



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Communion/Eucharist
Cara B. Hochhalter (2019)

August 18, 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: Susan Fontaine & Becky Burks
Communion Stewards: Megan Alevar & Larry Dooley
Greeters: Kathy Yeager & Dwight Roblyer

Next Sunday, Aug 25
Lay Leaders: Dinah Anderson & Kathy Miller
Greeters: Carolyn Young & Carol Wilson

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.

Thirteenth 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: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, "You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

"The longing for love and the movement of love is underneath all of our activities."

Jack Kornfield, *A Path with Heart*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Becky Burks

One: God of Sustaining Love—

All: **Fill our cups with clean water,
fill our plates with sustenance,
fill our tables with community.**

One: Justice-Making Spirit—

All: **Strike down those who manufacture famine.
Crumble systems that pollute nourishment.
Where food deserts have been created,
let there be abundance once more!**

One: Bread of Life—

All: **We desire to thrive together!
We desire to feed one another and be fed.**

***OPENING HYMN - #388 Help Us Accept Each Other**

Tune: Aurelia

***INVOCATION**

Becky Burks

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Trent Williams

All: Compassionate One: we confess that sometimes, we are so busy looking for the miracles we desire, we cannot see the gift of your presence in others.

We are so intent on indulging our appetites and slaking our thirsts, we cannot taste that Bread which gives life.

We spend so much of our lives bemoaning the acts of others, we have no time to look in the mirror and see our secret faces.

Forgive us, Steadfast Love. Grace us with your mercy, so we might be made whole.

Create new hearts within us, so they might beat as one with each other, and with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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: You Are My Strength When I Am Weak (You Are My All in All)**
Tune: Jernigan

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)
F* C Dm7 Am F

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea- sure that I

(Dm7) (C) (G7) (C) (G7) (C) (G)
Gm7 F C7 F C7 F C

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

(Am7) (Em) (C) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)
Dm7 Am F Gm7 F C7 Bb F

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G) (C) (G7)
F* C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C F C7

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)
F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C7 Bb F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

CHORAL ANTHEM - Redeemer of My Heart - Joseph M. Martin

Search me, Lord, and know me, Redeemer of my heart. Search me. Know me. Reveal my inmost part. You are Light eternal. You are the Morning Star. Shine Your love on me, O Lord, Redeemer of my heart.

When I rise to greet the morning, Lord, I find you there. When I call in the night, You are with me. Lord, you hear my prayer. When I turn my heart from heaven, when I fall and go astray, like a shepherd, Lord, You find me. You lead me back into the Way.

Search me, Lord, and know my heart today. Cleanse me, Lord, and teach me to obey. O teach me, Lord.

Search me, Lord, and know me, Redeemer of my heart. Search me. Know me. Reveal my inmost part. You are Light eternal. You are the Morning Star. Shine Your love on me, O Lord, Redeemer of my heart.

Shine Your love on me, O Lord, Redeemer of my heart. Search me, Lord, and know me, Redeemer of my heart.

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you that you are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate all the food you wanted. Don’t work for the food that doesn’t last but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Human One will give you. God the Father has confirmed him as his agent to give life.”

They asked, “What must we do in order to accomplish what God requires?”

Jesus replied, “This is what God requires, that you believe in him whom God sent.”

They asked, “What miraculous sign will you do, that we can see and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

Jesus told them, “I assure you, it wasn’t Moses who gave the bread from heaven to you, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

They said, “Sir, give us this bread all the time!”

Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“Who Will Receive This?”

Dan De Leon

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**INVITATION TO SHARE**

Becky Burks

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 (UNISON)

Brooke Dooley

Undoing systems that are not born of peace, deconstructing structures that do not hold reverence for life, we co-create the world to come. Accompany us, Wise Creator, Bread of Life. Instill in us your creativity. Bless our offerings to imagine and realize your kin-dom. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley, 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

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

*CLOSING HYMN - #340 Somos pueblo que camina (We Are People on a Journey)

Tune: Somos pueblo (First verse in English, then Spanish; second verse in English, then Spanish)

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: God of Ages, History's Maker - Gaelic Melody, arranged by Faye López
Offertory: Bist du bei mir - Johann Sebastian Bach
Communion: I Love to Tell the Story - William G. Fischer, arranged by Mary McDonald
Postlude: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Ludwig van Beethoven, arranged by Joel Raney

Scriptures for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 25, 2024: Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

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

VOTER REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION, AUG 18: Voter Registration and information table in front of church, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteer Deputy Registrars will be staffing the table to register voters and answer all your questions about upcoming elections and deadlines. For those new to Brazos County, if you sleep in Brazos County you can vote in Brazos County. But you must be registered in Brazos County by October 7.

FRIENDS/PEACE FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AUGUST 23: Put your faith into action next Friday August 23rd at Peace Lutheran Church as you join the Friends food team. We will be there 2:30 to 6:00 distributing food to our neighbors. Stay for an hour or more--whatever fits your schedule. We have moved our operation inside the fellowship hall so it is COOL. Send any questions to Anne Wehrly 979-220-0714. Feel free to just show up.

TINY HOPE VILLAGE WORKDAY, AUGUST 24: Workday at Tiny Hope Village (THV) for Friends Church on August 24, 2024, to paint cabinets. THV is located at 10946 W Henry Prairie Rd in Hearne. We plan to meet at the church at 8:30 am and carpool to THV, or you can meet us at the site in Hearne about 9:00 am. Bring paint brushes, rags and other painting tools. Lunch will be provided and we expect to finish early in the afternoon. You can sign up here and let us know if you plan to carpool from the church or meet us at THV. Contact Cady Engler (cen-glertx@gmail.com) for more information. Sign up HERE: <https://bit.ly/TinyHope>

PRIDE MASQUERADE GALA, AUGUST 24: This fundraising event is coming up on August 24th at the Ice House on Main. Are you interested in helping Friends sponsor a table? For \$1,500, we can sponsor a table and offer any extra seats to congregants who would like to attend. Contact Jackie Womack at moderator@friends-ucc.org for more information. Register here: <https://bit.ly/PrideGalaz2024>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: We're excited to have Sunday School for grades K-12 up and running at Friends Church for 2024-25! But while we have enough teachers to cover each class for grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12, we need additional help to assure that none of our teachers are expected to teach every Sunday. Please consider serving as a back-up teacher or occasional substitute. Additional teachers and substitutes are needed across the board, and most particularly for 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. For more information, contact Christian Education Committee Chair Abby Burley: christian_ed@friends-ucc.org.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED), AUGUST: The Evangelism and Outreach team is looking for a few folks to join the team to spread the Good News of the Gospel in the community in two main ways: community events and social media. Do you like being creative or talking with people about Friends? We are looking for folks who have experience or an interest in social media management, content creation, graphic design, videography, event planning, and volunteering. A meeting will be held soon. Contact Megan Alvear at evangelism@friends-ucc.org for more details

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 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 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: Do you enjoy having coffee/hot beverages available at Sunday morning services? Signup via sheet on counter in kitchen, or Realm (link provided in Friday church email) or by contacting 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

ICE CREAM FLOATS AND SABBATICAL STORIES, AUGUST 25: Since our senior pastor returned recently from three months of sabbatical leave, we've been wondering how it went and what he did. On Sunday, August 25, at 6pm, Pastor Dan will give an informal presentation about his time away and answer our curious questions. Join us for ice cream floats and sabbatical stories in the sanctuary.

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, AUGUST 29: For August, the book club will be reading Barbara A. Holmes' Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm

SPECIAL SERVICE WITH OUR NEXTDOOR NEIGHBORS, SEPT 8: Our neighbors at Peace Lutheran Church have invited Friends Church to join them in their sanctuary for worship at 9:30am on Sunday, September 8th. The special service will celebrate the "Friday Food Distribution Ministry" that Friends Church and Peace Lutheran have shared for over four years. Friends choir members are invited to sing with Peace's choir, both churches' pastors will lead worship, our own Anne Wehrly will give a "Temple Talk" (Peace's version of a Mission Moment), and an offering will be taken up in support of the food distribution ministry. NOTE: The 9am worship service will not be offered at Friends Church on September 8th. Instead, all are invited to attend worship at Peace Lutheran at 9:30am that morning. However, the 11am worship service at Friends Church, including our hand bell choir, children's message, and sermon, will be offered as usual. All are welcome and encouraged to attend both!

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.