

The Osler Mennonite Church

May 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 Fith Edition
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings and Pandering

May 28 is Pentecost where the Holy Spirit descends on people from all ends of the earth in Jerusalem, marking a new era in the history of God's inclusion of all people. God has been about this work since blessing Sarah and Abraham to be a blessing to all nations and then manifesting it most profoundly in Jesus. We're still working at what inclusion means in the church 2000 years later. Community Connections has begun some very interesting monthly conversations over faspas to work at that.

Dr. Nicholas Christakis wrote in *Apollo's Arrow* that the end of a pandemic is usually marked by great partying and traveling. It feels like we are horses let out of the barn this year and I'm grateful for all the opportunities that we have to travel. Travel guru, Rick Steves, says, "Travel is a way to broaden perspective. It puts us in solidarity with people whom we otherwise wouldn't appreciate. It makes us more tolerant. It challenges our ethnocentricity. It inspires us to celebrate diversity. Fear, to me, is for people who don't get out very much. If you take the most frightened people we know in our communities, I bet they're the people who travel the least. They're not interested in enlarging their understanding of others. They don't know what it means to be surrounded by other people who look and think differently. Travel is fatal to bigotry, prejudice and narrow-mindedness. It's not for wimps!" (Christian Century Jan. 26/22)

Not everyone can travel, of course. But there are a thousand ways to have a traveling mindset through reading, eating out in a restaurant of recent immigrants, attending Saskatoon's Folk Festival and watching global documentaries and movies. Let us get into a traveling, Pentecostal mindset this summer - taking advantage of every opportunity to interact with people who are different from us. This summer, I will be preaching a series on the Journey of Peace using Ukraine as the praxis.

Pastor Patty's Picks

Dispelling the Clouds: A Desperate Social Experiment in Forgiveness by *Wilma Derksen*. Essential reading in our church library.

In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts by *Gabor Mate*. Essential reading on addiction in our church library.

All the Ways Our Dead Still Speak to Us by *Caleb Wilde* author of the profound *Confessions of a Funeral Director*. This book is less profound but still good.

And There Shall Be Light by *Jon Meacham* is Abraham Lincoln's powerful biography of ending slavery. Public library.

The Lives We Actually Have by *Kate Bowler* honours tough days as places to meet God and be blessed. Church library.

Women Talking DVD - tough but important for Mennonites to see and discuss. Don't watch alone.

Congratulations to everyone who is getting solar panels this year.

Please hear this blessing of your solar panels from Rabbi Nathan Martin.

Spirit and Source of Life, we come here in humility and gratitude today for the opportunity to celebrate the installation of our solar panels.

Like Eve and Adam, the first humans, we are placed on this planet, to serve all life and protect our planet's precious resources.

We ask that the work of our hands and hearts be blessed today. We ask that this step we take on the path of the of sustainability with the solar installation lead us to take continued sustainable actions in the life of this community and in our personal lives.

We ask that you bless our leaders today—local, state, and national—that they integrate principles of sustainability and justice into their work, so that they may help create a healthier planet for future generations through their work.

And finally, as we are called to repair the world in the Divine image, may the image of a repaired and sustainable world be inscribed on our hearts that we may share it with our children and children's children until we all together work to make it a reality.

Blessed are you INSPIRER who infuses the energy of repair into your world and allows us to renew the works of your creation.

Luke's Little Lessons (*Lies?*)

For myself the month of April is full of many wonderful celebrations. Easter, my Dad's birthday, and this year I was able to celebrate earth day, in a more tangible way. Myself, Becca, and another young adult from the area all had the opportunity to attend Mennonite Church Canada's first Earth Day retreat. The weekend was appropriately titled "Living Hope-Centering Connection". I thought in light of earth day happening this past month, I would write a little bit about connecting with creation. During our retreat, we did an exercise called The Council of Beings, where each person was able to represent a different piece of creation (wolf, flower, tree, rock, swamp etc.) and discuss their purpose in the world, and the impacts of climate change and human exposure on their livelihood. While this exercise may sound a little silly, it provoked a lot of profound thinking for me. I have never taken the time to think about trees, flowers, and bushes as living organisms that should be treated with respect. While this idea has come easy to me in terms of animals, thinking of all nature as something that I benefit from (and should in turn honor) has never been part of my life. When I go fishing, I find it easy to see the fish as something that should be treated with care, even if I am using it. I am always quick to either put the fish back into the water, or put it out of its misery after catching a fish. During this council of beings (where I was Albert the Alpine Flower), I started thinking about how viewing the rest of creation in a similar way, may be a good starting point in my own life to better care for the earth. If I view the plants as something to be respected, and not just something I benefit from, perhaps I would do more research, before introducing a species of plant that does not belong in my yard. Maybe it would make me think more about how my daily practices impact the larger world. I was inspired by this retreat to create a relationship with my environment, and let that be a starting point for better practices. I find relationships easy for me to value and respect!

MDS NEWS

"As I sit here composing this e-mail, I am asking God to give me the words to adequately express our gratitude for all the help that your organization has provided. What you have done to help is so big, we do not have words available." That's how a note from Caroline Purnell of Cape Breton began.

Caroline sent the e-mail to Roman Heuft, our Response Coordinator in Cape Breton. Through it, she wanted to express gratitude for how MDS had come alongside her daughter, Rosalyn Purnell, whose house in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, was damaged last fall by Hurricane Fiona.

The past few years had been challenging for Rosalyn, who works hard as a nurse and is a single mother to her four boys. Money was always in short supply. Then came the hurricane— "the final straw," as Caroline, put it. The hurricane damaged the roof, causing rain to leak in every time a new storm came along. For Rosalyn, who couldn't afford to fix it, the situation seemed hopeless.

The situation worsened when her insurance company gave her a deadline of the end of April to fix the roof or they would cancel her homeowner's policy. "I went to see Rosalyn after she received the e-mail from the insurance company," Caroline said. "She was sitting on the floor crying. She thought she should just give up her job and kids and go on welfare. She thought her children would be better off in care with some stability—if she lost the house, she didn't know how she would look after them."

That's when they reached out to MDS. Roman readily agreed to provide Rosalyn with a new metal roof, along with fixing some damaged windows and porch railings. When Caroline received that news, everything changed. "When you said you would do the repairs, not only were you helping someone with a leaking roof, you were changing the outcome of an entire family's life," she said. "I have seen my daughter go from hopelessness and despair to gratitude and hopefulness for her future," she said, adding Rosalyn is in "disbelief for the help from MDS in getting a new roof."

For Caroline, what MDS did "was a miraculous answer to prayer and a source of encouragement to everyone who hears how you answered God's call. Please thank everyone who has been involved in this process, let them know how grateful we are."

For MDS, this is a reminder that we just don't rebuild homes—as important as that is. We also rebuild hope for those who feel hopeless after a natural disaster. Thank-you for your support in making this rebuilding work possible! Your continued donations to our Cape Breton response will help more people like Rosalyn find hope. Go to www.mds.org to make a gift.

P.S. Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve in Cape Breton! We now have enough volunteers to take us through to the end of the response in August.

Director of Canadian Operations
Mennonite Disaster Service

BETHANY MANOR

Dear Friends of Bethany, We are pleased to invite you to our:

Taxes, Charity, and Investment Planning for Seniors

Date: May 2nd, 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Where: Bethany Manor Fellowship Centre, Saskatoon

Who: ALL WELCOME, no registration required

Many older Canadians and their families have questions about taxes, investments, wills, estates, and how it intersects with charitable giving. We hear you! Frankly, it can seem pretty complicated and feels hard to talk about.... We believe a good financial plan is a gift to your family and executors by laying out your financial and charitable intentions clearly, identifying and resolving possible tax issues for the estate. It provides peace and comfort in your family when they are supporting you in your changing needs. In this session, experts from Amity Trust, Abundance Canada, and Bethany Manor will present information on tax, investment and charitable giving that may help you on your journey. This session is open to families and our supporting churches. Bethany Manor is a proud member of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners and believes in the importance of philanthropy in our lifetimes.

For more information, please contact:

James Perkins james@b55.ca 306 371 9922

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 7, 2023

- Acts 7:55-60
- Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
- 1 Peter 2:2-10
- John 14:1-14

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 14, 2023

- Acts 17:22-31
- Psalm 66:8-20
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21

Ascension of the Lord - May 18, 2023

- Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Luke 24:44-53

Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 21, 2023

- Acts 1:6-14
- Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
- 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11

Day of Pentecost - May 28, 2023

- Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
- John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth - May 31, 2023

- 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Psalm 113
- Romans 12:9-16b
- Luke 1:39-57

OMC CALENDAR

Apr 29 3:00 pm Memorial Service for Helen Kruger

Apr 30 10:00 am Jake Buhler

12:00 pm Pizza lunch

1:00 pm OMC Spring Recital

May 4 7:00 pm Anabaptism 500 Bible Study @ OMC led by Luke

May 7 10:00 am Patty Friesen *Nine Mile-markers for Peace*

May 11 11:00 am Deacon mtg

May 14 10:00 am Rick Guenther *from MCC Sask*

11:00 am SS Forum on MCC's current work

12:00 Second Sunday Lunch Bunch Osler Restaurant

May 21 10:00 am Patty Friesen

What does non-resistance in Ukraine look like?

May 28 10:00 am Luke Bushman *Pentecost Communion*

Youth Announcements

On May 27th, we are doing a "Menno Run" with some other churches in MC Sask. This is a town wide game, and we are looking for people to volunteer their homes as "safe houses" as part of the game, as well as additional leaders who want to participate as "hunters for the game". Contact Luke for more information.

May Birthdates

2 – Brady Buhler

4 – Sandra Grismer

8 – Sarah Buhler

11 - Louise Buhler

11 – Dave Feick

15 – Alex Tiessen

15 – Carl Martens-Funk

18 – Susan Braun

18 – Kathryn Janzen

21 – Henry Funk