

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Open & Affirming (ONA) Sunday
June 30, 2024
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

A WORD ABOUT OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) SUNDAY:

ONA is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Celebrated on the last Sunday of June, ONA Sunday invites UCC congregations to renew their commitment to support LGBTQ+ neighbors and their families.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION: Galatians 3:28

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Diane Simpson

One: The steadfast love of God never ceases.

All: God's mercies never come to an end;

One: they are new every morning.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

One: Weeping may linger for the night,

**All: but joy comes with the morning,
for you hear us when we cry.**

One: So we will praise you and will not be silent.

**All: Sing praises, O you faithful ones,
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

*OPENING HYMN - For Everyone Born

E *Leader or All* A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E A2 B sus B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F#m7 E/G# A2 B sus

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E B sus E B sus

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain B *All* E E/G# A2 B sus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

E E/G# A2 B sus B

joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,

C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

B sus B (E) *Fine* A2 E B sus B

jus - tice and joy!

***INVOCATION**

Diane Simpson

READING OF THE OPEN & AFFIRMING COVENANT (UNISON)

Trent Williams

We, as a diverse body of believers seeking to live in the light and image of God in Christ affirm:

**that every person has worth as a special and unique creation made in God's image;
that, in the Spirit of love and openness, we welcome into this community of faith persons of every sexual orientation, race, nationality, ability, age and gender to participate in all aspects of our church's life and ministry;
that as agents of reconciliation and wholeness we will continue our efforts toward inclusiveness, embrace all who are disenfranchised from the religious community, and stand against all forms of discrimination;
that in light of the Gospel we will empower ourselves, our children, and one another to be fully present in the world, living in Christ's image.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Trent Williams

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lanette Schulte

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.**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death.

Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

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

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

One chime calls us into silence, and two chimes call us out of silence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

Trent Williams

INVITATION TO SHARE

Diane Simpson

OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at bit.ly/givetofriends

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 - #423** Great Is Your Faithfulness

Tune: Faithfulness

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Fanfare for the Common Man - Aaron Copland
Offertory: Aria (*from* Suite in G Major) - George Frideric Handel
Postlude: Great Is Thy Faithfulness - William M. Runyan, arranged by Melody Bober

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

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>.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, JULY 5: 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 therefor 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.

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.

FAMILY PROMISE MEALS: Friends Church is hosting two families at the Family Promise center this coming week (June 30-July 6) . Thanks to all of you who have responded with offers to provide food for breakfast/lunch and snacks, spend the night with our families, and to provide evening meals. We now have everything covered to create a welcoming environment for these families.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED JULY 4: The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4 for the 4th of July. Normal business hours resume on Friday, July 5.

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 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: Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Sign up 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.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, JULY 13: Guyz Breakfast brings together fellowship, fun and great food. Join us at the church on the second Saturday of the month 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Bring your favorite breakfast food or drink to share. Pancakes and coffee are provided.

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!

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 Church Staff

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)
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Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)
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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.