

**FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

First Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of Christ
January 12, 2025
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

To be able to say, 'I'm baptized' is not to claim an extra dignity, let alone a sort of privilege that keeps you separate from and superior to the rest of the human race, but to claim a new level of solidarity with other people.

—Rowan Williams

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Dinah Anderson

One: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

All: God in Christ, has named us all "Beloved."

One: Yes, here and now, God's heaven of love is being poured out anew.

All: May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds.

One: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

All: And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!

***OPENING HYMN - No.459 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

Nettleton

***INVOCATION**

Dinah Anderson

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.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

I Corinthians 6:19-20 & Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, NRSV

Trent Williams

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Brooke Dooley

FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT: JANE'S DUE PROCESS

Brooke Dooley

INVITATION TO SHARE

Dinah Anderson

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**

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. 82 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Ar Hyd Y Nos

***BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo
Offertory: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry - Music from *Musikalisches Handbuch*
Postlude: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart - arranged by John Innes

Scriptures for The Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 19, 2025: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

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

YOUTH GROUP BACK-TO-SCHOOL LUNCH, JAN 12: The Youth Group will be gathering for a Back-to-School lunch at the Tower Point Blue Baker, Jan 12, 12pm. We will also be celebrating our December and January Youth Group birthdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORNING MANNA SERIES: “THE WIDENING OF GOD’S MERCY: SEXUALITY WITHIN THE BIBLICAL STORY”: What happens when a prominent evangelical bible scholar changes his mind? Richard Hays wrote one of the most widely quoted defenses of the traditional non-affirming position on LGBT issues in the 1990s, but over time, grew to a new understanding of God’s welcome and inclusion. With his son Christopher, also a biblical scholar, he has written a book that explores the whole biblical narrative, showing how God’s mercy is always widening to greater and greater inclusion. Join us Sundays at 10am for this journey through the story of God’s widening mercy.

SENIOR PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE, JAN 12-18: Pastor Dan will be away from the church, Jan. 12-18, attending a retreat for senior pastors of multi-staff United Church of Christ congregations, and then taking a couple of vacation days. During that time, for any pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Trent or Pastor Brooke.

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.

MIGRANT JUSTICE NETWORK FORMING IN BCS: The Brazos Sanctuary Coalition (BSC), formed by Friends Church and other churches, non-profits and individuals in 2017, is re-organizing as the Migrant Justice Network (MJN) in preparation for the challenges the community may face in the coming months. The MJN is an interfaith group standing publicly in solidarity with members of our community at risk for detention and deportation. We will serve as witness to the injustices of the immigration system by accompanying and supporting our immigrant brothers and sisters and working to keep families safe and together. If you would like to be informed and updated on our plans and opportunities for you to contribute and participate, beginning in January 2025, please email migrantjusticenetwork@gmail.com and we will add you to the announcements 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. 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 podcast@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/friendschurchcoffee 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

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING, JAN 25: NAMI Brazos Valley (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will be offering a Mental Health First Aid Training focused on youth. This training is for parents/guardians of youth, or anyone who works with youth regularly. It will cover topics such as anxiety, depression, substance use, psychosis related disorders, neurodivergence, eating disorders, suicide prevention, and self-care. The training will be held in the double classroom on Saturday, January 25, 8:30am-5:00pm. Scan the QR Code to register, or contact Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.



LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, JAN 27: Linda Coats Book Club will resume meeting in 2025 on Thursday, January 30th at 6:30pm. Our book will be *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton, a compelling story of a man falsely imprisoned on death row for 30 years before being exonerated, and how he maintained his faith. “An amazing and heartwarming story, it restores our faith in the inherent goodness of humanity” says Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Come join us for great discussion!!

FAMILY PROMISE SAVE THE DATE, JAN 31: The 16th Annual Family Promise Comfort Food Cook-off is set for Friday, January 31 at 6:00 pm. This is a great way to gather with Friends and enjoy lots of good food as well as support Family Promise. Ticket information and complete details are coming soon.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION FOR KYLE RILEY, FEB 2: At 3pm on Sunday, February 2, at Friends Church, Kyle Riley, who completed his “member in discernment of a call” process with us at Friends, will be ordained a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our friends throughout the Heart of Texas Association and South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ are invited, and all are welcome to attend the ordination service.

Friends Church Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)
choir@friends-ucc.org

Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)
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The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)
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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.