

The Osler Mennonite Church

May 2022 Newsletter

Great
are the
works
of the
Lord.

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 Fourth Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings

Spring has finally come to Saskatchewan and we look forward to more outdoor gatherings to reconnect as a congregation - Sunday, May 22, 11:00 May Long Weekend Weiner roast in churchyard sponsored by Community Connections. Sunday, June 19, Outdoor Service and Church Picnic in churchyard to recognize Sunday school teachers. Sunday, July 31, Bring Your Own Brunch Informal Outdoor service with songs and stories.

As we bring church outdoors this summer, there's opportunity to use our yard and even parking lot in new imaginative ways to engage Osler. An electric charging station is one idea that has come up at council. What else can we imagine?

In the spirit of the Prayer of St. Francis, I pray:

Lord, make parking an instrument of thy peace,

Where there is scarcity, let there be abundance,

Where there is only the temporary storage of automobiles, let there be a multi-use plaza.

Where there is only parking, let there be tiny houses.

Where there is only parking, let there be a community garden.

Where there is only parking, let there be a labyrinth.

Where there is only parking, let there be a bicycle training course.

Where there is only parking, let there be basketball, kickball, pickle ball, street hockey and soccer playing surfaces.

O master, let us not seek parking as much as to be more park-like; to welcome the neighbours and neighbourhood, not shun them; to be a bridge into the community, not protected behind trees.

For it is in giving up the false promise that parking will help our church grow, that our small church can experience abundant life through creative community connections.

-adapted from Reimagining the church parking lot by G. Travis Norvell, Christian Century, March 23, 2022

Patty's Picks

Permanent Astonishment by *Tomson Highway* is one of the most poignant memoirs I've ever read. Highway gives us a unique look into Cree language and culture in northern Manitoba with deep appreciation of family and humour.

Wholehearted Faith by *Rachel Held Evans* with *Jeff Chu* is a post-humous collection of Evan's writings - a last gift to us from this young clear-eyed, questioning author.

On Consolation by *Michael Ignatieff* is a fascinating study of art, literature and philosophy on the meaning of suffering and consolation.

Run Woman Run DVD was a laugh out loud joy of a Mohawk woman's journey with diabetes and health in self and family.

Sopranos DVD - I confess to this winter binge-watching addiction. Not for family viewing for sure but I found the family dynamics and inner personal struggles of the characters within a violent mob culture to be fascinating.

Art Zac Memorial MDS trip July 3-8 at Monte Lake, BC. Still time to join - let Pastor Patty know.

A new fiscal year for the Foodgrains Bank

April 1 marks the start of the Foodgrains Bank fiscal year, and provides an annual moment to reflect on the generosity demonstrated by our supporters across Canada. Direct grain and cash donations equaled \$18.6 million, while member transfers to their respective accounts came to \$10.8 million. This represents an increase of 22% over last year, and has set up our member agencies to take action to address the food security challenges facing our world. In part, this total was driven by higher than expected commodity prices for our growing projects and a number of successful appeals. We are so grateful to our committed donors and to those involved in growing projects and community events across the country.

Specific to Saskatchewan, we saw 896 donors contribute 1,785 donations totaling \$2.1 million

Thank you for collaborating so we can show our care and concern for our global neighbours who need food.

Rick and Jacquie Block SK Representatives, Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Nora's Notes

The month of April disappeared on me, it is hard to believe that I am sitting down to write for our May newsletter already. As many of you have already heard, we ended up cancelling our planned trip to Mexico to visit my sister. Instead we were able to gather around Matt's Grandma Charlotte Voth in the last week of her life, singing hymns, reading scripture and sharing stories. Afterwards we spent time with Matt's family going through photo albums and preparing the funeral service together. Both Matt and I reflected on how grateful we were to be in the province for this time of grief, reflection, and celebration as a family. Knowing that in a few short months we will be quite far away, we cherished this time together.

After the funeral, on Easter Sunday Matt and I both tested positive for COVID. Matt never developed more symptoms than a mild cough, but I ended up feeling quite sick and we isolated for a total of eight days before my symptoms subsided and I received a negative test result. I am still feeling a little worn out and a bit short of breath, but am grateful that there don't seem to be any more long-term effects that I am left with.

Our vacation days weren't quite spent how we imagined, but I am glad to be reconnecting with you all as I head into the month of May. In my time reflecting with gratitude of being near to family the past couple weeks, I find myself also cherishing the time that I have left in this church community. So though I am not quite rested and restored from our 'holiday' I am glad to be back and look forward to seeing you all soon.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

Friday May 13th 6:30-9:00pm: OMC Mentorship Board Games night @ OMC. ALL youth are invited to this event, along with our youth Sunday school teacher & mentors :)

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!

The beginning of spring

By Charles Hughes (2021)

In early February, winter gray,
Stretching sky high from the early morning earth,
Begins again, slowly, to melt away.
Slowly, invisibly almost. Too slight
A pale to promise sun, much less rebirth.
I can't this instant help but see the light.

Not light so much as edges coming clear;
Not clear at all, thick mist obscures the dawn.
Streetlights unlit, buildings poised to appear,
Low storefronts and a tall brick bank—I see
Faint outlines on the brink of being gone,
Less with my eyes than with my memory.

I turn from the window to the dark inside,
Looking ahead to spring (or maybe back),
Its extrovert, lengthening days, days glorified
By skies of confident blues and cloud-smile whites
As if the world were taking a new tack,
As if long days weren't leading to long nights.

Yellow forsythias, sunshine, daffodils,
Pink plum trees, rouge-red tulips, lilac scents
Adorn—suddenly! —spring's unmappable hills,
From which fears look less real, even real fears.
God sends small signs to soften our laments.
Spring has come early this year of all years.

Charles Hughes's poetry collections are The Evening Sky (2020) and Cave Art (2014), both published by Wiseblood Books.

A Peace Story

Cheyenne peace chief and Mennonite pastor Lawrence Homer Hart died on March 6 at age 89. Hart, who was raised by his paternal grandparents Corn Stalk and Chief Peak Hart near Hammon, Oklahoma, converted to Christianity at age 17. He attended Bethel College, a Mennonite school in North Newton, Kansas, for two years before leaving in 1955 to realize his dream of flying fighter jets in the US Navy and Marines. He later became the first American Indian to become a US military jet pilot and instructor.

When his grandfather died in 1958, Hart was asked to succeed him as peace chief. He returned to Oklahoma and began studying to become a Mennonite pastor. (He would eventually lead Koinonia Mennonite Church outside Clinton, Oklahoma, from 1963 to 2021.) But it wasn't until 1968 that the former warrior would truly understand the power of peace.

According to Anabaptist World magazine, that year, Hart and his wife, Betty, had agreed to participate in a reenactment to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the US Army's massacre of Cheyenne people near the Washita River. Unbeknownst to the Cheyenne participants, the descendants of George Custer's Seventh Cavalry were also in attendance, and they stormed the re-created Cheyenne village with swords and gunfire.

Yet, at the end of the event, the elders decided to gift the commander of the cavalry reenactors with a traditional Cheyenne blanket. Hart was deeply moved when the man then spontaneously removed the Seventh Cavalry's crest and gave it to the Cheyenne, promising that their people would never hear the cavalry's battle songs again. As a peace activist, Hart worked to combine Cheyenne and Mennonite peace traditions. For instance, when Hart discovered that the remains of 25,000 Indigenous people were being stored on shelves at museums, he and his wife enlisted the help of Mennonite Central Committee to create Return to the Earth. The program aims to identify the remains and give them a proper burial.

In 1992, the National Indian Education Association named Hart Indian Elder of the Year. In 1997, he was recognized as a distinguished honorary citizen by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes for his work in the preservation of the Cheyenne language.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MAY

May 1

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 8

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 15

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 22

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

May 26 Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53



OMC CALENDAR

- May 1 10:00 am Patty Friesen**
May 8 10:00 am Nora Pederberg
May 11 1:00 pm Education mtg
May 13 6:30 – 9:00 pm Youth Mentor Event
May 15 10:00 am Jim Epp MC Sask
May 21 11:00 am – 1:30 pm Friendship Inn
May 22 10:00 am Patty Friesen
11:00 am Wiener Roast
May 25 Exec & Council meeting
May 28 Youth Event Tree Planting at OMC
May 29 10:00 am Patty Friesen

From Community Connections:

Friendship Inn Sat. May 21, 11:00 a.m. Come and join us.
There are three persons signed up so far.

Sunday, May 22, 11:00 a.m. Weiner roast in the churchyard
(food supplied or bring your own lunch). Bring your own chair.

Rejoice – the last issue of issue of the current year will come soon. If you wish to renew for the coming year, no action is required. If you wish to receive this daily devotion please let the office know. The cost of a year is \$46.23 which you are encouraged to give as an extra donation.



Happy
Birthday

May Birthdates

4 – Sandra Grismer
8 – Sarah Buhler
11 - Louise Buhler
11 – Dave Feick
15 - Alex Tiessen

15 – Carl Martens-Funk
18 Susan Braun
18 – Kathryn Janzen
21 – Henry Funk