



**Friends Church**  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Orphan with Balloons*

July 14, 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: Jackie Womack  
Greeter: Dwight Roblyer

Next Sunday, July 21  
Lay Leader: Linda Fitzwater  
Communion Steward: Carolyn Young  
Greeter: Peggy Vitek

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.

## *Eighth 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:**

"Love is holy because it is like grace—the worthiness of its object is never really what matters."

Marilynne Robinson

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Trent Williams

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

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

Jackie Womack

**One:** When we witness our work bear good fruit and rejoice in all God has done among us...

**All:** **We gather for worship.**

**One:** When misunderstanding and misinformation threaten to divide instead of unite us...

**All:** **We gather for worship.**

**One:** When we dance together in the joy of knowing we belong to God and one another...

**All:** **We gather for worship.**

**One:** When we stumble and bumble our way forward as God's grace guides us into greater love and deeper communion...

**All:** **We gather for worship. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN - #459** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Tune: Nettleton

**\*INVOCATION**

Jackie Womack

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Brooke Dooley

*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**

Brooke Dooley

One: Our hearts are hard, O God –

**All: Soften them with your love.**

One: Our hands are clenched, O God –

**All: Open them with your grace.**

One: Our feet are planted too firmly, O God –

**All: Invite us to dance with you.**

One: Our lives are not our own, we know –

**All: Let us live and move and have our being in you, O God. Amen.**

**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 - #451** Open My Eyes That I May See      Tune: Open My Eyes

1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me.  
 2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear.  
 3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where.

Place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and  
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will  
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren

set me free. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy  
 dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy  
 thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy

will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

It was told King David, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** - Be Thou My Vision - Arranged by Larry Moore (Tom Vogel, baritone)

**EPISTLE READING**

Ephesians 1:3-14, NRSV

Trent Williams

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**THE MESSAGE**

Trent Williams

**MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**INVITATION TO SHARE**

Jackie Womack

**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**

Brooke Dooley

## **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 - #377 Forward Through The Ages**

Tune: St. Gertrude

## **\*BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

## **POSTLUDE**

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: I've Got Peace Like a River, arr. P. Keveren  
Offertory: Prayer for Peace, by C. Curtis  
Postlude: God the Omnipotent, A. Lvov/P. Keveren



## 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

**FAITHFUL FRIENDS GATHERING GROUNDS, JULY:** Join folks in the sanctuary for fellowship, coffee, pastries, and nibbles before the 11 am services in July between 10:15am-10:45am.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLED:** Unfortunately due to low registration, VBS is cancelled for this year. Sorry for any inconvenience this might bring!

**EARLY WORSHIP RETURNS, AUGUST 18:** The 9am worship service will resume on August 18.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

**SUPPORT OUR PODCAST:** The “Friends Congregational Church Sermons” podcast is getting downloads across the country and even overseas! Each episode, featuring a sermon and introduced by a different church member, is an evangelism and outreach tool for all of us at Friends. Support the podcast by sharing it widely. So far the record number of downloads for an episode is 69. With your help we can hit at least 100 every week! You can also support the podcast by lending your voice to it. Contact A/V Tech Jeremy Dudo to record the intro for an episode: [av@friends-ucc.org](mailto:av@friends-ucc.org).

**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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at [pastor-brooke@friend-ucc.org](mailto:pastor-brooke@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 Sign-up Genius ( 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

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, JULY 25:** For July, the book club will be reading Carolina De Robertis’ *Radical Hope: Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm



# 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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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.