

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SHANNON KERNE: We are saddened at the loss of Shannon Kerne. After more than four years living with stage four cancer, Shannon passed in her sleep in the early morning hours of Sunday, Aug. 6th. Friends Church will hold a memorial service for Shannon at 2pm on Saturday, August 19th. A light reception will follow the service. An obituary with further details are forthcoming in *The Eagle*. We hold Shannon's husband Andruid and their 4-year-old son Michael in our prayers.

THE 20's & 30's OF FRIENDS EVENTS: Join the group Sunday for their weekly lunch at 12pm at RX Pizza in Downtown Bryan.

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP ON THE VERANDA: Midweek Spiritual Development is taking a sabbatical rest until August 30th (when we resume at 6pm at Friends Church with prayers and conversation about a great book by Sara Miles called *Take this Bread: A Radical Conversation*). In the meantime, all are welcome to "wine on the veranda" at the home of Linda Coats on Wednesday, Aug. 23rd. For more information contact Linda at 979.690.0403, Linda_Coats@msn.com.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY WORKSHOP OFFERED FOR FREE: Family Promise in conjunction with area Episcopal Churches have invited Friends and other churches to participate in a full day workshop on Saturday August 26th at St Francis Episcopal. The one-day workshop introduces participants to a comprehensive approach for understanding the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty from the individual to the systemic levels. Bridges Out of Poverty uses the lens of economic class and provides concrete tools and strategies for a community to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty; it is designed to provide a broad overview of concepts. Check out the following link to get further information or to register. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxDt1CUoSnIYhICPuaCs6MP--FVI_6H1w3eqwf7ETiqBI0rg/viewform

PANCAKE BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY: Come join us from 9:15-10:15am on Sunday morning, August 27th for a wonderful pancake breakfast! Everyone is invited to enjoy a delicious breakfast to help us kick off the new school year. Don't forget to bring your donations for the school supply drive! Sunday School will resume the following Sunday, September 3rd.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY: WORSHIP SERVICES AT FRIENDS CHURCH: Your dutiful ministerial staff—Director of Music Ministries Chris Hoffman, Associate Pastor Trent Williams, and Senior Pastor Dan De Leon—is constantly planning worship services for our Friends Church family and for those who might visit us. If we think in terms of just Sunday mornings, we have 52 opportunities a year to impact and transform people's lives in the name of Christ. The packed sanctuary at Friends Church from Sunday to Sunday for the last year has us wondering: 1) how can we continue to plan worship services to best shape people's spirituality and journey of faith; and 2) should we consider adding worship opportunities to the weekly services at Friends Church in addition to the current 10:30am Sunday morning format? Note: this survey will be live through August only.

This is where you come in! Chris, Trent, and Dan have put together a survey to collect your feedback about existing and potential worship services at Friends Church. Please take a few minutes to give us your thoughts through this survey using the following website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/friendschurchworshippervices>

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline for all submissions to the September e-connection newsletter is Tuesday, August 22. Please make sure all entries are received no later than that date to appear in the next newsletter. Thanks.

THE NURTURE COMMITTEE NEEDS MORE FOLKS TO HELP PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION: Currently, we need people who can help provide rides to a member of our congregation who uses a wheelchair, so you would need a vehicle with a decent sized trunk or back seat (the chair folds, so most mid-sized vehicles fit the bill). We have many opportunities available and will add dates as they approach. For now, we are filling dates for the last Sunday in August and most Sundays in September. Occasionally, there will be special events, as well. If you are able to help with this ministry, please sign up at www.bit.ly/ridesfromfriendschurch. Thank you!"

NEW YEAR COMMENCES FOR LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM: The Congregation voted for our 2017-2018 lay leadership team in June and their duties have already started. We will be blessing and commissioning all the team members at worship service on August 27th. Then on Sunday September 10th, there will be a mini-retreat for the leadership team after worship service to look ahead at the program year and strengthen working relationships among the committees. We look forward to having all lay leaders participate in these activities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed to deliver bread from Blue Baker to the Brazos Church Pantry on September 30. If you're able to help out, please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0448afab22a2f58-blue> for more details and to sign up. Thank you!

NEW INQUIRY CLASS SCHEDULED: If you are new to Friends Congregational Church or to the United Church Of Christ and are interested in knowing more you are invited to join us for a new inquiry class. The classes have been set to start on Sunday, September 17th after church. Lunch will be served and the class will meet from 12-2pm. We will be continuing our new schedule for these classes that will include three sessions spread over a three month period. Session 1 will be on September 17th, Session 2 on October 8th and Session 3 on November 12th. Please register on the church website under event registration so that we will know how much food to prepare, if you have special dietary needs or if child care is needed. If you have questions you may contact Linda Fitzwater at spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org or speak with Pastor Trent or Pastor Dan. We hope to see you there.

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FRIENDS CHURCH
SCRIPTURES FOR THIS WEEK (August 20, 2017):
Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Genesis 45:1-15

Sunday, August 20, 2017
10:30am Worship Service

Monday, August 21, 2017
6:30pm Church Council

Tuesday, August 22, 2017
Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, August 23, 2017
7:30pm Choir Practice

Thursday, August 24, 2017
6:30-10pm Bldg in Use-Orchestra Rehearsal-Sanctuary & Classrooms

Friday, August 25, 2017
No Activities

Saturday, August 26, 2017
No Activities

Sunday, August 27, 2017
8:45am Pancake Breakfast
10:30am Worship Service
4pm Worship Committee Meeting

SCRIPTURES FOR NEXT WEEK (August 20, 2017):
Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Genesis 45:1-15