

**OMC Calendar
JANUARY 2019**

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am		1	2	3	4	5 A Taste of Syria 5:30 pm
6 Patty Friesen preaching	7	8 Executive meeting 5:30 pm. Council meeting 7:00 pm	9	10 M & S meeting 7:00 pm	11	12
13 Patty Friesen preaching	14	15 Worship Committee meeting 7:00 pm	16	17 Adult Choir 7:00 pm	18 Deacons meeting 12:45 pm. YOUTH: Friday Nite Live @ RJC	19 Serve at Friendship Inn.
20 Winter Study & Potluck. Pauline Steinman Preaching.	21	22	23	24 Adult Choir 7:00 pm	25	26
27 Jan Bigland- Pritchard preaching	28	29	30	31 Adult Choir 7:00 pm		

Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. www.omchurch.org

**The Osler Mennonite Church
JANUARY 2019 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church
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<http://www.omchurch.org>
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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

UPCOMING SERVICES

- Jan 6 "It takes Family & Friends to Raise a Child" by Patty Friesen
- Jan 13 "It Takes a Faith Community to Raise a Child" by Patty Friesen
- Jan 20 "My Journey with Ignatian Prayer" by Pauline Steinman, MC SK Spirituality Resource Team
- Jan 27 "The Spirituality of Social Justice" by Jan Bigland-Pritchard

"ARISE, SHINE; FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAS RISEN UPON YOU. FOR DARKNESS SHALL COVER THE EARTH, AND THICK DARKNESS THE PEOPLES; BUT THE LORD WILL ARISE UPON YOU AND HIS GLORY WILL APPEAR OVER YOU."

ISAIAH 60:1-2

Pastor Patty's Ponderings:

January is the month of growing light in the northern hemisphere and the growing light of Christ in our souls and world. We want to use this cold dark month to deepen our trust walk with Christ through a winter worship series in practices of prayer and life review. Through intentional personal times of candle lighting and walking and opening up our hearts, we want to invite the Light inward to illuminate what resentments or stubbornness is affecting our relationship with God and others. We want to illuminate clear paths of discernment for our future. Who knows what may get lit up by this kind of openness?

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, MC SK recognizes that congregations need to stretch our souls with some prayer to figure out what God is trying to say to us this year. We are in the midst of deep change in the institutional church and we can no longer do church as we used to. MC SK Spirituality Resource Team goes to churches to help preach and teach about ways to enrich our prayer life. This team will come January 20 for our winter study worship service at 10:00, Sunday School at 11:15, potluck at 12:00 and wrap-up 12:45-1:30 with helpful ways to seek God's movement in our lives. We will also use these next weeks in worship and in Sunday school as a season of pondering like Mary, preparing ourselves for the revealing love of God this winter.

Patty's Picks

Leave No Trace DVD is a complicated story of PTSD, homelessness and family love. Unforgettable.

Three Identical Strangers DVD is a delicious documentary on triplets separated at birth who find each other in young adulthood and consequential drama.

RBG DVD is also a delicious documentary on the amazing Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Supreme Court Justice and fierce advocate for women's rights.

Starlight, the unfinished novel by Richard Wagamese, at the time of his death, is tough and tender and tragically unfinished but some of the best descriptive writing and character development I've read in awhile.

OMC CALENDAR

Jan 5/19	Taste of Syria, 5:30 pm
Jan 10	Missions & Service meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan 15	Worship Committee meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan 17	Adult Choir, 7:00 pm
Jan 18	Deacons meeting, 12:45 pm
Jan 18	YOUTH: Friday Nite Live @ RJC
Jan 19	Serve at Friendship Inn
Jan 20	Winter Study & Potluck.
Jan 24	Adult Choir, 7:00 pm
Jan 31	Adult Choir, 7:00 pm
Feb 1-3	YOUTH: Senior High Retreat @ Shekinah
Feb 2	Annual General Meeting, 9:30 am

What is Boxing Day?

In Canada it is a national holiday, copied from old traditions in the United Kingdom going back more than a thousand years. It is not a holiday in the USA. A *box* is another name for *present* or *gift*. So, in medieval times, Christmas leftovers and presents were gifted or boxed for workers and poor people on the second day of Christmas, who were given the day off to celebrate.

The best-known story of Boxing Day is told to us in a song. It began with the Duke of Bohemia who saw a poor peasant gathering wood on the day after Christmas. So, the duke, called *Good King Wenceslas*, put together a gift of meat and wine, and shared it with a *peasant*. December 26 is also known as the Feast of Stephen, since it is St. Stephen's Day in the Catholic Calendar. Until recently, the Old Colony Mennonites celebrated December 26 as a religious holiday, and conducted a church service on that day. It was called the *Tweeda Heljadach* or the *Second Holiday*. Jake Buhler

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.

✿ **Pieces of Peace** ✿

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:15

A Session on Reconciliation: Thursday, January 24th at the Osler Community Hall at 7:00 pm

The presenters for the evening are the Musqua sisters, Bonnie and Diane. They are very authentic people and are fun to listen to. They are government trainers, and have trained foster parents, community agencies, social workers and community members.

Bonnie and Diane have gone through many experiences in their own lives. They tell their own story of living in our society as a First Nations person. Bonnie and Diane talk about their parents attending residential schools and how that affected them, (one parent being a social worker and the other parent an elder). Bonnie and Diane tell the story of reconciliation, how to make things better, one interaction at a time.

HUMOR

Be careful what you wish for....

A married couple, in their early 60’s, was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary at a quiet, romantic little restaurant. Suddenly, a tiny Fairy appeared on their table. She said, “For being such an exemplary married couple and especially for being so thoughtful and loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each one wish.”

“Oh,” said the wife, “I want to travel around the world with my darling husband.” The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! – two tickets for a luxury liner and Ten Thousand dollars appeared in her hands.

Then it was the husband’s turn. He thought for a moment, and said: “Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. So I’m going with my mind and not my heart. I’m sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me.”

The wife and the Fairy were shocked and disappointed. But a wish is a wish. So the Fairy waved her magic wand, and – poof! – the husband became 92 years old.

Teach me to stop and listen,
Teach me to centre down.
Teach me the use of silence,
Teach me where peace is found.

Teach me to hear Your calling,
Teach me to search. Your Word.
Teach me to hear in silence,
Things I’ve never heard.

Teach me to be collected,
Teach me to be in tune.
Teach me to be directed,
Silence will end so soon.

Then when it’s time for moving,
Grant it that I might bring,
To every day and moment,
Peace from a silent spring.

-Ken Medema

“And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide.” Genesis 24:63

Silent Night by Bonnie Thurston

The old tradition says
at Christ's borning there was utter silence.
The whole created world was still. For an hour.
Even choirs of angels went quiet.
It seems fitting in the infant face of incomprehensibility
to forego language, sound, even song.
Into stille nacht that tiny spark, the Word,
dropped into kindling flesh, set fire everything
we thought we knew about God.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A Taste of Syria is an event being planned for **Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 5:30 pm at OMC**. The Alnouri family with the help of the Sponsorship group will be preparing Syrian food to share that evening. The family consists of the mother and father – Ana and Akram, son Bassam and his wife Hiba as well as their daughter Buthayna and her energetic 2 year old son Mohammed. They have extended family in Saskatoon who will also be attending, son Mohamed and his wife Athar. Mohamed and Athar arrived in Saskatoon 4 years ago and have been very helpful in helping their family settle in.

CHOIR SEEKS SINGERS!

Saint Augustine said it (and we agree): “He who sings, prays twice”. That’s why we’re looking for **well-intentioned amateurs** to join us weekly, for a 90-minute rehearsal, AKA “Worship Through Music”. We (Merel & Keith) have picked pieces that will blow open closed hearts. And put you in touch with the magnitude of this thing called “life”.

Our community choir is open to anyone who loves music and wants to learn more. Please bring your friends and neighbours!

Ready to surprise yourself (and your church family), singing better than you’d ever imagined? Want to discover the tricks of creating a performance that sends shivers up peoples' spines, and makes them cry?

For all of that (plus, the obvious pro of earning celestial brownie points), join us for the first rehearsal on **THURSDAY THE 17TH OF JANUARY, 7:00 p.m.** at Osler Mennonite Church (healthy snack is included).

Save the Dates:

***Saturday, Feb 2:** OMC AGM, 9:30 a.m.

***Friday & Saturday, Feb 8-9:** Church Photo Directory picture days: The sign-up sheets are now in the lobby to book your picture appointment.

***Winter Study on January 20:** “Spiritual Practices” by MC SK Spirituality Team. 10:00 Worship, 11:15 Sunday School Forum. Potluck at Noon. 12:45-1:30 Afternoon Wrap-Up.

Lunch Committee Group M-Z with leaders Carl Martens-Funk and Diane McKinnell, in charge of potluck set-up & clean-up.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Spirituality Resource Team

Pauline Steinman, former pastor at Wildwood Mennonite Church, currently attends Tiefengrund Mennonite Church and has recently done interim ministry at Eigenheim Mennonite Church. Pauline completed a 40 Day Ignatian Prayer Retreat and will preach about this life-changing experience on January 20 at OMC.

Eileen Klaassen is a retired chaplain from City Hospital where she worked with Julie Bergen. Eileen is serving as interim pastor at Wildwood Mennonite Church along with Joe Heikman. Eileen is a spiritual director and attends Mount Royal Mennonite Church.

John Gascho works for the Town of Osler and leads Centering Prayer at Osler Mennonite Church and teaches youth Sunday School, God bless him.

Melody Neufeld is a social worker with seniors and attends Mount Royal Mennonite Church where she leads Adult Education. Melody preached about her pilgrimage on the Camino trail in Spain at OMC July 2016 but the power was out because a bird hit the transformer, so she couldn't show her slides.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JANUARY

January 6, 2019 – Epiphany – Arise, shine

Isaiah 60:1-6 (1)

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 13, 2019 – Baptism of the Lord – I have called you by name

Isaiah 43:1-7 (1)

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20, 2019 – With you is the fountain of life

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10 (9)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 27, 2019 – This day is holy

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (10)

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21