

The Osler Mennonite Church

July/August 2024 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 XVII Sixth Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings *on Pride Parade*

Pride Parade is my favourite event of the year. The colours of the rainbows, fun outfits on people and dogs, cheerful greetings of "Happy Pride," and the parade watchers' cheers all make it a joyful event. It begins as soon as I leave my house to walk downtown and see folks in colourful T-shirts walking with strollers, biking, riding scooters - all streaming across the bridges to get downtown. It is the biblical return of the exiles vision of Jeremiah 31:9 "I will bring them all home together from the farthest parts, on a level path where none shall stumble."

For 7's like me, who are "the enthusiasts" on the enneagram personality test (which we will be studying this fall at church), this is as close to heaven on earth as we get! For my husband Patrick, who doesn't like crowds, colours, noise or attention, it's a nightmare, but he does it because he believes it is an important Mennonite presence at Pride. The importance of this witness hit home to us walking past a bunch of guys on benches by the river. One hollered to Patrick, "Are you gay?!" Patrick wisely ignored them but then the guy shouted at me, "Do you know your husband is gay?" "Yes," I snapped back. "And I'm gay too!" That shut them up! I told Patrick we were like the non-Jewish Danes in WW2 who wore stars of David to identify as Jewish so the Nazis couldn't tell who was Jewish and who wasn't. It was a reminder of the harassment and abuse still experienced by 2+LGBTQ folks in public and private spaces.

First Nations were appropriately first in the parade and church groups were last in the parade. This year the Proud Mennonites were at the very last entry, like an exclamation point to the parade. 17 of us from Wildwood, Nutana Park and Mount Royal were sandwiched between the Anglicans and the Navy with their blow-up unicorn which got more cheers than we did. But we had very interesting reactions from the audience, someone called out, "Mennonites? You've got to be kidding!" Others equally surprised and pleased, came up to our banner to take a picture. One woman pulled one of us out of the line-up to tell us her story of growing up Mennonite.

The Proud Mennonites have decided we want to up our game next year with a tractor and flatbed truck with bales to sit on, and wear bib overalls and rainbow T-shirts to dispel even more myths about rural Mennonites. We decided we want to sing our witness also. Duff Warkentin, walking with us, said he'd lead us as a Queer Choir with some of the wonderful inclusive hymns from *Voices Together*. Come join us on the flatbed next year Saturday, June 21!

1 - Summoned By the God Who Made Us

- First song in *Voices Together*, calls us to “sing a new church into being.” Verse two speaks of “every person in God’s image, every person God’s delight.”

36 - Let Us Build a House/All Are Welcome

- A Catholic folk classic, an anthem of welcome. The final verse calls for us to build a house “where all are named, their songs and visions heard.”

42 - Could It Be that God is Singing

- A new text by Mennonite poet *Becca Lachmann* that invites singers to see God in themselves and others, and to respond to God’s light and breath through song.

156 - There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

- A classic hymn that celebrates God’s expansive love. Verse three sings: “But we make God’s love too narrow by false limits of our own, and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.”

172 - God Calls You Good

- Call to recognize the inherent, God-given goodness in each of us: “God calls me good, beloved child.”

174 - Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

- Anthem that calls for us to break down divisions, with verse two proclaiming, “We’re accepted as we are.”

389 - Together - “Let us sing our song together, sing in harmony.”

582 - My Love Colours Outside the Lines

- An upbeat piece that invites us to explore beyond our familiar boundaries; verse three sings “I want to walk beyond the boundaries

where I've never been before, throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.”

801 - I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

- A compelling call for justice from the African American tradition, here is more information about its words and history.

802 - Draw the Circle Wide

- The simple, yet powerful, lyrics of this song call us to draw the circle wide, and wider still. Each section can be repeated multiple times, proclaiming “Let this be our song: no one stands alone.”

809 - Sing a New World Into Being

- Verse two draws on rainbow imagery to imagine the expansiveness of singing a new world into being “... where each gender, class, and race brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God’s limitless embrace.”

856 - Christ is like a single body (WR)

- A responsive reading based on 1 Corinthians 12.

862 - You who open doors (WR)

- A prayer to God who “opens doors and dismantles barriers.”

1005 - That Huge “Why?” (WR)

- A reading that honors doubt and questioning while offering “the incredible risk of love” as a response.

1020 - God of extravagant mercy (WR)

- An offering dedication that pledges our monetary gifts and prayers to protest evil and injustice.

1048 - Let the rain come and wash away (WR)

- A responsive reading written by Rabbi Harold Kushner that uses nature imagery to ask God to wash away hatred and hurt and bring healing and growth.

Pastor Patty's Pick

I heard a song on CBC which led me to Eric Whitacre's **Voces 8 Home** 2023, a powerful choral journey reflecting the cancer journey of the poet Tony Silvestra's wife Julia. I've never heard cancer sung about before and it's haunting and hopeful. There is a beautiful piece I'd like to share here as a blessing for a restful summer.

Sing Gently by *Eric Whitacre*

May we sing together always
May our voice be soft
May our singing be music for others
And may it keep others aloft.

Sing gently always
Sing gently as one.

May we stand together always
May our voice be strong.
May we hear the singing
And always sing along.

Sing gently always
Sing gently as one

Luke's Little Life Lessons

I recently went on a vacation with my family. We rented a cabin on Larson Lake, a lake not known for sandy beaches and great vacation properties. It is primarily a fishing lake, with very few cabins near it, so it was a rather secluded vacation (though not too secluded to stream Game 6 of the Stanley Cup on our phones). It was wonderful to visit with family and relax in a different space. I have been fishing my whole life. My Dad used to take us out when we were little and put rods in our hands while we got distracted and ate snacks in the canoe. He used to make the same joke every time he would push the canoe out into the water. He would pause for a second as if he was going to stay on shore

and say “Bye kids, have fun fishing” before jumping in the boat with us. As a kid with a lot of energy and not much of an attention span, fishing was not my favorite activity. The snacks and the time with my family certainly helped lure me onto the boat, but I would ask fairly often “How long are we going to be fishing for?”. So my Mom was a bit surprised when I climbed in a paddleboat alone to go cast my line for an hour on Saturday night. She asked “So do you like fishing now?” I had to pause and think, before answering “I like being outdoors, and listening to some nice music, and fishing gives me a good reason to do that”. A chance to slow down. I don’t create enough space for that in my day to day life. If you are like me, quiet and stillness are not things that come easily. Helping out a friend or a neighbor comes to me a lot easier than prayer and contemplation. I am much better at listening to someone share their grief, than I am at listening to try and hear God (I am still not sure what that means). I am glad when I look around at our church and see how active people’s faith is. The amount of volunteer hours that go into caring for others and for our church grounds is immense. I love that part of the Anabaptist movement was a focus on right action instead of just right belief. I aspire to be like the men and women at our church who do so much for the community. I think that impacting our world in practical ways is a great expression of faith, but I also think having a faith that “can’t sit still” can be hard on the individual. There must be something important in solitude and quiet time because Jesus did it intentionally, and the church has done so throughout its history. I hope you can find chances to slow down, and if you have tips as I try to do the same, please let me know.

Album Recommendation: Leon Bridges’ album “*Coming Home*” sounds like an old school soul album, even though it was released in 2015. It is a nice summer jam with lots of gospel/religious influences woven into it.

Luke will be the Shekinah Bible Leader for the week of July 7 to 12.

MCC Presents
ALL-AGES PRACTICE PEACE
Summer Camp

Hello!

You are invited to attend our 1st annual All-Ages Practice Peace Summer Camp on August 7 & 8 from 10-3pm at the MCC office building (and park across the street if weather permits).

This summer learning experience will provide participants with hands-on practice for having peaceful conversations, interventions, and intentions with others. This will be an all-ages experience with a variety of exercises that participants can get involved in. Each participant under 16 years old will need to come with an adult participant.

We will learn about the practical applications to conflict transformation, restorative justice, and non-violent communication, among others.

To make this camp accessible our registration fee is a pay-what-you-can donation. All donations \$30 and over will receive a tax receipt that will support the MCC Peacebuilding program here in Saskatchewan.

We ask that participants plan to bring their own lunch and we will provide snacks and refreshments.

Come for professional development, for personal development, and/or family fun.

To Register go to the MCC Sask website

Sample Daily Outline for the Camp (subject to change):

10-10:30: Large group activity

10:30-10:45: Snack break

10:45-12: Small group practice activities

12-12:30: Lunch break in the park

12:30-1: Group activity game

1:00-2:30: Small group practice activities

2:30-3: Debrief and sending

Foodgrains Bank

Greetings Friend,

Is your church already making plans for the fall? We know summer is a busy time for everyone, so we wanted to give you an early heads-up to **save the date for World Food Day on October 16!**

This year, we're hosting a webinar to learn about global hunger and share powerful stories from our members' local partners. You'll hear firsthand from those working on the frontlines of the hunger crisis, understand the urgency of their work, and discover ways you can make a difference.

If your church or community is committed to engaging more deeply in global social responsibility this World Food Day, we invite you to join us for this learning opportunity.

In the meantime, explore our resources to educate your faith community about global hunger and food security. Have you ever wondered what food people receive when they're given humanitarian assistance? This is often referred to as rations. Perhaps your church family might consider gathering for a ration meal to reflect on the mealtime reality of millions of people experiencing hunger around the world to raise awareness.

Thank you for your continued support on the mission to end hunger. We hope you'll join us for meaningful discussion and learning this World Food Day!

Blessings,

Christina Philips
Director, resources and public engagement
Canadian Foodgrains Bank

MDS NEWS

Hi Church,

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10, NRSV)

I see this philosophy manifested in MDS partnerships time and time again. Most recently, I’ve been inspired by our partner, North Shuswap Christian Fellowship in Scotch Creek, British Columbia.

Before we partnered in response to the Bush Creek East Wildfire, the North Shuswap congregation had been looking for ways to serve their local community, but they weren’t sure where to start. They found a unique opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their community, through partnership with us.

Since the spring, a church member has taken the initiative to recruit and organize daily, local volunteers to help with the house builds. He has been met with an enthusiastic response from church members, other community members and area residents.

The Shuswap response is often boosted by the support of 2-6 daily, local volunteers. They share meals and refreshments with MDS volunteers, while other church members donate their produce and baked treats to the effort.

Our partnership has given the North Shuswap congregation an opportunity to show their community that they care. The additional hands and hearts have been a blessing to MDS, too, as we build local relationships and seek to complete four house builds in the area this season.

In that same spirit of faith in action, I encourage you to consider the gifts that you can offer in service, both within MDS and in your local community.

Grace and peace,
Ross Penner
Executive Director
MDS Canada

A PEEK INTO OUR PAST...

On June 22, 1975 the Junior Choir of the Osler Mennonite Church
presented

SAM

The story of the good Samaritan....

by *Bobby Hammack and Tom Adair*

Choir director: Marj Boldt
Pianist: Kim Enns
Guitarist: Fred Heagle
Drummer: Sam Hoffner
Dramatic Director: Fried Enns

A special thank you to Donna Driedger and Brenda Neudorf as our
alternate pianist.

Thank you to all the mothers who were so willing to help make this
presentation possible.

ACTORS:

Jesus – Keith Boldt
Martin – Paul Enns
Sam – Kevin Boldt
Peddler – Terry Driedger
Politician – Sheldon Guenther
Doctor – Allan Neudorf
Landlord – Ivan Giesbrecht
Gang of Thieves – Bradley Banman, Albert Wiebe, Kelly Zacharias,
Terry Klassen, Murray Lobe, Dwayne Neudorf

SONGS

Let's Begin at the Start	Thank You, My Friend
Who's My Neighbor	It's Not My Hand
From Jerusalem to Jericho	Two Silver Coins
Peddler's Song	Responsibility
Get Involved	

JUNIOR CHOIR MEMBERS

Bradley Banman
Sandra Boldt
Kevin Boldt
Keith Boldt
Laura Boldt
Madeline Boldt
Michelle Boldt
Karen Bueckert
Lynda Bueckert
Lynne Driedger
Terry Driedger
Karen Driedger
Bradley Driedger
Sherry Driedger
Warren Driedger
Colleen Dyck
Paul Enns
Connie Friesen
Darryl Friesen
Carol Friesen
Brenda Friesen
Grace Giesbrecht
Ivan Giesbrecht
Albert Wiebe
Jacky Guenther
Steven Guenther
Sheldon Guenther
Kelly Zacharias

Melody Guenther
Sandra Guenther
Rose Guenther
Rhonda Hildebrandt
Michelle Hildebrandt
Geraldine Hildebrandt
Sherry Hildebrandt
Evan Klassen
Lori Klassen
Terry Klassen
Michael Lobe
Murray Lobe
Audrey Martens
Laura Martens
Sheila Martens
Dwayne Neudorf
Allan Neudorf
Faith Neudorf
Christine Rempel
Karen Rempel
Betty Siemens
David Siemens
Darlene Siemens
Margaret Siemens
Martha Siemens
Mary Siemens
Tim Hildebrandt

Thanks to Edna Zacharias for passing on a bulletin with the above information.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JULY/AUGUST

July 7, 2024

- 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48
- Ezekiel 2:1-5 and Psalm 123
- 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
- Mark 6:1-13

July 14, 2024

- 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24
- Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Mark 6:14-29

July 21, 2024

- 2 Samuel 7:1-14a and Psalm 89:20-37
- Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 23
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28, 2024

- 2 Samuel 11:1-15 and Psalm 14
- 2 Kings 4:42-44 and Psalm 145:10-18
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- John 6:1-21

August 4, 2024

- 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12
- Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and Psalm 78:23-29
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- John 6:24-35

August 11, 2024

- 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130
- 1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8
- Ephesians 4:25-5:2
- John 6:35, 41-51

August 18, 2024

- 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111
- Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14
- Ephesians 5:15-20
- John 6:51-58

August 25, 2024

- 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84
- Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- John 6:56-69

September 1, 2024

- Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
- Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15
- James 1:17-27
- Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

ANNOUCMENTS

Join the Walking Club – Fridays 9:00 am starting from church and walking for an hour. Coffee/water is served at 10:00 am.

John Gascho still has various cards available for purchase at \$3.00 each. The proceeds will be to assist a local student attending RJC this coming fall.

Did you know?? MC SK Fair Trade Coffee purchases support youth programming in Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. Please order at www.mcsask.ca/coffee.

When dropping off cans at Sarcan please donate to code “omcgreen” for the Youth Green Fund.

Save the Date to Celebrate Shekinah’s 45th Anniversary! Sunday, September 8th from 2:00 - 6:00! There will be singing, activities, craft, farmer sausage on a stick and birthday cake! Watch for more details!

Did you know?

The OMC Church Library – is probably the best stocked library in any Saskatchewan church! Besides having a large variety of books in all topics for all ages, it also has:

- Sermons printed and archived in binders
- Minutes of meetings *of all* church meetings in a binder
- Mennonite Periodicals such as:
 - Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian
 - Canadian Mennonite Historian
 - MDS – Behind the Hammer
 - MEDA – Marketplace
 - Perservings
- Local History
- Reference Books

***And* Did you know?**

We actually have an Archives! Thanks to a few dedicated volunteers, our older documents and pictures have been carefully organized and placed in boxes and stored in our church *attic aka an upstairs space behind the balcony*. Each door has an index noted on it for content and each box is indexed for easy reference.

The office computer also has a handy list of the categories saved.

SUMMER CALENDAR

Mon. July 1 11:00 Osler Parade and Trade Show in OMC Parking Lot

Sun. July 7 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking

Sun. July 14 10:00 am Dave Feick speaking

Sun. July 21 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking

Sun. July 28 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking

Sun. Aug 4 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking

Sun. Aug 11 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking

Sun. Aug 18 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking

Sun. Aug 25 10:00 am Joint Service at Wilf & Ruth Buhler's yard

July/August Birthdates

July

2 – Vanessa Stefaniuk
2 - Luke Bushman
6 – Morrison Bird
9 – Joanne Feick
9 – Kathy Braun
10 – Benjamin Clark
13 – Jean Harms
16 – Dylan Martens
19 – John Reddekopp
20 – Katherine Penner
22 – Torben Sjoelin
23 – Diana Buhler
24 – Dennis Boldt (90)
28 – Emmett Bergen-Braun
30 – Harry Martens (82)

August

9 - Lyle Stucky
9 – Kendra Reddekopp
10 – Eva Martens
12 – Matthew Braun
16 – Gaye Guenther
19 – Lloyd Sawatzky
20 – Jim Dyck
20 - Betty Friesen (90)
21 – Bill Peters (80)
21 – Merel Kriegsman
27 – Eli Schellenberg
29 – Jan Guenther
29 – Terry Stefaniuk
30 – Kathy Boldt (88)
30 – Dan Schellenberg

Anniversaries

Some 2024 milestone anniversaries of active members of OMC

Doug & Diana McKinnell – August 28	20 years
Scott & Candice Buhler – August 14	25 years
Rob & Brandee Borne – August 28	25 years
Dave & Joanne Feick – August 4	40 years
Doug & Adeline Cox – June 1	50 years
Jim & Margaret Dyck – October 11	55 years
Harry & Eva Martens – June 10	60 years
Bill & Anna Peters – August 1	60 years
Jacob & Junko Friesen – April 29	65 years
Pete & Tena Sawatzky – October 23	70 years

Some milestone may have been missed....

Congratulations. William Janzen a former director of the Ottawa office of MCC has become a Member of the Order of Canada. Bill, a brother to George Janzen and a friend to many in this congregation is well known in the Valley area for his interest in Mennonite history. Bill along with his siblings grew up in the village of Blumenheim – the same house that George and Lynette live in today.

This is what was written for his nomination:

**William Janzen, C.M.
Ottawa, Ontario**

For over 30 years, William Janzen served as director of the Ottawa Office of the Mennonite Central Committee Canada. He has influenced government policy development and made contributions to refugee resettlement, citizenship, development aid and peace building. He was instrumental in the creation of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program, mobilizing Canadians to support incoming refugees, notably from Southeast Asia, thus marking a turning point in Canada's immigration policy.

Go to the CBC website to find the complete list of Governor General Mary Simon's announcement of 83 appointments to Order of Canada.