



Friends Church
An Open & Affirming Congregation



Generous Vegetable Seller
2012

November 10, 2024
11:00am
New Member Sunday

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: David Manuel & Larry Dooley
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Adrian Capetillo

Next Sunday, Nov 17:

Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Jodie Robinson
Communion Stewards: Mary Johnson & Charity Stokes
Greeters: Martha Newsome, Doug Lewis, Stacy De Leon

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.

Twenty-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.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: John 13:34-35, NRSV

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this broken world."

—Mary Oliver

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 146 (RESPONSIVE)**

Larry Dooley

One: I will praise God as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

All: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

All: The Holy Liberator sets the prisoners free;

**God opens the eyes of the blind and lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

One: God watches over the strangers; upholding the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

***OPENING HYMN** - No. 22 Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Lobe den Herren

***INVOCATION**

Larry Dooley

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Trent Williams

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.**

SERVICE FOR THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Emily Rakov

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

*HYMNS - No Longer Strangers

He turned to say: "Come fol - low me." I joined his band to tra - vel
I walked a lone. I heard your cry. I came to you in - stead of
My world was small, my neigh - bors few, but now God's love gives me a
No for - eign kind, no a - lien race, in Christ we all have found a

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land and sea. And so we go to whom he sends,
pas - sing by. We gave, we took; our sto - ry ends:
lar - ger view: Be - fore the cross my world ex - tends...
wel - come place. The Spir - it binds, our voi - ces blend.

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No long - er strang - ers, we're sib - lings, fam - 'ly, friends.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Brooke Dooley

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

FIRST GOSPEL READING

Mark 12:38-44, First Nations Version

Larry Dooley

During his teachings he said, “Be on the lookout for the scroll keepers who like to show off by walking around in their fancy regalia, who want to be noticed at the trading posts, who take the best seats at the gathering houses and the places of honor at the feasts. With many words they make a big show of their prayers, and trick widows into giving them their homes and possessions. They will come to a worse end than others.”

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) found a place to sit across from the storehouse of the sacred lodge. He watched as people came to put their gifts on the offering blanket. The ones with many possessions were putting down more than others. Then he saw a poor widow come to the blanket and place two small poorly beaded earrings on it, worth almost nothing. He gathered his followers around him and told them about the widow’s gift. “I speak from my heart,” he said, “this widow has given more than all the others. What they gave was only a small part of their many possessions, but this poor widow has given all she had left to live on.”

HANDBELL ANTHEM - The Water Is Wide - Traditional English Melody, arranged by John Matheny (Diane Simpson, conductor)

SECOND GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:25-34, NRSV

Dan De Leon

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT

“Soul Care”

Lanette Schulte

INVITATION TO SHARE

Larry Dooley

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 & 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** - No. 570 We Shall Overcome

We Shall Overcome

***BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Clouds - Felix Mendelssohn
Offertory: Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 1 - Frédéric Chopin
Postlude: “Hymns of Praise,” - arr. by Phillip Keveren

Scriptures for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, November 17, 2024: Psalm 16: 9-11; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; 1 Samuel 1:4-20

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

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES BALDWIN, NOV 10: At 10am on Sundays, Nov. 10 and 17, in the double classroom, Pastor Dan is teaching a class on James Baldwin, the civil rights activist and writer whose novels, plays, and essays, according to the Poetry Foundation, “explored the psychological implications of racism for both the oppressed and the oppressor.” The class is inspired by a recent book by Greg Garrett, *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America’s Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*, and will draw from it and other sources by and about Baldwin to guide the presentations and our discussions. No prep or RSVP needed to attend. All are welcome.

PREPARING WITH PURPOSE: AN ESTATE AND END OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP, NOV 10: Join us on November 10th following the 11:00 worship service, where we will be joined by Carol Bertsch, a practicing elder law attorney, who will lead us through preparation of wills and other estate planning. Pastor Dan will also offer guidance in funeral planning and communicating final wishes. All are welcome, and lunch will be provided. Sign up here to let us know you're coming: bit.ly/preparingwithpurpose.

LGBTQ+ YOUTH FALL HAMBURGER POTLUCK, NOV 10: Pride Community Center, The UU Church of the Brazos Valley, and Friends Church are hosting a hamburger potluck for LGBTQ+ Youth, families, and friends TODAY, 5:00-7:00pm at the UU Church (1719 E 29th St). Hamburgers and plant-based options will be provided, bring your favorite hamburger fixings and a side. Contact Pastor Brooke for questions: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, NOV 13: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet on Wednesday, November 13, at Hotel McCoy at 3702 Texas 6 Frontage Rd, College Station, TX 77845. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information.

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS, NOV: In this season of Thanksgiving, please consider coming for an hour or more on Friday afternoon to Peace Lutheran Church parking lot any time between 2:30 and 6:00. Friends will be there Friday Nov. 8, 15, & 22. We will be sorting and distributing produce and other food provided by the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Contact Anne Wehrly with questions awehrly@suddenlink.net or just show up and join our team and make some new friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIENDS YOUTH CROP WALK UPDATE: The Friends Youth CROP Walk Team would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported our team by donating or walking with us. We greatly surpassed our original goal, raising a total of \$1907 to provide food security resources to Church World Services and the Brazos Church Pantry. Thank you for being part of this team and helping to create a world where all of our neighbors are fed!

FRIENDS GREETERS NEEDED: Join our Friends Church greeter team! We are in need of additional folks to help welcome people on Sunday mornings and make our worship services flow smoothly. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at worship@friends-ucc.org. You can also sign up online here: bit.ly/FriendsGreeter.

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/coffeeatfriends 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

ASSEMBLING THANKFULNESS BAGS FOR CROCKETT, NOV 17: Help is needed to assemble Thankfulness Treat Bags for the staff at Crockett Elementary School. Come to the double classroom across from the church office following the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, November 17 to assist in putting these bags together. It will only take a short time!

FRIENDSGIVING, NOV 24: Please sign up to volunteer for various pre-event tasks as well as day-of duties and to indicate what type of food you are contributing to dinner. Signup sheets are on the buffet in the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGNUP, NOV 24: The Christmas Pageant is Coming, 12/15/2024 in the 11:00 am Service! December is just around the corner and we've already started planning the Friends' Christmas Pageant. Please let us know we can count on your child/youth for the Friends Church Christmas Pageant by completing this survey by 11/24/2024 using the link: <https://tiinyurl.com/2024Pageant> or scanning the QR Code.



HELP PREP THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS, NOV 30: It's almost time to hang the greens, put up the purple, and deck the halls! On Saturday November 30, at 10am, the Worship Committee invites you to help set up and decorate the sanctuary and narthex for Advent and Christmas. We are changing the banners, hanging wreaths, setting up the angel trees, and putting out the Advent candles. Chris Hoffman will crank out carols on the piano to put us in the spirit as we work and enjoy holiday treats. RSVP to help by emailing worship@friends-ucc.org.

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.