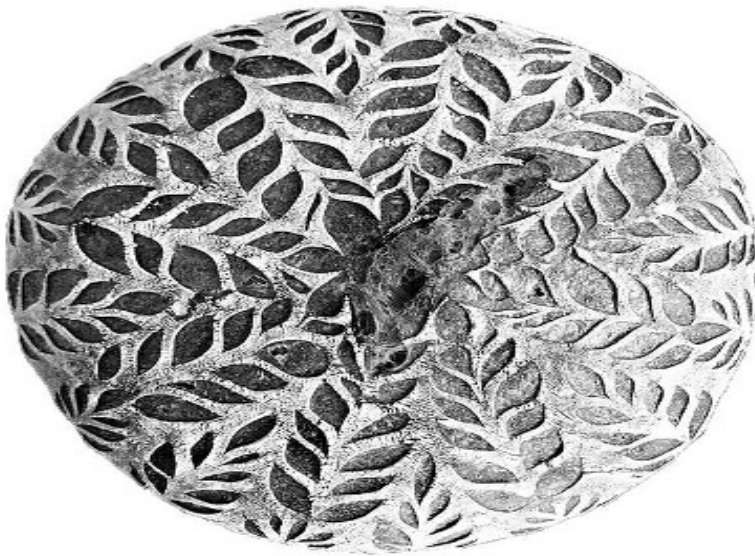




# Friends Church

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Communion Bread*

August 25, 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: Dinah Anderson & Kathy Miller  
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Carol Wilson

Next Sunday, Sept 1  
Lay Leaders: Diane Simpson & Ryan Womack  
Communion Stewards: Carolyn Young & Charity Stokes  
Greeters: Adrian Capetillo

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](mailto: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.

## *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The season after Pentecost is also considered Ordinary Time. It indicates the parts of the liturgical year that are not included in the major seasons of the church calendar. Ordinary Time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. It may be referred to as the "green season," as green is the liturgical color for this period of time in the church year.

### **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

"Playing it safe and the good news of Jesus Christ are not compatible. When we try to act like they are, we do a gross disservice to those we serve."

Sharron Blezard

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Trent Williams

### **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kathy Miller

One: Whom do you see here in this place?

All: **We seek God, the Creator, who brought us to life.**

One: Who has taught you of God?

All: **Jesus Christ, God's Son, has shown us the love of God through his life.**

One: Discipleship is difficult. Are you ready for the journey?

All: **We want to be ready. Lord, sustain us with the bread of life's journey. Amen.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN - No. 436 God of Grace and God of Glory**

*Cwm Rhondda*

### **\*INVOCATION**

Kathy Miller

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

*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.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Trent Williams

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Trent Williams

**Holy One,  
we come before you to confess our divisions,  
the walls we have built, the lines we have drawn.  
We confess that we have determined with our human understanding  
who is just and who is not, who is loved and who is not,  
who is right and who is wrong.  
We have been exclusive in our love instead of inclusive in your Gospel.  
Forgive us. Remind us that all of us are created in your image.  
All of us are worthy of love. All of us have sinned, and all of us can participate  
in the work of reparation, restoration, and forgiveness.  
Call us as Your children, O God. Through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior, our Brother, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Trent Williams

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Trent Williams

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

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)**

*Here I Am*

G Am D G C G D  
*Leader or All*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*  
 All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

**EPISTLE READING**

Ephesians 6:10-20, NRSV

Kathy Miller

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

**CHORAL ANTHEM** - Esto Les Digo - Kinley Lange

This I say to you, if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. Because where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them.

**GOSPEL READING**

John 6:56-69, NRSV

Brooke Dooley

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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**

## **FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT**

“Peace/Friends Food Distribution”

Anne Wehrly

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Kathy Miller

## **OFFERTORY**

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://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**

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

Trent Williams

\***CLOSING HYMN** - No. 360 Thuma Mina (Send Me, Lord)

*Thuma Mina*

\***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

## POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Johann Sebastian Bach  
Offertory: Be Thou My Vision - Irish melody, arranged by Joel Raney  
Postlude: It Is Well with My Soul - Philip P. Bliss, arranged by Joel Raney

Scriptures for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 1, 2024: Matthew 6:9-13

## 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](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org).

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**ICE CREAM FLOATS AND SABBATICAL STORIES, AUGUST 25:** Since our senior pastor returned recently from three months of sabbatical leave, we've been wondering how it went and what he did. On Sunday, August 25, at 6pm, Pastor Dan will give an informal presentation about his time away and answer our curious questions. Join us for ice cream floats and sabbatical stories in the sanctuary.

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, AUGUST 29:** For August, the book club will be reading Barbara A. Holmes' Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm

**SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED), AUGUST:** The Evangelism and Outreach team is looking for a few folks to join the team to spread the Good News of the Gospel in the community in two main ways: community events and social media. Do you like being creative or talking with people about Friends? We are looking for folks who have experience or an interest in social media management, content creation, graphic design, videography, event planning, and volunteering. A meeting will be held in August.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY, SEPT 2:** The church office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday.

**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](mailto:Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org), know if we can add you to our list.

**SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES:** For the five Sundays in September, our preachers will offer a special sermon series: “Untaught History: Reparations, Resoluteness, Resistance, and Redemption.” Our former school days of selective history lessons that left out countless stories and altered others, and these present days of banned books and whitewashed curriculums beckon us to learn some of that untaught history as a testament to our faith in Jesus’ insistence that “you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Pastor Brooke, Pastor Trent, and Pastor Dan will explore stories from the post-Reconstruction era, the Holocaust, the civil rights and gay rights movements, and how God is still speaking through that largely untaught history.

Sept 1, Pastor Dan: “Debts, Debtors, and Callie House,” Matthew 6:9-13

Sept 8, Pastor Trent: “Nevertheless, We Persist,” Luke 18:1-8

Sept 15, Pastor Dan: “Laughter: Hope’s Last Weapon in the Holocaust,” Genesis 22:1-14

Sept 22, Pastor Trent: “Building the Future Together,” Exodus 25:1-9

Sept 29, Pastor Brooke: “The Bridge Which Christ Had Built,” Genesis 32: 24-32

So, bring a friend and join us every Sunday in September at Friends Church for some “Untaught History.”

**“SCRIPTURE & AMERICAN SACRED TEXTS”:** MORNING MANNA SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: In conjunction with our September sermon series “Untaught History,” join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am from August 25 through September 29 for a series that will explore historic American works in conversation with scripture.

August 25: George Washington’s “Letter to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, RI” & the Hebrew Prophets

September 1: Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural/The Battle Hymn of the Republic & Genesis, Matthew, the Psalms

September 8: No Sunday School

September 15: Declaration of Rights and Sentiments & Biblical Women

September 22: The Byrds’ “Turn, Turn, Turn” & Ecclesiastes/Biblical Wisdom Writings

September 29: Martin Luther King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” & Paul’s Prison Epistles

## 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](mailto: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 Ryan Womack: [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Realm ( 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](http://Friends-ucc.org)) ▶ Get **Involved** ▶ **Volunteer** or email [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATE

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, SEPT 6:** 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.

**20/30 SOMETHINGS POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT, SEPT 6:** The Friends Church 20/30 Somethings will be gathering at Pastor Brooke's house for a potluck and game night on Friday, 9/6, 6pm-8pm. Bring a dish or beverage, and your favorite game to play. We'll also take some time to plan upcoming events for the 20/30 Somethings this fall. Contact Pastor Brooke for details and questions: [pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

**SPECIAL SERVICE WITH OUR NEXTDOOR NEIGHBORS, SEPT 8:** Our neighbors at Peace Lutheran Church have invited Friends Church to join them in their sanctuary for worship at 9:30am on Sunday, September 8th. The special service will celebrate the "Friday Food Distribution Ministry" that Friends Church and Peace Lutheran have shared for over four years. Friends choir members are invited to sing with Peace's choir, both churches' pastors will lead worship, our own Anne Wehrly will give a "Temple Talk" (Peace's version of a Mission Moment), and an offering will be taken up in support of the food distribution ministry. NOTE: The 9am worship service will not be offered at Friends Church on September 8th. Instead, all are invited to attend worship at Peace Lutheran at 9:30am that morning. However, the 11am worship service at Friends Church, including our hand bell choir, children's message, and sermon, will be offered as usual. All are welcome and encouraged to attend both!

**SNACK COLLECTION, SEPT 8:** In honor of our "Friday Food Distribution Ministry" which we will celebrate on September 8th, the Sunday School will create Healthy Snack Bags to be handed out to families with children during our Friday Food Distribution. We are requesting donations of individually packaged, shelf stable, no added sugar or artificial sugar, healthy snacks that we can include such as: packaged popcorn, apple sauce, raisins, seaweed, fruit cups. Please place donations in the bin in the hall by the office or the bin in the narthex.

**INQUIRE + CONNECT, SEPT 8:** 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.

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, SEPT 15:** On September 15, we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon ([pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)), Executive Pastor Trent Williams ([pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley ([pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)).

# Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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## 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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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.