

## OMC Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Zoom Book Club 7pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Youth Bonding Event 7pm outside	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Alex Tiessen preaching. Deacons mtg 4:30 pm. Communion 5 pm via Zoom.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Exec 6 pm. Council 7pm. all via Zoom	<b>10</b> Youth Catch-Up with Nora on Zoom	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Patty Friesen preaching. New Member Sunday. Outdoor Bag Lunch at noon.	<b>14</b> Kids Catch-Up with Nora on Zoom 7pm	<b>15</b> The Artists Way 7pm Zoom	<b>16</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Nora Pederberg preaching.	<b>21</b> Kids weekly Zoom Bible School begins 7pm	<b>22</b> The Artists Way 7pm Zoom	<b>23</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom	<b>24</b> Youth weekly Zoom Bible School begins 7pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Patty Friesen preaching.	<b>28</b> Kids weekly Zoom Bible School 7pm	<b>29</b> The Artists Way 7pm Zoom	<b>30</b> Adult Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm via Zoom.			<u>Each Sunday</u> <b>Worship: 10:00 am.</b> In sanctuary & on Facebook.

**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 SEPTEMBER 2020 Newsletter

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

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



### UPCOMING SERVICES

**Sept 6** Alex Tiessen preaching  
**Sept 13** Patty Friesen “The Necessity of Forgiveness”  
Fall Kick-off and New Member Sunday  
**Outdoor Bag Lunch Fellowship Meal following worship.**  
**Sept 20** Nora Pederberg preaching  
**Sept 27** Patty Friesen 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.” Philipians 4:6-7*

**Pastor Patty's Ponderings:** This Still Room by John Greenleaf Whittier, a Quaker poet and 19th century abolitionist was sung by Rosthern Junior College Alumni Choir (Alex, Michelle, Dayna, Christy) at Cakes and Choirs in April. The prayer poem goes

And so I find it well to come for deeper rest to this still room,  
for here the habit of the soul, feels less the outer world's control.  
For strength of mutual purpose pleads more earnestly our common  
needs

And from the silence multiplied by these still forms on either side.  
The world that time and sense have known - falls off and leaves us  
God alone.

We are entering our Fall Kick-Off season in September and our sixth month into the pandemic. I found a restful summer with some vacation time with my mom has given me new energy and vision to re-start Weds 1:00 Lectionary Bible Study Zooms, first Sundays of the month 5:00 Zoom Communion, new member gatherings and other safe ways of maintaining and possibly even building and re-building our community. Our committees are working hard to be relevant and engaged and creative and I'm proud of our careful efforts. We have folks ready to re=  
-engage in leading worship and preaching. May God bless us and guide us through this fall season - that the habits of our souls feel less the outer world's control.

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**Worship Changes in History:** The coronavirus pandemic is prodding religious communities to think creatively about how to minister to the faithful in spite of social distancing. Some communities are even offering baptism via Zoom. Samuel L. Boyd, a biblical scholar and historian, says there's plenty of precedent for this kind of ritual adaptation. The destruction of the Jewish temples in Jerusalem, especially the destruction of the second one in AD 70, led to profound and permanent changes in the way the Jewish community worshiped, from being a temple-based religion to being a text-based one. Without the temple, prayer itself came to be viewed as sacrifice. (Christian Century, Apr.22/20)

**Nora's Notes:** "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." – Maya Angelou

These last few months have been filled with learning, unlearning, and relearning what it means to love people well in the context we find ourselves in. I have felt showered in lessons and love as our congregation continues to pour forth a relentless grace for all the different ways we are finding to connect and care for one another outside our normal rhythms. I find an excitement stirring in me as we begin fall programs, applying the lessons we have learnt in the past few months and cherishing all of the gifts people contribute to this community. Youth and Kids Sunday school will look a little different this year going on zoom, but if a summer of zoom catch-ups has taught me anything it is that social distancing has no power to take away the magic and meaning that our OMC crew brings to our meet-ups.

As the school year begins, I am taking a new step in my Masters of Divinity degree. I am required to do a Supervised Ministry Placement, and CMU has approved OMC as my placement! This means that I am working with an outside supervisor (Anita Retzlaff) who will reflect with me and assign me readings as I continue to grow into what it means to be a pastor. With councils approval I am also tapping a few members of the congregation to meet with me a few times between now and June to give me feedback on the aspects of ministry that I am hoping to grow in, such as pastoral care and Sunday worship. Thank you all again for taking me in as you pastor and allowing me to learn and grow in this space.

### **Youth Schedule**

- **Thursday September 3rd 7:00pm-8:30pm - \*IN PERSON\* Youth Bonding Event.** We are meeting on the grassy clearing on the EAST side of the Osler Graveyard located beside the church for fun, sharing, and prayer.
- **Thursday September 10th 7:00pm - Back to School Youth Catch-up with Nora on zoom**
- **Thursday September 24th 7:00pm - Youth weekly Group / Bible School BEGINS :)**

Our youth 'Sunday' school will continue taking place every Thursday at 7:00pm over zoom following this date.

## Kids “Sunday” School Schedule on Mondays:

**Monday September 14th 7:00pm with Nora - Back to School Kids Catch-up**

**Monday September 21st 7:00pm - Kids Weekly Bible School BEGINS! :)**

Our kids ‘Sunday’ school will continue taking place every Monday at 7:00pm over zoom following this date.

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

Flat Out Delicious by Jen Sharp highlights Floating Gardens (Rachel and Chris), Pineview Farms (Melanie and Kevin) and Living Soils (Jan and Steve) as awesome local food producers in Osler and other delightful foodie destinations in SK. In the church library.

American Harvest by Marie Mockett is a biography of an Asian American following the harvest with East Coast Mennonites in the American Mid-west. Interesting and disturbing. In the church library.

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich is a powerful mystical and moving quest for love and belonging in a North Dakota Indigenous community. In the public library.

Native by Kaitlin Curtice is a "must-read" spiritual biography says one of our congregants. In the church library.

A Secret Love on Netflix is a touching tale of Saskatchewan women who move to the US in the 1940s for baseball and committed relationship.

Arctic DVD starring Mads Nikkelson was a survival thriller if we ever think we have it tough.

Harriett DVD is the powerful story of Harriett Tubman, the Moses of the Underground Railroad freeing slaves in the South.

Mystery Road DVD is an Australian mystery series starring an Indigenous detective and his white partner.

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR SEPTEMBER

### **Sept 6, 2020**

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

### **Sept 20, 2020**

Jonah 3:10; Jonah 4:1-11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

### **Sept 13, 2020**

Genesis 50: 15-21

Psalms 103: (1-7), 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

### **Sept 27, 2020**

Ezekiel 18: 1-4; 25-32

Psalms 25: 1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

### **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, 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.

### **“Still green to the eye”**

August and already the birch’s rustling  
is autumnal, transposed to a lower key.  
All my life I’ve wanted to be the high soprano,  
summer’s voice warbling in the tree’s crown,  
not the mezzo’s darker singing in the air just below.  
Some things can’t be helped. That snow comes early.  
That difficulties arrive in any weather, time passes.  
Bach, knowing this, tuned his keyboard to make  
pleasure from leaning into dissonance, then leaning away,  
the shape of sorrow relived, sorrow relieved.

-Kathleen A. Wakefield, Christian Century, August 12, 2020

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

**“Promise me you’ll always remember: You’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” –A.A. Milne**

**OMC CALENDAR**

- Sept 6 Deacons zoom meeting 4:30 pm  
Sept 6 Communion zoom 5:00 pm  
Sept 8 Community Connections Committee mtg 7:00 pm on Zoom  
Sept 9 Executive zoom meeting 6:00 pm  
Sept 9 Church Council zoom meeting 7:00 pm  
Sept 10 7:00pm - Back to School Youth Catch-up with Nora on zoom  
Sept 13 Fall Kick-off: New Member sharing. **Outdoor Bag lunch following worship. Bring your own lawn chair, lunch and drinks.**  
Sept 14 Back to School Kids Catch-up zoom with Nora 7:00 pm  
Sept 15 The Artists Way zoom 7:00 pm  
Sept 16 Adult Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm starting with a Bible Quiz on Biblical Eats - link coming.  
Sept 21 7:00 pm - Kids Weekly Bible School zoom begins  
Sept 24 7:00pm - Youth weekly Group / Bible School begins

**OMC Announcements & Opportunities**

**\*New Members: With joy we receive Lois Siemens and Matthew Stefaniuk** as membership transfers from Superb Mennonite Church on **Sunday, September 13** our “Fall Kick-Off”. We have been blessed by Matthew's gifts for a long time and hope to include Lois' gifts which may be other than Sundays as she works as Spiritual Care Coordinator at Bethany Manor.

**Sept 13: Fall Kick-Off: Outdoor Bag Lunch following worship. Please bring own lawn chair and own bag lunches/drinks for churchyard.** Gym and other SS rooms for safe distance if raining.

\*Puzzle/Games/DVD Trading Library in Room 007. Need something new for entertainment this Covid Winter ? Bring a puzzle, take a puzzle. Put your name on it if you want it back.

**Sing to the tune of “Favourite Things” from Sound of Music**  
parody by Joanna Harader (sometime in 2017)

Bibles and hymnals and candlestick holders,  
pulpit and mic and a stole for my shoulders,  
strong voice to pray and to preach and to sing:  
These are a few of my pastoral things.

Computer and desk and a telephone handy,  
post-it notes, scratch paper, small stash of candy,  
wisdom to silence my phone when it pings:  
These are a few of my pastoral things.

When the world cries,  
when the church clings,  
when I’m feeling stressed,  
I simply remember my pastoral things  
and know that God’s in the mess.

Emails and phone calls and last minute meetings,  
late nights and lunch dates and after-church greetings,  
grocery store patrons who need counseling:  
These are a few of my pastoral things.

Mousetraps and fridge cleans and random things we mend,  
Visits and sermons and never a weekend.  
Laughter and crying and all the mood swings,  
These are a few of my pastoral things.

When the world cries,  
when the church clings,  
when I’m feeling stressed,  
I simply remember my pastoral things  
and know that God’s in the mess.

## CAPSULE SERMONS

Having God in your boat  
doesn't mean that you'll  
not face any storms.  
It means that no storm  
can sink your boat!  
Walk in faith and you  
will never walk alone.



## HUMOUR Pandemic Jokes

People keep asking, "Is Covid-19 really that serious?" When casinos and churches are both closed and heaven and hell agree on the same thing - it's probably pretty serious!

Notice from the Association of Psychiatrists: Dear citizens, during the quarantine it is considered normal to talk to your plants and pets. Kindly contact us only if they reply. Thank you.

2020: The year your garbage bin goes out more than you do!

I'm so bored I went outside and knocked on my own door, then came back in and said who is it?

The officer who pulled me over asked, "Is that alcohol I smell?"  
"No," I replied, "it's hand-sanitizer!"

It's been such a joy being home with my wife the past 9 weeks -  
We've caught up on all the things I've done wrong in the past 30 years!

To all the grandparents who are missing their grandchildren: When this is over you can have them for a month. Promise!

Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent Covid-19 but to prevent over-eating!