

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."

- How can we pray in times of absence? What are some good resources for Absence, Bounty in Absence, and Bounty?
- What kind of transformative bounty can we find in our lives, even when facing the most challenging absences?



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 15, 2015

Welcome
Opening Song
Call to Worship
Sabbatical Moment
Songs of Praise
Scripture Reading: Luke 22:24-30
Testimonies
Congregational Sharing and Prayer
Responding Song
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 April Mather, Nate Stehouwer and the Worship Committee** for planning this morning's activities!
- **Potluck after Worship** Join us for a potluck meal following today's Retreat activities! We will gather in the fellowship hall for food and fellowship.
- **Sabbatical Offerings** During the Kanagy's sabbatical, we will collect two special offerings to help offset the cost of speakers, supplies, etc. during this time. The second offering will take place 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.
- **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 for details!
- **Additional Giving for last Sunday:** Sunday School: \$24.00; Meals on Wheels: \$20.00; Sabbatical Offering: \$1088.00; Missions: \$10.00; MCC Meat Canner: \$30.00.

Serving Our Church Today

Worship Leader: April Mather

Piano: Rhonda Savage

Sunday School Nursery: Ryan Claassen

Worship Nursery: Amy Gingerich

Sunday Building Trustee: Hartzler

Song Leader: Nate Stehouwer

Usher: Jonathan Hartzler

Greeter: Chris Coblentz

A/V Team: Ben Speros

Serving Next Sunday

Worship Leader: Anita Hooley Yoder *Song Leader:* Jonathan Witmer-Rich

Usher: Todd Miller

SS Nursery: Todd Miller

A/V Team: Ben Speros

Greeter: Rudy Coblentz

Worship Nursery: Robin & Becca Arn

Sunday Building Trustee: Witmer-Rich

Looking Ahead

TODAY

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:

\$3787.00

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.