

# 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 22, 2015**

Welcome  
Opening Song  
Call to Worship  
Songs of Praise  
Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33  
Sermon: "*Points in Time – Change from Crisis*"  
Virgil Troyer, Director, MCC Connections  
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 Virgil Troyer** for bringing the message this morning! Virgil is currently the director at MCC Connections, a Thrift Shop supporting Mennonite Central Committee through funds from the store and processing donated material resources (kits). Virgil and his wife, Kathy, recently served MCC in Honduras as disaster management coordinators for the Central American and Caribbean region. They live in Apple Creek.
- **Maundy Thursday** Please join us on Thursday, April 2 for a Maundy Thursday service to prepare us for Easter.
- **Easter Breakfast** Make plans to join us for our annual Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 am!
- **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](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/convention) for details!
- **Additional Giving for last Sunday:** Sunday School: \$7.00; Meals on Wheels: \$77.00; Sabbatical Offering: \$200.00; MAMA Project: \$90.00.

## Serving Our Church Today

*Worship Leader:* Anita Hooley Yoder *Song Leader:* Jonathan Witmer-Rich  
*Piano:* Rhonda Savage *Usher:* Todd Miller  
*Sunday School Nursery:* Todd Miller *Greeter:* Rudy Coblentz  
*Worship Nursery:* Robin & Becca Arn *A/V Team:* Ben Speros  
*Sunday Building Trustee:* Gingerich/Claassen

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## Serving Next Sunday

*Worship Leader:* Anita Hooley Yoder *Song Leader:* Rhonda Savage  
*Usher:* Chris Coblentz *Greeter:* Ryan Claassen  
*SS Nursery:* Rudy Coblentz *Worship Nursery:* April Mather  
*A/V Team:* Ben Yoder *Sunday Building Trustee:* Witmer-Rich

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## Looking Ahead

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm  
Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday – Breakfast 9:30 am  
Worship 10:45 am  
Sunday, April 12 Sabbatical Offering during Worship

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## Giving for Last Sunday

Church Offering:  
\$1387.00

Weekly Budget:  
\$1371.00

### Friendship Mennonite Church

21881 Libby Road  
Bedford Heights, Oh 441416  
(216)662-6788



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

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

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