

The Osler Mennonite Church

June/July 2022 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 XV Fifth Edition
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings

June is an exciting month with Pentecost Communion June 5, the MCC Relief Sale June 11, Church Picnic June 19, and celebrating the 50th anniversaries of Diana and Ben, Jean and Gary, Kathy and Dick on June 26. It is a month of celebrating God's work in the world, in our church and in our marriages. It is a month of transition from school and regular work to camp and vacation and whatever else the summer holds for us.

I will be on my Mennonite Disaster Service trip by train to Kamloops (Monte Lake) July 1-10. We will hopefully be welcoming our new Pastor of Faith and Community on July 17 and we will be saying good-bye to Pastor Nora on July 24 before the youth leave to their AB assembly the following Sunday, July 31. July 31 will be a relaxed service celebrating summer on the August long weekend, possibly outdoors with brunch. Then suddenly summer is half over! A prayer for a blessed summer of outdoor relaxation and enjoying creation.

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. #954 *Voices Together*

Patty's Picks

Belfast DVD was a well done step back to 1970's Belfast and the confusion of religious and family separation.

Peace by Chocolate DVD was a heart-warming movie based on the heart-warming book of a chocolatier Syrian family in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Saving Us by *Katharine Hayhoe* is a hopeful reflection on climate change from a Christian scientist's perspective. Church library.

Inspired to do service by all OMCers in their jobs and volunteering *and*
particularly to do MDS by Art Zacharias - *here's a poem*

To be of use by Marge Piercy

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlour generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

Nora's Notes

The shooting at Robb Elementary School early this week has left us reeling with overwhelming heartache as we try to find a way to not just acknowledge the pain of this event but find a way forward that responds to the injustice and violence imbedded in this news story.

I found myself struggling to listen to friends' words that 'hopefully this will finally change something' because I felt so cynical at the evil and complicate actions that have consistently followed these horrific events in the past.

Today I listened to a podcast that gave me a new definition of hope, told me about the real progress that has been made in the past decade around gun legislation in the states, and gave me tangible steps that I can take today.

The hosts told me that hope isn't a feeling that we can simply muster to believe things will get better. Instead, hope is a discipline. It is persistent commitment to actions that make this world a more just, loving, beautiful world.

I have often felt that being a person of faith for me, is being a person that is fervently committed to living a life in the actions of disciplined hope.

I understand if you don't want to listen to this podcast, because I didn't want to. I didn't want to read the news story either. It all feels like to much, because it is to much. But this episode is not meant to simply be a way for us to watch the trauma others are experiencing, it is a way to bring us together and show us a way forward.

It is still hard, and it has a few swears (warning for those sensitive to this); but I am hear to talk with you at the end of it. Or to sit in silence with you at the end of it. Written transcripts will also be made available in the next few days if that is more accessible to you, let me know if you want access to this. To listen to the podcast episode, click on the link below.

I love this community, and I love the way prayer is an opening to transform our hurt into steps towards a better world. Thank you for all of your own postings and expertise that continue to educate and inspire me on this and so many other topics.

– Pastor Nora

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/how-well-save-our-kids-from-the-gun-lobbys-greed/id1564530722?i=1000563939021>

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

Saturday May 28th: OMC Youth Tree Planting Event

Saturday June 4th: Mega Menno Youth Retreat @ Shekinah

Thursday June 23rd: Mega Menno @ RJC Musical Opening Night!

Sunday, July 24th: Farewell to Pastor Nora

Sunday, July 31th to Thursday August 4th: Amplify Youth Gathering

Summer...

It feels like summer has officially begun. With church wiener roasts, and outdoor youth events, and how impossible it feels to stay indoors for any length of time. I am so grateful for the energy that this season seems to be breathing into our church and the way the calendar has filled up with different celebrations and activities. A friend of mine sent me a beautiful card in the mail today that featured the art of Yvonne Merton-Fox titled “Dancing Blooms”. Inside my friend had including a quote from John O’Donohue (I favorite poet of mine) and it read:

**‘When one flower blooms
spring awakens everywhere.’**

I feel this sense of awakening all around me as we find our footing to engage in the world around us in ways that are lifegiving and connect us to our community. The blooming tulips and bright green yards enliven my heart to join in the joy of our warm weathered season and rejoice in the continuing ways we find to be together.

My prayer for our community this summer is that all of us can find stretches of joy and ease to soak up what is good in this world. Breathe In. Breath Out. Amen.

Soybeans by *Thomas Alan Orr*

The October air was warm and musky, blowing
Over brown fields, heavy with the fragrance
Of freshly combined beans, the breath of harvest.

He was pulling a truckload onto the scales
At the elevator near the rail siding north of town.
When a big Cadillac drove up. A man stepped out,
Wearing a three-piece suit and a gold pinky ring.
The man said he had just invested a hundred grand
In soybeans and wanted to see what they looked like.

The farmer stared at the man and was quiet, reaching
For the tobacco in the rear pocket of his jeans,
Where he wore his only ring, a threadbare circle rubbed
By working cans of dip and long hours on the backside
Of a hundred acre run. He scooped up a handful
Of small white beans, the pearls of the prairie, saying:

Soybeans look like a foot of water on the field in April
When you're ready to plant and can't get in;
Like three kids at the kitchen table
Eating macaroni and cheese five nights in a row;
Or like a broken part on the combine when
Your credit with the implement dealer is nearly tapped.

Soybeans look like prayers bouncing off the ceiling
When prices on the Chicago grain market start to drop;
Or like your old man's tears when you tell him
How much the land might bring for subdivisions.
Soybeans look like the first good night of sleep in weeks.
When you unload at the elevator and the kids get Christmas.

He spat a little juice on the tire of the Cadillac,
Laughing despite himself and saying to the man:
Now maybe you can tell me what a hundred grand looks like.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JUNE/JULY

June 5 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17 *or* Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

June 12 – Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 *and* Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

June 19 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a *and* Psalm 42 & 43
Isaiah 65:1-9 *and* Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39

June 26 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 *and* Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 *and* Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62

July 3 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14 *and* Psalm 30
Isaiah 66:10-14 *and* Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17 *and* Psalm 82
Deuteronomy 30:9-14 *and* Psalm 25:1-10
Colossian 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37

July 17 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12 *and* Psalm 52
Genesis 18:1-10a *and* Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42

July 24 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10 *and* Psalm 85
Genesis 18:20-32 *and* Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) Luke 11:1-13

July 31 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11 *and* Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 *and* Psalm 49:1-12
Colossian 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

OMC CALENDAR

- May 28 Youth Event Tree Planting at OMC
May 29 10:00 am Patty Friesen and Audrey Kampen
May 30 7:30 pm Worship mtg
June 4 2-6 pm Come & Go to Celebrate Ben & Diana's 50th
June 4 Youth Retreat at Shekinah
June 5 10:00 am Patty Friesen *Pentecost Communion*
June 9 9:00 am Deacon mtg
June 11 MCC Releaf Sale – *check poster for details*
June 12 10:00 am Bert Lobe
June 19 10:00 am Church Picnic in the Church yard
June 23 Mega Menno at RJC
June 26 10:00 am Patty Friesen *The 50 Year Journey*
July 3 10:00 am Nora Pederberg
July 10 10:00 am Ed Olfert
July 17 10:00 am Patty Friesen
July 24 10:00 am Patty Friesen – Nora's Farewell
July 31 10:00 Stories & Songs

June Birthdates

- 2 – Helena Peters (87)
4 - Wilf Buhler
6 – Joe Guenther
7 – Pete Sawatzky (90)
8 – Ben Buhler
8 – George Janzen
8 – Russ Friesen
12 – Rhonda Gascho
12 – Zac Stefaniuk
14 - Tony Funk
25 – Margaret Boldt (87)
26 – Lynette Janzen
26 – Melanie Boldt
26 – Tena Sawatzky (89)
27 - Dayna Stefaniuk
29 – Karl Martens
30 – Patty Friesen

July Birthdates

- 2 – Vanessa Stefaniuk
6 – Morrison Bird
9 – Joanne Feick
9 – Kathy Braun
10 – Benjamin Clark
13 – Jean Harms
15 – Susan Bueckert (97)
16 – Dylan Martens
19 – John Reddekopp
20 – Katherine Penner
22 – Torben Sjoelin
23 – Diana Buhler
24 – Dennis Boldt
28 – Emmett Bergen-Braun
30 – Harry Martens (80)