

OMC Calendar

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. In sanctuary & on Facebook.				1 Youth Group Bible zoom 7pm	2	3
4 Dave Feick preaching. Outdoor bag lunch 11 am. Communion 5 pm via Zoom.	5 .Kids Bible School zoom 7:00 pm	6 The Artists Way Zoom 2 pm. Zoom Book Club 6:30.	7 Adult Bible Study Zoom /in- person 1:00 pm	8 Youth Group Bible zoom 7 pm	9	10
11 Patty Friesen preaching.	12 Kids Bible School Zoom 7pm	13 The Artists Way zoom 2 pm.	14 Adult Bible Study Zoom /in- person 1:00 pm	15 Youth Group Bible zoom 7 pm	16	17
18 Heather Ewen -Peters preaching.	19 Kids Bible School zoom 7pm	20 The Artists Way 2 pm Zoom	21 Adult Bible Study Zoom /in- person 1:00 pm	22 Youth Group Bible zoom 7pm	23	24
25 Julie Bergen preaching.	26 Kids Bible School zoom 7pm	27 The Artists Way 2 pm Zoom	28 Adult Bible Study Zoom /in- person 1:00 pm	29 Youth Group Bible zoom 7 pm	30	31

Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found in the bulletin on the church website. www.oslermannonitechurch.org

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

The Osler Mennonite Church

OCTOBER 2020 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church
oslermcoffice@sasktel.net
<http://www.omchurch.org>
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212 2nd Ave. P.O. Box 129
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A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation



UPCOMING SERVICES

- Oct 4** Dave Feick preaching
- Oct 4** Outdoor bag lunch on the church yard 11:00 am
- Oct 4** Zoom Communion 5:00 pm
- Oct 11** Thanksgiving Sunday: Patty Friesen preaching
- Oct 18** Heather Ewen-Peters (MCC SK) preaching
- Oct 25** Julie Bergen preaching

“Be filled with the Spirit, meditating on psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music to God in your hearts.

Always give thanks to Abba God for everything,
 in the name of Jesus our Messiah.”

Ephesians 5: 18b-20 *(Inclusive Bible)*

Pastor Patty's Ponderings: This Thanksgiving month I am thankful for:

1. The way we've hung together as a congregation these past seven months; finding ways to connect on Zoom and Facebook and in outdoor visits at homes and in the church parking lot after worship.
2. We have more people leading and attending worship this fall in person and on Facebook.
3. Our committees working their tails off to find ways for youth and children, Mosaic to continue Sunday school on Zoom. We are hoping to do safe distance MCC Blanket making in the gym this fall and trying monthly Zoom communion, art group, Bible study and other small group connections. Obviously those without technology remain on the fringe but we are trying to get folks to phone in on Zoom for these events.
4. We will have a Facebook live-stream concert with Keith Boldt and Merel Kriegsmann at the end of the month as a fall morale booster.
5. So far we have been Covid-free! Thanks to everyone who is staying home and those wearing masks and sanitizing like crazy at church.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, botanist and indigenous author of the best-selling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, hopes we use the pandemic to learn from nature. Take moss, the subject of her first book, *Gathering Moss*. It has endured through 350 million years, surviving every catastrophe and change in the climate. From moss we can learn the lesson "of being small, of giving more than you take, of working tother with natural law, sticking together." (Christian Century, p.8, June 17/20)

Patty's Picks: Stories of Black/Indigenous Struggle: recommendations as we try to find a way to understand. It has been a long time since I read a book straight through on a day off but I did so with *Native by Kaitlin Curtice*. It was recommended as a "must read" from a congregant who got to it before Ruth could process it for the church library. Here are some quotes that I want to keep around. "Land acknowledgment is about listening, it is about remembering,

and it is about rejecting invisibility. It's about acknowledging the voice of creation, a voice that will continue to speak whether we listen or not."

"I believe that all children are liberators, and we must remember what power they hold as our future. They marvel at the stories of prophets. They long to make things right. They see the face of God... While we are here, we make room for the next generation to spring up from the soil and create a new landscape. So our Native children lead us. Our children of colour lead us. Our daughters lead us. Our queer and gender non binary children lead us. Our disabled children lead us."

Phil Vischer - creator of Veggie Tales and the voice of Bob the Tomato posted a YouTube video called "Race in America" that attempts to reach white Christians, hoping to change their attitudes about racial injustice. The 17 minute tutorial makes the concept of systemic racism accessible for all ages.

Howard Thurman DVD by Martin Doblemeier - church library - theologian central to civil rights movement with non-violent resistance to segregation

Just Mercy DVD - a black Harvard lawyer is shocked by the legal misrepresentation of blacks on death row in Alabama in the 1990's.

Becoming Michelle Obama - Netflix - an inside look into this amazing woman's writing, life and career as First Lady for eight years.

Newton's Law DVD - fun Australian female lawyer series.

How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi in church library. Still reading:)

Me and White Supremacy - Layla F. Saad in church library - I hope we can do this 28 day study on white supremacy together as a Zoom group this winter.

Strength to Love - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s collection of sermons - public library.

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer - a deep look into the natural world and indigenous understandings.

A Harvest Prayer: *submitted by Nora Pederberg*

“Small Beginnings” by John Birch *faithandworship.com*

"Things great have small beginnings. Every downpour is just a raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there can be no harvest." [William Wilberforce]

In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you fashioned a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe you positioned the earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a place of beauty.

Creator God, Thank you

In the beginning there was just potential; the seed within the packet, soil's nutrients, sunshine's warmth, rain clouds gathering. And within the tiny seed all that is our daily bread encoded, primed and ready should it be planted and allowed to grow.

Creator God, Thank you

Genesis 2:8-9 Now YHWH God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there God put the *Adam* he had formed. And YHWH made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In the beginning there was humankind, placed within your garden, made steward, gardener and caretaker of this place of beauty, given responsibilities and the capacity to enjoy. And yet among the seeds we have sown have been weeds and crops of our own choosing, which have not shown fruit or have spread and choked the earth.

Creator God, Forgive us

Myung Lee reminds us of an old Korean proverb. "If you plant a bean, then you will harvest only beans, not grapes or strawberries." God gave us new life through Jesus Christ and planted special seeds of forgiveness and love in our hearts. What fruit will we bear in our daily lives?"

A moment of quiet, time to listen, time to be still with God – what does he say to you this harvest time?

(silence)

God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the centre feed us, equip us and having provided for us look to a different harvest a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others.

**God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us
that our lives might bring glory to you. Amen.**

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR OCTOBER

Oct 4, 2020

Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 4:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Oct 11, 2020

Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Oct 18, 2020

Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Oct 25, 2020

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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.

OMC CALENDAR

Oct 4 Outdoor Bag Lunch 11:00 am
Zoom Communion 5:00 pm
Every Thurs Youth weekly Group / Bible School zoom, 7:00 pm
Every Mon Kids Bible School via Zoom on Monday's at 7:00 pm. If you don't have the link, please contact Nora.
Every Tues The Artists Way zoom **2:00 pm**
Every Wed Adult Bible Study Zoom/In-Person Hybrid, 1:00 pm. Study passages for this week: Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-10

OMC Announcements & Opportunities

*Osler Mennonite Church Human Resources Committee is **accepting applicants for the position of Church Office Administrator, effective January 2, 2021.** We will be advertising this position for a period of 3 consecutive weeks in our bulletin and newsletter, in hope of receiving a successful applicant within our congregation. If this does not materialize we will open the position to the general public. A copy of job description is available, and can be sent to you upon request. Please contact any one of the committee for more information if you are interested.

Ben Buhler bbuhler@hotmail.com 306-239-4706

Doug McKinnell dmckinnell@sasktel.net 306-227-0269

Karl Martens karlwmartens@gmail.com 306-716-7855

Matthew Braun oslerboy@yahoo.ca 306-239-0033

**Refugee sponsorship needs...*

Osler and Wildwood Mennonite churches are committed to providing Lina Alnouri and her family with a warm and welcoming home. The Refugee Committee is looking for furnishings and housewares for this family of six. **Items still urgently needed are listed on the Osler Mennonite Church web site at**

<http://www.oslermennonitechurch.org>. Then click on "Community Announcements". Contact Sandra Grismer (306-380-4576; sgrismer1@sasktel.net) if you can donate, pledge to provide, or have questions on these or other items the family may require. Thank you.

*Forever-In-Motion at the Osler Community Hall. Classes will start on October 20 to December 18, 10 to 11 a.m. with the doors opening at 9:45.

***Save the Dates:**

--Sat. Nov. 7, 7:00 OMC Facebook Live Concert with Keith Boldt and Merel Kriegsman. It is a Fundraiser for the Lina Alnouri Fund.

--November MCC Blanket-making: Dates to follow.

POEMS

Autumn Lament

*Orange Shirt Day is celebrated across Canada on September 30
To remember children who died while attending residential schools
And to honour survivors like Phyllis Webstad who wore an orange
Shirt on her first day at an Indian Residential School.
The shirt was forcibly removed.*

On the last day of September everyone wore orange, kids in their classrooms, tellers at my bank, the bus driver, news anchor.

Leaves fell, yellow and red. From weeds beside the trail a common sparrow flew up and settled on the branch of a birch, grey, bedraggled cold.

Every thistle is part of the planet and every moth. Every pinion and shadow. Even the tiny egg of the cabbage butterfly and the scruffy coyote who howls a lamentation.

Today's paper carried the names of children in my province who weren't permitted to grow old, who were buried far from their mothers, grandmothers, in unmarked graves.

Column after column marching down the front page and over to the next. To this enmity, though I wear orange, I will not be reconciled.

Sarah Klassen is a Mennonite poet living in Winnipeg (Christian Century, Sept. 23/20, p.10)

THE HARDEST BLESSING

If we cannot lay aside the wound,
then let us say it will not always bind us.
Let us say the damage will not eternally
determine our path.
Let us say the line of our life will not always travel
along the places we are torn.
Let us say that forgiveness can take some practice,
can take some patience, can take a long and struggling time.
Let us say that to offer the hardest blessing,
we will need the deepest grace;
that to forgive the sharpest pain, we will need the fiercest love;
that to release the ancient ache,
we will need new strength for every day.
Let us say the wound will not be our final home—
that through it runs a road,
a way we would not have chosen but on which
we will finally see forgiveness,
so long practiced, coming toward us,
shining with the joy so well deserved.

—Jan Richardson

from The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

**Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to
faultfinding.**

HUMOUR

Here is Joanna Harader's COVID version of I come to the garden
alone...

I come to the garden alone
And vow to keep social distance.
So I hope and pray that on this day
All will heed my insistence:
Please don't walk with me,
And don't talk to me,
And put that mask on your face.
For the germs you'd share
If I breathed your air,
Might just be Corona laced.

see more on <https://revgalblogpals.org/2020/09/10/wits-end-day-covid-hymns/>

Combating Covid Claustrophobia:

When I was a child I thought nap time was a punishment....
Now, it's like a mini vacation!

Teacher: "Clyde, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as
your brother's. Did you copy his?"

Clyde: "No sir. It's the same dog."