

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!

Contact the church office for a list of upcoming birthdays

Friendship Mennonite Church

March 8, 2015

Welcome
Opening Song
Call to Worship
Songs of Praise
Children's Moment
Scripture Reading: 1 Cor 1: 18 - 25
Sermon: "*Shifting Vision*" Terry Shue,
Director of Leadership Development for Mennonite Church USA
Responding Song
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

- **Thank you to Terry Shue for bringing us the message this morning!** Terry comes to us from Kidron, Ohio, where he and his wife Kay have lived for the past 17 years. For nearly 25 years, he has pastored congregations in the Ohio Conference, most recently at Kidron Mennonite Church for 12 years. Having grown up in Harper, Kansas, his life path has taken him through Hesston College, Bethel College (N Newton, KS), and AMBS. He currently is the Director of Leadership Development for Mennonite Church USA. In this role, Terry works with our colleges, seminaries, and conference leaders to call out, train, and sustain leaders for our congregations in all 21 conferences. His office is in Kidron at Central Christian School. Terry and Kay are the parents of three adult children, Bethany, Krista and Kelsey, three sons-in-law, and two grandchildren.
- **Retreat Sunday** Join us on **March 15** for our second Congregational Retreat! Come prepared to learn how God is using each of us to shine light through our daily lives. We will start at 9:30 with a service project to bless our neighbors as we serve the day care by blessing their space, and learn about Meals on Wheels and Care Alliance Health Center. Following our serving hour, we will share an hour of worship focused on how we walk our faith in our daily lives, featuring the testimonials from several of our congregation. We will end the day with a potluck. Come serve, learn and share together!
- **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 today and on April 12.
- **The Lent worship arts** represent the ways that bounty and absence often intermingle, with the rough, coarse and simple burlap cloth (representing absence) knotted together with the brilliant, smooth purple fabric (representing bounty). The three floating candles represent the trinity and remind us of God's presence throughout our many seasons of life.

Serving Our Church Today

Worship Leader: Shirley Coblentz

Piano: Rhonda Savage

Sunday School Nursery: Steve Mather

Worship Nursery: April Mather

Sunday Building Trustee: Rudy Coblentz

Song Leader: Rachel Miller

Usher: Bill Speight

Greeter: Bill Speight

A/V Team: Eric Miller

Serving Next Sunday

Worship Leader: Worship Committee *Song Leader:* Worship Committee

Usher: Jonathan Hartzler

Greeter: Chris Coblentz

SS Nursery: Ryan Claassen

Worship Nursery: Gingerich/Claassen

A/V Team: Ben Speros

Sunday Building Trustee: Hartzler

Looking Ahead

Sunday, March 15

Service & Learning Hour 9:30 am

“Retreat” Sunday at FMC 10:45 am

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday – Breakfast 9:30 am

Worship 10:45 am

Sunday, April 12

Sabbatical Offering during Worship

Giving for Last Sunday

Church Offering:

\$

Weekly Budget:

\$1371.00

Friendship Mennonite Church

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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

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.