



Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



From the Lord's Prayer
Carol B. Hochhalter, 2019

July 27, 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 Leader: Jackie Womack
Greeters: Doris Machinski

Next Sunday, August 3:
Lay Leader: Kathy Miller
Communion Steward: Megan Alvear
Greeters: 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.

Seventh 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.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak."

– Mary Oliver

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jackie Womack

One: For Beloved Community near and far,

All: for abundant opportunities to begin again,

One: for spiritual practices that ground us,

All: for play that enlivens us,

One: for Wisdom that invites us to expansive living

All: we give thanks to the Holy One for these sustaining gifts.

One: Let us worship God

All: our Provider and Friend.

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

***OPENING HYMN - Lord, I Lift Your Name on High**

Lord, I lift Your name on high!
Lord, I love to sing Your praises!
I'm so glad You're in my life.
I'm so glad You came to save us!

You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.
Lord, I lift your name on high.

REPEAT

***INVOCATION**

Jackie Womack

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lanette Schulte

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 PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Dan De Leon

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (UNISON)

Dan De Leon

God Who Reigns in Glory and meets us in need, we seek your forgiveness and restoration. We drown in a system of debt rather than generosity and common good. May our obligations not burden us, and may we not burden others when compassion is abundantly available. We struggle not to encroach on our neighbor's territory when boundaries are arbitrary and limiting rather than purposeful and expansive. Help us turn from sin and temptation as well as guilt and shame when we struggle to live fully in your kingdom.

WORDS OF GRACE

Dan De Leon

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE - Rushing Wind

Rushing wind, blow through me
with your tender breeze.
Search out the depths of my heart.
Like a fire, burn through me, here on my knees.
Consume every dark hidden part.

REFRAIN:

Holy Spirit, all consuming fire,
fill me, fill me, with joy of my heart's desire.

There is no friend to me
like you long to be
down here below or above.
Rushing wind, help me see the Father and be
A vessel of His tender love.

REFRAIN

There is no one like You
that I've ever known
Who sings me a love song like You.
Let Your wind blow right through, my heart is Your home,
and I am here waiting for You.

REFRAIN

I thank you with all my heart; I sing your praise before the gods. I bow down in front of your holy Temple and praise your Name because of your love and faithfulness, for you have put above everything else your Name and your word. When I called, you answered me—you made me bold and strong of heart. All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God, when they hear the words of your mouth. They will sing about what you have done, O God, and about your great glory. Even though you are so high above, you care for the lowly and see arrogant people from far away. Even when I'm surrounded by troubles, you keep me safe; you oppose the anger of my enemies, and save me with your right hand. You will do everything you have promised me. Lord, your love is eternal; don't abandon the work of your hands.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 11:1-13, NSRV

Brooke Dooley

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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
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 (UNISON)

Trent Williams

Bread of Life, when we ask for a fish, you do not give us a snake. May our communities be the same— offering each other relevant and need-based care. Forgive us when we act like we know the needs of others better than they do. May we, instead, listen to the wisdom reciprocity teaches us. 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

Dan De Leon

***CLOSING HYMN** - Hear Our Praises

May our homes be filled with dancing.
May our streets be filled with joy.
May injustice bow to Jesus
as the people turn and pray.

REFRAIN:

From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to You.
From the heavens to the nations,
hear the singing fill the air.

May a light shine in the darkness
as we walk before the cross.
May Your glory fill the whole earth,
as the water o'er the seas.

REFRAIN

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

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

Bring Forth

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: All in All, performed by SpiritSong Instrumental
Offertory: Come Just as You Are, performed by SpiritSong
Postlude: Hear Our Praises, performed by SpiritSong vocals

Scriptures for The Eight Sunday after Pentecost, August 3, 2025: Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Today's music is provided by Spirit Song

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

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, AUG 1: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE UPDATES, JULY 28 - AUG 1: Our admin assistant, Michael, will be out of town from Monday, July 28 - Friday, Aug. 1. Volunteers will be answering the phones and greeting visitors. For this week's newsletter and worship materials, contact Pastor Trent directly (pastor-trent@friends-ucc.org). Otherwise, Michael will respond to any requests when he gets back on Aug. 4.

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.

CHILDCARE HELP NEEDED, AUG 31: We are in need of volunteers to help with our nursery on Aug. 31. Please contact Pastor Trent (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org) or Morgan Leopold (mrleopold@verizon.net) if you are available so we can conduct a background check.

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.

11am Service bit.ly/11ooworship

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 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

FRIENDS CHURCH SPONSORING “FEAST OF CARING”, AUG 6: The Brazos Valley Food Bank’s 32nd Annual Feast of Caring, a community-wide lunch event benefiting the BVFB, will be held at the Brazos Center in Bryan on Wednesday, August 6, 11am to 1pm. A modest meal of bread, beans, rice, and sausage will be offered, symbolizing the uniting principle that no child, individual, family or senior should ever go hungry. Right now, the BVFB is facing one of the most critical moments in its 40-year history: soaring food costs, plummeting donations, and empty shelves are putting our community’s food supply at risk—just as more families than ever are turning to the BVFB for help. Thanks to generous giving in our congregation, Friends Church is able to be a “Box” sponsor of the Feast of Caring by contributing \$250 in support of the event. All are welcome to attend this hopeful cause in support of the most vulnerable in our community. Over 1,500 people are expected to attend.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, AUG. 9: Guyz Breakfast brings together fellowship, fun and great food. Join us at the church on the second Saturday of the month 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite breakfast food or drink to share. Pancakes and coffee are provided.

BACK TO SCHOOL KICK OFF, AUG: Back to School events are starting in Aug. Mark these dates on your calendar so you don’t miss out!

Back to School Breakfast - 8/10 From 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Sunday School Begins - 8/17 at 10AM

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, AUG. 10: Our church family is excited and hopeful for our children and youth starting their 2025-26 school year. Friends Church will have our Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 10, in the 11am worship service. Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church, and to bring those backpacks with them to the front during the children’s message for a special blessing. The “blessing of the backpacks” gives us the chance to pray over our kids, their well-being, and the schoolwork ahead of them.

FAMILIES OF ADOPTED & FOSTER CARE CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP, AUG 10: A support group for families with adopted or foster care children meets every second Sunday of the month. For the summer, we will meet at Lupe Tortilla at 813 Texas Ave, College Station, 77840. For details, contact Ann Rome: ann.rome@yahoo.com

RHAG MEETING, AUG 10: RHAG meets Aug 10 at 2:00pm. We’ll be finalizing the RHAG website, making plans for our RHAG Bag stuffing party (prepping bags to deliver free over-the-counter birth control) and assessing the fall-out from the Texas Legislature’s special session attempts to limit access to the abortion pill.

9AM WORSHIP SERVICE RESUMES, AUG 17: The 9am worship service will resume on Aug. 17! Come join us.

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

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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.