

# FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 2024  
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming  
Congregation*

## **SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION:** Colossians 3:13, NIV

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

## **QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:**

“Forgiveness or release is designed to bring change. It accomplishes its purpose when it opens up a future that the wrongdoing from the past had closed off.”

Craig Koester, Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary

## **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Trent Williams

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

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Diane Simpson

One: Worker God, whose hands built the earth,  
molded our bodies, and sowed the stars across the sky,

**All: we gather in your presence this morning  
with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds.**

One: Meet us here, Worker God;

**All: strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you  
in the building of a world filled with justice and peace.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** - No. 516 O Grant Us, God, a Little Space (vv. 1, 4, 5) *Winchester Old*

**\*INVOCATION** Diane Simpson

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** Dan De Leon

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Trent Williams

*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.**

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 6:9-13, NRSV Dan De Leon

"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

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

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

**THE MESSAGE** "Debts, Debtors, and Callie House" Dan De Leon

## **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**

### **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Diane Simpson

### **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**

Trent Williams

### **OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

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.

### **\*CLOSING HYMN - No. 588 Let Justice Flow like Streams**

*St. Thomas*

### **\*BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

## POSTLUDE

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*Instrumental Music:*

Prelude: Come, Christians, Join to Sing - Spanish Melody, arranged by Matt Limbaugh  
Offertory: How Can I Keep From Singing - Rev. Robert Lowry  
Communion: Just As I Am - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Joel Raney  
Postlude: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - Music from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*

Scriptures for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 8, 2024: Jeremiah 31:27-34; Luke 18:1-8

## 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

**FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, SEPT 6:** 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 there for 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.

**20/30 SOMETHINGS POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT, SEPT 6:** The Friends Church 20/30 Somethings will be gathering at Pastor Brooke’s house for a potluck and game night on Friday, 9/6, 6pm-8pm. Bring a dish or beverage, and your favorite game to play. We’ll also take some time to plan upcoming events for the 20/30 Somethings this fall. Contact Pastor Brooke for details and questions: [pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

**SNACK COLLECTION, SEPT 8:** In honor of our “Friday Food Distribution Ministry” which we will celebrate on September 8th, the Sunday School will create Healthy Snack Bags to be handed out to families with children during our Friday Food Distribution. We are requesting donations of individually packaged, shelf stable, no added sugar or artificial sugar, healthy snacks that we can include such as: packaged popcorn, apple sauce, raisins, seaweed, fruit cups. Please place donations in the bin in the hall by the office or the bin in the narthex.

**YOUTH SNACK ACTIVITY, SEPT 8:** Join us to make snack bags and cards on Sept 8th from 10-11am in the divided classroom.

**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”, 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 will be offered as usual. All are welcome and encouraged to attend both!

**INQUIRE + CONNECT, SEPT 8:** After the 11pm service, at the Inquire Class you will learn about Friends—our history, our community, our opportunities for engagement—from church members and one of our pastors. The Inquire Class concludes with an invitation to participate in an optional follow-up Connect Class offered in the home of a church member. In the Connect Class you will learn more about the vision and mission of Friends Church, and how you can “connect” with our various opportunities for nurturing your spirituality, seeking social justice, and getting more involved in the life of our community of faith. For more information and to sign up for Inquire + Connect, contact Becky Burks.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY, SEPT 2:** The church office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday.

**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](mailto:Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org), know if we can add you to our list.

**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](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org). You can also sign up online here: [bit.ly/friendsgreeter](https://bit.ly/friendsgreeter).

**“SCRIPTURE & AMERICAN SACRED TEXTS”:** MORNING MANNA SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: In conjunction with our September sermon series “Untaught History,” join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am from August 25 through September 29 for a series that will explore historic American works in conversation with scripture.

September 1: Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural/The Battle Hymn of the Republic & Genesis, Matthew, the Psalms

September 8: No Sunday School

September 15: Declaration of Rights and Sentiments & Biblical Women

September 22: The Byrds’ “Turn, Turn, Turn” & Ecclesiastes/Biblical Wisdom Writings

September 29: Martin Luther King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” & Paul’s Prison Epistles

**SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES:** For the five Sundays in September, our preachers will offer a special sermon series: “Untaught History: Reparations, Resoluteness, Resistance, and Redemption.” Our former school days of selective history lessons that left out countless stories and altered others, and these present days of banned books and whitewashed curriculums beckon us to learn some of that untaught history as a testament to our faith in Jesus’ insistence that “you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Pastor Brooke, Pastor Trent, and Pastor Dan will explore stories from the post-Reconstruction era, the Holocaust, the civil rights and gay rights movements, and how God is still speaking through that largely untaught history.

Sept 1, Pastor Dan: “Debts, Debtors, and Callie House,” Matthew 6:9-13

Sept 8, Pastor Trent: “Nevertheless, We Persist,” Luke 18:1-8

Sept 15, Pastor Dan: “Laughter: Hope’s Last Weapon in the Holocaust,” Genesis 22:1-14

Sept 22, Pastor Trent: “Building the Future Together,” Exodus 25:1-9

Sept 29, Pastor Brooke: “The Bridge Which Christ Had Built,” Genesis 32: 24-32

So, bring a friend and join us every Sunday in September at Friends Church for some “Untaught History.”

## 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](mailto: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](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 school year. Contact Pastor Brooke at [pastorbrooke@friend-ucc.org](mailto: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](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 Realm ( 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 [Properly@Friends-ucc.org](mailto:Properly@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

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, SEPT 11:** Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will meet at Downtown Uncorked at 1551 Greens Prairie Rd on Wednesday, August 14th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information

**GUYZ BREAKFAST, SEPT 14:** 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.

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, SEPT 15:** On September 15, we welcome our newest members into the life of Friends Congregational Church. If you are interested in joining Friends Church on New Member Sunday, please contact Senior Pastor Dan De Leon ([pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)), Executive Pastor Trent Williams ([pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)), or Associate Pastor Brooke Dooley ([pastor-brooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor-brooke@friends-ucc.org)).

**NAACP BRAZOS COUNTY BRANCH BANQUET, SEPT 21:** NAACP Brazos County Branch is having a Freedom Fund Banquet September 21, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Brazos Center. Churches can sponsor a table for \$600. If you would like to help Friends sponsor a table, contact Jackie Womack at [moderator@friends-ucc.org](mailto:moderator@friends-ucc.org). If you would like more information about the event or to purchase tickets for yourself, contact [brazoscountynaacp@gmail.com](mailto:brazoscountynaacp@gmail.com).

**LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, SEPT 26:** For September, the book club will be reading Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, By America*. Join us for discussion at 6:30pm

### Friends Church Staff

#### Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon (*he, him*)  
[pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org)

#### Director of Music Ministries

Chris Hoffman (*he, him*)  
[choir@friends-ucc.org](mailto:choir@friends-ucc.org)

#### Executive Pastor

The Rev. Trent Williams (*he, him*)  
[pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)

#### Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

The Rev. Brooke Dooley (*she, her, they, them*)  
[pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

#### Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)  
[office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org)

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979-693-7021 • [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org)  
[www.friends-ucc.org](http://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.