

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 22, 2024  
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

–John Wesley

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Diane Simpson

One: Here, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

**All: Calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.**

One: Now, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

**All: Calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all in need.**

One: In every place, in every moment, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:

**All: Calling us to generous acts, to stand with God’s people: the least, the lost, the little, the last.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 565 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending *Austrian Hymn*

**\*INVOCATION** Diane Simpson

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** Trent Williams

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Brooke Dooley

*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.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING** Exodus 25:1-9, NRSV Trent Williams

The Lord said to Moses: Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me. This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece. And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

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

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

**THE MESSAGE** Building the Future Together Trent Williams

## **SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION**

*One chime calls us into silence, and two chimes call us out of silence.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS**

Brooke Dooley

## **FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT**

Tiny Hope Village

Brooke Dooley

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Diane Simpson

## **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**

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

Brooke Dooley

\***CLOSING HYMN** - No. 575 O for a World

*Azmon*

\***BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

## POSTLUDE

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*Instrumental Music:*

Prelude: Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow - Louis Bourgeois, arranged by Phillip Keveren  
Offertory: Two Spirituals (“I Want to Be a Christian” and “What a Morning”) - Eugene Butler  
Postlude: All Creatures of Our God and King - Music from Geistliche Kirchengesang, arranged by Phillip Keveren

Scriptures for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 29, 2024: Psalm 39:7-13; Genesis 32:24-32

## 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

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, SEPT 26:** For September, the book club will be reading Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, By America*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm

**FAMILY PROMISE, SEPT 29-OCT 5:** Family Promise of Bryan-College Station (FPBCS), a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission "to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence." Friends Church will be hosting two families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting Sunday, September 29th. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping: prepare a meal, provide breakfast & lunch food, or spend the night at the Family Promise Center. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell [mhowell61@gmail.com](mailto:mhowell61@gmail.com) or Sally Manthei [manthei\\_sally@aol.com](mailto:manthei_sally@aol.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FRIENDS GREETERS NEEDED:** Join our Friends Church greeter team! We are in need of additional folks to help welcome people on Sunday mornings and make our worship services flow smoothly. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org). You can also sign up online here: [bit.ly/FriendsGreeter](https://bit.ly/FriendsGreeter).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:** We have all the Sunday school classes covered but are still looking for volunteers who could be called when teachers are out of town to be substitutes. Please let Pastor Dan or Abby Burley, [Christian\\_ed@friends-ucc.org](mailto:Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org), know if we can add you to our list.

**SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES:** This month, our preachers are offering a special sermon series: "Untaught History: Reparations, Resoluteness, Resistance, and Redemption." Our former school days of selective history lessons that left out countless stories and altered others, and these present days of banned books and whitewashed curriculums beckon us to learn some of that untaught history as a testament to our faith in Jesus' insistence that "you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Pastor Brooke, Pastor Trent, and Pastor Dan will explore stories from the post-Reconstruction era, the Holocaust, the civil rights and gay rights movements, and how God is still speaking through that largely untaught history. Here's a snapshot of the remaining Sundays...

Sept 22, Pastor Trent: "Building the Future Together," Exodus 25:1-9

Sept 29, Pastor Brooke: "The Bridge Which Christ Had Built," Genesis 32: 24-32

So, bring a friend and join us every Sunday in September for some "Untaught History."

**“SCRIPTURE & AMERICAN SACRED TEXTS”:** MORNING MANNA SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: In conjunction with our September sermon series “Untaught History,” join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am from August 25 through September 29 for a series that will explore historic American works in conversation with scripture.

September 22: The Byrds’ “Turn, Turn, Turn” & Ecclesiastes/Biblical Wisdom Writings

September 29: Martin Luther King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” & Paul’s Prison Epistles

## 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](mailto: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](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 school year. 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:** “All I need is coffee; all we need are volunteers to make it!”

Sign up via sheet on kitchen counter, at [bit.ly/coffeeatfriends](http://bit.ly/coffeeatfriends) or email Jan at [Fellowship@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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](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

**FABULOUS AT ANY AGE - CRAFTING WITH LANETTE, OCT 1:** Are you Fabulous at Any Age (and, really, aren't we all?)? Then join us for Crafting with Lanette on Tuesday, October 1, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. No experience required and no special skills needed, just come and have fun! All supplies will be provided. If folks are interested, we'll go together for lunch afterwards.

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, OCT 4:** 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.

**FALL MEETING OF THE HEART OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION, OCT 5:** Faith United Church of Christ in New Braunfels is hosting our Heart of Texas Association's Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 5th. Registration begins at 9:30am followed by Worship & Meeting at 10am (onsite and online). The meeting includes an Ecclesiastical Council for our own Member in Discernment Kyle Riley. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4d8t29g>.

**VOTER REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION, OCT 6:** Voter Registration and information table in front of church, October 6, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteer Deputy Registrars will be staffing the table to register voters and answer all your questions about upcoming elections and deadlines.

## 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.