

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2024
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.”

-Mark Twain

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Carolyn Young

One: When our spirits are restless and unsettled, when peace is nowhere to be found,
the grace of God wraps around us.

**All: We do not rush through periods of darkness, but welcome their gift that
transforms.**

One: In seasons of despair, truth comes to wrestle with us.

All: In silence, honesty voices its concerns.

One: From the unknowns that surround, possibilities emerge.

All: Courage calls us to linger patiently in discomfort.

One: In the light of day and the dark of night, God is with us.

All: Thanks be to God who upholds us in love.

*OPENING HYMN - No. 439 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

*INVOCATION

Carolyn Young

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

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.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Genesis 32:24-32 , NRSV

Brooke Dooley

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

"The Bridge Which Christ Had Built"

Brooke Dooley

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

Dan De Leon

FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT: CROCKETT ELEMENTARY

Jodie Robinson

INVITATION TO SHARE

Carolyn Young

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**

Dan De Leon

Spirit of Transformation, come and bless these offerings to the work of your love. As forces of evil and empire work to kindle their fear in us, embolden our faith. Make us persistent, determined, resolute in the way of life. Trusting your hand to uphold us, we endeavor to struggle against injustice within and around. Amen.

***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 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** - No. 474 I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

I'm So Glad

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus - Helen H. Lemmel, arranged by Martha Mier
Offertory: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less - John B. Dykes, arranged by Randall Hartsell
Postlude: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Ein' Feste Burg) - Martin Luther, arranged by
Marilynn Ham

Scriptures for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 6, 2024: Revelation 3:20; 1 Corinthians 11:20-22; Luke 5:27-29

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

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 or Sally Manthei manthei_sally@aol.com.

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 online at <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.

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. You can also sign up online here: 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, know if we can add you to our list.

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/coffeeatfriends or email Jan 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

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, OCT 9: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will on Wednesday, October 9, location TBD. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, OCT 12: 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.

OUTOBERFEST, OCT 12: Join Friends Congregational Church at the the Pride Community Center for OUToberfest 2024 the first-ever Brazos Valley Pride Festival, located right in downtown Bryan! Friends will have a sponsored booth present for the entire festival. Artisan market, food and drink vendors, local non-profit and community resources, big stage performances, and more! Performer line-up and other details TBA. Volunteers needed and very much appreciated! Reach out to Megan for more information at evangelism@friends-ucc.org.

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE - MISSION WACO SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TOUR, OCT 17: SAVE THE DATE to learn and see Mission Waco's Social Enterprise Programs. Fabulous at Any Age will spend the day learning how Mission Waco has contributed to the development of North Waco Community's financial well-being and bettering the quality of life for our neighbors who live there. We'll tour Jubilee Food Market, Urban REAP and the Fair Trade Market and have lunch at World Cup Cafe.

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, OCT 31: For October, join the book club for the last meeting of the year. We will be reading Anthony Ray Hinton's *The Sun Does Shine*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

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

2200 Southwood Drive College Station, Texas 77845

979-693-7021 • office@friends-ucc.org

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.