

## OMC CALENDAR

- May 2** 10:00 am Worship Nora Pederberg speaking *(also on Facebook)*  
**May 3** 7:00 pm Kid's weekly Bible School Zoom  
**May 3** 7:00 pm Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom  
**May 9** ***Mother's Day***  
10:00 am Alex Tiessen speaking *(also on Facebook)*  
**May 10** 7:00 pm Kid's weekly Bible School Zoom  
**May 10** 7:00 pm Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom  
**May 16** 10:00 am Worship Terry Stefaniuk speaking *(also on Facebook)*  
**May 17** 7:00 pm Kid's weekly Bible School Zoom  
**May 17** 7:00 pm Youth weekly Group/Bible School Zoom  
**May 23** 10:00 am George Janzen speaking *(also on Facebook)*  
**May 24** *Victoria Day—No Kid's or Youth activity*  
**May 26** 6:00 pm Exec Committee mtg Zoom  
7:00 pm Council meeting Zoom  
**May 30** 10:00 am Worship Nora Pederberg speaking *(also on Facebook)*

**Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found in the Worship Resource on the church website. [www.oslermennonitechurch.org](http://www.oslermennonitechurch.org)**

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- May 8 Sarah Buhler  
May 11 Louise Buhler  
May 11 Dave Feick  
May 15 Alex Tiessen  
May 15 Carl Martens-Funk  
May 18 Susan Braun  
May 18 Kathryn Janzen  
May 21 Henry Funk  
May 26 Lillianna Friesen

MAY YOUR birthday  
BRING YOU AS MUCH  
happiness  
AS YOU give

## The Osler Mennonite Church May 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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<http://www.oslermennonitechurch.org>

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Volume XIV Fourth Edition

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

## **Pastor Patty's Ponderings:**

The birds are singing loudly along the South Sask River this time of year as they will be in Grasslands where I am spending my sabbatical this month counting birds and registering them on a national breeding bird web-site; if I can tell them all apart! My first sermon back June 6 will be about the scriptures about sheltering birds and I will report on how God is a shelter for us and how we can be a shelter for birds and for others in our lives and church.

Nature has been a shelter for me this past year and I'm grateful for a warm snow-filled playful winter and beautiful if slow spring. By the summer hopefully most of us will be vaccinated and it will feel like a resurrection. Let us visit and worship and play hard outside this summer.

Thank you to the Review Committee and Community Connections for all their work putting questions and answers together for us to begin to discuss and discern together our post-pandemic resurrection. Thank you to our steady Education Committee, Deacons, Executive and Re-Opening Committee and hard-working Worship Committee during this stormy year. We have survived and in many ways thrived during the pandemic. Someone said they were thankful for a quieter life and almost dreaded the end of it and return to a crazy life. Hopefully there is quietness and contentment we have learned that we can carry with us into the post-pandemic season. Maybe we can see it as sabbatical rest and reorienting for all of us.

A Sabbatical Prayer: God of grace and glory, you fling the stars into the heavens; you see every sparrow fall. Deepen our trust in the mystery of your power shining through Christ Jesus, that we may live your love for the world. Blessing: God will guide us continually, and satisfy our needs in parched places, and we shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fall. Amen.

*#985 G/H Voices Together*

## **Pastor Patty's Picks:**

\*Dare to Lead by Dr. Brene Brown continues to teach and bless. (Church library)

\*Ending with Hope by Beth Gaede about rural church closings was an eye-opener. (Church library) Under Our Roof by Madeleine Dean and her son Harry Cunnane is an honest resurrection story of addiction and recovery. (Church library)

## **LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MAY**

### **May 2 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 3:16-24 John 15:1-8

### **May 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17

### **May 13 Ascension of the Lord**

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

### **May 16 Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

### **May 23 Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Roman 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### **May 30 Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

## **❁ Pieces of Peace ❁**

May is the time to prune - just as necessary as good soil, water, and sunshine for a good crop.

Pruning may seem counterproductive—why get rid of parts of a plant that could produce something? We ask this of pruning in our lives. Does it truly help produce more good fruit?

Jesus say yes, pruning does produce more fruit in our lives.

We each would do well to ask, What in my life needs to go to help me be productive? What impedes the flow of strength and sustenance from the vine? What keeps the connection strong and stimulates the growth of the Spirit's good fruit?

*Paraphrased from Rejoice May 1*

## OMC Announcements & Opportunities

\*Want to donate to the **Refugee Fund**? Leave your bottles at any Sarcan's and use the Drop & Go system. Register using the group name "LRS" and the phrase "Refugee" and you're set! That bag tags will be printed and the money goes directly to Lina's support.

\*Consider donations, memorial or or wise for the **Voices Together Hymn book**. Your memorial will be printed inside the book as a lasting memory.

\***Rejoice Devotionals** are in your mailboxes—please note that the dates on the cover mistakenly indicate the spring months rather than

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### **Foodgrains Bank News Grow Hope begins its fourth season, including a third member agency!**

For those who are not connected to a Saskatchewan growing project (especially those in urban areas), Grow Hope Saskatchewan offers the chance to support local farmers as they grow a crop that has been seeded to extend hope and food security around the world. Recently some news outlets carried this story, and it's the words from the participating farmers that speak volumes about Grow Hope's core identity and vision:

"We have an obligation as a First World society to be able to help everybody in the world. It's not just about us." Ian Sonntag, who farms with his brothers Patrick and Reg of Goodsoil, northwest of Meadow Lake

**Guess what? Your voice counts too! Let your MP know you care about Canada's commitment to help end hunger around the world.** The Foodgrains Bank has developed an **Online Letter Writer**. It allows you to share your voice easily and effectively in support of Canadian policies that are generous towards those suffering from hunger and poverty;

Rick and Jacquie Block,  
Saskatchewan Representative,  
Canadian Foodgrains Bank—Telephone: 306-222-8977.  
Email: [saskatchewan@foodgrainsbank.ca](mailto:saskatchewan@foodgrainsbank.ca)

## Mennonite Church Canada

Mennonite Church Canada's Indigenous-Settler Relations program works to support interested congregations and regional working groups through prayerful dialogue, sharing of educational and financial resources, and collective action. We help connect constituent communities to Indigenous and settler persons, teachers, theological and social justice organizations that can be of help, and who are interested in pursuing peace and justice together.

Critical to this work is Indigenous theological learning - theology not simply for native peoples, but for non-natives too. The Mennonite expression of Christian faith is beautiful and has incredible strengths, but it's been deeply impacted by colonial thinking and practices. Together, we need to re-think aspects of settler Christianity to discover a gospel that is more faithful to both host people and this "home and native" land that we share.

Courageous conversation is a bit part of this work.

To foster deeper understanding and break down walls that keep us apart, we explore basic, but critical questions:

Do we know the host people in the particular lands in which we live?

What kinds of histories and present relationships do we have and why?

How does colonialism continue to shape and impact the Indigenous-Settler relationship?

How do we respectfully connect and centre the priorities of suffering peoples?

What are the issues - "our" issues - that keep us apart and need "undoing"?

How can we learn from Indigenous strengths and walk in joyful solidarity?



## Nora's Notes:

Today I was able to fully appreciate the gift of spring. It was a very small moment, but it was very special to me. In the unit I live in, access to the laundry room requires me to go outside and around to a storage space that we share with other units in the house. This morning I left through the side door and was met with a lovely spring breeze. That was the whole moment: simply the pleasant surprise of spring weather. I often have to work to consciously notice the little things in life, and I was so grateful to have one come up and greet me in the middle of chores. I pray that everyone may receive these moments of blessing.

I have known for a couple years now that there is irrefutable science proving that multi-tasking is a myth. But for me to intellectually know this has not translated into much of my actions. I still habitually and relentlessly attempt to multitask in every possible inch of my life. My spiritual practice for the coming months is 'single-tasking.' It is not listed in most of the spiritual practice books that I have read, but I suggest that it fulfills the requirement. Single-tasking is the act of choosing to give one thing your full attention before moving onto the next thing. It is an act that feels very challenging for me as I run around playing whack-a-mole with my daily to-do lists. However, it is proven that single-tasking not only improves our efficiency, but it also increases our sense of peace. It lets in more space for moments where I do nothing else but take in the gift of spring breeze greeting me at my door. I am going to start with small increments of time and build up from there. Even as I write this newsletter, I have interrupted myself numerous times with other tasks that pop into my head – this ironic state accentuating my need for the spiritual discipline of single-tasking. With this on my heart I raise up this blessing by Jan Richardson from the poem "Blessing in the Chaos"

To all that is chaotic  
in you,  
Let what distracts you  
cease.  
Let what divides you  
cease.  
Let there come an end  
to what diminishes  
and demeans,  
and let depart  
all that keeps you  
in its cage.  
Let there be  
an opening  
into the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos,  
where you find  
the peace  
you did not think  
possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.

## MDS NEWS

**SERVE** Due to the pandemic, there are no major MDS projects in Canada at this time. (Just a few smaller local ones.) Also due to the pandemic, the U.S./Canada border is closed so Canadians can't go south to places where MDS is able to operate. Below find some updates on MDS activity in Canada; we hope one day soon we can send you a list of needs for volunteers!

### Spirit of MDS Fund

Over \$90,000 in grants has been given to local churches and ministries responding to pandemic needs in their communities through the Spirit of MDS Fund.

### MDS and MCC Collaborating in Ontario

MDS and MCC are working together in Ontario to renovate an office that will house MCC's Indigenous Neighbours program in Timmins.

### MDS renovating derelict house in Kitchener

In collaboration with MennoHomes, MDS is making a former derelict home livable again for a low income family.

Evelyn Peters-Rojas who is the MDA Canada Volunteer & Project Coordinator retired at the end of April.

**One week Spring Intensive Course Options!** CMU is offering great intensive (one week!) course options through the spring including, Christian Worship: Patterns and Practices; New Testament Letters in 1st Century and Middle Eastern Perspective; Refugees and Displacement: Learning to Extend Hospitality; Creation and Community in Biblical and Indigenous Perspective and *Community-Based Research and Peacebuilding*. **All courses are available in hybrid format** – both in person and online. Consider taking one of these courses for credit or audit! Go to [www.cmu.ca/intensivecourses](http://www.cmu.ca/intensivecourses) for more information and to register.

*Don't forget Mother's Day, this year celebrated on May 9th! It's the one day of the year that reminds us that we should celebrate our mothers **everyday** of our lives .....*