

## Our Current Worship Arts Banner

Many have noticed and commented on the banner at the front of the church. Written in Greek, it says “In the beginning was the Word”, or John 1:1a. This is one biblical text I studied when I took “New Testament Greek” when I was younger.

Greek letters are different than Roman ones, but we can transliterate the sounds to a Roman alphabet as follows: Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος in Greek might have sounded something like “En archē ēn ho Lógos”

For me, there is something wonderful about the mystery of text I cannot read. While traveling or interacting with people from other cultures, there is something wonderful about the complexity of cultures and peoples that speak languages I cannot; people, patterns of thought, and layers of culture that at once are nearby and feel distant and mysterious. For me, that is the start of a small romance with the unknown — I want to know and understand more. Then, as I study the language and culture, and talk to the people, the veil falls, and I get closer to understanding. But for me, that mystery and distance is an important start. As I get to know the people, culture, and language, then I feel like I begin to close a gap.

For the Bible, in always reading the pre-translated version of biblical text, we skip this mystery phase of our relationship with the Word, a mystery which is none-the-less there. By failing to see the gap between us and the culture and meaning of the words, we fail to make an effort to bridge the gap in space, time, and culture that divides us.

A few years back, when asked to create a banner for the church, I created a small mystery: a banner that has but a segment of text. This is a small mystery that calls out to us from John’s pen, a mystery of divine revelation separated from us through space, time, and language. *In the beginning was the word.* – Steve Mather



Happy Birthday!



*Keep these people in your prayers as they celebrate another year of life!*

**\*Contact the church office for a list of upcoming birthdays\***



# Friendship Mennonite Church

**February 26, 2017**

Welcome  
Opening Song  
Call to Worship  
Songs of Praise  
Children’s Moment  
Scripture Reading: John 2:18-25  
Sermon: “*Credentials*” Brother Dan Hooley  
Song of Response  
Congregational Sharing & Prayer  
Offering  
Penny Power Offering  
Announcements  
Sending Song  
Benediction

### Visiting this week?

#### Welcome to Friendship Mennonite Church!

We are so glad you've joined us for worship! We hope you find a place to belong and consider joining us in God's mission. We are looking for people to join us who are interested in learning more about Jesus, becoming a disciple and finding out God's purpose in life!

## Announcements

- **Camp Sunday!** On Sunday, March 5, our guest speaker will be Andrew Michaels, Director of Camp Luz. Many youth from Friendship attend Camp Luz each summer. Following Worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Smookie fundraiser. Smookies are fun treats that campers enjoy at Camp Luz and consist of toasted marshmallows in the middle of 2 chocolate chip cookies. Join us for some Smookie fun as we raise funds to help the youth attend camp this summer!
- **Easter Breakfast** Lent starts soon, and not far behind will be Easter Sunday! We are in need of someone to coordinate the Easter Breakfast. Please let Cara Speros know if you are interested.
- **Caregiver Needed** Alyse Ciocca from the Daycare is looking to hire someone to care for her special needs son, 2.5 hrs a day. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please talk with Brother Dan or call Alyse at 216-570-9839.
- **Retiring Soon?** Eric Schroll and Robert Hamill will be presenting An Overview of Medicare (5:30 – 6:45 pm) and An Overview of Social Security (7 – 8:15 pm) at Everence, 1221 W Maple St, Hartville on Monday, March 6th. Please RSVP by calling 330-877-6066 or emailing [jean.bontrager@everence.com](mailto:jean.bontrager@everence.com).
- **Annual Conference Assembly** Central Christian School in Kidron will host the 2017 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) of the Ohio Conference on March 24-25, 2017. "Who is my Neighbor?" will be the theme of the 2017 ACA. This theme is based on Luke 10:25-37. A missional conference with Alan and Debra Hirsch will take place March 23-24 at Kidron Mennonite Church immediately prior to ACA. Online registration is now open for both of these events. More information can be found online at <http://ohiomennoniteconference.org/annual-assembly/about-annual-assembly/>
- **Additional Giving for last Sunday:** Sunday School: \$18.00; MAMA Project: \$90.00.

## Serving Our Church Today

*Worship Leader:* Anita Hooley Yoder *Song Leader:* Jonathan Witmer-Rich  
*Piano:* Rhonda Savage *Usher:* Jonathan Hartzler  
*Sunday School Nursery:* Nate Stehouwer *Greeter:* Nate Stehouwer  
*Worship Nursery:* Maria Witmer-Rich *A/V Team:* Ben Yoder  
*Sunday Building Trustee:* Witmer-Rich Family

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## Serving Next Sunday

*Worship Leader:* Cara Speros *Song Leader:* Rachel Miller  
*Usher:* Chris Savage *Greeter:* Chris Coblentz  
*SS Nursery:* Nate Stehouwer *Worship Nursery:* Mary Wright  
*A/V Team:* TBA *Sunday Building Trustee:* TBA

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## Looking Ahead

Sunday, March 5 Camp Sunday with Guest Speaker Andrew Michaels  
March 23-24 Missional Conference @Kidron Mennonite  
March 24-25 Ohio Conference Annual Conference Assembly

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## Giving for Last Sunday

Church Offering:  
\$924.00

Weekly Budget:  
\$1463.00

### Friendship Mennonite Church

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**[www.friendmc.org](http://www.friendmc.org)**