



Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



Lydia of Thyatira

May 12, 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: Diane Simpson & Kelly Wellman
Greeters: Sydney Zentell & Doris Machinski

Next Sunday, May 19
Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Alex Cannon
Communion Stewards: Carolyn Young & Holly Scott
Greeters: Megan Alear & Dwight Roblyer

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.

Eastertide - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Easter is not just one day—it's a whole season. Throughout these 50 days, we celebrate and ponder the mystery of the resurrection and the promise of new life.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“You can be in community or not be in community. But your membership should be freely chosen, not forced or at the whim of your changing intellectual assents about doctrine, science, or theology. I'm a pastor and I don't care what you believe, I don't think God does either.”

Lillian Daniel

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kyle Riley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kelly Wellman

One: Those who love Jesus keep his words;

All: Those who love Christ will make their home with God.

One: Those who know Jesus will know his peace;

All: Those who know Jesus will be taught in the ways of peace.

One: Come, follow and love Jesus our Lord, who has come to be among us.

All: Come, worship God, who lives among us, loves us, and calls us home. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN - #376** God, We Thank You for Our People

Tune: Holy Manna

*INVOCATION

Kelly Wellman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Martha Newsome

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

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

*HYMN OF RESPONSE - #454 Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

Tune: I Want To Be a Christian

GOSPEL READING

John 14:23-29, NRSV

Kelly Wellman

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

HANDBELL ANTHEM: Simple Gifts - Shaker Tune, arranged by Brenda Austin

READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 16:6-15, NRSV
Brooke Dooley

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kelly Wellman

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**

Kyle Riley

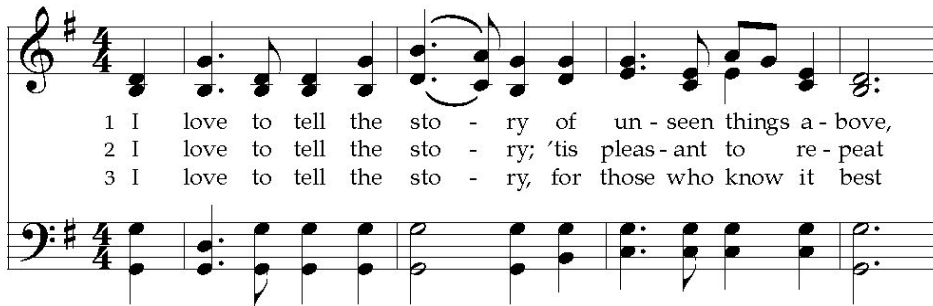
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

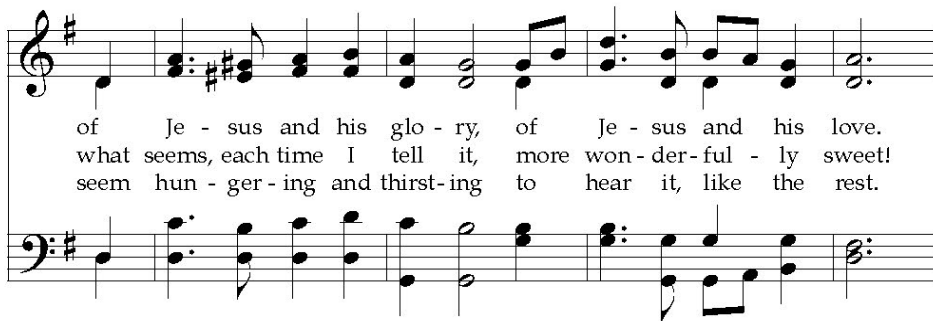
Trent Williams

*CLOSING HYMN - In I Love to Tell the Story

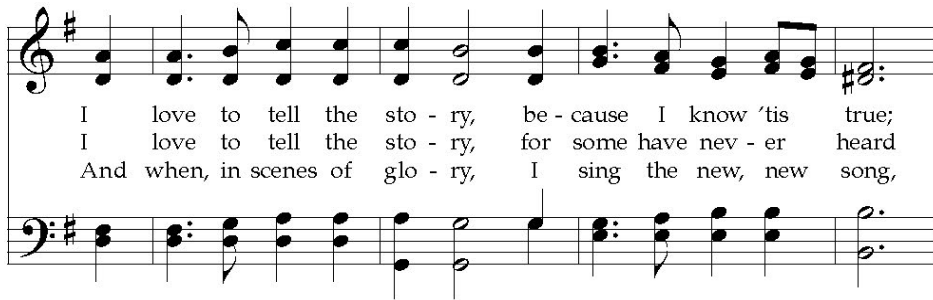
Tune: Hankey




1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love."

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLI #20046014
Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: The Love of the Lord - Michael Joncas, arranged by Jeanne Cotter
Offertory: I Love to Tell the Story - William G. Fischer, arranged by Mary McDonald
Postlude: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - Anthony J. Showalter, arranged by Melody Bober

Scriptures for Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024: Esther 4:12-17; Acts 16:16-34

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

BACK BAY MISSION HYGIENE KIT COLLECTION, APRIL 21-MAY 18: Friends Church is collecting items for hygiene kits to be delivered to Back Bay Mission, a ministry of the United Church of Christ serving individuals and families facing homelessness and poverty. Follow the link <https://amzn.to/4boqwBk> and decide what you would like to purchase to get us to our goal of 102 hygiene kits. Items will be shipped directly to the church. If you would rather just write a check, make the check out to Friends Church and put Hygiene kits in memo line. Funds will be used to purchase needed supplies. All items need to be received at the church by May 18. Please direct any questions to Anne at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

HYPERBOLE BOOK STORE BOOK SALE FOR CROCKETT BOOK FAIR, MAY 12: Our school book fair for the children of Crockett Elementary ends on May 22nd. As always, you can donate books by placing them in the box outside the office. In addition, to provide a final push for the drive, Hyperbole Bookstore will be at the church on Sunday, May 12, to sell appropriately-aged kids’ books (in both English and Spanish) that can be donated on the spot. Hyperbole will donate a portion of sale proceeds to our Christian Education program. If you have questions, you can contact Kathy Miller (katherinemiller59@gmail.com).

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE “TEXAS BLOOMING”, MAY 15: Enjoy another beautiful spring day in Texas with a trip to the Antique Rose Emporium and then lunch at Martha’s Bloomers. We’ll leave the church at 10:00 and return by 3:00. Let us know if you can come! Send an email to Nurture@friends-ucc.org. For transportation to the church and lunch sponsor, contact Nurture@friends-ucc.org.

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: On May 19th 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, and will join us on May 19th to celebrate 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 pastor-brooke@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

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

INQUIRE & CONNECT, MAY 19: After the 11pm 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: Help us assemble the hygiene kits to be delivered to Back Bay Mission after the 11pm service. Please direct any questions to Anne at awehrly@suddenlink.net.

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!

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.

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

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.