

The Osler Mennonite Church

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

Pastor Patty's Ponderings on Bridge-building

“In building bridges you need a certain amount of compression and tension to create stability - just not too much tension so it collapses. Bridges are hard to build. It is hard to get the keystone the right place.”
(PBS DVD Annika)

I like this quote about getting the Keystone in the right place. The keystone of course, is the stone placed in the middle of the arch to hold the arch together.

In Luke 20, Jesus looked at his disciples and said, “What then does this text mean: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the keystone’?”

In the 7 Shared Convictions of Global Anabaptists describe the keystone as #2 Jesus is the Son of God. Through his life and teachings, his cross and resurrection, he showed us how to be faithful disciples, redeemed the world, and offers eternal life. #5 The Spirit of Jesus empowers us to trust God in all areas of life so we become peacemakers who renounce violence, love our enemies, seek justice, and share our possessions with those in need.

Even when the Keystone Jesus is in the right place in our personal and congregational life, healthy tension and struggling with what that means creates stability. Healthy tension means we are alive and can hold opposite sides like a bridge. If something is static, it cannot handle pressure and breaks. It reminds me of Ron Kraybill's quote in John Paul Lederach's book *Reconcile: Conflict Transformation for Ordinary Christians*. “If you want few divisive and church-splitting conflicts, encourage more everyday disagreements in congregational life.” We survived the pandemic with just enough healthy struggle and tension to keep the bridge up. Post-pandemic, we have just enough everyday disagreements around building use, how best to green our building, and how “out” to be with our welcome; to keep congregational life exciting.

When my nephew graduated from Engineering at the University of Calgary this spring, he and the other graduating engineers were given an iron ring. The iron was taken from a bridge that collapsed somewhere and now every engineering department bestows these rings on grads to remind them of the importance of their diligence and work. Let's keep

moving forward with diligence and discernment in building our bridge to the broader community and into the future.

Pastor Patty's Pick

PBS DVD Annika was a delightful detective's struggle with her daughter and crime.

Thelma DVD was a delightful revenge of a scammed senior. Acted brilliantly by 90-year-old June Squibb.

Flying Away CD by Ugandan Jon Muq is a smooth bridge built between traditional Ugandan music and Muq's own interpretation of it.

The False White Gospel by Jim Wallis is as powerful as his God's Politics 20 years ago. Taking his fellow evangelicals to task, Wallis calls us not to go left or right but go deeper into scripture and who Jesus really is.

The Marlow Murder Club by Robert Thorogood was a delightful summer read.

New to the Church Library

27 Conversation Starters with Aging Parents

Mennonite Minister John Reddekopp

Electrify: An Optimist for a Clean Energy Future *by Saul Griffith*

Peace *by Romeo Dallaire*

The False White Nationalist Gospel *by Jim Wallis*



Luke's Little Life Lessons

At the end of September myself and the youth embarked on a retreat to Camp Elim. We had a great time, visiting together, playing games, and learning a little bit about Mental Health. It has been a very chaotic month as everything begins again and so for my Newsletter Contribution, I thought it might be fitting to share a benediction that was once given to me in a time of Mental Health struggles, and recommend an album that has given me some peace over the years. Here is a benediction from John O' Donahue that was sent my way by someone when I mentioned I was struggling. I have shared it multiple times now, and it gives me a bit of comfort.

On the day when
The weight deadens
On your shoulders
And you stumble,
May the clay dance
To balance you.

And when your eyes
Freeze behind
The grey window
And the ghost of loss
Gets into you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green
And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you
A meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
In the currach of thought
And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight

To bring you safely home.
May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.

- John O Donahue

October Album Recommendation:

Last year, around this time, I recommended Bon Iver's album "For Emma, Forever Ago". I have always found a sense of peace listening to their music. This year I recommend Bon Iver's self-titled album. A personal favourite moment on this album, is on Holocene, where he describes looking out at the expansive world around him and says "And at once I knew, I was not magnificent". Hopefully you also find some peace in the craziness of Fall.

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www.glasbergen.com



**"I know you care about cleaning up the planet.
Your bedroom is part of the planet!"**

Foodgrains Bank

Greetings Friend!

A good day to each of you. As is the norm in this newsletter, we often start out by sharing a few thoughts we are currently pondering. One recent observation was about the ‘space we occupy’. Whether in our homes, in our digital worlds, or often in our minds we might seem to occupy much space, but compared to the world around us we are not so large. In the image below, those 5 individuals from Southwest growing project offer a perspective of our physical stature in relation to the expanse of land and sky of God’s creation. Being relatively small, however, does not mean insignificant, as the boy in the Gospel story who offered 5 loaves and two fish would attest. The reality is, as image-bearers of the Creator, we have been given a heart (and will) that can affect change. And the change we are capable of affecting by working together can be as influential in shaping our world as the biophysical systems that surround us.

At this time of the year, I describe my work as ‘full schedule, full heart’. Fall is definitely the busiest season of the year with harvests and community events. My role as Saskatchewan regional representative means I am connecting personally with many supporters across the province, especially in rural communities with growing project volunteers. Sitting in the combine, or stopping in at a local business or church, I get a sense of the regular rhythms of giving back. “Blessings are meant to be shared...” is something I’ve heard many times. It’s incredibly humbling and joy-filling to bear witness to this widespread generosity. With that in mind, it seems fitting to be able to ‘give back’ myself by sharing the joy of this generosity with you all. I trust the stories and updates found in this issue will be a blessing and encouragement to you to continue supporting our work to be an effective Christian response to hunger.

Partnership with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) renewed - \$100M agreement

Since its inception in 1983, the Foodgrains Bank (as an association of 15-member agencies) has worked in partnership with the Government of Canada to effectively deliver emergency food assistance to dozens of countries impacted by severe hunger caused by situations such as conflict, extended drought, and natural or other disasters. The mechanism of a ‘matching funds’ agreement (in which government funds are leveraged by donations) has proven to be a key accompaniment to the mission of the Foodgrains Bank to be a Christian response to hunger.

On September 12, on a farm near Abbotsford, BC, Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen announced a new 4-year agreement (2024-2028) worth \$100 million available to be matched 4:1 by donor funds to aid in the delivery of emergency food assistance. Foodgrains Bank executive director Andy Harrington states, “We are very appreciative of the longstanding partnership we have with the Government of Canada, and for the renewal of this funding. It will help provide urgent assistance to many people around the world experiencing critical levels of hunger because of conflicts, natural disasters, climate impacts, and other humanitarian emergency crises. This funding, along with the consistent support we receive from Canadian donors, enables us to move quickly and effectively in times of crisis.”

October 16th is World Food Day

In many of our homes on Thanksgiving weekend, we will be blessed by gathering together to enjoy food and fellowship and offer our thankfulness to God for His provision. Just days later we have the opportunity to also reflect on (and commit ourselves to) the reality of our world, in which many still suffer from a severe lack of food. World Food Day is October 16th, and we invite you to participate through giving, learning, praying, or advocating for a world in which all have enough to eat.

Faith. Hunger. Conflict. Three life-defining pillars, but what happens when they are woven together?

Join us this World Food Day, October 16 at 7:00 pm CT, as we discuss how conflict affects global hunger and what a Christian faith looks like in this context.

Grow Hope Saskatchewan continues to engage people in creative ways to steward our resources well and give back to others who are suffering from hunger. A new initiative this fall is the support that will come from MCC Thrift stores across SK, who are donating all proceeds from sales on World Food Day, October 16th. As the poster states, "Shop Local, Impact Global."

Upcoming fall events

Listening for God's prophetic voice amongst the people of the land – Foodgrains Bank presentation – October 15th at Grosvenor Park United Church, Saskatoon, 7:00 p.m. Contact Rick at saskatchewan@foodgrainsbak.ca for more information.

MCC Peace Conference – November 2nd at Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon. See <https://www.facebook.com/mccsask> for updates.

Peace to you,

**Rick & Jacquie
Saskatchewan Representatives,
Canadian Foodgrains Bank**

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This is only a small portion of the October Newsletter. You may go on-line to read the rest at Rick and Jacquie Block, Canadian Foodgrains Bank <saskatchewan@foodgrainsbank.ca>

MDS NEWS

Earlier this month, I joined volunteers, disaster survivors and local partners in North Shuswap, B.C., for MDS Shuswap Response wrap-up. The five-month-long response was an impressive effort, with four houses rebuilt and another four repaired by an estimated 400 volunteers.

Work like this would not be possible without local partnership. And it's because of strong local relationships that the collective team of 400 volunteers was able to achieve what they did. At the closing celebration and in conversations with long-term volunteers and our church partners, it became clear to me that MDS and our host church reciprocated blessings.

The North Shuswap Christian Fellowship generously shared their church facility to make it our volunteer home base for five months. They extended our reach through the help of dozens of daily volunteers. And we shared a model of service that the congregation plans to adopt so that they can continue to rebuild hope in their community.

A beautiful illustration of Luke 6:38: Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (NIV)

Thanks to the many volunteers who served in North Shuswap and in Lytton this season — for recognizing put-down-the-hammer moments and for living out your faith through these meaningful relationships.

With gratitude,
Ross Penner
Executive Director
MDS Canada

PEACEMAKERS

27 September, 2024

I knew this day would come and it's been on my mind for a long time. When you start something you inherently know that, logically, there will also be an ending. And today, I finish my role with CPT.

When I joined the Colombia team in April 2013, one of my first accompaniment assignments involved horseback riding through the farmlands of the Middle Magdalena, visiting families who maintained steadfastness to the land, growing cacao, mango, banana, and papaya to remain rooted, literally and figuratively, in their struggle. We were generously invited into their homes and offered the fruits of their labour, which we of course devoured under the sizzle of the midday sun. I had only just arrived to Colombia, but I distinctly remember thinking to myself, *this is it; this is what I'm meant to be doing. How could I ever do anything else?*

And that feeling stayed with me, from the moment I stood with the community of Las Pavas while their homes and crops burned until a few weeks ago while I watched online as President Gustavo Petro personally handed Claudia the deed to her land. *How could I ever find this kind of fulfillment anywhere else?*

From lip-trembling anxiety as I confronted riot police blocking campesinos from their homes, to deep-throated sobs as I watched my friends be taken away by the Israeli occupying forces; from the nights on the couch editing content, to the hosting of CPT trainings and taxiing colleagues to and from the border, I sit here and watch scenes roll through my head like a movie. Bittersweet memories of over a decade, where I thought the difficult and heart wrenching experiences might outweigh the positives, but in fact, I'm left with only gratitude and a massive sense of awe. And I wonder what will come next that could possibly compare.

But in this moment of reflection I'm reminded that we did this *together*. These memories I hold so close are pieces of a larger CPT community that is more than a job title, but a lifestyle as part of a wider movement of good people doing the daily work of liberation. I will still be a part of this community and continue to take action in my new circles of influence, and we will still be linking arms and hearts as we move forward together.

Thank you for reading my words the last few years. Thank you for listening, understanding, sharing, signing petitions, emailing your representatives, participating in delegations, and donating. It has been a pleasure to walk this journey together.

Hannah Redekop

Below is the list of courses for Fall 2024 Xplore

Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. CT Oct 1–Nov 5 (Zoom only)
Wisdom, Tension, and Conflict in the Gospel of John with
Robert J. Suderman (Jack)

Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon Oct 1–Nov 5 (Zoom only)
Dreams and Dreaming--In Scripture and in Our Lives Today
with April Yamasaki

Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CT Hybrid Classes—at CMU and on
Zoom Oct 2 – Nov 6 (choose 1)
Exploring our Relationship with Grief with John Koop Harder
Coming to Terms with Christian Antisemitism with Dan Epp-
Tiessen

Wednesdays 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. CT Hybrid Classes—at CMU and on
Zoom Oct 2 – Nov 6 (choose 1)
The Great Oratorios with Nolan Kehler
“Lord, Teach Us”: Learning from the Sermon on the Mount with
Michael Pahl

Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. CT Oct 10 – Nov 14 on (Zoom only)

Starting 1 week later

The Great Soviet Experiment: A Postmortem with Leonard
Friesen

Thursdays 11:00 – 12:00 noon CT Oct 3 – Nov 7 on (Zoom only)
Learning About Biblical Characters and Events Through Art
with MaryLou Driedger

Course descriptions and Instructor bios available at the CMU web site

www.cmu.ca/xplore

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR OCTOBER

October 6, 2024

- Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26
- Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8
- Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
- Mark 10:2-16

October 13, 2024

- Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15
- Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and Psalm 90:12-17
- Hebrews 4:12-16
- Mark 10:17-31

October 14, 2024 Canadian Thanksgiving Day -

- Joel 2:21-27 and Psalm 126
- 1 Timothy 2:1-7
- Matthew 6:25-33

October 20, 2024

- Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
- Isaiah 53:4-12 and Psalm 91:9-16
- Hebrews 5:1-10
- Mark 10:35-45

October 27, 2024

- Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
- Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126
- Hebrews 7:23-28
- Mark 10:46-52

November 3, 2024

- Ruth 1:1-18 and Psalm 146
- Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Psalm 119:1-8
- Hebrews 9:11-14
- Mark 12:28-34

CALENDAR

Reminder: Every Wednesday starting **October 2:** CMU Bible Study 10:30am in the Coffee Room at OMC

Sunday, October 6, 10:00 am - God, Jesus and the Enneagram
by Patty Friesen

11:11 Forum with Amanda Dodge, MCC SK on the Enneagram

Sunday, October 13, 10:00 am - Thanksgiving Communion: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (but not get baptized yet) by Patty Friesen

Sunday, October 20 – 10:00 am Patty preaching on 7 Shared Convictions: #4-7 The Church
11:11 am Deacon mtg

Mon. Oct 21 6:00 pm Exec. Mtg

Wed. Oct 23 6:00 Faspa & Conversation

Sunday, October 27 – 10:00 am Luke preaching on Mark 4
11:11 Comm. Connection mtg

Tues. Oct 29 – 7:00 pm OMC Book Club in the Coffee Room
A Psalm for the Wild-Built by *Becky Palme*. Everyone responsible to find their own book. Men & Youth welcome

October Faspa and Conversation: Greening Church Buildings,
Weds. Oct. 23, 6:00 p.m. with Sandy Plett, MC Can Environment Coordinator on Zoom

Drop-In OMC Book Club (men welcome!) Tues. Oct. 29, 7:00 p.m. Coffee room A Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers.

"In A Psalm for the Wild-Built, Hugo Award-winner Becky Chambers's delightful new Monk & Robot series gives us hope for the future. It's been centuries since the robots of Panga gained self-awareness and laid down their tools; centuries since they wandered, en masse, into the wilderness, never to be seen again; centuries since they faded into myth and urban legend. One day, the life of a tea monk is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honor the old promise of checking in. The robot cannot go back until the question of "what do people need?" is answered. But the answer to that question depends on who you ask, and how. They're going to need to ask it a lot. Becky Chambers's new series asks: in a world where people have what they want, does having more matter?"

Sunday, November 3 - Jeanette Hanson, MC Can International Witness and Pastor Yin Hongtau from China. Living as a worldwide Anabaptist community.

Peace Sunday, November 10 - Luke Bushman preaching

Peace Sunday 2, November 17 - “Who is my Neighbour?”

By Patty Friesen

Memorial Sunday, November 24 - “Lawrence Hart: Cheyenne Peace Chief and Mennonite minister” by Patty Friesen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forever in Motion – beginning October 1, every Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 am – 11:00 am free, drop-in exercise classes **at the Osler Community Hall**. Please wear running shoes and bring a water bottle.

Spotlight on Seniors

October 8, 2024 at TCU Place from 9 am to 3 pm

Celebrating 25 years: Honoring a Legacy of Experience

Products * Services * Demos *

Refreshments & Snacks

Prize Draws ** Music & entertainment

Lunch Available for purchase

Admission: \$15 – Pay at the door by cash only

Some “Smiles” from the Senior Living Magazine

A plane hit a patch of severe turbulence and the passengers were holding on tight as it rocked and reeled through the night. A little old lady turned to a minister who was sitting behind her and said, “You’re a man of God. Can’t you do something about this? He replied. “Sorry, I can’t. I’m in sales, not management.”

A lady went to the hospital to visit a friend. She had not been in a hospital for several years and felt very ignorant about all the new technology. A technician followed her onto the elevator, wheeling a large, intimidating looking machine with tubes and wires and dials. “Boy, would I hate to be hooked up to that thing.” She said. “So would I,” replied the technician. “It’s a floor polisher.”

A man walked into a doctor’s office. “What do you have?” the receptionist asked. “Shingles,” he replied. She told him to sit down. Soon a nurse called him and asked, “What do you have?” “Shingles,” he replied. She took his blood pressure, weight, and complete medical history. Then she took him to a room and told him to remove all of his clothes. After a few minutes the doctor came in asked, “What do you have?” “Shingles,” the man told him. The doctor looked him up and down and said, “Where?” “Out on the truck. Where do you want me to unload them?”

October Birthdates

1 – Bruce Boldt
2 – Robin Neudorf
2 – Naomi Schellenberg
3 – Natalia Guenther
6 – Lanae Martens-Funk
6 – Jadrian Guenther
8 – Matthew Stefaniuk
12 – Stephanie Siemens
16 – Loretta Sawatzky
17 – Rachel Buhler
25 – Diane McKinnell
27 – Bree Schellenberg
29 – Mikwanis Bird
31 – Zenon Borne

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



"The Bible tells us to study math. It says, 'Go forth and multiply.'"