



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Pentecost
JESUS MAFA (1973)

May 19, 2024
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: Larry Dooley & Alex Cannon
Communion Stewards: Carolyn Young & Holly Scott
Greeters: Megan Alevar & Dwight Roblyer

Next Sunday, May 26
Lay Leaders: Susan Fontaine & Becky Burks
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Peggy Vitek

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.

Pentecost Sunday

Celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot, also known as the Festival of Weeks. Pentecost Sunday is also referred to as the birthday of the Church, when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading the message of Jesus.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“It is only as a unity in diversity that the Christian community will become an inviting community in a society which is otherwise pretty uniform. Creation is motley and diverse, and the new creation even more so.”

Jürgen Moltmann

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

THE STORY OF PENTECOST: Acts 2:1-4

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alex Cannon

One: The Spirit descends like a dove, bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

All: **The Spirit comes like a breath, bringing life to renew the people of God.**

One: The Spirit spreads like fire, bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

All: **Spirit of the Living God, come and transform our lives by your power.**

One: Rejoice and give thanks, for God's Spirit is here!

All: **Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit!**

*OPENING HYMN - We Are the Church Alive

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

We are the Church A - live, Christ's pres - ence on this earth; We
We are the Church A - live, Our faith has set us free; No
We are the Church A - live, The bo - dy must be healed; Where
We are the Church A - live, All praise to God on high. Cre -

give God's Spi - rit bo - dy in the act of our new birth. As
more en - slaved by guilt and shame, we live our li - ber - ty! We
strife has bruised and bat - tered us, God's whole-ness is re - vealed. Our
a - tor, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er! We laud and mag - ni - fy Your

yield - ed o - pen chan - nels for God's de - scend - ing dove, We
fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple and free - dom now pro - claim, De -
mis - sion is an ur - gent one; In strength and health let's stand, So
name, Al - might - y God of love; Pray, give us life that we May

shout and sing, with joy we bring God's all in - clu - sive love.
stroy - ing myths of doubt and fear in Je - sus' might - y name.
that our wit - ness to God's light will shine a - cross the land.
be your Church, the Church A - live, For all e - ter - ni - ty.

*INVOCATION

Alex Cannon

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lanette Schulte

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.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
Many: **And also with you!**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE - #293 Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Tune: Sweet, Sweet Spirit

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 4:12-17, NRSV

Alex Cannon

When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

CHORAL ANTHEM: O Love - Elaine Hagenberg

O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the
life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.
O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the
rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.
O Love, that will not let me go, O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give thee back the
life I owe, and in thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be,
that morn shall tearless be.
O Love, that will not let me go.

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kathy Miller

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

Brooke Dooley

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION & PRESENTATION OF PLEDGE CARDS

Brooke Dooley

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & BLESSING OF PLEDGE CARDS

Trent Williams

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 - #282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Tune: African-American spiritual

*BENEDICTION

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Pianist: Chris Borchardt

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: “Morning Has Broken” arr. John Williams

Offertory: “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” arr. Cindy Barry

Communion: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” arr. Sandra Eithun

Postlude: “How Firm A Foundation” arr. Cindy Barry

Scriptures for Trinity Sunday, May 26, 2024: Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

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

INQUIRE & CONNECT, MAY 19: After the 11am service, 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 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, contact Becky Burks at beckyburks4@gmail.com.

HYGIENE KITS PACKING, MAY 19: We did it! All items for the 102 hygiene kits have been ordered and have arrived. Thanks to everyone who opened their hearts and assisted with this endeavor. We will have a hygiene kit “stuffing party” in the divided classroom immediately after the 11 am service TODAY. Come join in the fun so we can finish the job and get the kits on their way to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. It will only take about 20 minutes to complete the task! Hope to see you in the divided classroom.

SORT & BOX BOOKS FOR BOOK FAIR, MAY 21: On May 21, at 9:00 am, we will be sorting and boxing books in the double classroom at Friends to take to Crockett Elementary School for the No Cost Book Fair that Friends Church is sponsoring (to be held May 22). We estimate we’ll need ten volunteers to do the sorting and boxing. Please email Jodie Robinson to let her know that you will be able to help!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL ENDS FOR SUMMER BREAK, May 26: Sunday School will end for summer break beginning May 26th & return on August 18th.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY: Today in both worship services, we will dedicate our pledges for the upcoming fiscal year and wrap up our spring stewardship campaign. We hope that the testimonies in worship have been meaningful and have helped you to see all the ways that your support is making a difference in changing lives and transforming the world around us. You can find all the materials, including a letter, narrative budget, line item budget, and online pledge card, on our website at www.friends-ucc.org/stewardship. We also have some hard copies of the packet if you didn't receive one, available in the narthex. We hope that you will consider making a pledge for this upcoming year, as we celebrate today the amazing generosity of this community.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH CROCKETT BOOK FAIR MAY 22: We have a date for the Crockett Book Fair! On Wednesday, May 22, we will be helping students pick out their books to take home. We could use lots of help. The fair is scheduled from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Helpers can take two hour shifts (and sign up for as many shifts as you like!). SIGN UP HERE: <https://bit.ly/3UzXPpB> We will continue to collect books until Sunday, May 19. Please place them in the bin outside of the office door. Thank you for all of your generous support of these children.

SUPPORT OUR PODCAST: The “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” podcast is getting downloads across the country and even overseas! Each episode, featuring a sermon and introduced by a different church member, is an evangelism and outreach tool for all of us at Friends. Support the podcast by sharing it widely. So far the record number of downloads for an episode is 69. With your help we can hit at least 100 every week! You can also support the podcast by lending your voice to it. Contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo to record the intro for an episode: av@friends-ucc.org.

Be a Greeter and Communion Steward: To help in the 9am and 11am services, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: 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 year, including the June Mission Trip. 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: Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Signup via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Sign-up Genius (link provided in Friday church email) or by contacting [Fellowship@ friends-ucc.org](mailto:Fellowship@friends-ucc.org). Training available by request. **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) ▶ **Get Involved** ▶ **Volunteer** or email office@friends-ucc.org for more information or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, MAY 30: For May, the book club will be reading Sue Monk Kidd's *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 2: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the 11:00 service on June 2.

GRILLA PRIDE PALOOZA 2024, JUNE 2: Grilla Pride Palooza returns!!! Mark your calendars for the evening of June 2 and come enjoy burgers and hotdogs grilled by Eli, and Friends' own unique celebration to kick off Pride month! Plan to bring a side or dessert to share, your lawn chairs, outdoor games and rainbow paraphernalia. Volunteer sign-in coming soon to set up or clear away. Family friendly event!

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, JUNE 9: June 9 is our next New Member Sunday, when we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends on that Sunday, please contact Executive Pastor Trent Williams (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley (pastorbrooke@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*)
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.