

April 29, 2024

Dear Friends,

What do you look forward to on Sunday mornings? The peaceful grounds of our building? the beautiful windows in the sanctuary? Do you anticipate with joy? What will the music be today? An anthem? Dan’s guitar? How will the preaching challenge, affirm, and encourage us? Who will you meet during the passing of the peace – someone new or an old friend? How loud will the children be when they say good morning? For many of us, there may have been times that “going to church” didn’t feel like this. But then Friends Church showed up just at the right time. We are a place of healing. A place where we can grow in our acceptance and affirmation of ourselves and each other and expand the room in our hearts for God’s love. Friends is, indeed, a haven, but this inward focus is only one side of our mission.

In these times of national and global challenge and uncertainty, Friends Church has also been called to witness to the way of Christ by proclaiming God’s radical inclusion and extravagant welcome. For such a time as this, we are called to live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

Because of the generosity of our members and friends – because of you – we are making a difference at home, in our community, and beyond. We are so grateful for all the ways that you help to make Friends Church what it is. Because of your commitment, we are able to offer the programs, projects, ministry, and worship experiences that define our church community. Here are just a few of the things that your generosity has made possible:

For our church

* Welcoming 35 new members to the Friends family since last summer
* Hiring a dedicated Associate Pastor to Youth and Young Adults
* Sharing our Crisis Fund with members in need
* Live Streaming Sunday services for easy access for all
* Hosting fellowship opportunities like Friendsgiving and Easter Brunch
* Bringing back Vacation Bible School for our kids

For the community and beyond

* Volunteering for and supporting the Brazos Church Pantry
* Staffing the Friends-Peace Lutheran Friday Food Distribution
* Hosting a Reproductive Justice event with the UU Church of the Brazos Valley
* Collaborating with the UU for OWL training, inclusive sex education for all ages
* Joining Texas Impact for a Courts and Ports mission trip to the Border
* Joining Be the Neighbor for our Youth Group mission trip

We could go on and on with all the ways Friends is working to spread God’s extravagant welcome. For such a time as this, how will you support Friends this coming fiscal year? Making a pledge is one way to be a part of all that we do. Pledging helps the church plan more effectively for the coming year, although all offerings throughout the year are appreciated. Please prayerfully consider the opportunity to join us, and bring the enclosed pledge card back to church for Stewardship Sunday, May 19th. You can also complete the form online anytime here: [bit.ly/2024friendspledge](http://bit.ly/2024friendspledge).

For such a time as this, how will you answer the call?

Gratefully,

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Trent Williams Jackie Womack David Manuel

Executive Pastor Moderator Stewardship Chair