

The Osler Mennonite Church

April 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*

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Volume XVI Fourth Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings and Pandering

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of resurrection, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" I've been reading my 2020 pandemic journal. I'm behind locked doors at home for fear of COVID. I'm lonely and bored and really struggling to figure out how to keep church going and connected. In rituals of release, I like to burn old journals that are full of anger and regret. I will burn this one! There are also pages of digging deep and finding God's comfort and peace in that time. There was the gift of that 2020 warm snowy winter with lots of skiing and snowshoeing with friends that saved my mental health. There was the brave few leading worship and some powerful AGM and other Zoom gatherings. I don't want to forget the grace and presence of Christ in the midst of the locked doors for fear, but to be honest, I'm still recovering from the pandemic. I feel like I lost brain cells - lost the ability to concentrate and gained some chronic anxiety. Thankfully, Jesus' peace helps with that.

We have to go through Holy Week - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to get to Easter Sunday. There is no resurrection without death. As we continue to try to sort ourselves out after the pandemic with all its' disappointments and regrets, may we also find peace and joy in the resurrection reality. May we enjoy gathering with loved ones, enjoy musical concerts, travel and potlucks. (I'll never take those for granted again!). We have a lot to be thankful for at church with the multitude of gifted voices in worship, energetic committees spending lots of volunteer time in making coffee, providing community connections and educational opportunities. We have new attendees that are a breath of fresh air. Let us allow the joy after the hard times and the joy of God to be our strength.

Pastor Patty's Picks

Women Talking DVD - It was helpful for me to watch this intense and important movie about religious patriarchy and violence with my church community and process it afterwards at Botte Chi. Watch it but not alone.

And there shall be light by *Jon Meacham* is a delicious biography of Abraham Lincoln - a comfort in these days of Black Lives Matter.

Bridgerton Netflix - is beautiful in its racial diversity and cinematography. It didn't need the sensational love scenes to make it good.

In the Realm of Ghosts by *Gabor Mate* has been around a long time but was new to me and a huge help to understanding addiction. In our church library.

Ode to an Electric Vehicle by Patty Friesen

In a small town like Osler, everyone knows what everyone else drives and you can tell a lot about a person by their vehicle. Farmers drive purposeful pick-ups with gas or water tanks on the back. Large families drive mini-vans. Liberals drive hybrids and wealthy retirees slowly cruise town in their low-riding Cadillacs. Mennonite ministers are especially conscious not to drive anything fancier than anyone else in the congregation, lest someone says, "We must be paying her too much."

Even so, it appeared as if the new Mennonite minister in Osler changed cars a lot. She started off with a Subaru which shimmied on the country roads, so she switched to a Volkswagen which became too expensive to fix, so she tried a Mazda, which was short-lived, and finally settled on a Nissan crossover. Her friend who was the principal at the Osler School had long been driving an electric vehicle and the Mennonite minister's environmental conscience over commuting from the city was twigging her a lot lately.

One Sunday, when the Mennonite minister saw the Bergthaler minister driving into town in a Tesla, she said, "That's it! I've had it with humility!" and took the plunge on an electric vehicle, quietly driving off the dealership lot, leaving an arm and a leg behind. She felt self-conscious the first Sunday she drove it to church so she parked in the far corner of the parking lot. She left it dirty so people wouldn't notice it was new. But the following week someone noticed and said, "so what's that then? A new car? We must be paying you too much." She laughed and waved as she purred out of the churchyard carbon and guilt free.

Luke's Little Thoughts

Doom and gloom seem to be swirling around tighter and tighter these days. The climate crisis only seems to be getting worse- spills of materials hazardous to the earth seem to be popular right now. Peace seems hard to find, with war across seas, violence nearby, and division all around. More and more bills are being written that put transgender people at risk of violence and discrimination. Even without these bills in Canada, the rhetoric around the LGBTQ+ community is becoming increasingly radical. Indigenous women are still going missing at an alarming rate. The list can go on for quite a while unfortunately, but thankfully I am not the most educated person so these are the few examples on my mind. What do we do when we feel this doom and gloom closing in on our hopeful spirits? Our youth group and some other members of the church had the privilege of being taught by Erika Thorgeson from MCC about Climate Change. One of the biggest takeaways from these sessions was the mobilizing nature of hope. While we did talk about how dangerous our current trajectory is for our environment, Erika had us focus on what we could do, and what we could hope for. We dreamt big and small about how we can contribute positively, and learned about all the amazing movements/innovations that are helping our world already. We learned how speaking in positive terms and not using fear can help people get excited and want to be involved. I have found it helpful to remind myself of the small things we can do and invite others to participate. Our youth and many others feel anxiety around the climate crisis. We started a green fund, hosted a chili lunch to raise money, and invited participation from those around us. I recently read a true story (ironically, I heard about this story from a *SpongeBob SquarePants* Meme account) about an 84-year-old nun in 2012. This nun and other activists broke into a U.S Nuclear complex and defaced it writing "The fruit of justice is peace". They pled guilty to their crimes, and said it would be an honor to go to jail for protesting excessive military spending. In Saskatoon, I have been invited to join a committee of church leaders who hope to start a Safe Space program for LGBTQ+ people. Many people have had to leave behind their religious communities to feel safe, and this group hopes to give them a space where they can express their faith safely and without judgment. Our

youth recently watched the Custodians documentary for a Mega-Menno movie night, and were very engaged in the discussion and wanted to go and see the Ancient Echoes center for themselves. These are the types of stories I try to remind myself of, and tell to others when I feel the doom and gloom closing in. These social issues should upset us, but if despair and sadness do not mobilize us, it is pointless. If negativity paralyzes you, seek out positivity in the topics that make you feel numb. Invite others to join in your positive contributions. What aspects of the world today stress you out? Are there groups doing positive work in these areas? How can you get involved/invite others to get involved?

Holy Week and Easter Blessing for Congregations from Staff of MC Canada

Resurrection Greetings from the staff of Mennonite Church Canada to the sibling congregations of Mennonite Church Canada! Over the next week in worship, our congregations will journey through palms and parades, to the cross, and gaze amazed upon the empty tomb. May our congregations experience the renewal of resurrection life, heeding Christ's call and example to radical and sacrificial love made manifest in all our relations. Praying with you all in this season, with the words of Joanna Harader (2012), from *Voices Together* #896.

God of the foolish cross,
you are not the savior we expect.
Your power does not look like the power
we want our God to demonstrate.
Your wisdom makes no sense to us.

We are happy to join the crowd,
waving branches,
but not so sure we want to follow you
into the temple courts
into the upper room

into the garden of Gethsemane
to the foot of the cross.

Forgive our false assumptions.

Clarify our clouded vision.

Free us to relax into the foolishness

Of your love and grace.

Amen

Christ has Risen!

Christ has Risen indeed!

MDS NEWS

“It felt like the rook was going to come right off.” That’s how Tara Babcock described the night Hurricane Fiona struck her home in Sydney, Cape Breton. As it was, the storm—which hit September 24, last year—tore shingles off the roof and blew in the front door. Rain poured into the holes, soaking the ceilings and walls. “It was pretty scary,” she said, staring up at the collapsed ceiling in her living room. She and her partner were upstairs when that happened. “We were lucky not to be there or it would have fallen on us,” she said. Today the house has a new roof, thanks to Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers, and soon more will be coming to repair the inside of the house—gutting it and repairing walls and ceilings upstairs and in the living room. “It feels terrific to know people are coming to help,” said Tara. “I won’t be able to thank them enough, from the bottom of my heart.”

Right now, we have an urgent need for volunteers for the week of April 1-8, April 8-15 and April 24-28. Are you able to serve? We also need more volunteers the weeks of May 7-13, May 28-June 3, Jun 25-July 1, Aug 20-26, Sept 4-10 and Sept 18-24. To volunteer, contact Clara Flores at cflores@mds.org or 866-261-1274. Travel subsidies are available

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Greetings Friend!

As we near April 1st, it seems winter and spring are still in an epic struggle! The sun is warm, yet the air is cold. And if the past few years during the Covid-19 pandemic were a winter (so to speak), then I can say that we are definitely enjoying the spring again of meetings, conferences and friendly meals together!

This newsletter edition will be unique – you will find a plethora of upcoming Foodgrains Bank events and gatherings happening across SK over the next month. Usually we list the events at the bottom of the newsletter, but this month we want to make them more visible, and ensure that **you receive a friendly invite to join us at an event near you!**

JOIN US in Celebration and Generosity!

The April events kick off with a 25th Anniversary Supper with the Naicam-Spalding Growers Project on Tuesday, April 4. In 1998, a group of famers began a small grain growing project, and they've never looked back, having grown 25 crops and donated more than \$900,000 to the Foodgrains Bank since then. This project regularly involves many people from numerous churches and businesses, and they are looking forward to celebrating with all who wish to join them – see graphic below for further details:

Another long-standing Foodgrains Bank event is the **Sask Valley Charity Auction Spring Fundraiser on Friday, April 14, at the Brian King Center in Warman**. After two years of hosting this supper as a drive-thru, event organizers are excited to welcome guests again for a delicious sit-down supper of sausage, ham, perogies, buns, coleslaw and an ice cream treat! It's a great annual gathering of hundreds of people from across the Sask Valley including Saskatoon, and you're welcome to attend.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR APRIL

April 2, 2023 - Liturgy of the Palms

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

April 2, 2023 - Liturgy of the Passion

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

April 6, 2023 - Maundy Thursday

- Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 7, 2023 - Good Friday

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22
- Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- John 18:1-19:42

April 9, 2023 - Easter Vigil

Old Testament Readings and Psalms

- Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
- Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46
- Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16
- Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18
- Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6
- Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 & Psalm 19
- Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43
- Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143
- Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98

New Testament Reading and Psalm

- Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114

Gospel

- Matthew 28:1-10

April 9, 2023 - Resurrection of the Lord

- Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 16, 2023 - Second Sunday of Easter

- Acts 2:14a, 22-32
- Psalm 16
- 1 Peter 1:3-9
- John 20:19-31

April 23, 2023 - Third Sunday of Easter

- Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
- 1 Peter 1:17-23
- Luke 24:13-35

April 30, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

- Acts 2:42-47
- Psalm 23
- 1 Peter 2:19-25
- John 10:1-10

AMBS Online Short Course: Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 12 – May 23. Join Betty Pries, PhD, CMed, to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online AMBS short course. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by March 22 to save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

OMC CALENDAR

- Apr 2 9:00 am Choir practice
Apr 2 10:00 am Patty Friesen *Palm Sunday*
2 11:00 am Deacon mtg *in Patty's office*
Apr 6 5:30 pm Maunday Thursday Communion & Faspa
Apr 7 7:00 pm Good Friday Service *Sanctuary*
Apr 9 9:00 am Choir practice & set-up for group M-Z
Apr 9 10:00 am Luke Bushman *Easter Sunday*
Apr 16 10:00 am Ron Schellenberg
Apr 23 10:00 am Patty Friesen
Apr 26 5:30 pm Faspa & Conversation with Lois Miller
Apr 29 3:00 pm Celebration of Life for Helen Kruger
Apr 30 10:00 am Jake Buhler

Youth Announcements April Birthdates

- 5 – Anna Neufeld
12 – Olivia Martens
13 – Keith Boldt
15 – Julie Bergen
18 – Garry Boldt
18 – James Tataryn
26 – Eugene Penner
26 – Ian Osmond
27 - Jeremiah Bird
28 – Lucy Friesen
28 – Edna Zacharias - 1939

FUNNIES

It is easier for a camel to walk through the eye of a needle than two camels.

Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. It might help to put them into two piles!

When thou givest alms, let thy left hand not know what thy right hand is doing. Whereas with juggling the opposite is true.

With God all things are possible. With money all things are probable. With a good accountant all things are deductible!

Community Events

Forever in motion will continue to end of April on Tuesday and Friday at 10:00 A.M

Warman Community Band concert is on April 2 at 2:30 at the Warman Home center Communiplex theatre

Events of Note:

We celebrate the life of Susan Bueckert, one of the oldest members of our congregation who died March 27 at the age of 97. The Funeral Service is April 1 at 2:00 p.m.

The Celebration of Life for Helen Kruger will be held here at OMC on April 29 at 3:00 p.m. Helen died February 1st at her home in Calgary.



I KNOW he was really special. But
dead men dont come back.
He's standing behind me, isnt he ...