of us, reproductive freedom is not only a political concept, it is a religious one. We'll meet and discuss the intersection between our faith and issues of reproductive justice, in anticipation of Dr. Peters joining us at Friends on February 11th for **Changing the Conversation: The Theology of Reproductive Justice**. Pick up a book and join the conversation, and then come again on February 11th and get your book signed by the author!! We meet at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. For questions or more information, contact the Spiritual Life Committee at [spirit\\_develop@friends-ucc.org](mailto:spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org).

**FAMILY PROMISE ANNUAL COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER:** Family Promise's 15th annual Comfort Food Cook-Off fundraiser is back! Join us Friday evening, January 26, 2024 at A&M Church of Christ in College Station for an exciting evening of food, music and great fellowship. Please contact Sally at [manthei\\_sally@aol.com](mailto:manthei_sally@aol.com) or Anne at [awehrly@suddenlink.net](mailto:awehrly@suddenlink.net) if you are interested in being on the cook-off team. More information on tickets and prices available on church calendar and This Week at Friends.

**PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP:** You are invited to join us for a Planned Giving Workshop after the 11:00 worship service on February 4. Lunch will be provided, and we will learn about how to remember the church in your will or estate plans, ways to make use of retirement assets, 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 planning for the future. You can sign up to let us know you'll be coming here: <https://bit.ly/friendsplannedgiving>.

**CHANGING THE CONVERSATION: THE THEOLOGY OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, 2/11:** For many of us, reproductive freedom is not only a political concept, it is a religious one. Friends Church is hosting a speaker on February 11 who will help us explore the intersection of our faith and issues of reproductive justice. Plan to join us in person (registration encouraged) and to share this opportunity with your friends and colleagues. Register with the QR code below





# Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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## 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