

The Osler Mennonite Church

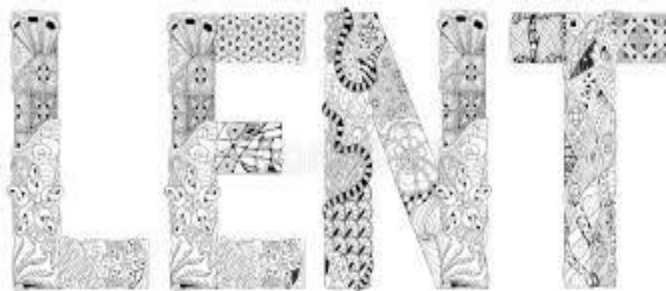
MARCH 2021 Newsletter

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>
Volume XIV Second Edition

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A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation



UPCOMING SERVICES In-sanctuary and 10 am Facebook Live:

Mar 7 Patty Friesen preaching – Righteous Rage and wisdom
Mar 14 Dave Feick preaching
Mar 21 Patty Friesen preaching
Mar 28 Nora Pederberg preaching

Holy Week Services:

April 1: Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m. Zoom link coming
April 2: Good Friday 7:00 p.m. Pre-recorded Good Friday
April 4: Easter Sunday 10:00 a.m. Facebook Live

Pastor Patty's Ponderings:

We are well on our way into Lent. Our worship is guided by the lectionary readings that take us through the life and approaching death of Christ. Mark's Gospel is a zinger for the brief battles between Jesus and the social/religious forces that oppose him. The drama builds until Easter weekend which will include Maundy Thursday Communion Zoom, April 1, 6:00 p.m., Good Friday Service, April 2, 7:00 on Facebook and Easter Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Facebook. It feels like we have more resurrection to celebrate this Easter. We are getting used to church on-line now even if we still don't like it. 10% of our congregation is vaccinated and spring weather will allow more safe gatherings outside. We can begin to dream about recovery and re-opening with the following four goals:

1. Ongoing on-line worship, committee work, and outreach and tech upgrades that allow this aspect of church to function.

2. Re-building community life through small group Zooms and safe outdoor gatherings.
3. Inter-church collaboration for youth activities, refugee sponsorship and support of community projects like Friendship Inn.
4. Post-pandemic choir and biggest potluck ever for ourselves and possible parking lot party for Osler.
5. Other ideas?

Pastor Patty's Picks:

What do you recommend?

I've been on a novelist Ivan Doig trilogy kick this winter: Whistling Season, Work Song and Sweet Thunder set in Montana with fascinating characters.

Netflix: The Dig - engaging archeological story in England and Mango Dreams - the Indian version of The Trip to Bountiful. A heartwarming return home for a dying man.

Music: Gaslighter by Dixie Chicks, now known as The Chicks who have moved from country to an upbeat activist rock. Successful transformation I'd say.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MARCH

March 7

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 14

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 21

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

March 28

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Mark 11:1-11 *or* John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 *or* Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

OMC CALENDAR

- Feb 28 Training Active Bystanders 1:00 pm via video link
- Mar 1 Kid's weekly Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm
- Mar 4 Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm
- Mar 7 Deacons' Zoom with Faith Exploration Class 1:00 pm
- Mar 8 Kid's weekly Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm
- Mar 10 Council Meeting Zoom 7:00 pm
- Mar 11 Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom 7:00 pm

OMC Announcements & Opportunities
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***Mosaic Sunday School class:** Every Sunday at 11:00am via Zoom. The password is: Mosaic. This is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212174301> Meeting ID: 872 1217 4301

***Refugee Fund** – consider donating your bottles &/or cans by using the Sarcan Drop & Go system. Register using the group name "**LRS**" and use the group phrase "Refugee" and you are all set! The bag tags and receipt will be printed, and any money will go straight to Lina's support.

***2021 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions** will be held virtually on Saturday, March 13.

Save the Date – MC Sask Virtual Youth Retreat – March 27. We are PUMPED to be planning a one-day, online gathering for youth! With games, cool hang-out spaces, a speaker, coffeehouse, and a one-of-a-kind virtual layout of Shekinah, we are excited to be bringing youth together again. Mark your calendars, and watch for more information coming soon!

MC Sask Virtual Youth Retreat – March 27 – Who’s Right/Wrong? Fact, Friction, and Friendship. In two interactive sessions, speaker Tracey Mitchell will help youth learn to navigate difficult conversations where answers aren’t just black and white. Using the online platform *Gather*, the retreat will be a time of worship, conversation, games, and more. Cost: \$15/person. Additional information and registration available at www.mcsask.ca, or contact Kirsten Hamm-Epp, youthminister@mcsask.ca.

Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan will host a virtual book launch on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Aldred Neufedt will introduce his recently published memoir; “Horse Lake Chronicles”. He will read excerpts from the book featuring his childhood/adolescence in Northern Saskatchewan. If you are interested in this event please email John Reddekopp jdredde@gmail.com for the ZOOM meeting details.

AMBS introduces three new scholarships

To make Anabaptist theological and leadership education more accessible to students of diverse traditions, ethnicities, racial identities and geographic locations, AMBS is offering three new merit-based scholarships for new graduate students beginning in 2021–22:

The **Multicultural Church Scholarship** is for students who are serving in or preparing for ministry assignments in a multicultural context and/or who belong to historically underrepresented racial or ethnic groups within the Mennonite Church.

The **MDiv Connect Student Scholarship** is for students who are beginning the distance-friendly [Master of Divinity \(MDiv\) Connect](#) program and who are affiliated with Mennonite World Conference or a related Anabaptist group.

The **Ecumenical Student Scholarship** supports students from other-than-Anabaptist Christian traditions who want to engage with people from the Anabaptist tradition while sharing the theological perspectives of and growing in their own tradition.

Applicants for these scholarships must be from the U.S. or Canada; they can pursue studies either at a distance or on campus. Those who are selected for the scholarships may receive them for the stated length of their academic program by meeting certain conditions.

The deadline to apply for the scholarships is **March 1**. Applicants must have been admitted to AMBS by that date to be considered for scholarships, so Admissions Team members recommend starting the [admissions application process](#) as soon as possible.

“We encourage people to share this information with people they know who would be good candidates for these scholarships,” said [Daniel Grimes](#), M.P.A., Vice President for Advancement and Enrollment. “We’re eager to support students with leadership gifts and potential who would benefit from the opportunity to pursue seminary studies.”

From MC Sask

The 2021 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions will be held virtually on Saturday, March 13. We will ask the question: Where is God calling MC Sask? God is speaking to us here--in our neighborhoods, our small towns, our snow-covered fields. Our family of congregations is beginning a season seeking to hear what our

God is saying: What is God inviting us into? How is God speaking hope, to us and all our neighbors, here were we live? Registration and report book are available at www.mcsask.ca

From MDS

Dear Church,

February in most of Canada is the time when the deep freeze of winter can test our endurance as we battle 'cabin fever'. This is especially true on the prairies, where temperatures have recently dipped into the -30 C range!

It is also a time when many Canadians choose to travel south to serve at MDS projects in warmer climates. Unfortunately, that isn't an option this year. We are hopeful that maybe by fall, if the vaccine rollout is successful, we can once again return to our normal way of serving in the U.S. and across Canada.

As we wait for the chance to get back in the field, I invite you to reflect on the many ways MDS brought hope and restoration during the pandemic. If you have not had a chance to [watch the Annual Celebration and Reports](#) that are available on our website, I encourage you to do so. They are a reminder of the work we are all eagerly waiting to return to.

Also, MDS Canada is once again offering the Spirit of MDS 2021 Fund. At MDS, God has blessed us with the resources of volunteers and money. We can't use volunteers right now, but we can share financial support with churches doing frontline service to those impacted by the pandemic. If your church could use some support for its practical ministries for those affected by the pandemic, [go to the Spirit of MDS Fund page on the website](#) for more information and to make an application.

As we endure this winter of many challenges, we are thankful for your ongoing financial gifts and prayers. Thanks for all you do!

Nora's Notes:

Our Refugee Committee is currently raising money for Lena and her family to Canada. Our youth group wants to continue raising awareness about Lena's family, and the refugee committee asked us to put together a list of fun facts we researched on the country of Lebanon where Lena is currently living in a refugee camp, so please enjoy our research endeavors:

List on Lebanon

- Beirut is the capital city
- "Lebanon," known in Latin as *Mons Libanus*, was the name of a mountain.
- The first miracle Jesus performed was in Lebanon, turning water into wine!
- There are 42 universities in Lebanon, with 70% elementary and high school students in private schools
- The country is about twice the size as Prince Edward Island (or roughly the size of Connecticut) and has a population of 3.8 million people
- Lebanon's economy is based on banking, food processing, textiles and cement, as well as the export of fruits, vegetables and tobacco. Its main imports are foodstuffs, machinery and transport equipment.
- Lebanon is host to over 200,000 refugees, the largest number of refugees per capita
- Both Palestinian and Syrian refugees have suffered from long-standing discrimination and marginalization as a result of Lebanese policies that deny them access to basic rights, including housing, work, education, and healthcare. The COVID-19 outbreak in Lebanon has only heightened the marginalization of both groups.
- There was an explosion on August 4, 2020 that killed at least 160 people and injured about 6,000 people – MCC helped to raise awareness and funds for emergency response
- 60-70% Muslim and roughly 30% Christian
- The country has a university and privately funded space program called the Lebanese Rocket Society
- The country has a total of 40 daily newspapers
- Lebanon is referred to in the Old Testament as a place of beauty, like in this verse "Behold, I will liken you to a cedar in Lebanon, with fair branches and forest shade" (Ezekiel 31:3)

❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

“The lesson I want you to learn is...it doesn't matter what you look like, you can be tall, short or fat or thin or ugly or handsome like your Father, or you can be black or yellow or white, it doesn't matter. What does matter is the size of your heart and the strength of your character.”

Herman Munster

Medical 'COVID reference': Be kind. Be calm. Be safe.

The longer I stay home, the more homeless I look!

OMC Calendar

March 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Youth Group Bible zoom 7pm.	5	6
7 Patty Friesen preaching.	8 Kids Bible School zoom 7 pm	9	10 Council mtg zoom 7:00 pm	11 Youth Group Bible zoom 7 pm	12	13
14 Dave Feick preaching	15 Kids Bible School Zoom 7pm	16	17	18 Youth Group Bible zoom 7 pm	19	20
21 Patty Friesen preaching	22 Kids Bible School zoom 7pm	23	24	25 Youth Group Bible zoom 7pm	26	27
28 Nora Pederberg preaching						<u>Each Sunday Worship:</u> 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.