

**The Osler Mennonite Church
November 2021 Newsletter**

I WILL LIE DOWN AND
Sleep In Peace
FOR YOU ALONE, O LORD,
MAKE ME DWELL IN SAFETY.
-PSALM 4:8

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 Metis.***

Osler Mennonite Church
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Volume XIV Ninth Edition
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings

We are keeping the congregational review before us and one of the hopes was for more conversation on Creation Care. It's another smoky day in Osler so it feels close to home as we Deacons and Community Connections plan a Creation Care theme in November. Pastor Curtis Wiens from Aberdeen Mennonite Church will be speaking on Hope and Creation Care in church on November 14 and speaking with the youth Sunday School class. We are hoping to host some Zoom videos we can all participate in. Mark Bigland-Pritchard is planning a green energy audit for the church building. I'm glad we can work on these issues as a congregation. It is much more empowering than thinking I am alone in my efforts.

November is also the month for remembering those who have died as we light candles in their memory on *Toten Sontag*, November 21. Please let us know if there are particular family or friends you would like us to remember. Then amazingly we are in Advent with a *Dare to Imagine* worship series from Mennonite Church Manitoba: Dare to Imagine God's Goodness, Dare to Imagine God's Embrace, Dare to Imagine God's Song, Dare to Imagine God's Face, Dare to Imagine God's Robe, Dare to Imagine God's Dance. We are still hoping for in-person Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. There will be no service Sunday, December 26 to give our hard-working worship teams a break.

We will have New Year's Communion Sunday, January 2, 2022. And so begins another year of seeing God at work within us and among us and beyond us.

Patty's Picks

Kate Bowler's Podcasts *Everything Happens* was a recommendation that has been charging my battery this month.

A Good Day to Die DVD is a family interviewed documentary on Chief Dan George whom Harry Lafond quoted here on September 19.

New to the Church Library

- No Cure for Being Human (and other truths I need to hear) *by Kate Bowler*
- First Nations Version of the New Testament
- This Tender Land *by William Krueger* (mystery novel about the church and residential schools)
- The Monastic Heart *by Joan Chittister* (50 simple practices for a contemplative and fulfilling life)
- Menno-Nightcaps *by S.L. Klassen* (cocktails inspired by that odd ethno-religious group you keep mistaking for the Amish, Quakers or Mormons)
- Exiled among Nations: German and Mennonite Mythologies in a Transnational Age *by John Eicher*
- God's Country: Faith, Hope and the Future of the Rural Church *by Brad Roth*

While shopping at CommonWord - the bookstore at Canadian Mennonite University, Arlen Friesen-Epp approached me and ironically gave me the following children's book to buy for the church library: *Troublemakers and Inconvenient Saints*, saying slyly, "This is a good one for Osler." These stories of peacemakers will be great for our Sunday school teachers. Also check out the following new library books that will help us through the winter.

European Mennonites and the Holocaust

Making Waves: 50 Stories of Peacemakers
Fire by Night: Rereading Old Testament Texts of Difficulty
A Rhythm of Prayer Edited by Sarah Bessey with prayers by modern Christian women, shakers and movers

Nora's Notes

I realized in my conversations lately I am constantly qualifying the hope that I express for the future. "If I get to travel next year" "If we are still seeing family then" "I'm looking forward to *[fill in the blank]* but who knows really." I am sure that some level of holding things lightly and not always having a plan is healthy, turning my impulse to control things to a more easy going mindset. However, I'm concerned over my hesitancy to hope, my tentativeness around dreaming up plans and imagining joy filled days to come. It is like my spirit has been bruised a little too much through the disappointments of rescheduling and cancelations and now I'm protecting myself by not fully investing my hopes in any future plans.

It is not the way I want to live. So, I am turning to the book of Psalms. It allows all of the feelings of despair and disappointment to be felt and expressed. It also refuses to let go of hope for what is to come, it is a collection of poems that cling fiercely to the belief in a better day. I am also reminded of the wisdom Dan Epp-Tiessen shared with our congregation a couple years ago, encouraging us to be people of both lament and praise. He pointed us to Jeremiah 29:5-7 **This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."**

As we work towards the betterment of the world around us, may we also take time to live well within these present days, not to pause life for the future – but to find pieces of joy and goodness that we can claim for our lives now.

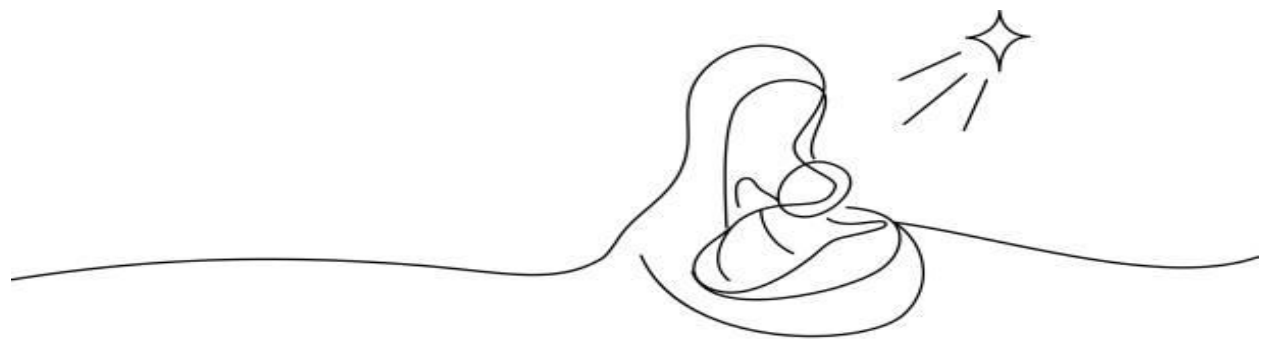
Thought for the month:

To feel the freedom that comes from being able to continue to make mistakes and choices - today I choose to feel life, not to deny my humanity but embrace it. If you fell down yesterday, stand up today. Never give up. **Today is hard**, tomorrow will be worse, but the day after tomorrow will be sunshine.

Advent 2021 Theme:

Dare to Imagine by Mennonite Church Manitoba

In the middle of a Canadian prairie winter,
sitting each in our own space, separated.
Bound together by our threads of hope and longing,
we placed ourselves in the ancient texts and waited.
Would the incarnate God come and sing over us?
Could we sing . . . Joy to the World?
Slowing, but surely, the Spirit showed herself;
comforting, wooing, assuring, revealing.
The Word came to life, living among us.
Steadfast love began to hold us, strong winds of righteousness
and glory began to blow over us.
The Lord, our God, was in our midst,
a glimmer had arrived.
Only now could we free our lament and speak of our struggle.
Seeing the salvation of God, our despair could enter the light of day.
Cracked open by tender mercy, the eyes of our hearts and minds
caught a glimpse of what might be, what will be.
We dared to imagine.
The faces of John, Mary, and the boy Samuel urging us on,
we opened ourselves to holy possibilities.
Images, words, prayers, and even songs
rose over us, among us. We received them. We recorded them. We slept with them.
We shared them. We invited others to speak into them. We gave thanks to God.
We now offer them to you, our siblings in faith.
May the Spirit of the living God free you to imagine.
—Kathy Giesbrecht



The **Mennonite Nursing Home** in Rosthern, SK, an affiliate of the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), is seeking a **PERMANENT FULL TIME OUT OF SCOPE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** who will be responsible for the operations of an accredited 68 bed long term care home, with an attached 32 assisted living units (Pineview Manor), a 20 bed licensed personal care home (Sunrise Place), and 2 independent senior living four-plexes (Country Gardens). Reporting directly to the MNH Board of Directors, the **Chief Executive Officer/Administrator** will be responsible for providing overall leadership, direction and management while achieving the mission and values of MNH. The successful candidate must have a strong Christian faith, have strong communication and decision-making skills and possess the ability to lead and inspire others. Practical experience as an organizational leader in a health care setting is preferred. The successful applicant will also have experience in budgeting and financial management. Applications close Oct. 29, 2021. Anticipated start date: Jan 1, 2022 For full job description and to apply email: tbjanzen@sasktel.net

Nov 6 MCC Saskatchewan's 3rd Annual Peace Conference, "Restoring Justice" will explore how to do justice better. Join us as we hear from experts and those on the frontlines about the principles and practices of doing justice and building resilience in our communities. This is a free virtual conference and there will be two additional optional training workshops on Friday and Saturday evenings. For details go to <https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/mcc-saskatchewan-peace-conference>

Nov 15 - 19 9am - 4 pm 21st Century Preaching - a one week intensive course with Meghan Good. Effective preaching emerges at the intersection of solid biblical exegesis and keen insight into the "here and now" of contemporary context. This course will examine methods for doing exegesis for preaching that are realistic in the busyness of ministry and keep our own hearing of God's words fresh and living. Go to <https://mcsask.ca/event/10691> for details and to register for credit or to audit

Mennonite Church Canada

New resource for Mennonite Church Canada congregations

Wondering what to do about climate change and other environmental problems? "God's Green Church: Becoming a Creation Care congregation" provides step-by-step ideas, resources and links for congregations to take creation care action across the activities of church life. Created by senior environmental studies students at The King's University in Edmonton, it is tailored to Canadian Mennonite congregations, providing both short-term and long-term options, and linking to other Mennonite, faith-based, and Canadian environmental initiatives and resources. Available through CommonWord at www.commonword.ca/go/2610.

Indigenous-Settler Relations

Indigenous peoples are on the forefront of both experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change, and resisting the drivers of global heating. As nation leaders gather in Glasgow, Scotland, (Oct. 31-Nov. 12), pray for Indigenous representatives as they struggle to make their way to the conference and have their voices heard. If COP26 is “our last best hope for the world to get its act together,” we need the most vulnerable to be centered as we go forward. Check out these links to learn more.

The effects of climate change on

Indigenous peoples: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/climate-change.html>

Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon: <https://www.ienearth.org/indigenous-resistance-against-carbon/>

Indigenous Peoples can't get to world's 'most inclusive' climate conference:

- <https://www.vice.com/en/article/xgdqb3/indigenous-climate-activists-united-nations-cop26>

Commonword - do you know that you can borrowed items and have them shipped to you free?

Check it out at www.commonword.ca

May the Road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



Here's the stuff.....

Every fall I start sorting my stuff. There is closet stuff, drawer stuff, attic stuff, and basement stuff. I separate the good stuff from the bad stuff, then I stuff the bad stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded, until I decide if I will need the bad stuff.

When the Lord calls me home, my children will want the good stuff, but the bad stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among all the other stuff, will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump, where all the other people's stuff has been taken.

Whenever we have company they always bring gabs and bags of stuff. When I visit my son, he moves his stuff so I will have room for my stuff. My daughter-in-law always clears a drawer of her stuff so I will have room for my stuff. Their stuff and my stuff. It would be so much easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home, with the rest of my stuff.

This fall I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. You may not have this problem, but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff. Food stuff, cleaning stuff, medicine stuff, clothes stuff and outside stuff. Whatever would life be like if we didn't have all this stuff?

Now, there is all that stuff we use to make us smell better than we do. There is the stuff to make our hair look good. Stuff to make us look younger. Stuff to make us look healthier. Stuff to hold us in, and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us, and stuff to eat. We stuff ourselves with food stuff.

Well, our lives are filled with stuff ... good stuff, bad stuff, little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, junky stuff, and everyone's stuff. Now, when we leave all our stuff and go to Heaven, whatever will happen to our stuff won't matter. We will still have the good stuff God has prepared for us in Heaven.

Author: unknown

thanks to Edna Zacharias

Quote:

It costs \$0.00 to remind someone they aren't alone in this world.

"I Love You"

From MDS:

Due to the pandemic, there are no MDS projects in Canada at this time. With the U.S. border re-opening in November, we are evaluating the best way for volunteers from Canada to once again to serve in that country, considering the various requirements for travel to and from the U.S. We will be sending more information later this month.

The summer drought was hard on farmers in Saskatchewan. Especially hard-hit were livestock producers, who are having trouble getting enough hay for their animals. MDS Ontario is helping through Hay West, which will find farmers in that province donating hay for farmers in Saskatchewan through MDS Saskatchewan. Farmers with hay in Ontario can help by donating hay; call 519-584-4171 for more information. People across Canada can help by donating to defray transportation costs; go to www.mds.org to make a donation or mail to MDS Hay West 2021, 200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1.

After two successful rounds of funding, MDS Canada is once again offering the Spirit of MDS Fund to Canadian congregations. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available and can be used for construction or renovation projects to repair a home or make it more livable; to provide food or other needed resources for those in crisis, such as from the ongoing pandemic; for neighbourhood ministry projects; or for other creative ideas that fit with MDS Canada's core values of faith in action and caring relationships. Priority for funding will be given to applications where volunteers are mobilized to use the grants. For more information, or to apply for funding, visit www.mds.org or call 1-866-261-1274.

The pandemic limited the kinds of projects MDS could do in Canada, but several smaller projects were undertaken over the summer months--rebuilding a house lost to fire in B.C.; renovating a home and office at a Bible camp in Saskatchewan; and repairing a derelict house in Ontario so it can become home to a Syrian refugee family. Visit www.mds.org to read these stories and more!

From the October News - MDS calls for volunteers with a heart for service and an attitude of flexibility in the upcoming fall and winter months. With the changes in border measures beginning on November 8, Canadian volunteers will once again be able to travel to the U.S. to volunteer with MDS! Some travel restrictions remain, such as proof of vaccination to enter the U.S. and a negative COVID test to re-enter Canada. Volunteers are responsible for their own travel health coverage and should check with their provider if COVID related costs will be covered. MDS is seeking Canadian and U.S. volunteers who, while eager to get back out there, must be ready to roll with both safety precautions and schedule changes as COVID-19 cases fluctuate. Visit www.mds.org for details.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR NOVEMBER

November 1 - All Saints Day

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelations 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 7

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 14

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15,18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 21

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 28 - First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

OMC CALENDAR

Oct 31 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking *Biblical storytelling – Ruth*

Nov 4 7:00 pm Community Connection mtg via Zoom

Nov 5 1:00 pm Education Committee mtg

Nov 7 10:00 am Nora Pederberg (she/her) speaking *Peace Sunday*

Nov 7 12:00 pm Deacon mtg

Nov 12 6:30 pm OMC Youth Night

Nov 14 10:00 am Curtis Wiens speaking *Creation Care*

Nov 17 6:00 pm Church Exec mtg

7:00 pm Church Council mtg

Nov 19 7:00 pm Mega Menno Games Night @ Mount Royal

Nov 21 10:00 am Patty Friesen *Memorial Sunday*

Nov 22 7:30 pm Worship mtg Zoom

Nov 28 10:00 am Patty Friesen *First Advent*



November Birthdays

5 – Kaytee Edwards-Buhler

10 – Benjamin Penner

10 – Michelle McKinnell

18 – Sarah Guenther

18 – Steve Guenther

22 – Lois Siemens

24 – Ruth Buhler

28 – Jake Buhler

29 – Zoe Schellenberg