

# The Osler Mennonite Church

## March 2023 Newsletter



### Our Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Osler Mennonite Church is to be a supportive community in which people can meet God through worship and fellowship.

We seek to teach  
an Anabaptist understanding of scripture,  
led by the Spirit to imitate Christ in word and deed.

We strive to nurture faith and discipleship,  
committing ourselves individually and corporately  
to respond to the needs of others.

*We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory,  
and the Homeland of the Métis*

Osler Mennonite Church  
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Volume XVI Third Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

## **Lenten Psalm of Awakening by Edward Hays**

Come, O Life-giving Creator,  
and rattle the door latch  
Of my slumbering heart.  
Awaken me as you breathe upon  
Winter-wrapped earth,  
Gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these fortified days  
Of Lenten prayer and discipline  
My youthful dream of holiness.  
Call me forth from the prison camp  
Of my numerous past defeats  
And my narrow patterns of being  
To make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,  
Through the passion of Your love.  
Show to me during these Lenten days  
How to take the daily things of life  
And by submerging them in the sacred,  
To infuse them with a great love  
For you, O God and for others.  
Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer,  
The real works of reform and renewal  
Of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,  
Help me not to waste these precious Lenten days  
Of my soul's. Spiritual springtime.

\*\*Lenten devotional materials available in church lobby. Stations of the Cross for meditation in the Sunday school wing rooms.

## **Pastor Patty's Ponderings and Pandering**

As we begin a new church year with brilliant energetic committees, my vision for OMC arises out of work with these brilliant committees.

**1. Deepening Our Relationship with God - Worship and I** are continually digging deeper into the spirituality of our prayers and music through Voices Together.

We continue to try to make that intergenerationally engaging through rituals, dramatized bible stories, PowerPoint, and the arts. We try to balance diversity, traditional predictability and creativity as we explore the ever-widening love of God.

**2. Rebuilding Our Church Community** through eating and sharing together. **Deacons and I** are working hard at potlucks, faspas, Sunday Lunch Bunch, prayer chains, grief groups, congregational crisis care.

**3. Relevance in Larger Community - Community Connections and I** are working at inviting the larger community to theatre nights, Indigenous awareness nights, Community Garden, pickle ball nights, marquee announcements, town newsletter announcements, presence at July 1 and Christmas tree events, local family support, Friendship Inn, FB announcements, creating gateways for folks to check us out. It's been limited success but we're undaunted.

## **Pastor Patty's Picks**

*Stay Human* is the name of the house band on a popular late-night television program. A bumper sticker reminds us, "*Humankind. Be Both*".

Lent is the season of the church year when we focus particular attention on foundational questions of our existence. This Lenten season, we invite you to ask, what does it mean for us to be the created and re-created images of God? How may we become authentically human?

## **Ode to Rhubarb by Patty Friesen**

It is little known that rhubarb was brought to Canada by Mennonite immigrants in the late 1800's. It was developed in Ukraine by Rudolph and Barbara Friesen. By cultivating and domesticating wild burdock, a member of the buckwheat family, they engineered a beautiful deep green leafy vegetable with bright red tart stalks that could be used with sugar like fruit in jams, juice, cakes and pies. Rudy and Barb quickly realized they could make millions from this versatile new plant and patented it after themselves as rhubarb.

The financial aspect didn't work out like they hoped. Friends and family, while appreciating the tart sweet taste said they wouldn't pay for it. In fact, some of their neighbours, the Boldts snuck into their garden at night and just took some and thereafter whenever rhubarb took off and went to seed, it was referred to as having "bolted." The whole experience with their neighbours led to the other meaning of rhubarb as "having a squabble."

Soon everyone had rhubarb. The prolific plant kept Mennonites alive during starvation in Ukraine and when they finally emigrated to Saskatchewan, they brought rhubarb heads sewn into their coats to plant into gardens which generations have enjoyed for free ever since.

## **Reflection from Luke**

Hello everyone, we are just wrapping up a cold, but wonderful February. Our youth have been busy lately. We volunteered at the MCC Thrift Store on the 18th, and we had a Ski Trip in the midst of a cold snap on the 23rd. I was very impressed with all the work ethic shown by the youth at our volunteer trip. It was also wonderful to connect with the MCC staff and volunteers, they are doing great work, and were very welcoming to our young group! I try and think fairly often about where we are going as a group and what my role is. Sometimes this can be a bit overwhelming and too big of an idea. How do we spend our time? What do we talk about? What kind of environment should youth group be?

When these questions seem a little much, I pause and ask myself “What did I need when I was a youth? What did I wish I had heard?” My youth group experience growing up was positive, but there were things I wished I had heard. I believe my role is sometimes to give others an experience I did not have. I want the youth to feel safe to ask questions I was too scared to ask. I want them to know that following Jesus looks a lot of different ways, and has a lot of different belief systems. I want them to know that the God of the Bible cares just as much about our present world, as they care about our salvation. I want them to know that they are always welcome at youth, and that youth is meant to be a safe place for EVERYONE (not just say everyone is welcome but make everyone feel welcome). I think giving those who come after us, what we wished we had, is a great philosophy for life.

*Peace with you as you go about your day!*  
*Luke Bushman (he/him)*

## **Mennonite Disaster Service**

### **MDS Awareness Night by the Sask Unit**

Come learn about the work MDS does,  
how to volunteer and where to donate!

It will be held at Warman Berghaler Mennonite Church.

Supper will be provided by MDS.

RVSP required by March 16/23

Event will be held at 6:30 on March 31st, 2023.

Address is: 206 2 St, Warman, SK S0K 4S0

RSVP by calling Teresa Bueckert at 306-229-7309

## **SERVE**

Your invitation to serve this spring and summer in Cape Breton!  
Roman Heuft, Cape Breton Response Coordinator

My heart broke when I saw how so many people are living in Cape Breton after Hurricane Fiona struck last fall. Although thousands of fallen trees have been cleaned up, many by MDS volunteers, many people are still living in hurricane damaged homes.

Many of these people are not well off, and some are elderly or have health issues. They live in what are called “company homes,” houses built many years ago by coal companies in the region and passed down through families.

The coal mines are gone, but the people remain. Many live on pensions and struggle to make ends meet, while others face unemployment.

Things were hard enough for these folks before Fiona struck, but the storm caused heart-breaking damage. Most of those whose homes were damaged do not have the resources for repairs. They now live in houses with leaking roofs, wet insulation, collapsed ceilings and mold.

Volunteers did great clean up work last fall, but there is still so much need. That’s why MDS is going back to Cape Breton, starting in late March. We already have 14 homes lined up for repairs, with more likely to come.

Consider this your invitation to volunteer in Cape Breton this year! Not only can you be the hands and feet of Jesus for those who need help, you can visit one of the most beautiful provinces in Canada. You can make a full vacation out of it, combined with service to help others.

## **LEARN**

Training Opportunities:

MDS will be hosting General Leadership and Construction Leader training in Berlin, OH the week of April 17. These trainings are available for people interested in, or already serving as, leadership volunteers. Attend one or both. Lodging and meals are covered by MDS. Reimbursement for travel expenses is available as well. RSVP by March 10 to Karla Friesen (karla.friesen@mds.org or 717-500-4220) or here online.

## **PRAY**

Sent as God's Gifts

Leader: May you know the joy of being God's ambassadors, bringing the good news to those you meet this week.

People: We go to bring healing and hope in God's name, encouraged by God's presence among us.

Leader: Stand firm in the truth, energized to do what is right.

People: We go, sent as God's gifts, into the broken world that Jesus came to save.

## **Being Green??**

### **We Were Greener Back Then**

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "*we didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days.*"

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right --- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they were truly recycled.

*But didn't have the green thing back in our day.*

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks.

This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribblings'. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. This way, the books were in good shape to be used next year by the next class.

*But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then.*

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. *We didn't have the green thing in our day.*

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry our clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sister, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; *we didn't have the green thing back in our day.*

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in house – not a TV in every room and the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine to burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mover that ran on human power. We exercise by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; *we didn't have the green thing back then.*

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

*But we didn't have the green thing back then.*

Back then, people took a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. We didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint. But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because *we didn't have the green thing back then?*

**Copied from Senior Living and seen in many other sources.**



# Mental Health First Aid

Wildwood Mennonite Church invites us to join their congregation for a course on Mental Health First Aid to be held April 14-15.

Have you encountered someone experiencing a mental health crisis? What did you do? Did you feel confused, uncomfortable or ill-prepared? With mental health first aid training, you can have the knowledge and tools to help.

Evidence shows that taking a MHFA course increases the confidence participants have in engaging someone struggling with a mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis.

## **What is Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training?**

MHFA is similar to regular first aid but instead of treating a physical injury, you recognize the signs and symptoms of the more common mental illnesses or mental health crises and provide effective interventions until appropriate support or professional help is received.

Date: Fri-Sat, April 14-15

Length: 2-day course with lunch and coffee breaks (bring your own lunch)

Location: Wildwood Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, SK

Cost: \$195/person

**Facilitator:** Lorraine Harder applied her B. Ed as an educator for 15 years in the provincial and national parks systems followed by three years teaching in the classroom. As a Licensed Practical Nurse since 2012, she has worked for 6 years in Acute Mental Health Services at The Dubé Centre for Mental Health at Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon. Mental Health First Aid brings together her experience in teaching and nursing to improve public mental health literacy. Lorraine believes the church and those in spiritual care are poised to help meet increasing mental health needs and she would like to provide churches the basic tools for this service.

# LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MARCH

Second Sunday in Lent - March 5, 2023

- Genesis 12:1-4a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Third Sunday in Lent - March 12, 2023

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 95
- Romans 5:1-11
- John 4:5-42

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 19, 2023

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- Psalm 23
- Ephesians 5:8-14
- John 9:1-41

Annunciation of the Lord - March 25, 2023

- Isaiah 7:10-14
- Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10
- Hebrews 10:4-10
- Luke 1:26-38

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 26, 2023

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 8:6-11
- John 11:1-45

Liturgy of the Palms - April 2, 2023

- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion - April 2, 2023

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

## OMC CALENDAR

- Mar 5 10:00 am Patty Friesen** *Nicodemus*  
Noon Fundraising lunch group C-L help set-up @ 9 & cleanup
- Mar 12 10:00 am Reynold Friesen** *CMU Director of Church Relations*  
11:00 am Mosaic Sunday School  
12:00 Lunch Bunch @ Osler Cafe
- Mar 13 6:00 pm Executive mtg  
7:30 pm Council mtg
- Mar 19 10:00 am Luke Bushman** *Samaritan Woman*
- Mar 19 7:00 pm Westgate Collegiate Institute Band & Choir @OMC
- Mar 26 10:00 am Patty Friesen** *Jesus Weeps*

## Youth Announcements

**\*Sunday, March 5th**, we will be kicking off our Green Fund with a chili fundraiser. This will take place after Sunday School, cost will be by donation. More details to come in the near future! Group C-L is asked to come at 9 am to help set-up and help clean up later.

**\*Saturday, March 11, 6:30pm – Mega Menno Movie Night.** Youth will join with other members of the MC Sask family to watch ‘Custodians: A Story of Ancient Echoes’ at Wildwood Mennonite Church. Come enjoy some popcorn, and learn more about how we can help protect Indigenous artifacts and stories. Youth will have a separate discussion and debrief following the film. Free event for all youth gr. 6-12; contact Kirsten Hamm-Epp, youthminister@mcsask.ca, or visit [www.mcsask.ca](http://www.mcsask.ca) to learn more.

## **March Birthdates**

- 5 – John Gascho
- 6 – Erna Funk
- 10 – Micah Guenther
- 23 – Sandra MacArthur
- 26 – Liam Boldt
- 26 - Merla Dyck (88)
- 28 – Clint Neufeld
- 31 – Ava Boldt

## POSTIVE QUOTES

Success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get."

"Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time."

"Happiness is holding someone in your arms and knowing you hold the whole world."

"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom

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**"My real estate agent found me this place. I said I wanted a home that requires no yard work, no painting, no snow shoveling. A place where the weather is perfect and neighbors never complain about my music..."**