

# 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 into the Easter season, here are some questions to reflect on, thinking of "Bounty in Absence."

- What are examples (biblical and in our own lives) of God's amazing provision in times of absence and emptiness?
- The absence of the Kanagys can be viewed as an opportunity for our church to grow in new ways as we explore life without pastors present. What gains can we as a congregation make in the Kanagy's absence?



Happy Birthday!



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

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

## Friendship Mennonite Church

**April 5, 2015**

Welcome  
Opening Song  
Call to Worship  
Songs of Praise  
Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18; Isaiah 25:6-96  
Sermon: *"The Bounty and Absence of Easter"*  
Anita Hooley Yoder  
Communion  
Congregational Prayer  
Responding Song  
Offering: *Callie Speros, Piano*  
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 Anita Hooley Yoder** for bringing the message this morning!
- **Easter Breakfast** Thank you to **Angela Thornton** for coordinating the breakfast this morning!
- **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? 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: \$8.00; Penny Power: \$31.20.



## Serving Our Church Today

*Worship Leader:* Shirley Coblentz      *Song Leader:* Jonathan Witmer-Rich  
*Piano:* Rhonda Savage      *Usher:* Chris Savage  
*Sunday School Nursery:* None      *Greeter:* Chris Coblentz  
*Worship Nursery:* Cara Speros      *A/V Team:* Eric Miller  
*Sunday Building Trustee:* Rudy Coblentz

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### Serving Next Sunday

*Worship Leader:* April Mather      *Song Leader:* Jonathan Witmer-Rich  
*Usher:* Elizabeth Jones      *Greeter:* Rudy Coblentz  
*SS Nursery:* Ryan Claassen      *Worship Nursery:* Sue Schmucker Coblentz  
*A/V Team:* Nate Arn      *Sunday Building Trustee:* Mather

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### Looking Ahead

Wednesday, April 8      Worship Committee Meeting 6:00 pm  
Sunday, April 19      "Retreat" Sunday at FMC 10:45 am  
Potluck after Worship  
Tuesday, April 21      Administrative Team Meeting 6:30 pm

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### Giving for Last Sunday

Church Offering:  
\$313.00

Weekly Budget:  
\$1371.00

#### Friendship Mennonite Church

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

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