

# The Bounty in Absence

Sabbatical 2015

Pastors Kevin and Nan Kanagy will be on a three month sabbatical from February 1 through April 30 this year. Worship Committee has chosen the theme "**Bounty in Absence**" for this time period and we look forward to seeing how God will move in our midst. Please contact Elder Rhonda Savage if a pastoral need arises.

As our visual during the time of the Kanagy's sabbatical, we will watch as a piece of burlap fabric changes, moves and evolves in the front of the sanctuary. The transformation of this humble fabric will help us to remember the ways that we can be transformed by the Holy Spirit, sometimes in surprising ways and sometimes during times of difficulty and "absence."

As we enter the season of Lent, here are some questions to reflect on, thinking of "Bounty in Absence."

- Our culture often focuses negatively on absences and losses, although when one loses things, sometimes room is made for us to gain in another area. What things might you choose to lose (or make absent) in order to gain (or find bounty) in other areas?
- In this time of absence, what kinds of transformations can we see? Are we willing to find God's beauty in the unexpected?



Happy Birthday!



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

## Friendship Mennonite Church

**February 15, 2015**

Welcome  
Opening Song  
Call to Worship  
Songs of Praise  
Testimony  
Children's Story  
Scripture Reading: Luke 14:1-23  
The Parable of the Great Banquet Drama  
Song: "I Cannot Come to the Banquet"  
Silent Reflection  
Communion  
Congregational Sharing and Prayer  
Offering  
Announcements  
Sending Song

**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

- **This morning**, we will celebrate communion together. We welcome all to the table to remember the life and death of Jesus. Grapes and a blessing will be available for the children as a special time for them.
- **Join us for a potluck!** After worship today, we will join together in the fellowship hall to share in a potluck meal together. All are welcome!
- **Sabbatical Offerings** During the Kanagy's sabbatical, we will collect two special offerings to help offset the cost of speakers, etc. during this time. The offerings will take place on March 1 and April 12.
- **Lent begins this week** Christians around the world will begin celebrating Lent on February 18 (Ash Wednesday). Lent can be a good time to refocus your faith and renew your personal devotional practice. Here are some ideas for special resources to use during Lent this year: Shout Like a Trumpet! is a blog connected with Mennonite Central Committee's anti-oppression work. It offers free daily Lenten reflections focusing on racial justice. Subscribe at <https://lent2015.wordpress.com/>. Goshen College provides daily Lent devotionals written by students and staff that you can receive via email. Subscribe at <https://www.goshen.edu/devotions/>. If you prefer a printed devotional (including large print), the Church of the Brethren publishes a booklet for the Lenten season. This year's is called *Searching for the Kingdom of Heaven*. To order, call 1-800-441-3712. For things to do with children, search for "Lent in a Bag" on the Building Faith website. Or download "Sharing Lent with Children" from the Kids Friendly website.
- **Canned Goods!** Looking for a way to give this winter? We are always receiving calls at the church for people who are in need this season. Please bring canned goods to restock our food pantry. You may also donate gift cards to give out to those who may need additional groceries this season. Thank you.
- **MC USA Convention** This summer, MC USA's Convention will take place in Kansas City. From June 30-July 5, Mennonites will gather to encounter Jesus together. Visit [www.mennoniteusa.org/convention](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/convention) for details!
- **Additional Giving for last Sunday:** Sunday School: \$11.00; Camp Luz Fundraiser: \$5.00; Meals on Wheels: \$34.00; MCC Meat Canner: \$30.00.

### Serving Our Church Today

*Worship Leader:* A Gingerich & M Witmer-Rich    *Song Leader:* J Witmer-Rich  
*Piano:* Rhonda Savage    *Usher:* Chris Savage  
*Sunday School Nursery:* Ryan Claassen    *Greeter:* Bill Speight  
*Worship Nursery:* Sue Schmucker Coblentz    *A/V Team:* Ben Yoder  
*Sunday Building Trustee:* Yoder

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### Serving Next Sunday

*Worship Leader:* A Gingerich & M Witmer-Rich    *Song Leader:* J Witmer-Rich  
*Usher:* Chris Savage    *Greeter:* Bill Speight  
*SS Nursery:* Ryan Claassen    *Worship Nursery:* Sue Schmucker Coblentz  
*A/V Team:* Ben Yoder    *Sunday Building Trustee:* Yoder

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### Looking Ahead

TODAY

Retreat Sunday

Potluck Meal after Worship

Tuesday, February 17

Administrative Team Meeting 6:30 pm

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### Giving for Last Sunday

Church Offering:  
\$1797.00

Weekly Budget:  
\$1371.00

#### Friendship Mennonite Church

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Bedford Heights, Oh 441416  
(216)662-6788



**Co-Pastors:** Kevin Kanagy (kevin@friendmc.org) Cell: (440)591-4072  
Nan Kanagy (nan@friendmc.org)

**Secretary:** Cara Speros (secretary@friendmc.org)

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

Friends,

As we seek to be more effective in our stewardship of the resources we have, we are seeking new ways of more efficiently planning our budgeting process.

As a church family we give for many reasons:

1) Giving supports the presence of Friendship in our community. It pays for the salaries, the utility bills, and the “nuts and bolts” maintenance costs that allow us to have a place to meet each week, and to have resources to use.

2) Giving represents one of the many ways in which we commit our support to each other as a church family, both here in our community, and around the world. We want to “do our part” to support the sharing of God’s love in Bedford Heights, and in supporting other ministries which help spread God’s love and peace around the world.

3) Giving is a way of saying thanks to the generosity God provides us in our own lives. When we give, it is a way in which we thank God for His ownership of our lives and His love for us, and we dedicate a portion of what He has given us.

4) Giving is a way of practicing trust. When we give, we have less, and we make do with less. But in doing so, we place our trust in God to continue to provide for us in the ways that matter.

With these reasons in mind, we are asking all Friendship regular attendees to prayerfully consider the financial support that is given to the church. Please fill out the form on the back to the best of your ability, and place it in the box in the lobby sometime over the next two weeks. We will use the information to guide our development of future goals and budgets as we work to best use the resources God provides us.

Sincerely,  
FMC Administrative Team

*“But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.” – 2 Corinthians 8:7*

## FMC Giving Pledge For 2015

I/We wish to financially support Friendship Mennonite Church and its broader ministry by giving

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, OR

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month, OR

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year.

Your Name/Family Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider and complete this.