

The Osler Mennonite Church

December 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***

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Volume XVII Ninth Edition
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings....

This post from Rebecca Solnit gives me strength via Anne Lamott. "They want you to feel powerless and to surrender and to let them trample everything and you are not going to let them. You are not giving up, and neither am I. The fact that we cannot save everything does not mean we cannot save anything and everything we can save is worth saving. You may need to grieve or scream or take time off, but you have a role no matter what, and right now good friends and good principles are worth gathering in. Remember what you love. Remember what loves you. Remember in this tide of hate what love is. The pain you feel is because of what you love.

The Wobblies used to say don't mourn, organize, but you can do both at once and you don't have to organize right away in this moment of furious mourning. You can be heartbroken or furious or both at once; you can scream in your car or on a cliff; you can also get up tomorrow and water the flowerpots and call someone who's upset and check your equipment for going onward.

A lot of us are going to come under direct attack, and a lot of us are going to resist by building solidarity and sanctuary. Gather up your resources, the metaphysical ones that are heart and soul and care, as well as the practical ones.

People kept the faith in the dictatorships of South America in the 1970s and 1980s, in the East Bloc countries and the USSR, women are protesting right now in Iran and people there are writing poetry. There is no alternative to persevering, and that does not require you to feel good. You can keep walking whether it's sunny or raining. Take care of yourself and remember that taking care of something else is an important part of taking care of yourself, because you are interwoven with the ten trillion things in this single garment of destiny that has been stained and torn, but is still being woven and mended and washed."

Pastor Patty's Advent Ponderings: Together on the Journey

Sing the Journey, one of our Mennonite songbooks, evokes wonderful images of voices blending in praise as we travel together on a path toward a deeper understanding of faith. The road can be smooth for stretches but also includes rough patches that may challenge or discourage. Its course is not set; if we are attentive, we may notice God's guiding hand redirecting us. Each of our journeys in faith is unique but meant to be lived in community. Together, let's join our voices as we travel the path that draws us closer to God.

Pastor Patty's Pick

From Anabaptist Worship Network: sermon resources

- Walter Bruggeman, *The Word Militant: Preaching a Decentering Word*
- Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*
- Amy Kenny, *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church*
- Anna Carter Florence, *Preaching as Testimony and Rehearsing Scripture*
- Lectionary by Wil Gafney
- Meghan's blog: *Journal – Meghan Larissa Good*



*A thrill of hope,
the weary world rejoices*

You are awakening to the
same country you fell asleep to.
The very same country.
Pull yourself together.
And,
when you see me,
do not ask me
“What do we do now?
How do we get through the next four years?”
Some of my Ancestors dealt with
at least 400 years of this
under worse conditions.
Continue to do the good work.
Continue to build bridges not walls.
Continue to lead with compassion.
Continue the demanding work
of liberation for all.
Continue to dismantle broken systems,
large and small.
Continue to set the best example
for the children.
Continue to be a vessel of nourishing joy.
Continue right where you are.
Right where you live into your days.
Do so in the name of
The Creator who expects
nothing less from each of us.
And if you are not “continuing”
ALL of the above,
in community, partnership, collaboration,
What is it you have been doing?
What is it you are waiting for?

Venice Williams, Facebook post, 11/6/24

A Big Christmas Thank You from the Pastors

(who don't have enough Christmas cards to say all this!)

We are so thankful for each one of you who joins us on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary and on-line. We are thankful for your prayerful, emotional and financial support of the church and our work!

Thank you to the Education Committee, librarian Ruth and all you amazing Sunday school teachers who help us dig deeper into God and our current issues.

Thank you to the Trustees who change light bulbs, clean carpets, shovel snow and chop down dead trees. You keep our boat afloat!

Thank you to the Deacons who provide prayerful stability and tons of coffee and potluck clean-up. Blessed are the meek!

Thank you to Community Connections! You are the front wheel of the tricycle who keep us moving forward on issues and connecting with Osler and beyond.

Thank you to Worship Committee and all of you amazing sound people, pianists rock! Worship and song leaders who point us toward God and each other.

A special thank you to our executive for all the discerning oversight and volunteer hours - Kevin, Shelley, Loretta and Christy and Melanie doing our books!

A special thank you to our custodians Nora and Emmett and administrative assistant Kathy who really holds it all together.

A blessed and renewed meaning of Christmas in these restless times.

Pastor Luke Bushman and Pastor Patty Friesen



Luke's Little Life Lessons

An Encouragement- Whether You Sing “Joy to the World” or “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” This Christmas.

The holiday season is here and with it comes so many wonderful things. Christmas is personally my favourite holiday. I love a warm drink with Eggnog in it. I love watching Christmas movies. I love listening to Christmas music. It is a time filled with family, carols, pretty lights, and tasty treats. Christmas is also a difficult time for many. Whether we are estranged from loved ones, or they have passed away, the absence of others can feel overwhelming. We often get swept up in the glitz and glamor of Christmas and forget that the coming of Jesus was not a perfect and happy event. Mary was young and carrying out a scandalous pregnancy. She was probably afraid. The people under Roman rule were tired from being oppressed. They were probably dejected. I think we might do Christmas a disservice if we only focus on the highlights of the season. Because we don't just sing Joy to the World- a triumphant hymn based on Psalm 98 about the coming of a saviour. We also sing O Come, O Come, Emmanuel- a hymn that contains a haunting melody, about just hoping that someone will save us. While “Joy to the World” is able to capture the joy of all things being made right, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” depicts the long, heartbreaking wait for things to be made whole. Whether you find yourself drawn to “Joy to the World” or “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” I hope you find moments of peace, and contemplation. And I hope you feel loved this holiday season.



Luke Bushman Album Recommendation: “A Charlie Brown Christmas” has a nice soundtrack *by the Vince Guaraldi Trio* that you can easily listen to.

MDS NEWS

Hi Church,

In mid-October we held our annual meetings at Shantz Mennonite Church in Baden, Ontario. The weekend's events were a great expression of the grassroots leadership present in MDS Canada, and the ways in which volunteer leaders help shape this robust organization to respond nimbly to disasters today.

I was struck by a wonderful contrast of perspectives at our celebration banquet. Two service scholarship recipients from Conrad Grebel University College shared about the hands-on skills they learned on a month-long volunteer assignment, while young women from an Old Colony Mennonite community in Leamington, Ontario, recounted firsts — from flying to drywalling — on a one-week service trip to the North Shuswap.

Meetings, consultations and the banquet renewed friendships and strengthened our fellowship. These gatherings were a powerful reminder of Galatians 5:6 (NIV): *The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

I'm grateful to the many leaders — board members, delegates, response coordinators, and weekly volunteers — who came to fellowship and discern together. I think, too, of the wider MDS community of volunteers, who were not present but express their faith through loving action. Your collective response makes a real difference to disaster survivors when they need support most!

With gratitude,

Ross Penner

Executive Director

MDS Canada

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR DECEMBER

Dec 01, 2024

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

Dec 08, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent

- Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

Dec 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18

Dec 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Dec 25, 2024 Nativity of the Lord

- Isaiah 52:7-10
- Psalm 98
- Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
- John 1:1-14

Dec 29, 2024 First Sunday after Christmas Day

- 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148
- Colossians 3:12-17
- Luke 2:41-52

Jan 06, 2025 Epiphany of the Lord

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 12, 2025 Baptism of the Lord

- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Psalm: Psalm 29
- Acts 8:14-17
- Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

CALENDAR

This Advent we will be celebrating the following Sundays:

First Advent *Together on the Journey*

Dec. 1 – 9:00 am Advent Choir practice

10:00 am Luke preaching on Daniel in the Lion’s Den

11:11 Sounds of Afghanistan’s story forum in sanctuary

12:00 Potluck, M-Z set-up and clean-up

Second Advent

Dec. 8, 9:00 am Advent choir practice

10:00 am Patty Friesen preaching “In the Days of King Herod”

Third Advent

Dec. 15, 9:00 am Advent choir practice

10:00 am Patty Friesen preaching “Saints and Sinners in Jesus’
Family Tree”

Fourth Advent

Dec. 22, 9:00 am Advent choir practice

10:00 am Intergenerational Christmas Program

Christmas Sunday

Dec 29, 10:00 am Patty Friesen preaching “The Magi’s Long Journey to
Peace”

January 2025

Epiphany Lunch with the Pastors - Fri. Jan. 3, 12:00 p.m. Bethany Dining Hall for all interested OMCers, including those not living at Bethany. Lunch ticket \$14.25. Please let Patty know for reservation and if you need a ticket. What a way to start the New Year with your favourite Mennonite ministers!

Epiphany Sunday

Jan. 5, 10:00 am. Creeds, Confessions and Convictions by Len Rempel
11:11 SS Forum in Sanctuary - more on

The 7 Shared Convictions of Global Anabaptists by Len Rempel

Baptism Sunday

Jan. 12, 10:00 am Baptism and New Members sharing
-with joy we receive Nora Bergen-Braun, Noah, Casadi and Brad Schroeder!

Jan. 19 10:00 am Rosthern Junior College

11:00 Potluck – *bring lots we're feeding lots of teens!*

Sun. Jan. 26 Anabaptism's 500th birthday. Birthday cake with 500 on it for 11:00 coffee time and Dutch Blitz and Crokinole in the gym!

And into February....

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 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

December Birthdates

2 – Oren Bird
3 – Theresa Loewen
4 – Rachel Clark
6 – Braden Martens-Funk
19 – Shelley Penner
21 – Charlie Clark
22 – Jacob B Friesen (101)
24 – Norman Tataryn
28 – Frieda Rempel
30 – Noah Schroeder
31 – Linda Stucky
31 – Adam Boldt



The RJC Boys' Volleyball Team



The RJC boys' volleyball team delivered an impressive performance at the SHSAA 3A Boys Provincial Championship in Esterhazy this past weekend. While they narrowly missed the playoffs, their matches were highly competitive, with all but one going to three sets. A single additional set win could have placed them anywhere from 2nd to 4th in their pool. Beyond their skill on the court which included their first win over VCA, the team earned admiration from spectators, with parents from other schools frequently commenting on how joyful and fun the RJC boys were to watch and cheer for.

Assistant Coach – Rob Borne top left, Zenon Borne #10 – 2nd row right