



Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



Hand of God

August 11, 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 Leader: Anne Wehrly
Greeter: Clarissa Kennedy

Next Sunday, Aug 18
Lay Leaders: Susan Fontaine & Becky Burks
Communion Stewards: Megan Alevar & Larry Dooley
Greeters: Kathy Yeager & 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.

Twelfth 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.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 34:1, NRSV

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"If you love truth, be a lover of silence. Silence, like the sunlight will illuminate you in God."

St. Issac, 7th Century Hermit Monk

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Anne Wehrly

One: Holy God of wind and fire;

All: Dance through this room today.

One: Holy God of earthquakes and illness;

All: Share our tears of sadness and pain.

One: Holy God of creation and new beginnings;

All: Show us again your vision of healing and wholeness.

***OPENING HYMN** - #286 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Tune: Spirit

***INVOCATION**

Anne Wehrly

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

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

Brooke Dooley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

**All: We come seeking God in mighty earthquakes.
We come listening for God in resounding thunder.
We come expecting God in sweeping victories.**

**One: Yet God is found in a baby's touch.
Yet God speaks in silence.
Yet God is found in the least of these.**

**All: Save us, O God, from our aimless wandering.
Save us, O God, from our idols.
Save us, O God, from our self-induced chaos.**

One: God, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer. Amen.

silent reflection

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Brooke Dooley

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Brooke Dooley

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE: You Are Exalted

Capo 3: (D) F (D/F#) F/A (G) B \flat

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (B \flat). It consists of a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The guitar part includes chords and chord progressions indicated by letters above the staff. The lyrics are: "You are ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed on high. I will praise you. You are ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise your name! You are my God— for - ev - er your truth shall reign. Heav - en and earth re - jice in your ho - ly name. You are ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed on high!"

You are ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed on high. I will
praise you. You are ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and
I will praise your name!
You are my God— for - ev - er your truth shall reign.
Heav - en and earth re - jice in your ho - ly name.
You are ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed on high!

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

SPECIAL MUSIC - You Will Be Found (from *Dear Evan Hansen*)

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, arranged by Mac Huff (Hayley Coltharp, Ericalynn Cannon, Diane Simpson, David Manuel, Tyler Baker-Wilkinson, and Wolfgang Verdegaal)

GOSPEL READING

John 6:35, 41-51, NRSV

Trent Williams

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

SILENT REFLECTION & MEDITATION

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

INVITATION TO SHARE

Anne Wehrly

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 (UNISON)**

Brooke Dooley

All: Eternal God, may the offerings brought this day be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that your way may be realized anew in this world. Grant us the humility we need to plant and tend your precious garden. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Brooke Dooley

**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

Dan De Leon

***CLOSING HYMN - #460 God Will Take Care of You**

***BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart - Frederick C. Atkinson, arranged by Lloyd Larson
Offertory: The Power of Your Love - Geoff Bullock, arranged by Jane Holstein
Postlude: I Will Sing of My Redeemer - Rowland H. Prichard, arranged by John F. Wilson
(based on J. S. Bach's *Organ Prelude in F*)

Scriptures for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 18, 2024: Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

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

GREETER TRAINING, AUGUST 11: The friendly faces we see on Sunday mornings welcoming us to worship help to make Friends Church such a wonderful place, and we are so grateful for all that serve as greeters. We will have a training today for new volunteers.

GENDER AFFIRMING CARE LISTENING SESSION, AUGUST 13: Pride Community Center and The Trans Joy Project are honored to host a listening session with Friends Church and members of Transcend on Tuesday, August 13, 7pm at 2200 Southwood Drive to discuss recent developments with Texas A&M discontinuing gender affirming care for students. This is an intentional safe space for community to discuss what has happened, share thoughts and feelings, and arrive at solutions together. For more details, contact Katy Stewart at info@pridecc.org

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, AUGUST 14: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet at The Canteen Bar & Grill at Cavalry Court Hotel in Century Square on Wednesday, August 14th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: We need 2 Sunday school teachers for this new school year! Please contact Abby Burley or anyone on the Christian Education Committee if you are interested. Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org

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 (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.

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: 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

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

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.

PRIDE MASQUERADE GALA, AUGUST 24: This fundraising event is coming up on August 24th at the Ice House on Main. Are you interested in helping Friends sponsor a table? For \$1,500, we can sponsor a table and offer any extra seats to congregants who would like to attend. Contact Jackie Womack at moderator@friends-ucc.org for more information. Register here: <https://bit.ly/PrideGala2024>

TINY HOPE VILLAGE WORKDAY, AUGUST 24: Workday at Tiny Hope Village (THV) for Friends Church on August 24, 2024, to paint cabinets. THV is located at 10946 W Henry Prairie Rd in Hearne. We plan to meet at the church at 8:30 am and carpool to THV, or you can meet us at the site in Hearne about 9:00 am. Bring paint brushes, rags and other painting tools. Lunch will be provided and we expect to finish early in the afternoon. You can sign up here and let us know if you plan to carpool from the church or meet us at THV. Contact Cady Engler (cen-glertx@gmail.com) for more information. Sign up HERE: <https://bit.ly/TinyHope>

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

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.