

OMC CALENDAR

- July 4 10:00 am Canada Day and Christianity - Patty Friesen
(also on Facebook)
- July 11 10:00 am Lois Miller speaking (also on Facebook)
Outdoor Picnic to follow
- July 14 2:00 pm Celebrate Susan Bueckert's birthday on her yard
- July 17 7:00 pm MEGA Menno – Online Youth event
- July 18 10:00 am One in Christ - Patty Friesen (also on Facebook)
- July 25 10:00 am Nora Pederberg speaking (also on Facebook)
- July 28 7:00 pm OMC Youth Games - hopefully in person, outside
- Aug 1 10:00 am Outdoor Service with Communion
- Aug 7 1-3 pm Osler Community Garden Tour of West Osler **
- Aug 8 10:00 am Dave Feick & Katherine Penner (also on Facebook)
- Aug 11 7:00 pm OMC Youth Games - hopefully in person, outside
- Aug 15 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking (also on Facebook)
Outdoor Picnic to follow
- Aug 22 10:00 am Nora Pederberg speaking (also on Facebook)
- Aug 25 7:00 pm MEGA Menno - hopefully in person, outside
- Aug 29 10:00 am Mark Bigland-Pritchard (also on Facebook)

** Tour begins at the Community Garden behind Floating Gardens and will feature Wilf and Ruth's garden, Anna's Orchard and Robin Neudorf's garden. *By donation to Osler Community Garden.*

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Vanessa Stefaniuk
6 – Morrison Bird
9 – Joanne Feick
9 – Kathy Braun
10 – Benjamin Clark
13 – Jean Harms
15 – Susan Bueckert
16 – Dylan Martens
19 – John Reddekopp
20 – Katherine Penner
22 – Torben Sjoelin
23 – Diana Buhler
24 – Dennis Boldt
30 – Harry Martens

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

9 - Lyle Stucky
10 – Eva Martens
12 – Matthew Braun
17? – Merel Kriegsman
19 – Lloyd Sawatzky
20 – Jim Dyck
20 - Betty Friesen
21 – Bill Peters
27 – Eli Schellenberg
29 – Jan Guenther
29 – Terry Stefaniuk
30 – Kathy Boldt
30 – Dan Schellenberg

The Osler Mennonite Church July/August 2021 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 Metis.

Osler Mennonite Church
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Volume XIV Sixth Edition
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings:

"This is God's wondrous world; a wand'rer I may roam. Whatever my lot, it matters not, my heart is still at home." #180 *Voices Together. vs. 3* Someone said this could be my sabbatical theme song. I agree. I needed to roam to get some fresh space to hear all nature singing and round me ringing the music of the spheres. Churches need sabbaticals, not just pastors! I would encourage all of us to take time this summer to disconnect from screens and reconnect with God in nature. We all desperately need time to relax and recuperate from this year.

Many of our church volunteers are wisely taking the summer off from worship leading and teaching SS. I've even wondered if we should just take Sundays off on summer long weekends for the sake of our hard-working sound, music and worship leaders. At the same time, church is re-opening and we can reconnect in yards without Zoom! I'm hoping to have at least one outdoor service and monthly after-service bring-your-own picnics in the churchyard.

Let us soak in these precious months of warm weather and church re-openings and "*ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.*"

Pastor Patty's Picks:

Untamed by Glennon Doyle is like a strong cup of coffee first thing in the morning - a jolt and awakening to love, recovery, family. *Public library*

The Sun is a Compass by Caroline Van Hemert is a fantastic paddling, skiing, hiking adventure in the Arctic. *Public library*

Learning to Pray by James Martin is a gentle coaxing to a renewal of our prayer lives. *Church library*

God and the Pandemic by N.T. Wright helped me re-orient to the ways of God in the world. *Church library*

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MC Sask Songfest of Thanks, Oct. 15-16/2021, Rosthern Mennonite Church. We continue to plan in hope and faith that we will be able to come together to give thanks and sing this fall, and are excited to announce **Duff Warkentin** as our Songfest Conductor and **Glenn Sawatzky** as Accompanist. All Covid-19 regulations will be followed. Stay tuned to www.mcsask.ca for registration and further information in the fall. Contact Kirsten Hamm-Epp, youthminister@mcsask.ca, with any questions.

to remember the names we do not know.
May their spirits have peace,
and their bodies be brought home to their lands.
And God?
Help us to take this grief,
this shock,
this horror,
and turn it into right action –
action that works for right relations –
action that works for healing and justice and hope.
And, please,
don't let those of us who are settlers
and descendants of settlers,
newcomers to this land,
let the horror, the shock, and the grief,
just be an outpouring of words,
or tears,
or ineffectual hand-wringing.
Let this be a moment that changes,
a moment that transforms the brokenness,
that we might walk in right relations,
for the good of your children,
for the good of your world.
Please, God.
These things we pray,
in the name of the one who brought Creation into being,
in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend,
in the name of the Holy Spirit,
whose wings spread across the sky.
Amen and amen.

"We all inherited this, nobody today created Residential Schools, nobody today created the Indian Act, nobody today created the 60's Scoop, we all inherited it and we have to acknowledge that people are healing and people are hurting! Let's do something about it."

Chief Cadmus Delorme

A Prayer of Confession and Lament

by *United Church of Canada moderator Richard Bott:*

O God, we are grieving.
O God, we are shocked.
O God, we are horrified.
But, God, if we truly listened, we can't be surprised.
The Elders and the Communities had already told
the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,
told the governments and the world,
the stories of the children, dead and buried,
un-noted by the settler systems,
but never ever forgotten by their siblings, their parents,
their communities.
We grieve for the Indigenous children,
taken from their homes and parents by the government,
handed over to the responsibility of the Christian church,
the children who died under its care,
never to be held by their families,
never to be returned to their communities –
not only the 215 children of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc
and other Indigenous communities along the west coast and interior
whose bodies have now been found
on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds,
but all of those children
whose bodies have not yet been found
who died in any of Indian Residential Schools.
We grieve for the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools,
the children who did come home,
but were changed by their experience,
the children who grew up,
and have the trauma of remembering, again,
what happened to them.
Even as we give thanks for their families and communities,
who hold the stories of the children,
who have kept searching,
who keep searching,
we grieve that that search is even necessary,
that even one child was taken,
that even one child died,
that even one child's death went un-noted by the system.
Help us to stop, to sit in silence.

The Meeting House Oakville, ON

Our hearts are heavy.
Jesus.
Our hearts are so heavy.
Our hearts are heavy because
lives were lost in an unjust way.
Our hearts are heavy because
lives were stolen.
A history has been stolen,
and it didn't need to be.
We invite your spirit into
this space where we don't
have words. We're still
processing, and learning,
and grieving. Jesus by
your spirit, will you
be so present?
Be a presence of peace
for our Indigenous
friends, neighbours,
and family.
Jesus would you, by your
spirit, move us as the church
into a space of compassion,
lament, and action.
Would you be the one to

reveal what our next steps
need to be as we sit with
news that once again
reminds us of a history in an
ongoing system of abuse of
power, and systemic racism.
We look to you to be the
one that leads us.
Hear our hearts cry—
that we long for it to be here
on earth as it is in heaven.
And we know that as people
who follow you, our role is
to be Kingdom bringers;
where there is darkness,
where there is evil.
Equip us for that.
To be light in dark places.
We pray against and we
renounce systems of evil
that have existed for so long.
Jesus.
You are the one that leads
us and we look to you in a
space where we don't
know quite what to do.
Come and be very near
in this moment we pray.
Amen.

oooooooo

MC Sask - save the dates!!!!

In 2022 the youth of MC Canada are invited to gather in Alberta in two ways: a National Youth Gathering at Camp Valaqua **July 31- August 4, 2022** (ages 12-18), and a guided Gathering Experience for young leaders (ages 16-20) in Edmonton coinciding with the MC Canada Gathering **July 28-31, 2022**. Watch for updates over the summer at www.mennonitechurch.ca/youth, and check out www.mennonitechurch.ca/get-involved if you or someone you know might be interested in providing leadership to our planning team over the year ahead. Contact youth@mennonitechurch.ca with any immediate questions or wonderings, we hope to see you in Alberta!

Nora's Notes:

Looking into the summer I feel the pull towards all of the wilderness and adventures that summer opens up, and at the same time a pull to take on the ease of summer and simply sink down and sit in peace. In case others have been feeling this same dual instinct when planning their summer months, I have pulled out two prayers from our Voices Together Worship Resource to accompany you in whatever state you find yourself drawn to the next couple months:

In times of stillness

Holy Spirit

Between the words,
beneath the words,
beyond the words,
may You meet me
in the places
where words cannot go
(silence)

In times of adventure

Creator God,

thank you for people, and places that stretch us,
help us grow, and lead us to know you more.

We see you in flickering campfires
and starry nights.

We hear you in wind through the trees
and voices raised in silly songs.

We feel you in cool splashes of water
and the warm sun on our faces.

We know that you are always with us,
leading us as the great Adventure Guide. Amen

One liners....."

I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke.

Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? *I do.*

I used to think I was indecisive. But now I'm not so sure.

I don't suffer from insanity—I enjoy every minute of it.

7. Games with our kids
8. Tree walks in summer
9. Snow shoeing in winter
10. Embracing my inner introvert
11. Reading novels
12. Offering continual grace to myself and others

So as the world reopens and we've had our second vaccines, I will squeeze into my hard pants, keep my mask handy, and say "hello world" (knowing my yoga pants await me at home)!

What are your "pandemic keeps"?

- with permission from *Melanie Boldt*
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This one liner is especially for Kevin & Melanie.....

People who take care of chickens are literally chicken tenders.

FROM MCC SASK

Hello again friends!

Thank-you for helping to give this year's growing season a great start! Together with the donations to sponsor acres that have come in along with the much-needed rain that Saskatchewan has received, our hope has grown significantly. Once again, we believe God is blessing our collective effort to help feed those who are hungry.

We invite you to take a moment to read the updates and look at the pictures from each of the fields that were seeded [by clicking here.](#)

Thanks to your generosity, 123 of the 215 available acres are sponsored so far. If you have not helped sponsor the crop input expenses on an acre or two this year, we ask that you consider doing so. We need to keep the crops – and the hope – growing!

We continue to ask for your prayers for all those involved in the Grow Hope community. Grow Hope Saskatchewan is a project that brings people together so we invite you to continue sharing with family, friends, and co-workers how they can take part.

On behalf of the steering committee,

Rick Guenther

Communications & Donor Relations Director
MCC Saskatchewan

What are Your Pandemic "Keeps"?

It took me completely by surprise. I could feel the butterflies in my gut. My head started to spin as Kevin and I talked about what our life would be like post-pandemic. As Saskatchewan reopens, why the nerves?

I'm soooo done with COVID. There are many things we have not been able to do for a long time.

I want to hug and be hugged.

I want to see friends and family face-to-face.

I want to ditch the masks and face shields so we can communicate easily with our staff and customers.

I want to ease the mental load of worrying about staff health. COVID has been an HR roller coaster.

I want to get off the farm and escape our groundhog day existence of Work. Eat. Sleep. Repeat. Except for a quickie two day fishing trip last August, we have not left the farm since 2019 and "staycations" on a farm are *not* a thing, despite two valiant attempts!

But after 15 months of being told to shelter at home, this shift is taking a little more mental energy than I thought it would.

My mind rattles with questions. Will things go back to the way they were pre-pandemic? Is that a good thing? Will customers keep ordering and buying local? What social activities are safe? How and when do we gather with extended family again? How do we bridge the vaccine opinion gap? Will the . . . ? What about the . . . ? And so on.

I can't wait to ballroom dance again, host friends for dinner in our home, spontaneously meet up for drinks, and go on vacation. I need those things to make me a more interesting and flourishing person. *BRING IT ON!*

But, not everything about the pandemic has been terrible.

I also have a "Pandemic Keep List" ---- things that have kept me sane in these odd and anxious times. I think they're worth hanging on to, whatever comes next.

1. Eating and shopping locally --- entrepreneurs made it easier than ever!
2. Slow dinners and evenings
3. Comfy COVID fashion
4. Zoom cocktails with my bestie and her husband in Calgary
5. Zoom cocktails with Kevin's sister and brother-in-law in Toronto
(*no judging on the cocktail consumption, ok?*)
6. Weekly calls with my dad

In a big world, the small church has remained intimate.

in a fast world, the small church has been steady.

in an expensive world, the small church has remained plain.

in a complex world, the small church has remained simple.

in a rational world, the small church has kept feelings.

in a mobile world, the small church has been an anchor.

in an anonymous world, the small church calls us by name and by nickname!



"So, you think we should become a mega-church, Earl?
Would you elaborate on that?"

-Carl Dudley

.....
: "Quaker pastor Philip Gulley superbly summarizes how we must re-
: build spirituality from the bottom up in his book, *If the Church Were*
: *Christian*, which offers a rather excellent description of what is
: emerging in Christianity today:
: Jesus is a model for living more than an object of worship.
: Affirming people's potential is more important than reminding them
: of their brokenness.
: The work of reconciliation should be valued over making judgments.
: Gracious behavior is more important than right belief.
: Inviting questions is more valuable than supplying answers.
: Encouraging the personal search is more important than group uni-
: formity.
: Meeting actual needs is more important than maintaining institu-
: tions.
: Peacemaking is more important than power.
: We should care more about love and less about sex.
: Life in this world is more important than the afterlife (Eternity is
: God's work anyway).

.....
: from <https://cac.org/if-we-were-christian-2019-11-01/>
:

OMC Announcements & Opportunities

OMC Semi-Annual Meeting (SAM) was held Sunday, June 20, via Zoom. There were 18 screens/23 people in attendance. We approved the AGM minutes of Feb.6, 2021. These are available from the church office if you have missed them, along with COVID Relief Funds proposal.

Pastors: Patty was thankful for her May sabbatical and shift in work from on-line to in-person. Nora's summer will also hold in-person times with children instead of the traditional VBS. Nora has applied to take Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Paul's hospital this fall. This would be on her own time. Both pastors are filling in for extra worship duties this summer.

Worship: Thankfulness for our sound/tech people and for the new slide projector for syncing slides. Donations to the project are still open for the matching grant. *Voices Together* is breathing new enthusiasm into worship leading/singing. Looking forward to restrictions easing.

Deacons: Zoom groups moving to in-person outdoor gatherings.

Community Connections: Town survey showed 30% population are children - how does that impact our outreach? Church survey showed folks need time to recover from pandemic. CC working with other committees for congregational care and hopefully renewed energy later in the year. Still interest in Friendship Inn and Educational Zooms. Kaytee reflected that Education is the head, Worship the heart, Deacons the hands and Community Connections the feet of the church!

Trustees: New LED lights brighten the sanctuary.

Treasurer: Giving is on target. Much better position than last year at this time which led to application for wage subsidy and federal loan.

Executive: Raised Administrative Assistant wages to MC SK comparable \$17/hr from \$14.50/hr. Federal COVID Relief Funds proposal was presented and discussed but not enough quorum to pass. Will host fall meeting for approval.

Summary of Zoom meeting

***Pandemic Art Display** in the OMC Multipurpose Room – Please bring your pandemic projects (with your name) to display on “Re-Opening Sunday”, July 11. Displays will remain up for the summer and may be added to at any time. There will be a basket for washed homemade masks to be re-made into a *mask quilt*. Anyone interested in making the quilt please speak to Jake or Patty.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MAY

July 4

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Ezekiel 2:1-5 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Psalm 48 Psalm 123 Mark 6:1-13

July 11

2 Samuel 6:1-5,12b-19 Amos 7:7-15 Ephesians 1:3-14
Psalm 48 Psalm 85:8-13 Mark 6:14-29

July 18

2 Samuel 7:1-14a Jeremiah 23:1-6 Ephesians 3:14-21
Psalm 89:20-37 Psalm 23 Mark 6:30-34,53-56

July 25

2 Samuel 11:1-15 2 Kings 4:42-44 Ephesians 3:14-21
Psalm 14 Psalm 145:10-18 J John 6:1-21

August 1

2 Samuel 11:1-26-12:13a Exodus 16:2-4,9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16
Psalm 51:1-12 Psalm 78:23-29 John 6:24-35

August 8

2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33 1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Psalm 130 Psalm 34:1-8 John 6:35,41-51

August 15

1 Kings 2:10-12;3:3-14 Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20
Psalm 111 Psalm 34:9-14 John 6:51-58

August 22

1 Kings 8(1,6,10,11)22-30,41-43 Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18 John 6:56-69
Psalm 84 Psalm 34:15-22 Ephesians 6:10-20

August 29

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9 James 1:17-27
Psalm 45:1-2,6-9 Psalm 15 Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

* In life you are either a passenger or a pilot, it's your choice.
- Author unknown

* I love the man (*person*) that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. – Thomas Paine