



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Love Let's Go of Power
(20th Century)

October 29, 2023

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: Kathy Yeager & Tami Dudo
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Alex Cannon

Next Sunday, Nov. 5:
Lay Leaders: Anne Wehrly & Becky Burks
Communion Stewards: Susan Fontaine & Holly Scott
Greeters: Maura Ives & Tim Scott

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.

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Pentecost, celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot. Pentecost Sunday is also called the birthday of the Church, when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading the message of Jesus.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

Our emphasis on knowledge and belief over the past few hundred years has deceived us into thinking that true thoughts is what matters in the Christian faith. This couldn't be further from how the Bible talks about faith and, frankly, how it talks about truth. There are almost no places in the Bible where it endorses a view of truth as "believing the right doctrine."

-Jared Byas, *Love Matters More: How Fighting to be Right Keeps Us from Loving Like Jesus*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tami Dudo

One: In mystery and material, God takes shape among us.

**All: In flesh that hungers, aches, and longs
in lands and people, tears and rage.**

One: God is not a distant concept, abstracted from our lives.

All: God is close, intimate, as present as our breath.

One: And yet, this Holy Mystery resists our rational constraints.

All: God is the questions with which we wrestle.

One: They are the strange and unexplainable.

All: God is an invitation toward the unknown.

Let Divine Imagination come and birth new paradigms of life.

***OPENING HYMN No. 498** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Tune: Chereponi
(Verses 1-3, and 5)

***INVOCATION**

Tami Dudo

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

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

Kyle Riley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON) written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'

Kyle Riley

**O Lord, you are our shepherd, and yet we want.
We lie down when we could act,
We stir the pot when we could offer peace,
We wander tempting paths instead of following you.
We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you.
We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them,
We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.
We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy,
So that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Kyle Riley

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Kyle Riley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, CEB

Tami Dudo

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Da pacem Domine - Charles Gounod

(Christine Gravelle, Cathy Hansen, and Hallie Gammon; sopranos)

Give peace in our time, O Lord, because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Dan De Leon

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-46, CEB

Nikki Stahl

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?”

“David’s son,” they replied.

He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool’? If David calls him Lord, how can he be David’s son?” Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“Love Matters More”

Nikki Stahl

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Tami Dudo

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 & 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

Brooke Dooley, Kyle Riley

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 499** Pues si vivimos (In All Our Living) Tune: Pues si vivimos
(Verse 1 in Spanish, then verses 1-2 in English)

***BENEDICTION**

Nikki Stahl

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: He Leadeth Me - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Randall Hartsell
Offertory: Great Are You Lord - Jason Ingram, David Leonard, and Leslie Jordan;
arranged by Phillip Keveren
Postlude: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - Anthony J. Showalter, arranged by Marianne Kim

Scripture for Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, November 5, 2023: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

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.

GREETERS & COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED: Several of our regular volunteers for greeting and for setting up and serving communion in the 9am worship services are not available this scheduling cycle. If you can help with a 9am Sunday service or two in their absence, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: worship@friends-ucc.org.

COFFEE & KITCHEN HELP NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to prepare coffee before and to clean up the kitchen after Sunday services. A signup sheet is on the counter in the kitchen along with a description of duties. For more information contact fellowship@friends-ucc.org.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ATTENDING THE 9AM WORSHIP SERVICE? For the earlier risers out there, Friends Church offers a 9am service on Sundays that functions more like a prayer service than the more traditional 11am service. While many aspects are similar to the 11am (children’s message, sermon, singing), the 9am offers a more intimate space for contemplative worship, with the lighting of candles for intercessory prayers that we share together and time for silent meditation. We invite you consider attending this earlier service at 9am on a Sunday soon at Friends.

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE POTLUCK & GAMES: We are all FABULOUS AT ANY AGE so let's get together! This Sunday, join us after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service for food and fun. Bring a dish to pass and your favorite game.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Join us on Sunday evening, October 29, 5-7pm, for our third annual Trunk or Treat. A section of the parking lot will be reserved for you to park your car, set up a blanket or chairs, whatever works for you. The community is invited to come to Friends to Trunk or Treat from car to car. The last two years' events were a great time with lots of children and youth from the wider community at the event. Wear a costume, decorate your car or space, the sky's the limit! Also, there will be tables for pumpkin carving under the trees at the peace pole. Bring your pumpkins, paints and brushes, and carving tools. All are welcome. We hope to see you there.

ALL SAINTS DAY: Let us honor the Saints who have gone on before us. Friends Church celebrates All Saints Day by recognizing our deceased loved one. Please fill out the purple form in your worship guide and leave it in the offering plate or email your submissions to office@friends-ucc.org to be sure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 5). You can also fill out this form at <https://tinyurl.com/nkj7znya>. The names of those who have passed in the last year will be read aloud during the 9am and 11am service, and all names will be listed in the worship guides.

TRANSPORTATION HELP: We are putting together a Transportation Team to help church members who need assistance getting to church on Sunday. With enough help, this will be a once/quarter commitment. To join the team, send an email to Nurture@friends-ucc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? We need one substitute teacher for Grades 3-5, two teachers for Grades 6-8, and one teacher for Grades 9-12. Right now, we have classes with at least one teacher for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 at 10am at Friends Church. We hope to start a class for our Pre K children, but we need volunteers to make this happen. One of our current Sunday School teachers would like to start the PreK class, but needs someone(s) to replace them in their current role. Contact Pastor Dan for more information: pastor@friends-ucc.org.

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN: The Youth Group will be gathering at Friends Church at 6pm on Friday, November 10, after which we are LOCKING the doors. It's lock-in time! Games, snacks, movies and some good old fashion bonding time await our Youth. We'll wrap-up by 8am the next morning. We are needing volunteers to take shifts throughout the night to help out with the youth and make sure everyone stays safe. If you would like to join in on the fun, you can select one of the available slots on the following link. Reach out to Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org. Sign-up: <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer>. Thank you for supporting our Youth!

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN will gather on November 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Hotel McCoy (3702 State Highway 6 S, College Station, Texas, 77845). All are welcome at this informal, come-and-go activity where we enjoy getting to know one another in a relaxed, social environment.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DEC. 10: It's official! With 24 families participating in our poll for the most inclusive date, it has been determined that this year's children- & youth-led Christmas pageant will be on Dec. 10, the Second Sunday of Advent, in the 11am worship service. Parents, stay tuned for information on casting, scripts, and rehearsals.

2023 CROP HUNGER WALK: The Friends Church Youth Group is organizing a team for this year's CROP Hunger Walk, an annual nationwide movement to raise funds for our food insecure neighbors, and to walk three miles in solidarity with those who do so daily to access clean water. The youth group continues their tradition of walking together on Nov. 5, 3pm, at Veterans Park. Funds from the walk benefit Church World Services and the Brazos Church Pantry. To join our team or contribute towards our \$1500 goal, check out our team page: <https://tinyurl.com/2023FCCYouthCROPWalkTeam>

YOUTH GROUP LOOKING FOR EXTRA HELP: We are so grateful to all who have helped with youth gatherings this fall. Having support (and full bellies) is part of what makes our Youth shine. We are still looking for volunteers to help with remaining Youth Group events for the fall, including a lock-in (volunteers working in shifts), lessons, and a Christmas party. If you would like to join in on the Youth Group fun, provide food, or help keep Pastor Brooke upright during the lock-in, you can sign-up on these links. Thanks for supporting the Youth Group! Sign up to volunteer here: <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer>. Sign up to provide meals here: <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthmeals>

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed in the childcare room when one of our paid workers is unavailable. Having two adults in the room is required for liability and safety reasons. Volunteers must have a background check, provided by and done through the church office. Volunteers will not be called upon frequently, nor will they be in charge; one of our highly skilled, paid workers will be the point person. Contact Jackie Womack at moderator@friends-ucc.org for more info.

INQUIRE + CONNECT: Are you wanting to learn more about Friends Church? Inquire + Connect is for you! Join us after the worship service on November 5th for the Inquire Class with lunch provided. At the Inquire Class you will learn about Friends—our history, our community, our opportunities for engagement—from church members and one of our pastors. The Inquire Class concludes with an invitation to participate in an optional follow-up Connect Class on November 12th, offered in the home of a church member. In the Connect Class you will learn more about the vision and mission of Friends Church, and how you can “connect” with our various opportunities for nurturing your spirituality, seeking social justice, and getting more involved in the life of our community of faith. For more information and to sign up for Inquire + Connect, email Spiritual Life Chair Becky Burks at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.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

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*)
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Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)
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