

## OMC Calendar

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Patty Friesen preaching	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Adult Bible Study 1 pm Exec 6 pm. Council 7pm. all via Zoom	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Patty Friesen preaching.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Julie Bergen preaching.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Nora Pederberg preaching.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		<u>Each Sunday</u> Worship: 10:00 am. On live stream.

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

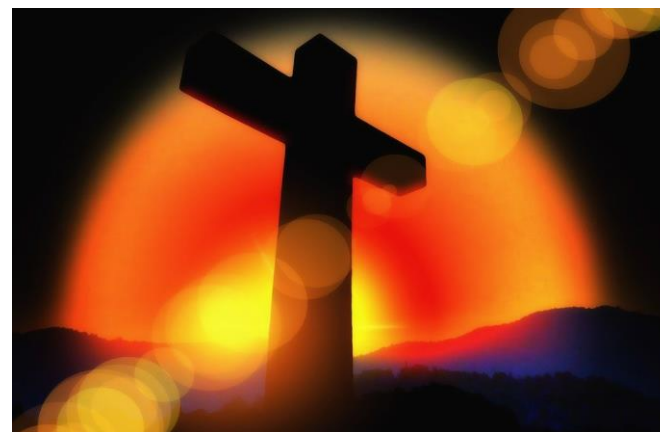
*We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Metis.*

## The Osler Mennonite Church APRIL 2020 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church  
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<http://www.omchurch.org>  
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A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE  
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation



**UPCOMING SERVICES available on live-streaming only through Osler Mennonite Church Facebook page until further notice.**

- Apr 5** “The Path of Humility” by Patty Friesen
- Apr 10** Possible live-streaming Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 12** Easter Sunday. “Don't Explain It” by Patty Friesen.
- Apr 19** Julie Bergen preaching
- Apr 26** Nora Pederberg preaching

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7*

## Pastor Patty's Ponderings:

As I prepare Lazarus' monologue from John 11 for March 29 service, I observe the verbs: Jesus loved, Jesus heard, Jesus spoke, Jesus arrived, Jesus wept, Jesus angered, Jesus looked, Jesus cried with a loud voice. It is a passionate text full of Jesus as the main actor in Lazarus' resurrection. Indeed, Jesus is the main actor and director in the whole drama of Holy Week. But we are not mere observers of the Theatre of History. We are invited in as participants - disciples and followers who find our place within the interactive Jesus story. We own it and it owns us as we give thanks for this tremendous gift of life, death and ongoing presence of the resurrected Christ given for us, and the world.

We are feeling the very real presence of Christ as we made the congregational decision March 15 to discontinue church until this crisis passes. Holy Week begins this week and for the first time in OMC history, we are not gathering, sadly. We may try a live-stream communion with everyone finding a bun and juice at home on Palm Sunday. We may try to live-stream Good Friday service and Easter will be the best it can be without choir and paska! We will have a blow-out Easter in July with choir and paska!

I am so proud of our church for how quickly we are adapting to our new reality. We were already ahead of many churches with our live streaming – thanks to Darrin Reddekopp donating our camera to stream for Deanna last year. Nora has been awesome with Facebook posts, mid-week emails and correlating Sunday worship resources. I'm thankful for our Deacons calling members our support of each other and for Zooming Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study. The Worship committee has been creatively working to broadcast our services. We had a wonderful Zoom Community Connections meeting where we came up with ideas for supporting the food shelf, connecting with elders in town and with our town churches. We even talked about a big parking lot party when this is all over! The virus presents amazing opportunities for us to do church differently and some of the changes may even stick!

## Nora's Notes:

I miss you all, and I'm terribly proud of you. It is humbling witnessing the manifolded (Greek literally "many coloured") ways that people in this community are taking steps to care for others. Thank you for everyone who has picked up the phone and answered e-mails/texts, it is a delight to be able to hear your voices and share in part what your new daily normal is. While contemplating the best way to journey together as a community during this time I found myself listening to a short video by Glennon Doyle. She was sharing a piece of her new book *Untamed* and is offering up words of connection during this time. I find her perspective very touching, I have attempted to type up her words here, but this is far less than a direct quote: *"Everyone is experiencing grief and loss, people are losing loved ones, dreams, plans, and everyone is grieving the life that they had before. Many years ago, my sister went through a horribly painful time and she moved into my home, a guest room in the basement. After dinner she would go downstairs to the guest room and close the door. One day I went downstairs to knock on the door and I heard her crying, just quietly weeping. And I realized that it was not time for me to go in. So each night for a very long time I would watch her go downstairs and after a while I would follow and I would sit on the other side of the door and I would read, or whatever, I would sit there holding vigil and just be on the other side of the door. **Let's just hold vigil for each other. Let's go back and forth between the one being alone in that basement room – and when we are being supremely tender and gentle to ourselves, and let's hold vigil for each other outside the door. I am sitting outside your door with a cup of tea and you might feel like you are alone in there but I am on the other side.**"*

And so, as I sit in my home and take my socially distanced walks, I am holding vigil for all of you, as I know you are for me. I am lifting up prayers, I am sitting with scripture of lament and praise, and I am resting in awe of the caring community in this place. I am here, we are all here, holding vigil for one another, taking this time in a simple act of solidarity with those who are overwhelmed and/or isolated, doing what we can, and coming to terms with what we cannot do.

Around our dinner table last night we were asked "What beauty did you experience today?" I found this question striking, and I plan to carry this curiosity with me into the coming weeks. To seek out what is beautiful still in daily life. This is not to compete or negate the weighted emotions of this time. Instead it is to accompany them. Praise & Lament, the continued work of the church community – offering and receiving grace.

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR APRIL

### **April 5 – PALM SUNDAY / Highly exalted**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

#### **Liturgy of the Passion** (if celebrated)

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

*Philippians 2:5-11 (9)*

Matthew 26:14–27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

### **April 9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY / A day of remembrance**

*Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 (14)*

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **April 12 – EASTER / Glory**

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

*Colossians 3:1-4 (4)* or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

### **April 19 – You show me the path of life**

*Psalm 16(11)*

### **April 26 – From the heart**

*1 Peter 1:17-23 (22)*

#### **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.

## **HUMOUR**

### **From The Daily Bonnet.com Swift Current, SK:**

Given the circumstances, even the strictest Mennonite churches have decided to relax the rules when it comes to dancing. Pastor Tom has decreed that since everyone has to keep six feet apart these days anyway, they might as well allow a little rhythmic movement.

“As long as I can shove two crokinole boards between you, it shouldn’t be a problem,” said Pastor Tom. “You can twist and twerk all you want at that distance.”

Pastor Tom is even planning Swift Current’s first ever church dance this Saturday in the large faspas room downstairs.

“We’ll crank up the Boney M and let ‘er rip,” said Pastor Tom. “I think it’ll be our most popular youth event since the jam making workshop last fall.”

The distancing rules, however, will be strictly enforced.

“I don’t care if he is your cousin, you ain’t getting close enough to find out,” said Pastor Tom.

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Teacher: “Maria, please go to the map and find North America.”

Maria: “Here is it.”

Teacher: “Correct. Now class, who discovered America?”

Class: “Maria”

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Teacher: “Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?”

Donald: “H I J K L M N O

Teacher: “What are you talking about?”

Donald: “Yesterday you said it is H to O!

## Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hills
Massage Therapist's Hymn	. . .	He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.

## ⊛ CAPSULE SERMONS

It is not my ability, but the response to God's ability, that counts

### ⊛ Pieces of Peace ⊛

**Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.**

## Pastor Patty's Picks for Sheltering in Place:

1. Making soup and baking for others - very therapeutic.
2. Listening to calming music or rock and roll when necessary!
3. Watching old favourite inspirational movies.
4. Watching comedy including Mr. Bean, Jim Gaffigan.
5. Reading old favourite inspirational books.
6. Reading old journals - very entertaining. Did I really have a crush on that guy in Grade 7?
7. Calling elders - I receive way more than I give here.
8. Go for a daily walk with grippers on for ice.
9. Plant tomato seeds - hope for the future!
10. Learn new table games, paint, colour, do art.
11. Live-streaming OMC Sunday Worship and Zooming Wednesday Bible Study.

## A Pandemic Poem by Kitty O'Meara

And the whole world walked inside and shut their doors  
and said we will stop it all. everything.

To protect our weaker ones, our sicker ones, our older ones.

And nothing, nothing in the history of humankind  
ever felt more like love than this.

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

**Ritual by Sarah Klassen** (Mennonite poet from Winnipeg):

Holy Week and three buffleheads on the cold river practice the rite of baptism. Their preference:

complete immersion. Again and again they duck and disappear into ice-cold darkness, then emerge, shaking a zillion stars from their feathers.

As if there is never enough purification, they plunge down deep and rise and dive and rise again.

The week winds down, down, down toward Friday.

Temple draperies are drawn. Darkness enfolds the earth. The dead in their stone tombs have begun stirring as if, like the sun in the morning, they will rise.

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**Pastor Patty's Picks:**

The Two Popes DVD - I will reference the story of Pope Benedict's resignation and Pope Francis' humility in my Palm Sunday sermon. A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood DVD with Tom Hanks. To be honest, I enjoyed the 2018 documentary with real footage of Fred Rogers better.

One Drum by Richard Wagamese is another beautiful reflective collection of Wagamese written posthumously.

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**Pastor Patty's Picks for Pandemic Pondering:**

The Journey is the story of peacemaking between the leaders in Northern Ireland.

The Best of Enemies is the story of peacemaking between blacks and whites in South Carolina.

The Quarrel (hard to find) is the story of Jewish survivors trying to make sense of the Holocaust.

Of Gods and Men is the story of the courageous French priests who stayed in Algeria during the uprising.

Babette's Feast is the story of generosity and food.

Lars and the Real Girl is the story of courageous inclusion.

The Two Popes is the story of the two paths of the Catholic Church formed by the popes.

Jesus of Montreal is the story of a Passion Play that becomes real.