Love God. Love People.

February 2026

February Events

Awana
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

Discipleship Pathway Classes
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

Grace Gals
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

Men's & Women's Bible Studies
Tuesdays @ 10:00am

Mom-to-Mom
Saturday, Feb 7 @ 10:00am

Monday Men's Basketball
Mondays @ 6:30pm

Pickleball
Thursdays @ 6:30pm

Primetimers
Wednesdays @ 10:00am

Saturday Men's Basketball
Saturdays @ 7:30am

TrailLife/AHG
Monday Feb 2 @ 5:30pm

Valentine's Day Brunch
Saturday Feb 14 @ 10:00am

Women's Event
Saturday Feb 14 @ 6:00pm

Young Adults
Mondays @ 6:30pm

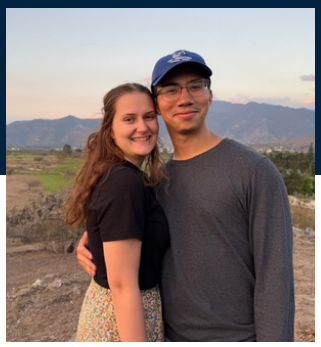
Valentine's Brunch

for couples

Feb 14 | 10am

inside

- from the Esteban's
- from Pastor Rod
- from Pastor Jeremy
- from the Stewart's
- and more



What does a typical day look like for you

I (Abigail) am an early riser, and morning is my favorite time of the day. I normally wake up at 5:30 and start getting ready for the day so I can spend a good amount of time with Jesus. Around 7:00, I walk to school, which is only about three minutes away. My husband and I live on "teacher hill," which is across the road from the school. I begin preparing for third grade by opening all the windows, turning on the fans, passing back papers, and writing our morning work on the board.

We start school at 7:30, always with journaling and prayer in third grade. I then teach English, phonics, writing, and reading. After that, the kids go to Bible class, and I have my prep time. During prep, I usually grade and get things done for my upcoming Spanish classes. In the afternoons, I then teach second through fifth grade spanish. In the last hour of my school day, I will also do a little bit of English tutoring for some of the younger students who are struggling.

As a first-year teacher, after school looks like a lot of prep for the next day and grading from the activities from the day before. I then head home between 3:30 and 4:30 to cook dinner. My husband and I will eat together and–depending on the night–we will either relax, go to a fellowship group with other missionaries, or practice for worship.

Do you have any transformation stories to share

I have only been on the field for just over three months, but it is still crazy to see how much my students and I have already grown. I think the biggest story of transformation came after I taught a lesson to third grade about self-control. During the first quarter, my co-teacher and I were beginning to fight some behavior problems with kids talking while we were talking, distracting others by fidgeting in their desks, not saying kind words, and being disrespectful. As we approached the second quarter, I decided to take a day and talk about the virtue of self-control. During this lesson, we talked about self control being a fruit of the spirit and how when we are tempted to do something wrong, we can ask God for help. I explained that when we accepted Jesus into our hearts, when we had to do hard things, we could always stop and pray for the Holy Spirit to help us control our actions and words.

One of my students was having really tough behavior issues at the beginning of the year, and we just had to sit down with his guardian and say that if he continued in the behavior, he would be placed on conditional enrollment. After our lesson on self-control, I caught this same boy praying in a moment where there were lots of other kids talking and misbehaving. It was something so small, but it really has seemed to affect his behavior, and his transformation has been so heartening.

from Pastor Rod

It's been sixteen months since we moved to Ohio. In some ways, it doesn't seem that long, and in other ways it feels like we've been here for years — because this place has quickly become home.

Zuza and I came here simply wanting to serve — to be a blessing to Pastor Aaron and to Friends Church in any way we could. What we didn't expect was how deeply we would be blessed. This church family opened its arms wide, welcomed us into fellowship, and surrounded us with more genuine friendships in sixteen months than some people find in sixteen years. The team (church staff) God has brought together here is something truly special.

A great joy this year was having our daughter Simone move back from Hungary in March. We miss our other daughter in Austria and our son and his family in Tennessee, but having Simone close has been a gift.

One of the highlights of our week is gathering with the Primetimers. We love that group dearly. Every week, we look forward to opening the Word together and connecting with as many of them as we can. They are a bright spot in our ministry and our lives.

And of course, we still can't get over the deer wandering through our backyard. You can tell we didn't grow up here — we stop what we're doing and take pictures every time. Whether we lived in Europe or California, that was something we never saw. It's a small thing, but God often reminds us of His goodness through small things.

When I look back on these sixteen months, I'm amazed at all the Lord has done in us and in our church. We are convinced God has an incredible plan to reach the Ohio Valley as we remain faithful to Love God and Love People — until the whole valley knows our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we move forward together into waters that may be uncharted for us — but never uncharted for the Lord — I want to encourage us to remember that we are all Friends. In the spirit of the Apostle Paul's words to the Philippians:

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel."
— Philippians 1:27–28, ESV

We will not agree on every issue or every direction Friends Church should take. That is normal for any family and any ministry. But we can remain unified. We can choose humility. And we can willingly yield to the leadership God has entrusted to Pastor Aaron. I would not be here if I believed otherwise.

Paul goes on to say:

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
— Philippians 3:12–14

May this be our heart together — forgetting what lies behind, straining forward to what lies ahead, and pressing on toward the goal God has placed before Friends Church. The best days of ministry in the Ohio Valley are still ahead.

Pastor Rod

Whether a couple is seriously dating, engaged, or already married, relationships grow best with support and encouragement. We want to be a church that walks alongside couples as they strive to be resilient & Christ-centered. And, we know strong relationships are a gift to families, to the church, and to the world around them. This Valentine's Brunch is one small way to help couples grow.

Valentine's Day Brunch

for couples

Feb 14 | 10am

SCAN HERE

Women's Ministry Event

Open Hearts, Open Arms

February 14 | 6:00 - 8:00pm

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12

Ladies, you are invited to a celebration of long-lasting and new friendships within our church and beyond. Wear red, bring your favorite appetizer to share, and leave feeling loved.

from Pastor Jeremy

Awana has started back up, and we couldn't be more thrilled. As Friends Kids, our heart is simple and deeply rooted—we want to help form the faith of the next generation and raise up resilient disciples of Jesus Christ.

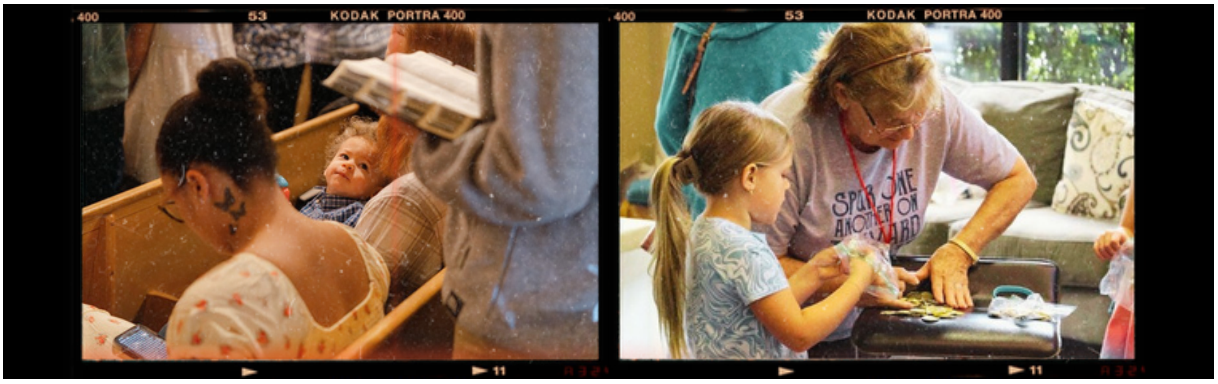
But before we talk about where we're going, we need to pause and honor where we've been.

For years, Becky McLeod has faithfully served in Friends Kids, laying an incredible foundation for the ministry we have today. She has given her time, talents, and treasures selflessly, week after week, for the sake of children and families. Becky has poured her heart into helping kids know Jesus—not for recognition, but out of deep faithfulness and love. The seeds she has planted in the lives of so many young ones are lasting, and the fruit of her ministry will continue to grow long after this season. So we pause to say, "*Becky, thank you. Everything we get to do now is built on what you faithfully did then. We love you, and we are deeply grateful for your legacy.*"

Looking ahead, we could not be more excited about what God is doing in and through kids ministry at Friends. Kids ministry is one of the greatest opportunities we have as a church—to disciple young people early, to partner with families, and to help kids build a faith that lasts. Through Awana and Sunday mornings, we are committed to helping kids understand and love God's Word, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and become young men and women who live out their faith with confidence and joy.

This is a new chapter, built on a strong foundation—and we can't wait to see what God does next.

Pastor Jeremy



from the Stewart's
serving with YWAM Ships

In October, Bobby and Rachel Stewart joined YWAM Ships in Townsville, Australia, where they began a Discipleship Training School specifically preparing them for a medical ship mission. They completed their training and boarded the YWAM medical ship in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, January 28.

Since 2010, YWAM Ships has been navigating the coast and river systems of Papua New Guinea to bring essential healthcare, public health education, and faith development opportunities to remote communities that are difficult to reach by traditional means. Their work is carried out through three engagement teams that serve in distinct but complementary ways:

- the Bible Engagement Team supports faith formation and Gospel understanding,
- the Community Engagement Team provides public health & community education, and
- the Medical Engagement Team delivers clinical care.

The vessel is staffed by trained medical professionals and equipped with a dental clinic, procedure unit, and laboratory, allowing residents to access care that would otherwise be unavailable.

Medical and educational access in Papua New Guinea remains limited for many remote villages, but the receptivity to both practical care and the Gospel is strong. The ministry of the medical ship helps bridge that gap by meeting physical needs while equipping local leaders for long-term spiritual growth.

Bobby will be leading the Bible Engagement Team, which provides Scripture resources and partners with local faith leaders to strengthen their Gospel understanding and capacity for ongoing faith formation within their communities.

Rachel will be serving across all three engagement teams—Bible, Community, and Medical—in a hands-on capacity, contributing to both practical care and faith development as needs arise.

We are praying for changed lives and eternal outcomes through healthier communities, strengthened local leadership, and Gospel partnerships that impact generations.

New Helpful Tools for Online Giving

We've added a few updates to our Church Center giving platform that make supporting the ministries you love simpler and more flexible.

Give to Multiple Funds at Once

Want to support Tithes & Offerings, Missions, the Building Fund, or a special campaign—all in one gift? Now you can! Just tap "Give to another fund" and enter your amounts for each.

Recurring Giving Options

Prefer to "set it and forget it"? You can schedule a recurring gift weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly—right from the Church Center app or website.

Stretch Your Gift Further with ACH

Processing fees are different depending on how you give:

- ACH Bank Transfer: flat $0.30 per transaction
- Credit Card: 2.15% + $0.30

There's also an optional "cover fees" box if you'd like to help with processing costs. Choosing ACH sends more of your gift directly to the ministry.

Why Online Giving? Why Not Just Checks?

It's a fair question—many have faithfully given by check for years, and checks cost nothing to process. You're welcome to keep giving that way!

Online giving exists simply because a lot of families (especially younger ones) don't carry checks anymore and appreciate the ability to give quickly from their phone or set up recurring gifts. For many people, the convenience actually helps them stay consistent in their giving week to week, even when they're traveling or can't be in the building.

We're committed to stewarding every dollar well, so for those who give online, we encourage using ACH (the lowest-fee option), or they can choose to cover the small fees associated with credit cards.

At the end of the day, every method of giving matters, and we're grateful for the generosity of our whole church family—whether it comes through a check, the Church Center app, or an envelope in the offering box.

Save the Dates!

- Child Dedications - March 15 during all three services, in the sanctuary

- Holy Week - March 29 - April 5

One more thing to note:
In 2024, 5th Sundays were IFLC Sundays. Going forward, they will take place in the Sanctuary, with all three services operating as normal.

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