

The Osler Mennonite Church

September 2021 Newsletter

The **WILL** of
God will never
lead you where
the **GRACE**
of God cannot
keep you.

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

Pastor Patty's Ponderings:

"I've been singing "Alleluia, The Great Storm is Over" #71 Sing the Journey, as we've been able to gather in larger numbers in the sanctuary. Despite the ongoing presence of Covid-19, I have felt a new lightness and freedom with vaccinated friends and family and have been able to attend outdoor concerts. Fall Kick-Off Sunday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. on the church yard reflects our thankfulness and hope for healing of our anxieties of the last year. We will have a ritual of release and bag lunch and concert with Golden Hour (Dayna Stefaniuk, Kenna Forrester, Kathleen Regier).

As Patrick and I sleeplessly watched our bedroom ceiling fan rotate these past summer nights without air conditioning, it was a literal wake-up call for us on climate change. I try to integrate thanksgiving for creation and God our Creator in our services. Love of creation inspires my

action. April 22 Earth Day, OMC had a Zoom gathering with OMC Saints of Solar: Lucy and Russ Friesen, John Gascho and Melanie and Kevin Boldt and their investment in solar panels for business and home. It inspired Patrick and I to take up the City of Saskatoon's Green Initiative for solar panels of our own this fall.

Creation is an important part of our personal and collective faith. Our August 1st Outdoor Service in the Cathedral of the Trees on Wilf and Ruth's yard inspired awe and thankfulness. Nature Church hosted at Shekinah Retreat Center the first Sunday of every month has been a place for Valley Mennonites who love nature to connect and inspire each other in climate change action. Canadian Mennonite University Professor Dan Thiessen-Epp teaches a portable class on a Christian Response to Climate Change that we as a congregation hope to participate in this fall.

From Commonword:

A recording of a webinar for Shine curriculum teachers is available here <https://shinecurriculum.com/resources/teachertraining/> and www.commonword.ca/go/211

Also see the new Facebook Group for teachers <https://www.facebook.com/groups/869083454017611>

The Baby and the Bathwater by Robert J. Suderman, former general secretary for Mennonite Church Canada. A biblical portrayal of God's plan for the Church. Free for pastors. Buy or borrow – www.commonword.ca/go/2320

Adult Education: Voices Together

A study in the new hymnal for anyone interested in what happens in worship.

Meet in Room 3 (wearing masks) or on Zoom

We will be using Voices Together Worship Leader Edition. Copies will be available to borrow in the lobby. Worship and song leaders please loan your copies to the class.

We will meet each Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

October 3: Introduction: What is Worship?

October 10: Gathering: Why and How We Gather?

October 17: Telling God's Story

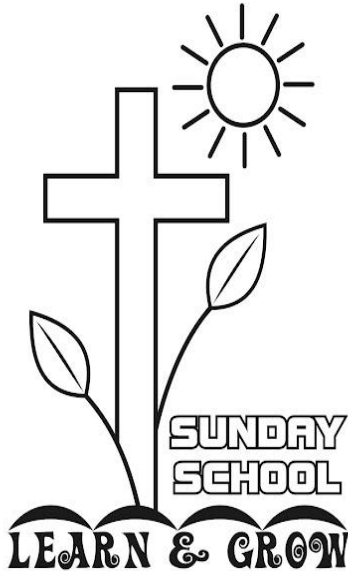
October 31: Confessing Faith, Celebrating Baptism, Communion

November 7: Sharing Our Stories

November 14: Praying

November 21: Giving and Living God's Story

November 28: Sending and Introduction to Advent 2021



September 19 - Children's Sunday School starts back in person.

Adult & Youth Sunday School forum with Harry and Leonard in the sanctuary.

September 26 - Healing Haunted History with Ched & Elaine Enns in the sanctuary

Nora's Notes:

When I opened my Bible early this week, it broke. That is, the binding on the book was no longer attached, so the cover fell off. It fell away gently like it had been broken for a while and this was just the first time I really noticed. It is probably a case of cheaply produced books but I took it as a poetic symbol of my current state, because that is my nature.

As case numbers increase again and I start to reinstate some of my pre-vaccine cautions around public exposure and masking up, I feel disheartened. My practices of spiritual self-care that have sustained me through the past 18 months are starting to feel stale and worn through as I try to imagine what choices await us for protecting our neighbours and communities heading into fall. This may not come as a surprise, but I find a lot of spiritual nourishment in books and Biblical study, and theological reflection. I have been clinging to the practices that sustain my soul with white knuckled insistence as various waves of emotions from the past year wash over me.

What I've come to realise is that I need to set down my tried and true spiritual care practices (like reading my Bible with clenched fists – as it is now clearly pleading for a break). I wonder if others may also be looking for renewal in this area, so I thought I'd write down my list in hopes that it can give you permission to wander into your own new discoveries of God's nurturing presence.

- sing a hymn aloud, by myself each week, intentionally letting this take up space as a form of prayer

- take a Sabbath, an actual 24hr Sabbath where I don't work or do school. (This one feels scary to write down.)
- going for a walk before I go to bed, even if it's a really, really short walk, even if it's just sitting on the porch.

Christian Peacemaker Teams is celebrating 35 years of action! To mark this anniversary, we're hosting an online Peacemakers Congress on September 25, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST. There will be interactive workshops, team panels, an exciting keynote speaker and an auction! CPT couldn't do its work without the amazing support of so many communities and friends. Join this celebration! Details and registration: www.cptaction.org.

From the Deacons Thank you to everyone who adds to the deacons' freezer. We are collecting fresh again this fall.

*Would you like to be a **Sunday School teacher** with our children? Please talk with Steve or Christy to learn more about this opportunity. We will be starting up on September 19, and welcome you to get to know our lovely children! Teachers will be committing to a three-week slot, and likely will only have 3 of those during the year.

Join us for Sunday School kick off on Sunday, September 12 10:00 a.m.!! It will be an informal Community Connections led service of music, reflection and time for community building. The hope is to be outside in the church yard/park. If the weather is uncooperative we will be in the multi-purpose room. (*Masks will be worn inside at all times*)

Please bring a bagged lunch with you if you feel comfortable.

This was planned to give us time together as a community to reflect and find some renewal before another busy year begins.

For more information please contact one of the Community Connections team members - Kaytee, Diane M, Adeline, Alex.

Shekinah Move-A-Thon, September 18th. Bike, Paddle, or Hike to support the mission of Shekinah Retreat Centre.

All individuals and families are encouraged to get out to Shekinah and move. New this year is a 60km bike route, so bikers take note. Watch for more details

at <https://shekinah.ca/events/2021/shekinah-bikeathon-moveathon-2021>

***YOUTH FUNDRAISER** - Our OMC youth group will be participating in Shekinah's Move-a-thon on Sept.18th! We are hoping to raise some funds from within the congregation. Youth will be collecting funds after our Sept.12th Worship Service so if you would like to support Shekinah and get our youth our biking/hiking/canoeing please bring cash/cheque next week or talk to Pastor Nora

“Walking The Path Together” is a settler/indigenous group in Saskatchewan, committed to healing and reconciliation. The Committee has commissioned a documentary of the development of the Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre in Herschel: a record of how dedicated local volunteers and have partnered to preserve and protect ancient indigenous archaeological sites. The Committee hopes that this documentary will challenge many other communities to take serious steps to identify, preserve and protect ancient indigenous sites in their areas.

You can participate in this important “healing and reconciliation” project by sending a tax-deductible donation to:

Rural Municipality of Mountain View
Box 130, Herschel, Sk. S0L 1L0

*Earmark your donation “Ancient Echoes Documentary”

For further information contact David Neufeld 306 249-5889

MC Sask Songfest of Thanks, Oct. 15-16/2021, Rosthern Mennonite Church. We continue to plan in hope and faith that we will be able to come together to give thanks and sing this fall, and are excited to announce **Duff Warkentin** as our Songfest Conductor and **Glenn Sawatzky** as Accompanist. All Covid-19 regulations will be followed. Stay tuned to www.mcsask.ca for registration and further information in the fall. Contact Kirsten Hamm-Epp, youthminister@mcsask.ca, with any questions.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR SEPTEMBER

September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Philemon 1:1-21

Psalms 139

Psalms 1

Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28

Exodus 32:7-14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Psalms 14

Psalms 51:1-10

Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Amos 8:4-7

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Psalms 79:1-9

Psalms 113

Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Amos 8:4-7

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Psalms 79:1-9

Psalms 146

Luke 16:19-31

MDS CANADA

Hello Church,

Greetings from MDS Canada! Thanks so much for being willing to share news and information about MDS with your church. Due to the pandemic, our work has been limited. But that doesn't mean we haven't been active in smaller ways! Thanks to willing volunteers, operating safely through COVID-19 protocols, we have been able to be active this year.

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!

B.C. wildfires. There are over 270 wildfires burning in the province, and thousands have either been evacuated from their homes or on alert to leave. MDS in B.C. is monitoring the situation to see if there is a role for MDS to play down the road when reconstruction efforts begin.

Winnipeg, Man. Progress has been slow on assisting a homeowner in Winnipeg, in partnership with Home Street Mennonite Church. The complex nature of the work that has needed to be corrected, along with clearing up old, open permits, has extended the life of this project. Dave and Anna Wiebe have been giving patient leadership to this project.

Westbank Bible Camp. In July, volunteers with MDS Saskatchewan renovated and upgraded the office building at Westbank Bible Camp, a Mennonite Brethren camp located north of Swift Current. (*This is the project Edna Zacharias volunteered at*)

For more stories about MDS, visit our website at www.mds.org

LEARN

Behind the Hammer is now available as a digital magazine! This new digital format offers an environmentally friendly alternative to print. It also brings you additional content not found in the print version

PRAY

Your church can remember disaster survivors and recovery efforts in a worship setting.

Friends: "Can I come over?"

Real friends: "I'm coming over."

Best friends just appear *randomly*.

OMC CALENDAR

Sept 5 10:00 am Mark Bigland-Pritchard speaking *(also on Facebook)*

Sept 10 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Youth Group at OMC

Sept 12 10:00 am Community Connections in charge

(not on Facebook)

**Held on the church yard - bring your own seating and a picnic lunch*

Sept 13 7:00 pm Worship mtg

Sept 15 7:00 pm Council mtg in person @ OMC

Sept 18 MEGA MENNO Shekinah Move-A-Thon

Sept 19 10:00 am Harry Lafond & Leonard Doell *(also on Facebook)*

11:00 am SS Forum: Harry & Leonard (in the sanctuary)

.... on Mennonites & Indigenous

Sept 26 10:00 am Ched Mayers & Elaine Enns *(also on Facebook)*

11:00 am SS Forum: Ched & Elaine (in the sanctuary)

.... *Healing Haunted History*

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

8 – Dick Braun

12 – Cornie Guenther

12 – Jacqueline Funk

16 – Doug McKinnell

17 – Adeline Cox

18 – Anna Peters

20 – Novinya Doucette

22 – Margaret Dyck

23 – Rob Borne

24 – Chris Buhler

25 – Christy Martens Funk

26 – Tena Friesen

I AM A gift
FROM God

PSALM 127:3

We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Metis.

Osler Mennonite Church

oslermcoffice@sasktel.net

<http://www.oslermennonitechurch.org>

212 2nd Ave. P.O. Box 129

Osler, SK S0K 3A0

306-239-2133

Volume XIV Seventh Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation