

The Osler Mennonite Church

April 2021 Newsletter

We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Metis.

Osler Mennonite Church
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<http://www.oslermennonitechurch.org>
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A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation



Apr 1 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Zoom Communion with Nora Pederberg

Apr 2 7:00 pm Good Friday Service of Shadows (*Facebook only*)

Apr 4 8:30 am Easter Sunrise Service church cemetery (*bring masks-we will be singing*)

Apr 4 10:00 am "Looking for Jesus" **Easter Sunday** Patty Friesen (*also on Facebook*)

Apr 11 10:00 am "Resurrection & Reconciliation" Randy Klassen MCC SK (*also on Facebook*)

Apr 12 7:00 pm Zoom Sermon follow-up with MCC worker Randy Klassen

Apr 18 10:00 am "Touch and See" Patty Friesen (*also on Facebook*)

Pastor Patty's Ponderings:

Blessed Easter everyone! In this month of migrating birds and greening grass, the reality of resurrection unfolds before us every year. A beautiful early snow and warm winter was a great grace for us being able to enjoy creation all winter long. Now as it melts away, we are blessed with new sights every day - returning pelicans and the freshest green of trees. "If you want to help children fall in love with God, help them fall in love with nature... Taking kids outside to love God in nature is the most Jesusy thing we can do. Jesus is nearly always outside with his disciples." Anne Lamott says in her new book *Dusk Night Dawn*.

First day of creation by Sarah Klassen (*Christian Century*, Feb. 4, 2015)

Let there be light! A flash, a bolt, a brilliant blaze that puts the kibosh on chaos. Let light shine on width, breadth, depth, a dazzle to illuminate all matter everywhere. Let it glint gloriously off ocean wave, sea swell, a brooklet's little ripples.

Let fish rejoice in it fantastically, the fur of fox, cat, cougar Coyote be haloed. Let light's hot pulse pull prairie grass, kinnikinnik up, up to verdant growth, turn grain from green to gold.

in every garden everywhere let peonies, nasturtiums and

preposterous begonias unfold. Let every butterfly, bat, bird bathe in radiance. Let it pour mornings into breakfast bowls, fill empty cups to overflowing. At evening let light's long plumes linger; violet and vivid on every atom of creation.

When darkness closes in, shrouding the valley floor let sky be spangled still, lit with the glow of meteors, the murky Milky Way, the white-hot stars. O Light of life, Light of the wobbling world: your splendour does not tarnish,

Will not be overcome by random avalanche, smart missile, guns, flood, smoke of forest fire.

Your warmth will melt the iron grip of fear.

A stone-cold guarded grave can never hold you.

Count Patty's May 1-31 Grasslands Bird and Wildflower Counting Sabbatical

May 1-10 - Grasslands East Rock Creek Campground with Patrick counting birds, flowers and snakes.

May 10-15 - Grasslands West Frenchman Valley Campground with Lois Siemens counting birds, flowers and running away from snakes!

May 15 -20 - Eastend Pine Cree Regional Park, counting in *Old Man on His Back-Nature Conservancy*, hoping to see burrowing owl like 2017!

May 20-31 - home counting and planting seeds and potatoes

Pastor Patty's Picks:

The Truths We Hold by Kamala Harris is another inspiring memoir of a famous woman. While not quite as emotionally engaging as Michelle Obama, Kamala has a story that begs telling. *In the church library.*

Extraordinary Canadians by Peter Mansbridge also a super inspiring read by our favourite national anchor. *Church library*

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi shows us life inside a broken immigrant family and inside the mind of a scientist. Powerful pairing. *Church library.*

Dusk Night Dawn by Anne Lamott is funny and touching as through her life she reveals spiritual truths. It may be too much navel-gazing for most of us. *Church library*

All Creatures Great and Small DVD is the engaging memoir of England's famous vet James Herriott. Public library **Miss Scarlet and the Duke DVD** is a delicious new Victorian mystery series with a strong female heroine. *Public library*

HUMOR

Things that make you go hmmm....

- Is there another word for synonym?
- When sign makers go on strike, is there anything written on their signs?
- If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Thanks to Diana Buhler

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR APRIL

April 4 Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 4 Easter evening

Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 114 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Luke 24:13-49

April 11

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2

Luke 20:19-31

April 18

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

April 25

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

OMC CALENDAR

Apr 1 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Zoom Communion with Nora

Apr 2 7:00 pm Good Friday Service of Shadows (*Facebook only*)

Apr 4 8:30 am Easter Sunrise Service church cemetery (bring masks-we will be singing)

Apr 4 10:00 am “Looking for Jesus” **Easter Sunday** Patty Friesen
(*also on Facebook*)

Apr 5 No Kid’s weekly Bible School Zoom this week

Apr 8 No Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom this week

Apr 11 10:00 am ‘Resurrection & Reconciliation’ Randy Klassen

Apr 12 7:00 pm Zoom Sermon follow-up with MCC worker Randy Klassen

Apr 12 Kid’s weekly Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm

Apr 13 Community Connection mtg Zoom 6:00 pm

Apr 15 Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm

Apr 19 Kid’s weekly Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm

Apr 19 Worship Committee mtg Zoom 7:00 pm

Apr 21 Executive Zoom 6:00 pm – Council Zoom 7:00 pm

Apr 22 Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm

Apr 26 Kid’s weekly Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm

Apr 29 Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm

Nora's Notes:

Approaching Holy Week and surrounded by the signs of spring, I am constantly dwelling on the topic of disruption. I notice how my daily winter walks along river trails have become treacherous ice paths that require a new way of walking to safely reach the other end. I think about how the life of the disciples changed so rapidly within the span of a week as they stumbled through the celebrations and horrors that mark the stories from Palm Sunday to Jesus' Resurrection. I think with excitement and exhaustion how the access to vaccines will bring about a series of shifting realities as the world slowly reconfigures.

Mark's gospel ends with Jesus' revealing the extraordinary truth of the resurrection to Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary mother of James. Their world has just turned upside down by Jesus' crucifixion. They are in deep mourning, shock, and are fighting for rituals of burial bringing spices in hopes of anointing their beloved that already lies within a sealed tomb. And now, their world is shaken again. With good news, yes, but it is still a shock. An unimaginable amount to process within a four-day span. The Gospel closes with them seized with trembling and astonishment, unable to say anything to anyone, for they were afraid.

I have had much longer to process the grief of the pandemic than these women had to process the death of Jesus. I have also had more reasons to anticipate and look towards mass vaccination and reopening than these women had to expect a bodily resurrection. And yet I still find comfort in the company of their story alongside my own. I feel like I coming out of this experience tumbled and a little bruised. I am so grateful every day that things are getting closer to safe, that we are approaching a time when we can gather together. And still I feel myself seized with a trembling, like all the change is catching up and I do not quite have the strength to leap of rejoicing. I am painfully aware of the skills and social stamina that have depleted within me this past year. I am aware of the anxiety that I now live with that I never had before. I feel more capable of smiling encouragingly as others celebrate rather than taking part myself. In my processing of this reaction, I came across a lovely resource that is developed to assist individuals in processing the past year, as

well as encouraging a gentleness with ourselves heading into this next one. I will leave the link to the full resource here, but I'm highlighting a few questions that I found helpful for my own spiritual care, and offer them to you in case you find yourselves in the company of Mary M., Mary, Salome, and myself as we find our way through the astonishment of the good news that is present with us this season, and the healing journey that is proclaimed in the resurrection.

- What pandemic lifelines have become part of your lifestyle? Any of these you should keep? Any you'd like to adjust or let-go of one year in?

- What area(s) of your life will there be expectations to "return to normal" that you do not want to return to? (ie. schedule, commitments, affiliations)? What good pandemic habits will be threatened once things "open back up"?

- What mental/emotional/spiritual muscles have grown this year? What has atrophied? Can you be gracious to both your strength & weakness today?

https://www.soulplay.ca/soulcarekit/ppe?fbclid=IwAR1-rzlxEVaJMSfBAqmDPf1Bup566Ij1tpIwFqg_hCXk_G_CK61BvU-2gc4

❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

The rainbow comes and goes! In very life you have moments of blinding beauty and happiness and then you land in the dark...
The rainbow returns... William Wordsworth

We are not meant always to be happy

Retirement age is 67.

Life expectancy is 78.

Work for 50 years to maybe enjoy 11?

Starting enjoying life now. No one is guaranteed tomorrow.

Thanks, from MCC

oster Mennonite Blanket Making Group,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of 68 blankets! Wow. You are sure kind makers. You are providing warmth + comfort to some of the world's most vulnerable people. Thank you for your generous time and resources and your desire to help others. Keep those blankets coming.

Karla Keuhn

P.S. Thanks also for your many years of service and support of MCC.

April Birthdays

Anna Neufeld	5
Olivia Martens	12
Keith Boldt	13
Julie Bergen	15
Garry Boldt	18
Eugene Penner	26
Lucy Friesen	28
Edna Zacharias	28
Sandra Horst	30

OMC Calendar

April 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday Zoom 6 pm Communion	2 Good Friday Service FB 7pm	3
4 (8:30 Sunrise) Patty Friesen preaching.	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Randy Klassen (MCC)	12 Kids Bible School Zoom 7pm	13	14	15 Youth Group Bible zoom 7 pm	16	17
18 Patty Friesen preaching	19 Kids Bible School zoom 7pm	20	21	22 Youth Group Bible zoom 7pm	23	24
25 Jake Buhler Speaking	26 Kids Bible School zoom 7pm	27	28	29 Youth Group Bible zoom 7pm	30	<u>Each</u> <u>Sunday</u> Worship: 10 am. In sanctuary & on Facebook

Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found in the bulletin on the church website. www.oslermannonitechurch.org

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.