



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



*Healing Hands*

June 9, 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: Sydney Zentell & Tyler Baker-Wilkinson  
Greeters: Eli Vasquez & Adrian Capetillo

Next Sunday, June 16

Lay Leaders: Ann Wild & Jodie Robinson  
Communion Stewards: Carolyn Young & Charity Stokes  
Greeters: Megan Aleva & Martha Newsome and Doug Lewis

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.

### *Third 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:**

"God weeps with us so that we may one day laugh with him."

Jurgen Moltmann

#### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Brooke Dooley

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

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

Tyler Baker-Wilkinson

One: Happy are those whose hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth—

**All: For God keeps faith forever!**

One: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.

**All: God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.**

One: God lifts up those who are bowed down.

**All: God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.**

One: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help—

**All: For God keeps faith forever!**

**\*OPENING HYMN - #539** Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant      Tune: Servant Song

**\*INVOCATION**      Tyler Baker-Wilkinson

**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**      Trent Williams

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**      Trent Williams

**Holy and uncontainable God,  
For trying to contain you, forgive us.  
Loving and limitless God,  
For trying to limit you, forgive us.  
Gracious and boundless God,  
For trying to bind you, forgive us.  
Sometimes we are foolish enough to believe  
that it is to our advantage to reduce you to something we can comprehend.  
Forgive us, Almighty God. 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 - #388** Help Us Accept Each Other

Tune: Aurelia

**PSALM READING**

Psalm 138:1-8, NRSV

Tyler Baker-Wilkinson

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

**HANDBELL ANTHEM:** Rondo Passacaglia - Cynthia Dobrinski

**INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER**

Trent Williams

**EPISTLE READING**

II Corinthians 4:13-5:1, NRSV

Amy Klinkovsky

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

Amy Klinkovsky

## **MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Tyler Baker-Wilkinson

## **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.

**SERVICE FOR THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS**

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Bryan Pope, Emma Bacak

**QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES**

**FRIENDS CHURCH COVENANT (UNISON)**

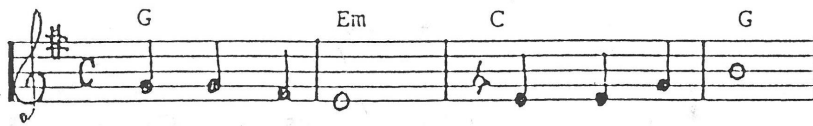
We recognize that we were strangers, that we came from diverse backgrounds, that we share a longing for acceptance and a need for mutual support — we need to celebrate our love of God with joy, enthusiasm, and faith. In faith we gather as Friends Congregational Church to experience community, to celebrate old traditions, and to affirm our new creations. Looking outward, we recognize the need to embrace the world and to invite others to share mutual gifts. Our spiritual journey is sustained by the God of Biblical history as expressed by Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and most clearly by Jesus of Nazareth. We celebrate the continuity of our faith and live in its mystery.

**\*\*WELCOME & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (UNISON)**

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. we promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus the Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen savior.\*\*

**SIGNING OF THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK**

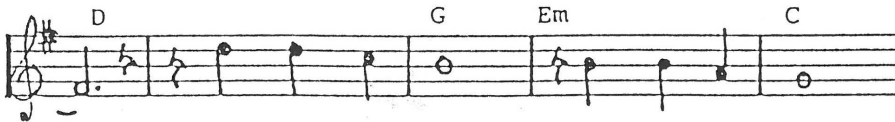
**\*CLOSING HYMN - No Longer Strangers**



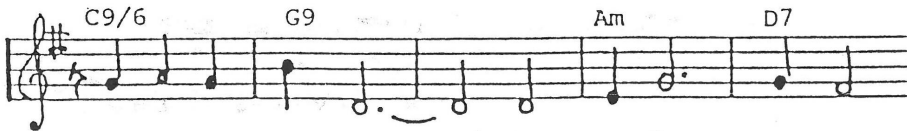
1. He turned to say: "Come fol-low me."
2. I walked a-lone. I heard your cry.
3. My world was small, my neigh-bors few,
4. No for-eign kind, no 'al--ien race,



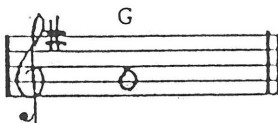
1. I joined his band to trav-el land and sea.
2. I came to you in--stead of pass--ing by.
3. But now God's love gives me a larg--er view:
4. In Christ we all have found a wel--come place.



1. And so we go to whom he sends,
2. We gave, we took; our sto-ry ends:
3. Be--fore the cross my world ex--tends...
4. The Spi--rit binds, our voic-es blend.



No long-er strang-ers, we're sis-ters, broth-ers,



friends.

\*NCH. 391 In the Midst of New Dimensions

Tune: New Dimensions

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**



## POSTLUDE

Hymns reprinted with permission — One License #A-730489, CCLI #20046014  
Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - Music from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*  
Offertory: Rock of Ages - Augustus Toplady, arranged by Melody Bober  
Postlude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Ludwig van Beethoven, arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo

Scriptures for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 16, 2024: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

## 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

**“42” PROGRESSIVE DOMINO PARTY AND DESSERT POTLUCK, JUNE 9:** Come one, come all to the 2024 Friend’s Congregation “42” Progressive Domino\* Night complete with Dessert Potluck on Sunday, June 9. Play will begin at 6:00 and end at 8:00. Never played 42? Come at 5:30 for a lesson. Bring your favorite dessert to share. Beverages will be provided.\*Progressive Dominoes involves place assignments and moving after 3 hands in a tournament-like configuration.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, JUNE 12:** Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet on Wednesday, June 12th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Anthem Kitchen + Bar @ BigShots Golf at 400 W. Villa Maria Rd, Bryan, TX 77801. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information

## 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.

**2ND ANNUAL GRILLA PRIDE PALOOZA A GREAT SUCCESS!:** Sixty or so old friends and new gathered on Sunday evening to enjoy burgers and hotdogs and all manner of rainbow-colored sides and desserts, to celebrate Pride month, sing karaoke, line dance, applaud our resident drag king and raise \$450 for the youth mission trip to D.C. Thanks to Eli and Alex for grilling, Kim and Larry for organizing, Martha and Doug for the Pride merch table and all the volunteers who helped set up, serve, take down and clean up!!

## 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

**O.W.L. SEXUALITY EDUCATION CLASSES INFORMATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 18 & 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 meetings on June 18 and June 29. Reach out to [brazosvalleyowl@gmail.com](mailto:brazosvalleyowl@gmail.com) for questions.

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, JUNE 27:** For June, 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.