



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Christ The Mother Hen
Kelly Latimore

March 16, 2025
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: Becky Burks & Martha Newsome
Communion Stewards: Kathy Yeager & Charity Stokes
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Carol Wilson and Becky Bordovsky

Next Sunday, March 23:
Lay Leaders: Kathy Yeager & Katrina Stewart
Greeters: ? & 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.

Second Sunday in Lent

Lent is the season of renewal and reflection—a time when we remember that we are only human, broken yet beloved.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

–St. Augustine of Hippo

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Martha Newsome

One: Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

All: God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?

One: When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

All: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

One: When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

All: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

One: Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

All: Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.

*OPENING HYMN - No. 546 Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Martyn

An asterisk indicates that the congregation is invited to stand in body or spirit.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sue Ambrus

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.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: United Church of Canada "A New Creed" Trent Williams

One: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

All: **Who believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
The Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit
We trust in God: We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified, and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

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

***HYMN OF RESPONSE:** No. 599 Steal Away

Steal Away

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1, NRSV

Martha Newsome

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Just a Closer Walk with Thee - Traditional American Song, arranged by Richard Walters (Jennie Adams, alto)

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:31-35, NRSV

Trent Williams

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Martha Newsome

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;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Brooke Dooley

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Trent Williams

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

Brooke Dooley

***CLOSING HYMN - No. 471 What a Covenant (Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)**

Leaning

*BENEDICTION

Trent Williams

***SUNG RESPONSE** - No. 181 You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (Verse 2 only)

Bring Forth

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: My Jesus, I Love Thee - Adoniram J. Gordon, arranged by Martha Mier
Offertory: Beneath the Cross of Jesus - Frederick Charles Maker
Communion: Just As I Am - Arranged by Faye López
Postlude: Lamb of God - Twila Paris, arranged by Lloyd Larson

Scriptures for the Third Sunday in Lent, March 23, 2025: Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

EVENTS THIS WEEK

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.

GETTING CONNECTED AT FRIENDS

FRIENDS YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS #2, MARCH 16: The second confirmation class for the Youth Group will be this Sunday, March 16, 1:00-2:30pm. The confirmands will be reflecting on their recent visit to the Islamic Community of Bryan/College Station, as well as conversations they’ve had with their mentors. This week’s class will focus on how we imagine God. These classes are open to all youth, whether or not they are part of the confirmation class. Reach out to Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR ENGLISH-ONLY SPEAKERS: “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS” TRAINING, MARCH 17: On Monday, March 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm at Friends: Know Your Rights Training for English-speakers to disseminate information to local employers. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/KnowYourRights17>.

The Migrant Justice Network supports the idea that educating immigrant workers and their employers about their rights is the best way we have to protect both and ensure they are all treated fairly. In this training, you will learn about the rights both employers and workers have in case ICE approaches their place of business. You’ll be given packets of KYR information and a list of local businesses--hotels, restaurants and other small businesses--to visit and offer this information to the managers or employers. Contact us at migrantjusticenetwork@gmail.com if you have questions or problems accessing the sign-up.

LENTEN MEDITATION, MARCH 18: On Tuesdays during Lent, you are invited to the Friends Church sanctuary to start your morning with centering meditation. At 7:30am on Tuesdays, Mar. 18th and 25th, April 1st, 8th and 15th, we gather for a brief introduction, followed by silent meditation, and follow-up conversation as time permits. Start to finish, this lasts between 35 and 45 minutes, hopefully allowing for those of us with work, school, and other obligations to get where we need to be on time. We are excited about this series of morning meditations that will bring us together in self- and community-preparation for Easter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALL OF GIVING UPDATE: Thank you to all the generous donors who supported the Youth Group's mission trip through the Wall of Giving fundraiser. Your contributions will make a lasting impact on the lives of our youth and the communities they will serve in Denver this summer.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKS FOR LENT ARE HERE!: Devotional books for lent are here! Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 2024. Copies of the UCC's Lenten Daily Devotional booklet, INTO THE DEEP, are available for pickup in the Narthex; one per household, please. The electronic version (pdf) may be purchased individually at thepilgrimpress.com.

MORNING MANNA CLASS: REVELATION AND RESISTANCE: The Book of Revelation is often seen as frightening, strange, or just plain confusing. For some people, it's all about the end of the world and a story that condemns most of humanity to judgement. But Revelation really isn't about the end of the world--it's about living faithfully as God's people even when the world seems to be falling apart. Join us on Sundays during Lent at 10am for exploration of this powerful book. Contact Pastor Trent with any questions.

RHAG MEETING: If you would like to learn more about the Reproductive Health Access Group—or RHAG, email justice-mission@friends-ucc.org or see Kristin Harper or Holly Scott. And if you'd like to join us in the work, mark your calendars for Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 pm in the double classroom and plan to attend our next meeting.

FRIENDS WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join our Friends Church worship team! We are in need of additional folks to help on Sunday mornings to serve as greeters, lay leaders and communion stewards to make our worship services flow smoothly. Sign up with these links.
9am Service bit.ly/0900worship 11am Service bit.ly/1100worship.

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.

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 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

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, MARCH 27: Linda Coats Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 27th at 6:30pm. Our book will be Run by Ann Patchett. Contact Becky Burks at Spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org for more details.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, APRIL 4: 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.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, APRIL 9: Wonderful Wednesday with Women will meet on April 9 at 5pm at The Owl Pub & Grill at 315 S Main St. in Bryan. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon (stacybdeleon@gmail.com) for more information.

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.