

The Osler Mennonite Church

July 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 Seventh Edition

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

Pastor Patty's Ponderings on Pentecost

All summer we are in the season of Pentecost, which is the longest of the church seasons. I'm glad for the long reminder of the expansive work of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives, in our church and in the world. To quote theologian Howard Thurman: We are reminded in many ways of the quiet ministry of the spirit of the living God in our lives and in life that abounds around us. The little healings of the silent breaches, the great redemptive acts when times are out of joint, the lifting of our horizons of hope when to have hope seems to be against all wisdom and against all judgment, the stirring of the will to forgive when for so long a time we have been buried under an avalanche of great hostilities - there are so many ways by which the ministry of the living God tutors the spirit, corrects the times, gives lift to the days.

Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free; Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me. #368 *Voices Together*

and more Pandering

"A changed way of life is a *consequence* of being forgiven, not a *precondition* of forgiveness. Similarly, forgiveness is not earned through penance; rather, penance ought to be a response, a deep sign of gratitude, for having been forgiven. Thus, forgiveness is sustained through gratitude and perfected in joy; in this sense, the surest sign of forgiveness is a transformed life. *Paul J. Waddell*

I've been inspired again by reading the **1997 What's So Amazing about Grace?** by *Philip Yancey*. I use this book in baptism preparation because it so profoundly speaks of people's transforming experiences of grace. Yancey is coming out with an updated version this fall and I'd like to use it as a sermon series. Folks looking for a good summer/fall read, please follow along!

Pastor Patty's Picks *for Summer Reading*

King: A Life by *Jonathan Eig* - comprehensive autobiography of an imperfect prophet. Public library.

Jesus Feminist by *Sarah Bessey* has been around a decade already but I've only just discovered it. Church library.

And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln by *John Meacham*. Church library.

The Peace Table Children's Bible with incredible culturally inclusive illustration. Church library.

Luke: Believers Bible Commentary by *Mary Schertz*. Church library.

Return Stroke: Essays and Memoir by *Dora Dueck*, loved Winnipeg author. Church library.

Mennonites in the Russian Empire: Through Much Tribulation. Just in time for 100th anniversary of migration. Church library.

Stuck Together: The Hope of Christian Witness in a Polarized World by *J. Nelson Kraybill* to help us through these times. Church library.

A big thank you to Matthew Stefaniuk for being our Digital and Technology Coordinator! This is an ad-hoc position created by council to help us!

Digital and Technology Coordinator

Length of term:

1 year ad-hoc position with the possibility of extension

Position Description:

- This position requires a person with an interest in and experience with technology and related processes as it relates to the functioning of the church.
- Reports to Church Council and attends council meetings as required.
- Meets with all members of council and staff to brainstorm technology needs and ideas, including but not limited to wireless internet connection, computers, printers, sound boards, projectors, microphones, speakers and any other related hardware and software.
- Make recommendations to Council about church technology needs and oversee purchasing and installation of new equipment and software etc.

Luke's Little Lessons (*Lies?*)

Summer is upon us, and I hope it is finding you well! I find summer to be a great example of how the Christian life should be. At times summer means busy trips, backyard parties, summer camp, and gardening until your back is sore. At times, summer also means reading in the sunshine, the slow, lazy roll of the boat on the waves, and contemplative late nights by the campfire. I find that I have some of my most productive days in summer, and some of my most relaxing days in summer. This is a diverse rhythm that I don't personally find in my winter hibernation. Jesus was a great example of having a lifestyle that swung between frantic good work, and isolated times of rest. In Mark 1:29-39, Jesus is gaining rapid popularity. He goes to cure Simon's mother in law's fever, and quickly the entire city ends up gathered outside the door. They bring all of the sick people here for Jesus to heal. Jesus works till late in the night, and the next morning leaves first thing to go be alone in an isolated place to pray. Everyone goes and starts looking for Jesus, hoping that this great work will continue at this rapid pace. Summer to me has a very similar pace, ranging from the frantic work of speaking at camp to the Sunday afternoons in the boat, lazily fishing while barely staying awake. Feel free to let me know what you like to do, and how you like to relax in summer!

Need help with odd jobs this summer - mowing, etc? Please contact Mikwanis and/or Oren Bird at 1-639-998-2547.

MDS NEWS

One of MDS Canada's core values is partnership. We want to intentionally work together with Mennonite conferences and other denominations, churches, and other organizations to help people get back home.

That includes partnering with local churches in places where we are responding, if possible. We did that in 2018 in Williams Lake, B.C. with the Cariboo Bethel (Mennonite Brethren) Church, In 2019 in Grand Forks, B.C., with the River Valley Pentecostal Community Church, and in 2022 in Princeton, B.C. with the Princeton Baptist Church.

This year in Cape Breton our partner and host has been Camp Bretondean, which is operated by Anglican churches in the region. It's been a great home and base of operations, and we are grateful to be able to use the facility.

Starting in July, the camp will need the facility back for summer camping. That means we will be moving. We are thankful to have found a new partner and home at the Sydney River Protestant United Church. (See story below.) We are very much looking forward to this new partnership!

By partnering with local churches, we not only get a home for our volunteers. We also can come alongside a congregation to help them do their mission of being of service to their community. It's a win-win for both them and us as we work together to get people back home.

In Philippians 1:3-5, the Apostle Paul says to the church at Philippi: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel." We say the same thing about all the churches we have partnered with over the years, and also to you for your partnership as volunteers and supporters.

Thanks so very much!

Executive Director – Mennonite Disaster Service Canada

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

Can you think of a time when you successfully worked together with others? There are a lot of reasons that people come together at Canadian Foodgrains Bank—just this past month our board of 15-member agencies met together to continue to guide the organization, and folks in Winnipeg gathered for a 40th anniversary dinner

Here in Saskatchewan, we've also seen a lot of good teamwork – whether that's a community group putting on an event or a group of farm families harvesting a field.

This year, Rick and I (Jacquie) are enjoying working together to water and weed the Foodgrains Bank conservation agriculture demonstration plot at Ag in Motion. I also know that within the Foodgrains Bank network around the world, local partners are working with community leaders to form savings and loans groups, distribute emergency food and learn new agriculture techniques. These are just a few of the ways that we see folks working together to end hunger and that is a reason to celebrate!

Go to <https://foodgrainsbank.ca> to read more on how you can keep giving, praying, learning, and advocating together with the Foodgrains Bank.

Connect with us at Ag in Motion!

Over the past five years, the Foodgrains Bank has managed a conservation agriculture demonstration at Ag in Motion (AIM), and this year, from July 18-20, we will have a special tribute at our plot that recognizes our 40th anniversary of working together to help to end hunger. You can find us at Site 381 (across from SeCan).

In addition, we are hosting an appreciation lunch in the Special Events Tent at AIM on Wednesday, July 19 for all of you who support and engage with the Foodgrains Bank. We want to gather to say THANK YOU for the many decades of your committed partnership to help alleviate hunger in our world.

There is no cost to this sponsored event, but we do need people to register for the lunch - RSVP now to secure your spot! Deadline is July 10 ... *go to the official website to register.*

Please forward this invite to others in your community – let's fill the tent!

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JULY

July 2, 2023

- Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13
- Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
- Romans 6:12-23
- Matthew 10:40-42

July 9, 2023

- Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17
or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
- Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14
- Romans 7:15-25a
- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16, 2023

- Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112
- Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
- Romans 8:1-11
- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23, 2023

- Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
- Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8
and Psalm 86:11-17
- Romans 8:12-25
- Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30, 2023

- Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
- 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136
- Romans 8:26-39
- Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6, 2023

- Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15
- Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
- Romans 9:1-5
- Matthew 14:13-21

OMC CALENDAR

- July 2 10:00 a.m.** Henry Funk preaching
July 9 10:00 a.m. Abraham's Servant Prays by Patty Friesen
11:00 a.m. Second Sunday Lunch Bunch Restaurant
July 16 10:00 a.m. Rebecca Prays by Patty Friesen
July 23 10:00 a.m. Luke Bushman preaching
11:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday Backyard Bag Lunch Bunch
July 30 10:00 a.m. Jacob Prays by Patty Friesen
Aug 6 10:00 a.m. Dave Feick preaching
Aug 13 10:00 a.m. George Janzen preaching
11:00 Second Sunday Lunch Bunch Restaurant
Aug 20 10:00 a.m. Joseph Prays by Patty Friesen
Aug 27 10:00 a.m. AWOL (Aberdeen, Warman, Osler, Langham)
Joint Outdoor Service and Communion in Ruth and Wilf's yard
11:00 a.m. Rollkuchen and watermelon

Community Connections

Mennos@Osler Parade - Sat. July 1 – Ice Cream will be serviced after the parade *and*

SK EV Association will be in the church parking lot for test-drives.

July Birthdates

- 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 (89)
- 28 – Emmett Bergen-Braun
- 30 – Harry Martens (81)