

The Osler Mennonite Church

March 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 Metis.*

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Volume XV Second Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings

Lent begins this first Sunday in March with Jan Bigland-Pritchard preaching on "From Security to Generosity." As nature turns us toward spring, may this Lenten season turn us once again to the springtime of our souls with new shoots of insight of God's presence and hope rising up from a long brutal winter. We will have devotional material available for spiritual pondering during Lent and perhaps an ongoing Voices Together exploration class.

Further signs of new shoots at church: at our annual meeting Feb. 5, we have new committee members giving energy to the work of the church. Sunday school is gathering in-person again. We have new shoots of community building with pickle ball in the OMC gym on Tuesday nights. Our refugee family is getting settled in school. We are dreaming of gathering once again for safe meals outside in warmer weather. Things we used to take for granted at church have become more precious for the recent scarcity of them.

After Mom's acute care crisis due to degenerative disc disease and a UTI going septic with break-through COVID pneumonia on top, I don't take health for granted. Thank you for the prayers and generous compassionate leave to care for her in hospital. With all the support of her friends and our friends, relatives and churches, we had a calming sense of a large upholding in the midst of dark days and lonely nights. The words of Voices Together #779 came to mind often, "You're not alone, we are one body. You're not alone, we stand with you. You're not alone, your time of suffering is our suffering too and I know the day is coming when we will be rejoicing anew."

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"We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family."

~ Archbishop Desmond Tutu October 7, 1931 to December 26, 2021

A prayer for Ukraine by Carol Penner

Prayer for the War in Ukraine

God of hope,

we pray to you when hope is scarce

as our world convulses with the horror of war.

You alone know the extent of the crimes committed in Ukraine:

the people murdered, the homes and infrastructure destroyed,

the way violence comes as a calamity,

cutting a swath through the world.

Why is power concentrated in the hands of so few?

How can we make this war stop?

You alone know a way out of this quagmire of evil.

Help us find it.

Awaken those who dismiss this as someone else's problem.

Give world leaders wisdom as they impose sanctions,

looking for diplomatic and economic ways to end this aggression.

Raise up resistance to war in Russia itself.

Protect the people of Ukraine,

who are reeling from the trauma of invasion.

Open the arms of neighbouring countries

to take in refugees.

In times like these,

fill us with resolve rather than hatred.

Help us believe that justice will prevail,

that crimes will be prosecuted,

that peace can be found

even in the roar and rubble of war. Amen

Nora's Notes

As some of you may already know, I have some news to share with our community! Matt has received a letter of acceptance to Memorial University in fall of 2022, entering into their Music Education program with the intention of then pursuing a Special Education Degree. It is something that has been on his heart for a few years now and I am very excited to support him in the next steps in his pursuing of this vocation.

Memorial University is in St. John's Newfoundland, so entering into this program also means that we will be moving to the east coast. While I am exciting for this new chapter in our lives, it saddens me to announce that I am putting in my resignation as Pastor of Faith and Community at Osler Mennonite Church. I will continue in this position until July 31, 2022 when I will officially end my contract. Matt and I are planning to take the month of August to pack up and then embark on a leisurely road trip across Canada as we transition to our next home.

While there is still some uncertainty around what our lives will look like out east, and how I will fill my time, one thing I know for sure is that I will greatly miss being a part of OMC in person, and serving as one of your pastors. I look forward to and cherish the coming five months I have remaining in this role. Thank you all for the past three years.

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Tibetan Proverb:

The secret to living well and longer is:

Eat half, walk double, laugh triple and love without measure.

An "Art Zacharias Memorial MDS trip" is planned for BC, April 10-14 with travel days on either date. Please contact Henry Funk if you are interested in going.

One of the parts of MDS that I really love is the multilevel partnerships that are formed in our work. Each year, hundreds of volunteers come together to form a partnership of labour and leadership in enabling our front-line work of disaster recovery. Along with that is our partnership with the many different churches who help us get the word out about volunteer opportunities, giving time to those who return to report on their experiences, and often include MDS in their budgets.

Donors are another type of partnership we enjoy. We have many donors who have never been on a project, but who have come to love the work of MDS in helping disaster survivors. We could not do our work without this partnership.

Local organizations and businesses where disaster has struck provide some of the most practical help to our work. Local churches, community centres or camps frequently go the extra mile to allow us to use their facilities to set up camp and accommodate volunteers. Local business frequently offer support by way of discounts, gifts, encouragement, and amazing service. Of particular note in many of our small towns and cities in Canada are the local Home Hardware stores whose owners and managers have most frequently been wonderful to work with.

Another level of partnership is those organizations with whom we network in responding to disasters. We have enjoyed partnerships with Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Salvation Army, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Max Insurance, United Way, and other foundations in receiving grants to help rebuild homes. These types of partnerships ensure we are doing as little duplication of response as possible.

Our ultimate partnership is with our God, a partnership rooted in love and putting our faith into action.

Thanks for being a part of this partnership with us!

Director of Canadian Operations
Mennonite Disaster Service

The gift of classroom friendships | **Katherine Penner *Student Ambassador***

This past semester I had the enjoyment of being in the Ecological Peacebuilding class, taught by Kenton Lobe. We were a small group and over the semester we became a close-knit group of peers with a high level of trust among us. Before, during, and after class we gathered together and engaged in a variety of honest, thought-provoking, and vulnerable conversations to a level I haven't experienced in any other class. One point of discussion that impacted me the most was considering the interdependence of humans, animals, and the environment and what this consideration means for students living and learning on the land CMU calls home. We talked critically about the balance between rights and responsibilities, pondering how we can develop an understanding of receiving gifts from the earth, rather than taking resources as ours to be controlled and exploited. We framed this as striving for a gift economy, as opposed to a Wiindiigoo one, the Wiindiigoo being a ravenous cannibalistic creature from Indigenous stories cautioning against greed. In this learning we consulted a variety of voices including an Indigenous water protector and settlers who hold deep affection for the land, the creatures that inhabit it, and also the stories it holds. This was a unique opportunity to learn and explore course material and current issues together in a deep way that we all agreed would follow us beyond the semester. Knowing that the topic of the climate crisis is complex, emotionally evocative, and oftentimes anxiety-inducing, it seemed that each of us entered the space of the course with a willingness to offer our own insights, listen attentively to others, and respond in ways that allowed meaningful and productive conversations to flourish. This approach led to open conversations where we both encouraged and challenged one another, all wanting to participate fully and collaboratively. This class very well may live on in my memories as a particularly special one and I think of this experience as a wonderful gift to have been a part of during my last year at CMU. Katherine Penner is a fourth year Bachelor of Arts student, majoring in Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies.

Katherine Penner is undertaking a university research project on Mennonite Pacifism in Practice. Her study is interested in looking at how individual Mennonite's understandings of being a pacifist impact their daily lives. She is looking for older members of the church who would be willing to share their thoughts in a short interview- ½ to 1 hour approximately. All personal information will be kept confidential. For more information please email her at katherine.penner4@gmail.com

Considering graduate studies in theology? CMU has full-tuition awards available and offers a Master of Divinity, an MA in Christian Ministry, an MA in Theological Studies, and a Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies. The application deadline for Fall 2022 is May 31. Visit cmu.ca/gstm.

Amplify!

Youth Gathering 2022

giving voice to what we've seen & heard

July 31-August, 2022 @ Camp Valaqua in Alberta

In 2022 the youth of Mennonite Church Canada are being invited to gather among the tall trees and stunning scenery at Camp Valaqua. Youth gatherings are a time to connect to the wider church family, recharge our spirits, and spend quality time together in nature. It is our deepest hope that both youth and leaders will experience all of these things (and more!) at Amplify!

For youth ages 12-18

Registration

Early Bird: \$395 (until April 4, 2022)

Regular Price: \$425

Registration is now live!

Churches / Individuals are required to arrange transportation to the event in Alberta. For those arriving by plane, Amplify! will arrange for shuttles to pick up and drop off at the Calgary Airport.

If you need assistance with travel subsidy please contact Joani at youth@mennonitechurch.ca to discuss subsidy options.

MCC Canada webinar link below:

Here is the recording of MCC's latest online live event, "[The journey of a comforter: Live from Kansas and Jordan.](#)"

In this webinar, Kate Mast, the workroom supervisor for the MCC Material Resource Centre in North Newton, Kansas, took us behind the scenes with a look at how comforters are pieced together by volunteers. Alex Azar, MCC program officer in Jordan, shared about the impact that these MCC comforters have on the lives of displaced people in Jordan.



"One month, you're king of the mountain.
The next month, you're a puddle."

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Dear Friend,

It's been an incredibly tough week watching the situation in Ukraine unfold. Our hearts have been burdened by images of women, men and children fleeing their homes for safety. They're holding onto hope while living with the uncertainty about their future.

Please help now.

We're hearing reports that food supplies are running out, infrastructure is being targeted and neighbouring countries are doing their best to provide shelter and food to Ukrainians trying to find refuge.

I am deeply concerned about the long-term impacts of this conflict, and the immediate threat to human life. In every conflict, it is the civilian population who suffer the most, and conflict is a key reason why the number of people facing hunger in the world today has been rising in recent years.

Donate now to help our members and their locally based partners provide emergency access to food and support, through our joint appeal with the Humanitarian Coalition.

The people of Ukraine need your support Friend, and they need it urgently.

With thanks,

Andy Harrington

Executive Director

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

P.S. Any donation **you can give** is much appreciated

Lent Action for the Earth

March 2. Wednesday- Read Laudato Si” #211 & #212

3. Thursday - Choose 3 things you don't need. Donate them.
4. Friday - Have a meat-free day today.
5. Saturday - Plant some seeds today.
6. Sunday - Celebrate the beauty of creation.
7. Monday - Only eat seasonal produce today.
8. Fast from PLASTIC today. Be aware of how much you use.
9. Wednesday - Notice natural beauty today celebrate it!
10. Thursday - Read Laudato Si' #207 & #208.
11. Friday - Family Fast Day Donate to Caritas/CAFOD/SCIAF
12. Saturday - Mend your clothes.
13. Sunday Be aware of the fragility of creation.
14. Monday - Save, wash, and reuse all your tinfoil this week.
15. Tuesday - Try a new meat-free recipe today.
16. Wednesday - Be aware of turning off lights and appliances.
17. Advertise Earth Hour - encourage friends to join in.
18. Friday - Choose 3 things you don't need. Donate them.
19. Saturday - Skip showering today - save water.
20. Sunday - Recognise God's presence in creation.
21. Monday - Reduce the thermostat by 1°C
22. Tuesday - Find out about the work Caritas/CAFOD/SCIAF
23. Wednesday - Read Laudato Si #222 & @223
24. Thursday - How many kms has your fruit travelled?
25. Friday - Leave your car at home.
26. Saturday - **EARTH HOUR - 8:30 p.m.**
27. Sunday - Celebrate our interconnectedness with all creation.
28. Monday - Recycle every bit of paper you use today.
29. Tuesday- Share an image of the beauty in you local area.
30. Wednesday - Wash your clothes at 30°C.

April 1. Friday - Time how long you shower for!

2. Saturday - Enjoy the garden - make space for wildlife
3. Sunday - Reflect on your lifestyle choices.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MARCH

March 2 Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58: 1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6 First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 13 Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 20 Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 3 Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

OMC CALENDAR

Mar 6 10:00 am Jan Bigland Pritchard – Lent begins

Mar 6 11:00 am Deacon mtg

Mar 10 7:00 pm Community Connections mtg Zoom

Mar 13 10:00 am Patty Friesen – Second Sunday of Lent

Mar 16 6:00 pm Executive mtg

Mar 16 7:00 pm Council mtg

Mar 19 11:00 – 1:00 pm serve at Friendship Inn

Mar 20 10:00 am Nora Pederberg

Mar 27 10:00 am Patty Friesen

Shekinah Summer Camp - 2022 Camp Dates

July 10-14 Children's 1 (ages 7-11) 4 day camp

July 17-22 Jr Teen (ages 11+) 5 day camp

July 24-29 Children's 2 (ages 7-11) 4 day camp

Aug 14-19 Sr Teen (ages 15-17) 5 day camp

For more information visit shekinah.ca/camp

or email camp@shekinah.ca

March Birthdates

5 – John Gascho

6 – Erna Funk

10 – Micah Guenther

23 – Sandra MacArthur

26 – Liam Boldt

28 – Clint Neufeld

31 – Ava Boldt

