

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 23, 2024
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

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

Becky Burks

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**

Becky Burks

***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

Tami Dudo

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.**

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

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

Becky Burks

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 - #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-rV7e4qVcRab8A>.

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 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

2200 Southwood Drive • College Station, Texas 77845
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.