

The Osler Mennonite Church

November 2022 Newsletter

Faith
»— OVER —»
FEAR!

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.

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

Osler Mennonite Church
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Volume XV Eighth Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings and Pandering

November reminds me to remember. With Remembrance Day November 11 and our own Memorial Service with candle lighting November 20, we remember our loved ones who have died this year. Within our congregation we remember our grandparents and parents, adult children and members Alan Guenther, Helen Peters, Anne Friesen and Denita Guenther with saying their names and lighting candles. If you'd like deacons to light a candle in memory of your loved one – please let us know. If you are interested in a grief group meeting for a few weeks to study Andrew Wolfelt's *Mourning from the Inside, Loving from the Outside*, please let us know.

This month I want to highlight three heroes of faith who died this year – Ron Sider, leader of Evangelicals for Social Action, Frederick Buechner, author and theologian and Desmond Tutu, archbishop and apartheid activist. All three shaped how I saw the world and Christian response to it. With the Queen's death as well, it reminds me that all our lives are short even when they are long and rich and full. Death reminds me how to live and makes me want to live it to the fullest with intention and great faith.

November also reminds me to be thankful since we also celebrate American Thanksgiving in our home. I'm thankful for our new Pastor of Faith and Community Luke Bushman. It was a nine-month long process of advertising and Zooming as a search committee with Nutana Park and praying to our Great Match-Maker. I was worried that either God wasn't calling anyone to ministry anymore or they weren't listening! In the end we had three excellent candidates. Luke came through the backdoor as a Mennonite Brethren raised in Hepburn, seeking inclusive congregations and ministry with children and youth. He'll preach once a month for us and help us with worship leading/children's time and sound and Facebook plus youth activities, Sunday School, mentorship and children's ministry at Nutana Park. We're expecting nothing short of the Messiah so please pray for Luke as he finds his way with us.

I'm also thankful to be able to attend Portland Mennonite Church's 100th anniversary Nov. 11-13 where I was a youth minister for four glorious years 1990-1994.

Patty's Picks

I've recently returned from CMU and CommonWord Bookstore with Ruth's permission for the following treats for us to read this winter. Thank you for all who give to the library budget!

Faithful in Small Things: How to serve the needy when you're one of them by *Kevin Wiebe*, foreword by *Ron Sider*.

On Holy Ground: Stories By and About Women in Ministry in the Mennonite Brethren Church edited by *Dora Dueck*. I've copied the 3 pages on LGBTQ stories from the internet left out by the publisher!

Walking Together: Intercultural Stories of Love and Acceptance by *Edith and Neill von Gunten*

The Mindful Grandparent by *Marilyn McEntyre and Shirley Showalter*

Resistance: Confronting Violence, Power and Abuse within Peace Churches edited by *Cameron Altaras and Carol Penner*

Joel, Obadiah, Micah Believers Bible Commentary by *Dan Epp-Tiessen*

The Anabaptist Bible Project for the 500th Anniversary 2025

Google Anabaptism at 500 to learn more. Interested in being a part of a 4-week Bible study in January/February? Please let Pastor Patty know.

Central to the Anabaptist movement of the 16th century was the conviction that the Bible was intended to be read and interpreted by ordinary people in the common language of the day. The movement flourished as young men and women from all walks of life began to read Scripture together and hold themselves accountable to its message, especially the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. In the centuries that followed, Scripture continued to sustain Anabaptist congregations, convicting, encouraging, and transforming believers in settings all around the world just as it did in the 16th century.

In 2025, the global Anabaptist church will commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of Anabaptist beginnings. This occasion offers a unique opportunity to renew the movement in the 21st century by

inviting readers—believers and unbelievers, young people and older people, earnest seekers and the indifferent—to engage Scripture anew through the distinctive lens of the Anabaptist tradition.

The Anabaptist Bible is the first attempt to create a study Bible from an Anabaptist perspective. Like *The Lutheran Study Bible* and *The Catholic Study Bible*, it will include commentary and insights from leading biblical scholars. But the Anabaptist Bible will also reflect an approach distinctive to the Anabaptist tradition by including insights, comments, and questions in the form of marginal notes generated by five hundred Bible study groups of lay Anabaptist Christians.

In the coming year, Anabaptist believers from many different cultural contexts, backgrounds, ethnicities, and ages will gather around specific passages of Scripture. Attentive to the Holy Spirit, they will share insights, wisdom, and questions as they engage these texts. The conversations generated by these study groups—reproduced in the form of marginal notes in the Anabaptist Bible—will both reflect the careful work of the “hermeneutical community” and invite readers to continue that work for generations to come.

You and your faith community can participate in creating the Anabaptist Bible, joining hundreds of other Anabaptist Bible study groups who will collectively read and interpret every passage of Scripture - from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21.

Take your part in a radical tradition of ordinary people reading Scripture together, trusting that the Holy Spirit will inspire, comfort, unsettle, and transform God’s people today, just as it has in the past.

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.” ~
Martin Luther King Jr

Pastor Luke's Book Recommendations

Following Jesus by *Henry Nouwen*

This book was beautifully written, and felt like talking to a very gentle friend about how to better follow Jesus. Nouwen focuses on the invitational loving nature of Jesus. At the time I read it- a time coming out of Bible college and heated theological debates, while working in a place where I felt alone and confused sometimes, it was refreshing to be reminded of Jesus' character. To be reminded that Jesus wasn't the one heaping pressure and anxiety and expectations on me- Jesus was, as always, just inviting me to come and see.

Cost of Discipleship by *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

I have always struggled with how to understand works vs faith. While I always heard growing up that my salvation wasn't about what I did, it seemed Christianity had so many expectations attached to it. Bonhoeffer's explanation of Cheap Grace vs Costly Grace, helped me to realize that as we discover more and more the beauty of God's grace, we are simply compelled to live differently. Compelled not ordered.

Love Wins by *Rob Bell*

Obviously, a controversial book in some circles, but this book stuck with me because it felt like Bell vocalized the questions that everyone asks about Christianity. I still have a lot of questions about the concept of hell, and no matter what I conclude about it, this book helped me ask the questions I have always had so I can more thoroughly think through the concept of eternity.

The Shack by *William P Young*

I cried a lot reading this book. It has stuck with me over the years for two reasons. First, the way it addressed the horrible things that happen in the world, and God's love and compassion in the midst of those things. Second it expanded my very narrow view of what the trinity might look

and be like. I had always been told that God had no gender, but had never thought of God as feminine until reading this book.

These are a few of the books that have really stuck with me. In the interview I mainly focused on how reading scripture and theological is a spiritual practice I do. Just want to clarify that isn't to say these are the only spiritual practices I see value in or do, they are just the ones that come most naturally and that I enjoy most. Prayer, meditation, and solitude for example are all great practices that I try to do, they just aren't as natural for me.

MCC

Peace Sunday falls on Nov. 6, 2022. This year, MCC's Peace Sunday materials center on the theme "Peace is more than a wish." In our work at MCC, we try to incorporate peace into all our projects, from land rights in Lao People's Democratic Republic to work with incarcerated men in Canada to community construction projects in Bolivia.

Peace Sunday, a day dedicated to reflecting on and bettering our peacemaking in the world. In all of MCC's work, we try to incorporate peace holistically. We've collected reflections from MCC workers around the world for this year's Peace Sunday resource.

Hear stories from global peacemakers by going to the website.

<https://mccottawaoffice.wordpress.com/2022/09/26/peace-is-more-than-a-wish-peace-sunday-2022/>

MC Canada invites congregations to participate in study groups for Anabaptist Bible In preparation for the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025, MennoMedia, MC Canada and MC USA's publishing ministry, is looking for five hundred study groups from various Anabaptist communities across North America, to participate in creating the first-ever Anabaptist Bible. Read more:

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/press-release/14337-mennomedia-seeking-500-study-groups-for-anabaptist-at-500-bible-project>

CMU Canadian Mennonite University

Experience CMU, at our place – Our campus visit day takes place on November 4 from 1:00–3:00 PM (CDT). This includes a tour of the CMU campus, meetings with professors and current students, a financial aid presentation, opportunities for your questions and a treat from folio café! Visit cmu.ca/campusvisit.

Are you looking to study music? If you are considering a Bachelor of Music, Music Therapy, or a Bachelor of Arts with a music major or minor, join us for CMU's Music Campus Visit on November 4, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (CDT). Participants will meet with professors, discover what classes are like, and go on a campus tour. Visit cmu.ca/campusvisit.

Christmas with CMU is taking place on Saturday, November 26 at 7:00 PM (CST) at Bethel Mennonite Church (465 Stafford St., Winnipeg). This year's Christmas program will be in-person and livestreamed featuring Christmas favourites performed by a variety of CMU's music ensembles. Space is limited; free tickets are required (available November 1) by visiting cmu.ca/christmas. ** **

Greetings from your SK Regional Reps of Canadian Foodgrains Bank

It is almost October and we are nearing the Thanksgiving Season, a time when we get to celebrate with food and remember those who do not have enough food to eat. This year the Foodgrains Bank has set up a micro website entitled Until all are Fed. *Check their Website.*

While World Food day is on **Sunday, October the 16th**, the worship resource packet can be used at any time. If you have any trouble downloading the resources let us know.

We are also having an online National Prayer Meeting on Sunday October the 16th from 5:30-6:30 CST. Please let your congregation know.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank www.foodgrainsbank.ca

Mennonite Disaster Service

Hello Church,

“People are really thankful. They can’t imagine we are doing it for free.” That’s what Nick Hamm of the MDS Ontario Unit said about the tree cutting service MDS is providing Nova Scotia following Hurricane Fiona.

“They can’t believe people do this sort of thing as volunteers,” he said. “We tell them we are doing it because that’s what our faith calls us to do, to help our neighbours.”

Helping neighbours when they have experienced a disaster is the reason MDS exists. Since the 1950s, people in Canada and the U.S. have felt God’s call to respond when people are in need. They still feel that call today, volunteering or donating to help us help people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed.

While that goal hasn't changed, what's different today is the idea of neighbour. At first, it meant helping people in a local community, state or province. But for MDS today it means anyone in Canada or the U.S. who has been impacted by a disaster—like people in Atlantic Canada.

That is where we have an urgent need right now for volunteers to help with clean-up. In Cape Breton, where we are working, many trees were blown down and many people have damaged roofs. We need experienced chain saw operators and roofers over the next few weeks to cut up fallen trees and tarp roofs for the winter. We also need lots of people to help assist with moving cut up trees and general clean-up.

For most of us who support MDS in Canada, Atlantic Canada is far away. But the people there are our neighbours, too. They need our help. In particular, we want to help those who, due to age, illness, disability or lack of resources, can’t do the work themselves.

If you can volunteer, we can assist with your travel costs.

Accommodations and food are also provided. Contact Clara Flores at cflores@mds.org or call her at 1-866-261-1274 to sign up! And if you can’t go, but want to support our work with a financial gift, you can make a donation at www.mds.org.

Hello Church,

Welcome to Connections, a quarterly set of announcements for you to share with your congregation.

Sincerely,

Ross Penner

Director of Canadian Operations

204-261-1274; rpenner@mds.org

SERVE

Volunteers needed in Atlantic Canada: MDS Canada is appealing for volunteers to assist with clean-up efforts in Cape Breton from Hurricane Fiona. Accommodations and meals will be provided; travel reimbursements are available. Volunteers are needed until mid-December. Contact Clara Flores at cflores@mds.org or call 866-261-1274.

U.S. Service Opportunities-

Early Response: Hurricane Ian brought significant damage to the residents of Florida. Contact Kelsey Friesen (kfriesen@mds.org or 866-261-1274) if you're interested in serving as a Leadership Volunteer for 4+ weeks, or Deanna Frey (dfrey@mds.org or 800-241-8111) if you're interested in serving as a Weekly Volunteer for 1-3 weeks.

There are Weekly Volunteer opportunities in Eastern KY; Jennings, LA; McAllen, TX; and Paradise, CA through the end of 2022. Contact Deanna Frey (dfrey@mds.org or 800-241-8111) with any questions or to schedule a week of service!

There are Leadership Volunteer openings in Eastern KY; Crisfield, MD; Jennings, LA; McAllen, TX; and Paradise, CA; and openings for RV Volunteers at the RV Project in Welsh, LA through the end of 2022. Contact Kelsey Friesen (kfriesen@mds.org or 866-261-1274) to learn more or to serve at these projects for 4 weeks or more!

Scheduling has begun for Winter projects (January through March) in Paradise, CA; McAllen, TX; Jennings, LA; Dawson Springs, KY; Eastern KY; and Crisfield, MD! Contact Deanna for Weekly Volunteer Options and Josh for Leadership and RV.

LEARN

MDS Annual Celebration 2023

Date/Time: Banquet- Friday, February 10 @ 6:00pm,

Storytelling and Reports- Saturday, February 11 @9:00am

Location: The Worship Center, 2384 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601

RSVP: online at mds.org/annual-celebration or call 1-800-241-8111

PRAY

Your church can remember disaster survivors and recovery efforts in a worship setting. Please feel free to pass along the worship resource below to your worship coordinator(s).

Your Words Calm the Storms

You, O Lord, are the one whom the waves obey. You speak the word, and the storms are calmed. We cry to you for help in our times of need. We turn to you and desire that your words calm the storms in our lives. Extend your saving grace to us so that we may be redeemed from trouble.

O Lord, we give thanks that you care about our lives and listen to us. May we always remember to praise you for your goodness and enduring love. Amen.

Additional Details: Join fellow MDS supporters in Lancaster this February to celebrate the last year of disaster recovery through “The Joy of Serving.” Friday night features a banquet, the Lancaster Mennonite Children’s Choir and a performance of Sermon on the Mount: The Musical by Piercing Word. On Saturday morning, come hear stories about the work MDS is doing from regions across the U.S. and Canada. All are welcome to attend and there is no registration fee. You can attend one or both days of festivities. Registration is not required but we ask that you register by January 31, 2023 to help prepare for meals

Mennonite Church Canada is HIRING!

MC Canada invites applications for Indigenous-Relations Coordinator, Communications Coordinator and Climate Action Coordinator. Job descriptions available at www.mennonitechurch.ca/get-involved#careers.

MC Canada invites applications for Indigenous-Relations Coordinator This .5 FTE position support the regional churches in building respectful and engaging relationships between congregations and Indigenous neighbours that lead to reconciliation through worship, learning and action. Full job description here: www.mennonitechurch.ca/get-involved#careers.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 6 *Memorial Sunday*

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 Psalm 98
Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

Nov 13

Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12
Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

Nov 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

Nov 27 *First Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Dec 4

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

OMC CALENDAR

- Nov 1 Pastor Luke's orientation
Nov 6 10:00 am Patty Friesen *Remembering Frederick Bechner*
11:00 am Deacon's mtg in Patty's office
Nov 8 7:00 pm Community Connections Zoom
Nov 13 10:00 am George Janzen
Nov 15 7:00 pm Custodians Film @ Osler Community Hall
Nov 20 10:00 am Patty Friesen Memorial Sunday
Nov 27 10:00 am Singing/Luke Bushman *First Advent*
Dec 4 10:00 am Patty Friesen *Second Advent*

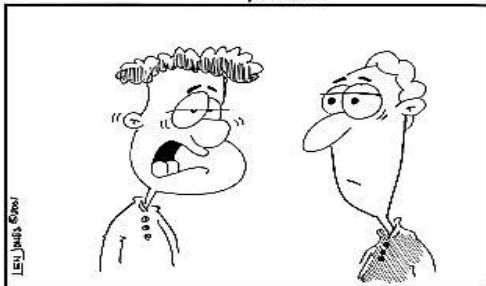
Youth Announcements

November Birthdates

- 2 – Marlene Campbell
5 – Kaytee Edwards- Buhler
10 – Benjamin Penner
10 – Michelle McKinnell
16 – Uma Boldt
18 – Sarah Guenther
18 – Steve Guenther
18 – Nettie Siemens (87)
20 – Michelle McKinnell
22 – Lois Siemens
24 – Ruth Buhler
28 – Jake Buhler
29 – Zoe Schellenberg



ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"I was just fine with the concept of sharing my faith until Pastor said we actually had to talk to people."