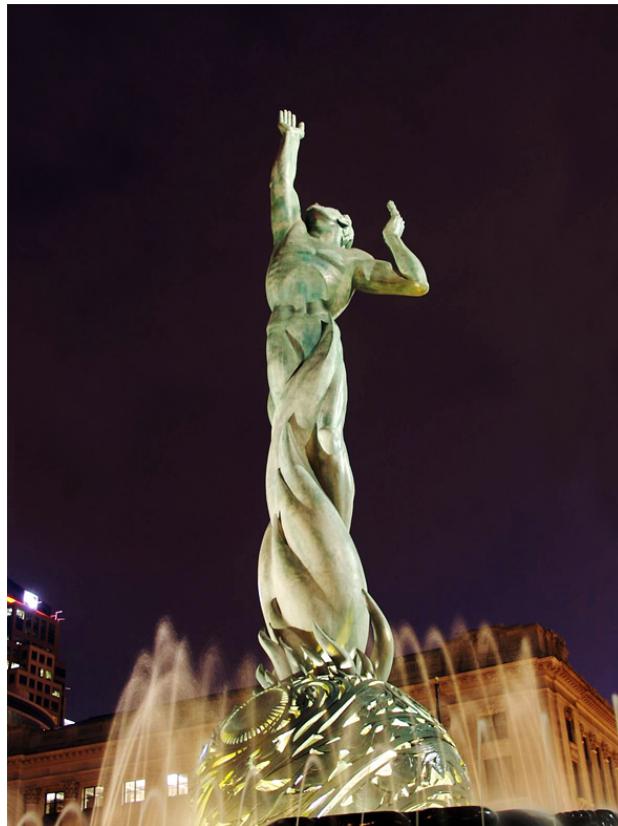




An Open & Affirming Congregation



Fredericks, Marshall M. *Fountain of Eternal Life*. 1964.  
Memorial Plaza. Cleveland, Ohio.

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 16, 2021  
11:00am  
Livestream**

**WELCOME**

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.

## Eastertide

*Easter is not just one day—it's a whole season. Throughout these 50 days, we celebrate and ponder the mystery of the resurrection and the promise of new life.*

Words in **BOLD** are yours to speak out loud

\*\*You are invited to stand

### **Psalm for Meditation:** Psalm 1 (CEB)

The truly happy person

    doesn't follow wicked advice,  
    doesn't stand on the road of sinners,  
    and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

Instead of doing those things,

    these persons love the Lord's Instruction,  
    and they recite God's Instruction day and night!

They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,

    which bears fruit at just the right time  
    and whose leaves don't fade.

    Whatever they do succeeds.

That's not true for the wicked!

    They are like dust that the wind blows away.

And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—

    neither will sinners  
    in the assembly of the righteous.

The Lord is intimately acquainted

    with the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

### \*\*WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Trent Williams

*One: Like trees planted by streams of water, those who delight in God's ways will not whither.*

**All: Flourishing, they bear fruit appropriate to each season.**

*One: Through seasons of justice or compassion, seasons of change or of rest...*

**All: With wisdom and discernment, they blossom and they bloom.**

*One: Abundant is the harvest of those who trust in God.*

**All: Blessed is the community that follows the call of love.**

OPENING HYMN — We Live by Faith and Not by Sight - Tune: Dunlap's Creek

*Unison*

1 We live by faith and not by sight;  
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;  
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as  
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing  
 and may our faith a - bound To call on you when  
 in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.  
 we re - joice: our Sav - ior and our God!  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Anne Wehrly

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

*Children are invited to come to the front facing the porch steps.  
 Please remain three feet apart for safety measures. Parents are welcome to join their children.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brooke Dooley

When people ask how I'm doing  
I want to say,  
my depression is an angry deity, a jealous god  
a thirsty shadow that wrings my joy like a dishrag and makes juice out of my smile.  
I want to say,  
getting out of bed has become a magic trick.  
I am probably the worst magician I know.  
I want to say,  
this sadness is the only clean shirt I have left  
and my washing machine has been broken for months,  
but I'd rather not ruin someone's day with my tragic honesty  
so instead I treat my face like a pumpkin.  
I pretend that it's Halloween. I carve it into something acceptable.  
I laugh and I say, "I'm doing alright."  
– \*Rudy Francisco, "When People Ask How I'm Doing" (2017).

*During the Prayers of the People, you are invited to share your prayers of joy and concern in the comments for the livestream of the worship service. Those shared prayers will be included in the church's email prayer chain this week.*

## INVITATION TO SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Brooke Dooley

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

## SCRIPTURE READING – 1 John 5:9-13 (Inclusive Bible)

Rev. Trent Williams

We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater.  
And this is God's testimony, given as evidence of the Only Begotten of God.  
Those who believe in this One have this evidence within their hearts.  
Those who don't believe God have made God a liar by refusing to believe in the testimony given on behalf of the Only Begotten of God.  
The testimony is this: God has given us Eternal life, and this life is in the Only Begotten. Whoever has the Only Begotten has life, and whoever does not have the Only Begotten does not have life.  
I have written all this to you who believe in the Only Begotten of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

*One: The Word of God for the people of God.*  
**All: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!**

## SPECIAL MUSIC — Give Me Jesus - Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Moses Hogan

Chris Hoffman, tenor

GOSPEL READING – John 17:5-8a; 14-19 (Inclusive Bible)

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

Now Abba glorify me with your own glory,  
the glory I had with you before the world began.  
I have manifested your name to those you gave me from the world.  
They were yours, and you gave them to me  
And now they have kept your word.  
Now they know that everything you've entrusted to me  
Does indeed come from you.  
I entrusted to them the message you entrusted to me,  
And they received it. ...  
I gave them your word, and the world has hated them for it  
because they don't belong to the world  
any more than I belong to the world.  
Consecrate them—make them holy through the truth—  
for your word is truth.  
As you have sent me into the world,  
so I have sent them into the world;  
I consecrate myself now for their sakes,  
that they may be made holy in truth.

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

INVITATION TO SHARE & JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Anne Wehrly

OFFERTORY

*Secure online giving via Church Office Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriends](http://bit.ly/givetofriends)*  
*GivePlus Text to 833-421-0009*  
*Venmo to 979-446-5746 or @friendsucc*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Trent Williams

THE OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata & Rev. Trent Williams

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Rev. 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 — Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound - Tune: Amazing Grace (New Britain)

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - ready come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

COMMUNITY LIFE THIS WEEK

Rev. Trent Williams

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Christine Tata

POSTLUDE

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*Hymns reprinted with permission — OneLicense #A-730489, CCLI #20046014*

Instrumental Music:

Prelude: *Trumpet Tune* - Antonio Vivaldi

Offertory: *The Church's One Foundation* - Samuel Sebastian Wesley, arranged by Phillip Keveren

Communion: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* - Oliver Holden, arranged by Janet Vogt

Postlude: *To God Be the Glory* - William H. Doane, arranged by Stan Pethel

\*Francisco, Rudy. "When People Ask How I'm Doing." 2017. *Button Poetry*, Button Poetry, [www.buttonpoetry.com/rudy-francisco-people-ask-im/](http://www.buttonpoetry.com/rudy-francisco-people-ask-im/). Accessed 13 May 2021.

**Scriptures for May 23:** Acts 2:1-21

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**FIRST TIME AT FRIENDS?** If you are visiting us today, please let us know. 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.

**CHRIS HOFFMAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**: On June 7, 2021, Chris Hoffman will have served for FIFTEEN years as Friend's Music Director. We want to celebrate this incredible milestone with a Friends reception. So set your calendar for **JUNE 20, 2021**. Following worship that day, we will have a reception, eat good food, share stories, and maybe even hear some great music. In anticipation of this event, we will be putting together a book for Chris of remembrances of what he has meant to each of us. If you have a story to tell or want to describe what Chris's leading our music program has meant to you, please consider sharing that with Maggie Gartner who is putting together a book of memories for Chris. **Deadline for submission is June 10**. Stories may be shared by email or snail mail, whichever is easiest for you. Maggie's contact information is [maggiegartner68@gmail.com](mailto:maggiegartner68@gmail.com) (electronic) or 703 Willow Loop, College Station, TX 77845 (hard copy).

**IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL SERVICES AT FRIENDS CHURCH**: As we remain vigilant—loving one another and our neighbors by adhering to safety protocols—the worship services at Friends Church will be offered in two formats from week to week: in-person and livestream. **Starting Pentecost Sunday, May 23, in person services will be offered in the sanctuary at 9am and 11am, and the 11am service also will be livestreamed on the Friends Church website, Facebook, and YouTube**. Due to safety protocols, **space is limited and registration is required** for in-person attendance at both the 9am & 11am services. The sign-up link for both in-person services will be emailed this week, so please check your inbox and stay tuned for further information. **Note**: In-person services are offered on a first come first served basis and depend on the [Friends Church Decision Meter](#) being on "yellow" or better.

**EXCITING SUNDAY SERVICES COMING UP!**: Don't miss **Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 30 and New Member Sunday, June 6**. Please contact Pastor Trent at [PastorTrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:PastorTrent@friends-ucc.org) if you're interested in joining the Friends Church family and stay tuned for more information on these exciting celebrations.

**CHURCH COUNCIL & CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**: Stay involved in our church community! Please join us for the next Church Council Meeting May 24 and the Congregational Meeting June 13 to vote for new leadership.

**REJUVENATE THE PLAYGROUND – VOLUNTEER TODAY**: We are seeking a few volunteers to form a committee to consider and plan a rejuvenation of the children's playground. The work would include planning any needed upgrades or changes in equipment and surface and establishing a budget. The budget would be included in our budget submission to the congregation for next year and if approved, next year would be the implementation phase. If you are interested in working on this committee, please email Susan Fontaine at [svfontaine@gmail.com](mailto:svfontaine@gmail.com).

**SHARE FOOD WITH OUR COMMUNITY ON FRIDAYS , 3 pm:** Friends Church and our neighbor church Peace Lutheran are working together to feed hungry folks from our community every Friday. Volunteer to lend a helping hand by sharing an hour or more of your time between 3:00 and 6:30 pm and let Anne Wehrly at [auehrly@suddenlink.net](mailto:awehrly@suddenlink.net) know when you're available to chip-in your time. Come to the Peace Lutheran parking lot where the distribution is happening, wear your mask, and prepare to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we are serving. Hope to see you there!

**PROVIDE FOOD FOR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS ON SATURDAYS:** How it works: Each week, we pack a selection of groceries and pick up donations at the food pantry at Peace Lutheran Church, then deliver them on Saturday. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to go with us to deliver! The more people who go, the more comfortable our friends will be. How you can help: Food can be donated/delivered either to Charity Stokes or to Marisa Winking. Contact Charity at [charityk.martin@gmail.com](mailto:charityk.martin@gmail.com) or 832-557-0085 for details. Please remember that our friends have limited fridge and room space to store food (mini-fridge) and only a microwave to heat food.

**JOIN SOUL FRIENDS SMALL GROUPS:** New small groups have begun, and there is still time to join one. Our small groups offer an opportunity for connection, building relationships, and deepening your spiritual growth. We currently have four groups available:

- Women's Group (for all women-identified persons)
- Men's Group (for all men-identified persons)
- Parent's Group
- LGBTQ+ Group

Contact Pastor Trent ([pastortrent@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastortrent@friends-ucc.org)) for more information. You can also indicate your interest here: [bit.ly/soulfriendsgroups](http://bit.ly/soulfriendsgroups).

**MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY:** We are pleased to lift up Mental Health Sunday, sponsored by The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network. This wing of the UCC works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. We envision a future in which people with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included in their congregations. For more information, resources, and ideas about how congregations can become WISE\* (\*Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged), visit <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/>. The people of Friends are always here to help: [office@friends-ucc.org](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org); [revchristine@friends-ucc.org](mailto:revchristine@friends-ucc.org).

**PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING REV. DR. CHRISTINE TATA:** Senior Pastor Relations is excited to introduce Rev. Dr. Christine Tata (pronounced Tāta) as the Acting Senior Pastor who will help shepherd our congregation with Pastor Trent during the two months Senior Pastor Dan De Leon is away on sabbatical. The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata is a United Church of Christ minister who has served congregations in Denver, Dallas, and California. Most recently, she has been preaching virtually, delivering online services for progressive congregations to help them create sacred virtual spaces to meet the challenges of this pandemic year. Experience more of Rev. Dr. Christine's ministry work on her YouTube channel, here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIk1JpNStdjYO3HmCkYDMA>.

**FRIENDS COVID DECISION METER, YELLOW:** With a consistent trajectory of lower positivity rates, less hospitalizations, etc. locally, the church's Decision Meter, which determines our safety measures and protocols related to the pandemic, has gone down to yellow, which allows for us to have group gatherings onsite outdoors at Friends Church. Click [here](#) for more information on how yellow and the other color levels affect personal safety protocols, drop-in visitors, staff, etc.

## FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### **Our Vision:**

*Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.*

### **Our Mission:**

*United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.*

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### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 11:00am

### FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

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

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

Chris Hoffman, *Director of Music Ministries*  
[choir@friends-ucc.org](mailto:choir@friends-ucc.org)

Kathy Robbins, *Pianist*  
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Kate Rabe, *Administrative Assistant*  
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