



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Peace I Leave with You!

June 23, 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: Becky Burks & Kathy Miller
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Carol Wilson

Next Sunday, June 30
Lay Leaders: Diane Simpson & Larry Dooley
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Sydney Zentell

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.

Fifth 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:

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

Corrie ten Boom

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kathy Miller

One: The God who first heard the morning stars sing
never forgets the cry of the afflicted.

All: **You, O God, have not forsaken
those who seek you.**

One: The God who set the limits of the seas
remains a stronghold for the oppressed.

All: **You, O God, have not forsaken
those who seek you.**

One: Come, let us thank God for steadfast love,

All: **for all God's mighty works.**

***OPENING HYMN - #609** Now Is the Time Approaching

Tune: Webb

***INVOCATION**

Kathy Miller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tami Dudo

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

**Dear God, the creator of all things based on love,
You created us in Your image of love
and there have been times we have fallen short of that love,
not only to You but to each other and all of creation.
I ask for Your forgiveness,
and from you, present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ.
I thank You for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit
to do better in bringing love and grace in all I do.
In Jesus' name. 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 - #439** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Tune: Ein' Feste Burg

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!" Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them.

Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

CHORAL ANTHEM: Down in the River to Pray - David L. Mennicke

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way, and who shall wear the robe and crown; Good Lord, show me the way! Oh, sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, sisters, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way, and who shall wear the starry crown; Good Lord, show me the way! Oh, brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, brothers, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way, and who shall wear the robe and crown; Good Lord, show me the way! Oh, fathers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, fathers, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way, and who shall wear the starry crown; Good Lord, show me the way! Oh, mothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, mothers, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way, and who shall wear the robe and crown; Good Lord, show me the way! Oh, sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, sinners, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way, and who shall wear the starry crown; Good Lord, show me the way! Oh, children, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. Oh, children, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

Trent Williams

EPISTLE READING

II Corinthians 6:1-13, NRSV

Shelby Nowland

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Shelby Nowland

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kathy Miller

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**

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 - #307** Glorious Things of You Are Spoken Tune: Austrian Hymn

***BENEDICTION**

Shelby Nowland

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

- Prelude: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813;
arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo
- Offertory: Fairest Lord Jesus - Music from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, arranged by Richard Storrs Willis
- Postlude: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - Martin Luther, arranged by Marilyn Ham

Scriptures for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, June 30, 2024: Lamentations 3:22-33; Mark 5:21-43

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

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, JUNE 27: For June, the book club will be reading Greg Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm.

O.W.L. SEXUALITY EDUCATION CLASSES INFORMATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 29: Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive and secular sexuality education program that centers scientifically accurate, inclusive, and age appropriate information taught by trained facilitators. Classes for 7th & 8th grade will begin in August and run through May 2025. Classes will be held at Friends Congregational Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley. If you would like to learn more about the Brazos Valley OWL program, join us for our upcoming informational meeting on June 29. Reach out to brazosvalleyowl@gmail.com for questions.

VBS REGISTRATION, JUNE 30: Please fill out registration by JUNE 30 if you intend for your K-5th grade child(ren) to attend VBS July 15-19th! Copy the link here: <https://forms.gle/WnLZ-1V7e4qVcRab8A>.

FAMILY PROMISE MEALS, JUNE 30: Family Promise of Bryan-College Station (FPBCS), a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission “to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence.” Friends Church will be hosting one or two families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting Sunday, June 30th. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping: prepare a meal, provide breakfast & lunch food, or spend the night at the Family Promise Center. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell mhowell61@gmail.com or Sally Manthei manthei_sally@aol.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EARLY WORSHIP END FOR SUMMER, JUNE 30: The last 9am worship service for the summer is on June 30. The 9am 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.

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 year, including the June Mission Trip. Contact Pastor Brooke at 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.

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

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

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.

VBS VOLUNTEER SIGN UP, JULY 15-19: Volunteers for VBS (July 15-19th) are desperately needed! If you are able, please use the SignUpGenius link to volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/4c4xCFV>. There is a variety of volunteer needs & time commitments each day. Thank you!

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.