

# The Osler Mennonite Church

## November 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  
[oslermcoffice@sasktel.net](mailto:oslermcoffice@sasktel.net)  
<http://www.oslermennonitechurch.org>

2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. P.O. Box 129  
Osler, SK S0K 3A0  
306-239-2133

Volume XVII Ninth Edition

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

## **Pastor Patty's Ponderings: Remembering and Praying for Peace**

I'm rather into death so November is my favourite church month with Remembrance Day and Memorial Sunday. It's a lot of remembering people who have died. A number of us have lost siblings this year and we will remember them on November 24. November is also Peace Sunday 1 and 2 with Luke and I preaching on a timely topic. In the midst of all this remembering, praying and working for peace, we prepare for Advent and the coming of the Prince of Peace. Every year seems worse than the last in the peace department. But every Advent we courageously proclaim hope and peace. May we be blessed with our own peace this holy season.

I love it that we collectively read the lectionary psalms in our calls to worship every Sunday. As Kathleen Norris says in *The Cloister Walk*, *"To say the psalms aloud in community is to recover religion as an oral tradition, words that have been snatched from our tongues and relegated to the page."*

### **Pastor Patty's Pick**

**On Living** by *Kerry Egan* is her powerful encounters as a chaplain with the dying. In church library.

**The Good Walk** : creating new paths on traditional Prairie trails by *Matthew R. Anderson*. The Good Walk is a memoir, travelogue, and manifesto, recounting how a growing group of dreamers instigated prairie pilgrimages on foot, starting in 2015 and continuing almost every year since. The story is steeped in Treaty Four and Treaty Six history and edged with Canadian, nêhiyaw, and Métis stories and poetry.

**This is the Anabaptist Pause in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds by David Augsburger that fills out the life of Jesus. What else would we add today?**

[welcomed by shepherds,  
greeted by magi,  
pursued by Herod,  
sheltered in Egypt,  
taught by Joseph,  
baptized by John,  
tempted by Satan,  
followed by disciples,  
heard by multitudes,  
understood by simple,  
despised by clergy,  
praised by lepers,  
hosted by outcasts,  
seen by the blind,  
touched by the ill,  
obeyed by psychotics,  
rejected by siblings,  
rebuked by Martha,  
embraced by Mary,  
anointed by a prostitute,  
cheered by crowds,  
loved by John,  
hated by the Powers,  
abandoned by all,  
grieved in Gethsemane  
betrayed by disciple,  
denied by Peter,  
arrested by Herod,]

**Greening OMC Faspa and Zoom** with Sandy Plett, MC Canada Climate Action Minister, Weds. Oct. 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m. Coffee Room Present: Alex Tiessen, John Gascho, Garry Boldt, Jake Buhler, Patty Friesen-recorder.

1. Sandy updated us on her work with MC Canada - resourcing and connecting congregations who are working on green energy and education.
2. Together in Hope at [www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca) was a collaborative project involving MC SK youth and Matthew Braun and others.
3. OMC Emissions Reduction for on-demand hot water heater grant is in her pile for sorting:)
4. How do we deal with our climate guilt? Planting trees to off-set flying to hot holidays?
5. Solar panels are a visible wearing of our values - are they the most efficient investment? Geo-thermal option? Sandy will put us in touch with the 8 other MC Can congregations who have solar panels, including Wildwood Mennonite, Saskatoon.
6. OMC EV charging station? Expense became an obstacle. How do other congregations do it? Sandy will send info.
7. How to keep the conversations going despite obstacles? Youth are most keen and are leading the (electrical) charge, donating money to water heater from their Green Fund!
8. What happened to the building energy audit with Mark Bigland-Pritchard? Who will follow-up?

## **A Prayer from Rejoice....**

Pray for your extended family: cousin, spouses, children, grandparents, grandchildren, stepchildren. Lord, help us make family ties even more precious.

## Luke's Little Life Lessons

Recently thanks to the work of Patty and others, we have had some church resources exploring the use of the Enneagram. For those who do not know, the Enneagram is a tool to represent 9 potential personality types. While people are more complex than labels or numbers, tools like this can be helpful for self-awareness, and also for describing oneself.

While self-awareness may come across as a conceited idea to some, being aware of ourselves can help us in our relationships with others, and the larger world around us.

I thought it might be appropriate to share a bit about my experience with the Enneagram, in case people are looking for a prompt to learn more. I identify most with the #2 personality-type. The Helper. To keep it brief, this personality-type is sensitive, empathetic, and friendly. Twos are also prone to being people pleasers, ignorant of their own needs, and often struggle with pride.

I have found the Enneagram the most helpful in understanding the tension points in my various relationships. In all my relationships, I want to take care of those around me. Making them feel loved and seen. I try to be intuitive and sensitive to the feelings of others so that I feel needed. I have created tension in my relationships, by refusing to express my own needs, and then getting hurt when those needs are not met. Sometimes this is accompanied by self-righteousness or passive aggressive retribution.

Diving into the Enneagram was helpful for me to start acknowledging my shortcomings. That can be scary, and can definitely deconstruct the image of ourselves we have built in our heads. It can also help us to move forward, love others better, and start working to grow.

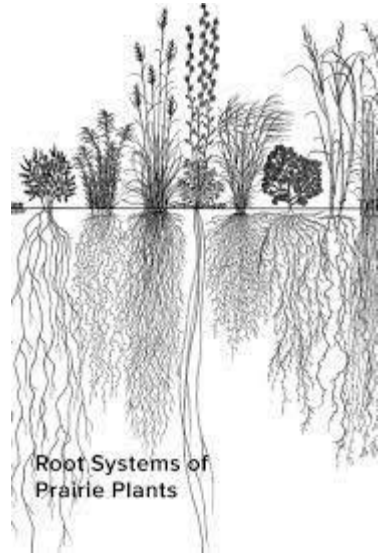
**Album Recommendation:** Good News for People Who Love Bad News by *Modest Mouse*. My favourite song is “*World at Large*”.

## Foodgrains Bank

Greetings Friend!

Good day to each of you. We consider it a real privilege to have time and space to communicate in this manner with SK supporters of Canadian Foodgrains Bank (even though sometimes we are stretched for time to complete it!).

Take a moment to consider the graphic on the right—those hardy native prairie plants that are able to withstand heat, drought, floods, and the extreme cold (which will come again in the next few months!). This image helps us understand why these plants are so resilient, for it's the hidden half, the root system, that enables the stem and leaves to grow and produce fruit and seed each year.



When we talk about the ‘grassroots’ of an organization, this is what we refer to—it’s the network of supporters that help sustain its presence and mission. As provincial representatives for the Foodgrains Bank (along with our counterparts across Canada), Jacquie and I regularly encounter this reality—in churches, in conversations in the shop, at the kitchen table, or at our Foodgrains Bank booth during trade shows, and over Zoom meetings and telephone calls.

Whether its through praying, giving, learning, or advocating, your support is helping the ‘plant’ produce its’ seed’ for those who are in need. Being rooted in the biblical principles of God’s love, justice, and compassion, we feel confident the Foodgrains Bank (as a network of rural and urban supporters, churches, agencies, and coalitions) will remain steadfast in helping those around the world suffering from hunger access sufficient food in whatever circumstances they are dealing with.

## Upcoming Events

Every November, the Foodgrains Bank hosts a fall supper somewhere in SK, and this year we are delighted to invite YOU to join us in Melfort on November 21st for our annual appreciation supper. Because support for the Foodgrains Bank is spread all across the province, we rotate the location of this event, co-hosting together with a local growing project group. The Rotary Club of Melfort is helping us put this on, and we anticipate a wonderful evening, including a unique presentation of guest panelists that will highlight the value of working together to help bring food relief for so many around the world.

See the poster for details. (*on our bulletin board*) Please RSVP by November 14th, and we hope to see you there! Feel free to share this invite with others; there's a lot of Foodgrains Bank supporters in the Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Nipawin, Melfort, and Humboldt areas!

## Hope Not Hunger: Prayers for Advent

**November 28th – 12:00 PM CST.** Join us for a virtual time of prayer to mark the beginning of the Advent season as we seek to prepare a place for God's promise of peace and reflect on what that means for our world in a time where too many are facing hunger.

At the time of writing, **Grow Hope Saskatchewan** had approximately 400 acres sponsored (of a total of 428 available acres). This year was challenging for some farmers. Every area started with nearly ideal conditions for seeding and enjoyed a great start to the crop, but as the season progressed, it was marked by long stretches without rainfall and, in one area, an infestation of gophers. These obstacles serve as a reminder that farming comes with both risks and rewards. Grow Hope invites us all—farmers and supporters alike—to share in this experience, knowing that every step we take is part of ensuring food security for all. Despite the challenges, some surprising blessings have emerged from the fields.

We are so grateful for your support! The season ends October 31, so there's still time to sponsor any remaining acres. **Every acre sponsored and every kernel grown helps make a difference in the fight against global hunger.**

To read the whole Newsletter go to: <https://www.foodgrainsbank.ca>

## MDS NEWS

### **Cruelty of Cooks**

If you itemize the terms of cooks,  
You'll find we quite deceive our looks.  
The things we do sound very cruel,  
Like fighting a one-sided duel.

We beat the eggs, whip the cream,  
Blow pudding up with hot steam,  
We mash potatoes, slice the bread,  
Tear apart the cabbage's head.

We chop the onion, grate the cheese,  
Lemons and oranges get a squeeze,  
We bum the sugar, gash the steak,  
The celery's heart we often take.

We skin the tomato, peel the pear,  
Scrape the carrots everywhere,  
We scald the milk, freeze the salad,  
Strain the tea that's really pallid.

We prick the unsuspecting pie,  
And remove the baby potato's eye.  
And then if that's not enough,  
We smother chickens and other stuff.

Goodness knows what else we do,  
I'm really quite abashed, aren't you?  
We do all this and never cry –  
'Til we get onions in our eye.

*From the Mennonite disaster Service Cookbook*



## “The Little Things”

Don't think you have to be a big super star for someone to take notice of who you are.

Don't think you have to do some great big thing; like give silver or gold, or diamond rings.

Sometimes it's the little things that mean much more, than the big expensive gifts bought in a fancy store.

Like a kind word spoken, or a friendly pat on the back. That will lift someone's spirits, just from one kind act.

A little hug, a handshake, an encouraging word given; can make someone's day brighter, whose heart has been broken.

A listening ear or a pleasant smile, can show them that you care.

It shows your love and may help them their load to bear.

You never know who's watching you, the results may not come in a day or two.

Your influence may a difference make; a ray of cheer inside them you could awake.

So, try to pause just a moment, some sunshine you may bring. If you take the time to do the “little things.”

Written by Jamie Squires



# LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR OCTOBER

## **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

## **November 10, 2024**

- Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127
- 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146
- Hebrews 9:24-28
- Mark 12:38-44

## **November 17, 2024**

- 1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16
- Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
- Mark 13:1-8

## **November 24, 2024**

- 2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
- Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93
- Revelation 1:4b-8
- John 18:33-37

## **December 1, 2024** First Sunday of Advent

- Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36

## CALENDAR

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

**Peace Sunday 1, November 10** - *Jesus, Sabbath and Food*  
Luke Bushman preaching

**Peace Sunday 2, November 17** - "*Who is my Neighbour?*"  
By Patty Friesen

**Memorial Sun. November 24** - *Dying for Beginners* - Patty Friesen  
11:00 am Worship mtg in Patty's office  
11:00 am community Connections mtg Room 7

**Thursday, November 28 - 7:00 pm** Hanging of the Greens  
- short service and decorating for Advent

**First Advent Sunday December 1** - Together on the Journey with  
Afghani Girls Musical Group - Luke Bushman preaching  
12:00 Potluck

**Second Advent Sunday December 8**  
9:00 Advent Choir  
10:00 *Saints and Sinners in Jesus' Family Tree* by Patty Friesen

**Third Advent Sunday December 15**  
9:00 am Advent Choir practice  
10:00 *The Long Journey to Peace* by Patty Friesen

**Fourth Advent Sunday Dec. 22** Intergenerational Christmas Program  
9:00 am Choir practice

**Christmas Eve Tuesday December 24**  
7:00 pm Candle lighting Service

**Christmas Sunday December 29** *Christmas Pairings* in Luke's Gospel

**Epiphany Sunday January 5:** *Creeeds, Confessions and Convictions*  
by Len Rempel

11:11 am Forum on 7 Shared Convictions of Global Anabaptists

**Baptism Sunday January 12** Jesus' Baptism: Baptism, Communion and New Members Sharing

**Sunday February 2, 11:11 Forum:** Enneagram Part 2 Wings and Triads with Amanda Dodge. Join us for a study of our personality understandings and how we function in life and on church committees. OMC library books and other resources on lobby table. Please also check-out [www.enneagraminstitute.org](http://www.enneagraminstitute.org) and Richard Rohr's work on the spiritual components of Enneagram.

**Sunday, February 9** Patty's last Sunday

11:11 am Patty's Roast – special coffee time in MPR

## ANNOUNCMENTS

***Forever in Motion*** –, 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.

## November Birthdates

2 – Marlene Campbell
5 – Kaytee Edwards- Buhler
10 – Benjamin Penner
10 – Michelle McKinnell
16 – Uma Boldt
18 – Sarah Guenther (84)
18 – Steve Guenther
18 – Nettie Siemens (89)
20 – Mika Schroeder
22 – Lois Siemens
24 – Ruth Buhler
28 – Jake Buhler (82)
29 – Zoe Schellenberg
30 – Cheyenne Buhler