

**OMC Calendar**  
**FEBRUARY 2020**

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Patty Friesen preaching. Communion	<b>3</b> Kids Bible & Adult Conv 7 pm.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> AGM 9:30 am. Youth Night @ OMC 6:30 pm
<b>9</b> Dayna, Kenna & Kathleen in charge of the service.	<b>10</b> Kids Bible & Adult Convo 7 pm.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> OMC Men's Group 7:30 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Deacons mtg 12:45 pm	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Patty Friesen preaching.	<b>17</b> Kids Bible & Adult Convo 7pm.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Community Connection mtg 4:30 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Youth Mega Menno Ski Trip
<b>23</b> Dave Feick preaching. Fellowship pizza at noon.	<b>24</b> Kids Bible & Adult Convo 7 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> OMC Men's Group 7:30 pm	<b>27</b> Worship committee mtg @ Kathryn's	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

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

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

**The Osler Mennonite Church**  
**FEBRUARY 2020 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church  
[oslermcoffice@sasktel.net](mailto:oslermcoffice@sasktel.net)  
<http://www.omchurch.org>

212 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. P.O. Box 129  
Osler, SK S0K 3A0  
306-239-2133

Volume X111 Second Edition

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



**UPCOMING SERVICES**

- Feb 2 The Beatitudes by Patty Friesen and Communion
- Feb 9 The Lord's Prayer - Dayna Goerzen, Kenna Forrester, Kathleen Regier
- Feb 16 Patty Friesen preaching; Ed Buhler MDS Tribute
- Feb 23 Dave Feick preaching, Patty at Bethany Manor

**“Blessed are those who show mercy to others: they will be shown mercy. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their struggle for justice: the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”**

*Matthew 5: 7,10 (Inclusive Bible)*

**Pastor Patty's Ponderings:** I am thankful for this season of Epiphany - the six weeks between Christmas and Lent where the lectionary readings in Matthew's Gospel help us reflect on who Jesus is and what his coming means for the world. We worked hard on these themes in our Winter Wednesday Bible Study in January and our worship services in February will continue this joyful reflection.

I am thankful for the work of our church as we have our Annual Meeting Sat. Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m. and look at 2020 with 20/20 vision of our three ongoing priorities: children, youth and intergenerational ministries, using our building for community outreach and fine-tuning our committee governance for the most helpful use of our time and resources.

I am thankful for my May 19-June 19 wilderness sabbatical in southern Saskatchewan as I camp and pray my way from Grasslands National Park East to Grasslands National Park West to Eastend to Cypress Hills and Sand Hills. I'll be mostly within cellphone range for emergencies and will share my adventures at our Church Picnic June 21.

**Pastor Patty's Picks** - I did a lot of reading while I was sick over Christmas!

-The Cockroach by Ian McEwan is a laugh-out-loud satirical reflection on the British Prime Minister.

-The Reason You Walk by Was Kinew is an eye-opener to the spiritual/family journey of an amazing Canadian broadcaster.

-Nationhood Interrupted by Sylvia McAdam is another eye-opener to Indigenous history and present journey.

-Peace and Good Order by Harold Johnson is essential reading for Canadians on the justice system and is in our church library.

-A History of Canada in Ten Maps by Adam Shoalts is also essential reading for Canadians on our history.

-Christ in Crisis by Jim Wallis reminds us of who Jesus is for our times.

-Little Women 2019 version does not disappoint.

-A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood 2019 with Tom Hanks is as good as the 2018 documentary on the ministry of Fred Rogers.

**Nora's Notes:** This month has left me reveling in the richness of this church's participation in MCC over the last 100 years. It is beautiful to begin our Epiphany season with this act of celebration in our worship, shining a light on the many different ways this congregation has had its story woven in with the story of MCC.

After Terri-Lynn's announcement, Matt and I have spent time in discernment about what this next season might look like. Council asked if I could bring forward a picture of our ideal and from there a proposal would be brought to AGM for a congregational vote. I have indicated that I would love to continue working for OMC in my current position. This hope is held in tension with a wondering about Matt and I doing our own service trip at some point in our lives. Perhaps beginning in summer of 2021, but the truth is we cannot pretend to be able to predict the timing of such things. We love being a part of this congregation and if you are all comfortable holding with us our future question marks then I am grateful to be considered for staying on as Pastor of Faith and Community.

Looking into February I am using up the rest of my vacation time and will be away from February 12<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Youth Schedule**

**January 31<sup>st</sup>-February 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Retreat:** MCSask Youth Retreat at Shekinah Retreat Center. Grades 6-12. Guest Speakers Heather Driedger & Dave Feick focusing on what it means to live out our faith through peace and justice. Registration is available on the MC Sask web page at the following link : <https://mcsask.ca/youth-retreat/>. If the cost is preventative let me know and we will make sure that all youth are able to attend.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-8:30pm:** Osler-Warman Youth Night at OMC Our regular Osler-Warman Youth night (games, snack, discussion, prayer). We will be continuing our look at the Minor Prophets.

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> Mega Menno Ski Trip:** Mega Menno is putting together a youth ski trip out to Table Mountain. Our key organizer will be Zach Dueck from MRMC and Rob Borne has enthusiastically agreed to be our youth sponsor for the event! Details about times and registration to come soon.

## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*OMC Annual General Meeting on Sat. Feb. 8, starting at 9:30 am**

### **\*MAKING CONNECTIONS**

You are invited to the annual sessions of the Mennonite Historical Society of Sask. (MHSS) March 6 & 7 at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon to join in making connections:

- Friday, the 6th @ 7:30 p.m.; Bolivian Low German Speaking Mennonites with resource person Abe Janzen who has worked in Bolivia, and is the former director of MCC in Alberta.
- Sat. the 7th @ 9:30 a.m.; MHSS members talk about the business of the organization.
  - After 11:15 a.m. more sessions, e.g. :
    - Harris Ford will share his experiences of interviewing a dozen senior Mennonites.
    - Dick and Kathy Braun visited Brazil to learn about and honor Rev. Johann Wall, the first Old Colony minister to visit that country one hundred years ago.

(Submitted by Susan Braun, MHSS Board Member)

### **\*Reasonable Doubt - A Documentary Play with Music**

Jan 29th - Feb 12th at Persephone Theatre

Created from over 300 interviews with people from our community, this play is like holding up a mirror to ourselves. I had the privilege of seeing small portions of it in the rehearsal stage, and cannot emphasize how important this powerful work is to foster conversations around racism and justice. I highly recommend doing the courageous work of engaging with this project in which you will find both your views, and the views of others in our community, given a voice. May the healing conversations and connections we all need, begin. - Steph

For more information,

visit: <https://persephonetheatre.org/shows/play/reasonable-doubt/>

### **Pastor Patty's Middle of Nowhere Sabbatical**

Birding in Southern SK May 15-June 11, 2020

**Intention:** Similar to my 2017 National Park sabbatical, I desire spiritual renewal through hiking and birding in Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan. I have no clue how this will benefit the church but it will benefit me in the following ways...

- 1. Observation and Connection to God.** I will observe how nature rejuvenates my soul connection to God. I will meet interesting strangers. I will journal and preach about what I learn.
- 2. Preparation.** I will prepare myself physically through walking and swimming. I will prepare myself intellectually through reading about the history, geography of southern SK. I will prepare myself spiritually through prayer and journaling and spiritual direction. Osler Mennonite Church will pay for this four week sabbatical.

Reading List: Whatever Ruth Buhler recommends plus...

SK writers Candace Savage and Sharon Butala

Into the Wild by John Krakauer

Atlas of a Lost World by Craig Childs

Arctic Dreams by Barry Lopez

This Cold Heaven by Gretel Ehrlich

### **✿ Pieces of Peace ✿**

“Blessed are those who work for peace;  
They will be called children of God.”

*Matthew 5:9*

## HUMOR

### OMC CALENDAR

Jan 31-Feb 2	Youth Retreat at Shekinah
Feb 3,10,17,24	Kids Bible & Adult Convo
Feb 8	OMC's AGM, 9:30 am
Feb 12 & 26	OMC Men's Group 7:30 pm
Feb 14	Deacons committee meeting 12:45 pm
Feb 19	Community Connections meeting 4:30 pm
Feb 22	Youth Mega Menno Ski Trip
Feb 23	Fellowship Pizza at noon
Feb 27	Worship committee meeting @ Kathryn's

### LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR FEBRUARY

#### **February 2 – Do what is right**

Micah 6:1-8                      *Psalm 15 (2)*

1 Corinthians 1:18-31    *Matthew 5:1-12*

#### **February 9 – You are the light of the world**

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)    *Psalm 112:1-9 (10)*

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)    *Matthew 5:13-20 (14)*

#### **February 16 – We are God's servants**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20              *Psalm 119:1-8*

*1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (9)*              *Matthew 5:21-37*

#### **February 23 – All belong to you**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18              *Psalm 119:33-40*

*1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 (22)*    *Matthew 5:38-48*

#### **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.

**Humor Under Duress:** Under Soviet leader Josef Stalin, telling a joke about the Soviet regime was considered tantamount to treason and could lead to imprisonment or death. Despite the risks, people shared jokes about the tyrant Stalin and the repressive regime as a means of coping with the dire circumstances of their lives. The later Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev recalled: "the jokes always saved us." (Aeon, December 11)

#### **Money Madness:**

**Bill:** "So, Jill, how did you like your first football game?"

**Jill:** "I liked it okay; but I didn't understand why they were tackling each other for twenty-five cents."

**Bill:** "What do you mean?"

**Jill:** "Well, everybody kept yelling 'get the quarter back!'"

## CAPSULE SERMONS

**Timing the Sermon:** The Pew Research Centre analyzed nearly 50,000 sermons from about 6,500 congregations and determined the the median length of all sermons was 37 minutes. Catholic sermons were the shortest, with the median being 14 minutes. Sermons in mainline Protestant congregations came in at 25 minutes. Sermons in historically black Protestant churches were the longest - the median length was 54 minutes. Preachers preach for as long as they hold people's attention, noted one homiletics professor. (Associated Press, December 16). (Hmmm.....how long are Pastor Patty and Pastor Nora's sermons?)

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If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

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The human race has one really effective weapon: laughter