

**OMC Calendar**  
**MARCH 2020**

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Patty Friesen preaching. Worship Comm mtg @ noon	<b>2</b> Education Comm mtg 1:00 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00- 2:00 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Osler- Warman Youth 2:30 in Warman
<b>8</b> Patty Friesen preaching	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Adult Bible Study 1 pm Exec 5:30 Council 7pm.OMC Men's Group 7:30	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Alex Tiessen preaching. Fellowship pizza at noon. CCC mtg @ noon.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00- 2:00 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Deacons mtg 1:45 pm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Nora Pederberg preaching. Mentorship Event.	<b>23</b> Blanket making @ 9 am	<b>24</b> Blanket making @ 9 am	<b>25</b> Blanket making @ 9 am. Adult Bible Study 1 pm	<b>26</b> Blanket making @ 9 am	<b>27</b> Blanket making @ 9 am	<b>28</b> Osler- Warman Youth night 6:30 pm @ OMC
<b>29</b> Patty Friesen preaching.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				<u>Each</u> <u>Sunday</u> <b>Worship:</b> <b>10:00 am.</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>School:</b> <b>11:15 am</b>

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

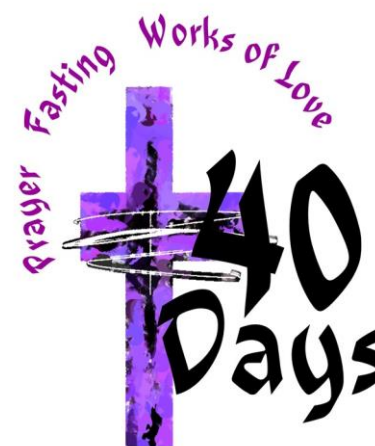
*We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Metis.*

**The Osler Mennonite Church**  
**MARCH 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**

- Mar 1 "Temptations in the Wilderness" – Patty Friesen
- Mar 8 "Nicodemus' Faith Formation" – Patty Friesen
- Mar 15 Alex Tiessen preaching
- Mar 22 Nora Pederberg preaching
- Mar 29 Patty Friesen preaching

**“Don’t store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven.....for where your treasure is, there will your heart be as well.”**

*Matthew 6: 19-21 (Inclusive Bible)*

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

March 1 begins seven weeks of Lent until Easter and while we are not high-church strict on observances of fasts, it is a seasonal opportunity to "reorient, reassess and rearrange our lives to more fully respond to God's invitation. The call to more fully respond is at once profoundly personal and uncompromisingly communal. It is a season whose purpose is to knit us closer to our God." (Wendy Wright, Rising p. 26)

It is wonderful to sit in on Kids' Bible on Monday nights and hear them talking through who Jesus is in the Gospel of Matthew. It is equally powerful to sit in on the Wednesdays at 1:00 Bible study with older people also working through the Gospel of Matthew. This is faith formation. At Canadian Mennonite University Pastors' Week on Faith Formation, we heard from students doing faith sharing using 1-3 objects. Using objects helped them explore their growing relationship with God as they learned to articulate that relationship with others. I thought the exercise was fitting for all ages so we are going to try it in our Christianity and Culture class through the season of Lent. It is an exercise that could be tried with children, youth, elders and intergenerational groups as we continue to practice creative and metaphorical ways of sharing who God is to us and how we see God's presence in our lives. We are never finished having our faith formed.

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

Christ in Crisis by Jim Wallis is another helpful reorientation to our understanding of Christ and the role of Christianity in an increasingly polarized society.

When Life Gives You Pears by Jeannie Gaffigan is a powerful brain tumour memoir of strength, humour, resiliency and trust.

**Nora's Notes:** I got the most beautiful request from one of our youth this past month, "Can we have more youth events." Currently we are in the rhythm of holding two youth events a month, with additional group mentorship events twice a year. At my current work distribution this is what I am able to offer. However, how could someone say no to such an excellent request! The Education committee and Youth Ministry Team have come up with a proposed solution: *What if once a month, we had different people in the congregation 'host' the youth for a night. They could have the youth over to their house, or use the church whatever they prefer. The agenda would be completely up to the hosts, movie night, gym games, board games, farm fun, etc. It would be a more casual event, giving the youth another chance to get together.*

The hope is that I would not be attending these events, but I could help coordinate dates with the youth calendar and send out all the information. This would only be the Osler Youth Group, so it would be a smaller crew (averaging at about 5-6 in attendance). We have our first hosts signed up for April (big thanks to Diane & Ben!). If this is something that interests you please let me know! The idea is that they can be very flexible, so if you are unsure let me know that to, and we can talk it through.

### **March Youth Calendar**

**--March 7<sup>th</sup> 2:30 – 6:00pm** Osler-Warman Youth Volunteer **at the Warman Thrift Shop**. Please meet there at 2:30pm. At 4pm we will make our way to Warman Mennonite for some pizza, reflection and games. **Pickup will be at 6pm at Warman Mennonite Church**. Please let Nora know if your youth can make it so we can have an idea for numbers. Friends are always welcome!

**--March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30-8:30pm Youth- Mentorship Event at OMC**. We are hoping to put on a Murder Mystery Mentorship Event here at OMC! Big thanks to Naomi Schellenberg for planning of our game. E-mail confirmation to come about event.

**--March 28<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.

## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### \*Lent Bible Study with George on lectionary passages for upcoming Sunday services:

**Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1-2 p.m.** Gen.2:15-17;3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**Wednesday, Mar. 4, 1-2 p.m.** Gen.12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

**Wednesday, Mar. 11, 1-2 p.m.** Exod.17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

**Wednesday, Mar. 18, 1-2 p.m.** 1 Sam.16:1-13;Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**Wednesday, Mar. 25, 1-2 p.m.** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6011; John 11:1-45

**Wednesday, April 1, 1-2 p.m.** Isaiah 50:4-92; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11 and for Easter Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24;Col. 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

### OMC CALENDAR

- Mar 1 Worship committee meeting at noon
- Mar 2 Education committee meeting 1:00 pm
- Mar 4,11,18,25, Apr 1: Adult Bible Study 1-2 pm
- Mar 7 Osler-Warman Youth 2:30 pm in Warman
- Mar 11 Executive meeting 5:30 pm; Council meeting 7:00 pm
- Mar 11 OMC Men's Group meeting 7:30 pm
- Mar 15 Intergenerational Pizza Lunch @ noon
- Mar 15 Community Connections Committee meeting @ noon
- Mar 16 Kids Bible 7:00 pm?
- Mar 20 Deacons Committee meeting 1:45 pm
- Mar 22 OMC Mentorship Event
- Mar 23-27 Blanket making, starting at 9:00am each day
- Mar 25 OMC Men's Group meeting 7:30 pm
- Mar 28 Osler-Warman Youth night @ OMC 6:30-8:30 pm

\*Check out OMC's MCC 100 write-up with photos on the Canadian Mennonite web-site - "Sharing Stories that spell MCC".

### \*Save the Dates:

- MCC Blanket making March 23-27, starting at 9:00 am each day.
- Maundy Thursday Potluck and Communion, April 9, 6:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Service, April 10, 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Brunch, April 12, 11:00 a.m.
- Seniors' Appreciation Pizza Supper, Sun. April 26, 5:00 p.m. at Bethany Place Basement Family Room. Come to 110 LaRonge Rd door for directions. Stories with Wilf and Singing with Patty. Bring Table Games if interested. Ping pong available.

\*Check out OMC's MCC 100 write-up with photos on the Canadian Mennonite web-site - "Sharing Stories that spell MCC".

### LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MARCH

#### **March 1 – LENT 1 / Abundance of grace**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

*Romans 5:12-19 (17)*

Matthew 4:1-11

#### **March 8 – LENT 2 / I life up my eyes**

Genesis 12:1-4a

*Psalm 121 (1)*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

#### **March 15 – LENT 3 / Living water**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

*John 4:5-42 (10)*

#### **March 22 – LENT 4 / Wake up, sleeper**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

*Ephesians 5:8-14 (14)*

John 9:1-41

#### **March 29 – LENT 5 / The Spirit is life and peace**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

*Romans 8:6-11 (6) ; John 11:1-45*

## **FAST THIS LENT?**

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from word and be silent so you can listen.

## **CAPSULE SERMONS**

People who pray for miracles, usually don't get miracles, but people who pray for courage, for strength to bear the unbearable, for grace to remember what they have left instead of what they have lost very often have their prayers answered.

*- Harold Kushner, When Bad Things Happen*

### **✿ Pieces of Peace ✿**

**The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration  
but its donation.** *Author unknown*

#### **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.

## **Youth Opinions of Nora – shared at our AGM:**

*Do you want Nora Pederberg to continue as Pastor of Faith +  
Community at Osler Mennonite?*

- I would love Nora to continue being the pastor of faith and community
- Yes
- One thousand times yes
- Yes

*What do you like about Nora, as your pastor?*

- I like the way she makes the bible and God entertaining for us while still teaching us about it
- She brings lots of fun and joy to youth. I love that the theme this year is Harry Potter and that we are learning how it relates to bible stories
- Nora is obviously an awesome person, but she also understands us, and makes us see the Bible in so many different ways. Nora is so funny, and always super nice.
- She's fun. Lets us watch Harry Potter.

*What do you like about youth?*

- What I like about youth is the very interesting discussions we have about God
- We get to share about our weeks which helps build relationships with each other
- I always look forward to Sundays, not only because I have such amazing friends, but because in youth I feel at home, and its fun to learn.
- I just hang out with my friends and have fun talking about random stuff that does not relate to anything.

**From Terri Lynn Friesen:**

I want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve you during my role as Pastor of Faith & Community. I'm especially grateful as I recall Patty's patient mentorship and enthusiastic encouragement, Loretta's help, care, and companionship in the office, and to the council executives that have offered leadership during my term.

The season of discernment leading up to this decision has given me time to reflect on the gifts and deep goodnesses that were part of my time at OMC. I felt I was given the room and trust to experiment with activities and liturgies, and I was given space and time to practice preaching. I had the opportunity to take CPE and incorporate those experiences into my pastoral care. I had the freedom to connect with youth in a variety of ways without the pressure to produce a program that looked a certain way. I am so grateful for the ways you have allowed me to find my strengths and press into my weaknesses, and find my voice and my identity as a pastoral person.

This wasn't an easy decision - mostly because returning to work at Osler Mennonite - or not - both are good, life-giving choices (that each come with their own challenges). I am appreciative of the chance to mark the end of my pastoral role at OMC during Jan 26th's worship service, but also want folks to know that my door remains open, and I still hold this community dear, while giving space for new leadership to flourish.

Thank you for the hymnal (I am quite delighted to have one of my very own!) and your written and spoken blessings as Thomas and I continue the work of welcoming young adults into community at the Vine & Table, and of raising Lilianna. The prayers and laying of hands as I began ministry, was licensed for special ministry, and released for my present vocation are all moments that I will cherish.

**A Blessing for Osler Mennonite Church: *(from Terri Lynn)***

May God be present to you  
As you do the work of this community: the tangible and seen, and the holy hidden tasks  
The washing coffee cups, and shoveling sidewalks,  
Of preparing for Sunday school and rising early for centering prayer  
The caring for kids and the conversations with youth  
The crunching of numbers and folding of bulletins  
The welcoming of neighbours and strangers.

May you know the Spirit's guidance  
As you speak, as you lead, as you listen  
Convicting, comforting, stirring, emboldening.

May you grow into Jesus' likeness  
As you seek out justice  
As you give and receive forgiveness  
As you show grace and mercy to a world where it is foreign.

May you know Creator's goodness and faithfulness  
As you celebrate moments of joy, as you share in grief and sorrow  
As you continue longstanding traditions that have shaped this community,  
and try new ways of sharing God's love in the world.

May you see and know and be deeply rooted  
In the presence of God in our midst.  
Welcoming, Reconciling, Loving  
In the way of Jesus,

Amen.