

The Osler Mennonite Church

October 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 Ninth Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings

I love October because of Creation Care Sunday, October 1 – the Sunday closest to the birthday of St. Francis of Assisi who blessed the animals. We might bless pets in the church parking lot after the service but no biting allowed! October 8 is Thanksgiving Communion and giving thanks for our life together in Christ as well as the harvest. I'll be preaching a sermon series on grace based on Philip Yancey's What's so Amazing about Grace. There's a copy in the church library if anyone wants to follow along.

Pastor Patty's Picks

Also new to the church library:

The Peace Table – a beautifully illustrated, culturally appropriate Bible for children.

Believer's Bible Commentary on Luke *by Mary Schertz.*

Stuck Together: the Hope of Christian Witness in a Polarized World *by J. Nelson Kraybill*

Mennonites in the Russian Empire and Soviet Union *by Leonard Friesen*

Curve-Ball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming *by Peter Enns*

Storming the Gate *by Mel White* – a famous evangelical ghost writer comes out as gay and fights religious oppression of LGBTQ2+.

Return Stroke *by Dora Dueck* is her latest essays and memoir.

I've also enjoyed my summer reading of Loot *by Tania James* – a delightful tale of a toymaker in the Ottoman Empire and You are the Medicine *by Asha Frost* with an Indigenous reflection on the 13 moons.

“A Hole in the World” *by Amanda Held Opelt.* An excellent book about grief and loss and ritual. She writes about the translation of the word **Comfort** (parakalon) from Biblical commentator John Short. “Comfort is a word which in modern speech has lost much of its (New Testament) meaning. It suggests to us a kind of sedative, a palliative for pain of body or mind but the comfort of God is no narcotic.” He goes on to say that the word for “comforter,” when applied to the Holy Spirit, actually means “strengthenener.” It's the same root from which we get the word

“fortify.” “We comfort a sufferer,” he writes, “when we give them courage to bear their pain or face their misfortune. Comfort is what sets them on their feet.”

Reconsidering Anabaptist Identity after 500 years with Karl Koop
CMU Zoom Class Wednesdays 10:00-11:00, Oct. 4-Nov. 8 in OMC
Coffee Room. Coffee included.

Theatre of the Beat “I Love You and It Hurts,” Sunday, October 15,
2:00 p.m. OMC and again Sun. Oct. 29, 7:00 Wildwood.

Luke’s Little Lessons (*Lies?*)

Fall is my favorite season, and has been for quite some time. I like that it is cooler- the air feels crisp and refreshing. It isn’t too cold to go for a long walk, or a nice jog, and you can always come home and put on a cozy sweater and watch a movie. I loved Fall growing up because I always enjoyed my Fall soccer games in the cold air, and not having to worry about overheating during my cross country meets. Fall is also a time full of transitions and busyness, as the “regular rhythms” (whatever that means) start up again for the school year. Maybe you are like me, and have felt like you are playing catch up this Fall. It can be overwhelming when the pace of life picks up, and you find yourself driving more and more, and relaxing with a book less and less. I hope our church family who reads this is able to find calm moments of rest and rejuvenation in this Fall season.

Finally, I know Patty makes a lot of good book recommendations in the newsletter, and I unfortunately do not read enough to make such recommendations. BUT if you want a relaxing album to listen to in the quiet this Fall, you cannot go wrong listening to Bon Iver’s *For Emma Forever Ago*. I will be listening to it often, while I read a book and have a coffee this Fall!

MDS NEWS

Hello Church

“You brought hope and love to the community.” That’s what Amanda McDougall-Merrill, Mayor of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, said at the closing celebration for our work in Cape Breton last month.

After Hurricane Fiona, people in the region “felt alone and hopeless,” she said. “You did more than build walls and fix houses. You brought love here. There are no words that have the capacity to show how grateful we are.”

For me, hearing the Mayor’s words filled me with gratitude, too. Gratitude for the 458 people from across Canada who volunteered to serve in Cape Breton. Gratitude for the many people who generously donated to make their service possible. Gratitude for the organizations and businesses that offered support in various ways. Gratitude for our great partnership with the United Way of Cape Breton. And gratitude to God for giving MDS an opportunity to serve in that part of the country.

I was also grateful to hear how our work brought hope the community. It reminds me that MDS isn’t only in the home repair business. We are in the hope business—bringing hope to people who have lost all hope of ever having a safe and comfortable house again. Restoring their hope is a goal of MDS.

Looking ahead, we are considering where to focus our energy and resources next year. There were so many wildfires in Canada this year! At this point, we have not determined where we will serve. Pray for us as we decide where God wants us to go in 2024.

Executive Director
Mennonite Disaster Service Canada

P.S. While our service in Canada has ended for the year, MDS still needs volunteers in the U.S. If you can serve this fall or winter, go to our website for more information or to sign up. www.mds.org.

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

Greetings Friend!

The beauty and bounty of summer is on full display!

August surely is a bountiful month with so many fresh fruits and vegetables to enjoy. Crops too are making their way to maturity, and combines are out on the peas and lentils. And so we pray for safety during a busy season, for a spirit of gratitude, and that our harvests are as bountiful as we need them to be. Thank you to all who grow food, whether for family or for the markets. You are participants in God's creative design, and your generosity brings life and joy to many – in your homes and indeed around the world

These words above truly came to life for me on August 29, as I joined the harvest activities at Prairie West growing project near Kindersley. Pictured are two couples who each offer their gifts and their passion to help those who suffer from hunger. Don and Linda Lafleur (right) have donated the 140 acres around their yard for the past 20 years to Prairie West Growing Project, and they involve themselves in local food rescue efforts to match perishable food with those in need. Ian and Tina Coutts (center), along with their farm team, provide the inputs and field operations for this project.

Numerous other families, local businesses and schools are involved too! As with any community project big or small, the practice of partnership and a commitment to a common goal are key ingredients for success!

Celebrating 40 Years!

Since 2017, the Foodgrains Bank has had a presence at Ag in Motion, the large outdoor farm show near Langham, SK. Over the past few years, we have added a conservation agriculture demo plot that has served well its purpose of providing a tangible glimpse of our work in food security to strengthen agriculture and livelihoods for the tens of thousands of smallholder farm families that our member agencies work with. It was a pleasure to have so many Foodgrains Bank supporters stop by, as well as those curious to learn more about our work (and those novel crops such as teff and amaranth!).

As well, we were delighted to host an appreciation lunch for nearly 120 supporters on July 19 in recognition of the Foodgrains Bank's 40th

anniversary. A big thank you to Foodgrains Bank staff and volunteers who offered their time, experience, and enthusiasm to this effort. Most certainly fellowship and unity are two beautiful fruits of a commitment to work together as a Christian response to hunger.

Save the date: we are also planning to host a fall banquet in Swift Current on November 14th, and a more informal gathering in the Regina/Moose Jaw area on November 15th to recognize our 40th anniversary! More details to come next month

Prayer for Courage, Prayer for Peace

Prayer expresses faith and hope, reminds us that we are working with God and moves us toward further action. **In prayer we bring our hearts in line with God's compassionate love for the poor and hungry.** Through prayer we also determine with God, how to use the resources we have towards this vision.

Good and gracious God, You are gathering this community from across the earth, asking us to pour out our lives on behalf of those who hunger. For hope, For justice, for daily bread. You are asking us to see the earth as you do, So very good.

Trees with fruit, bursting with seed. Green plants for food, for humans and for every living creature.

As a holy place for everything that breathes and to whom you have given life.

Yet we see the realities before us and it takes our breath away: Those whose bellies growl every day. Those who consume more than their fair share.

Breathe new life into us....

As a global community, as local congregations Gather us together so that we may remind each other of your intent for this earth.

Gather us so that we may pour out our lives in Christ's name, as Christ does on behalf of those who hunger.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR OCTOBER

October 1, 2023

- Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
- Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and Psalm 25:1-9
- Philippians 2:1-13
- Matthew 21:23-32

October 8, 2023

- Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19
- Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- Matthew 21:33-46

October 9, 2023 Thanksgiving Day-

- Deuteronomy 8:7-18 and Psalm 65
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Luke 17:11-19

October 15, 2023

- Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
- Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23
- Philippians 4:1-9
- Matthew 22:1-14

October 22, 2023

- Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99
- Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- Matthew 22:15-22

October 29, 2023

- Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
- Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Matthew 22:34-46

November 1, 2023 - All Saints Day

- Revelation 7:9-17 and Psalm 34:1-10, 22
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12

OMC CALENDAR

- Oct 1 9:15 am Centering Prayer Room 2
10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking
10:30 Parking Lot Pet Blessing
11:00 am Deacon mtg
- Oct 4 10:00 am CMU on Zoom
- Oct 8 9:15 am Centering Prayer Room 2 with John G
10:00 Thanksgiving Sharing, Communion
11:30 Second Sunday Lunch Bunch
- Oct 12 7:30 pm Worship Mtg @ John Reddekopp
- Oct 15 9:15 am Centering Prayer Room 2
10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking
12:00 Parking Pad Party
2:00 pm Theatre of the Beat: I Love You and It Hurts
- Oct 22 10:00 am Heather Peters, MCC SK speaking**
11:45 am Lunch with Heather, Osler restaurant
- Oct 24 6:30 pm Executive mtg
- Oct 25 5:30 pm Faspa & Conversation
- Oct 29 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking**
11:00 am Forum on Dementia

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