

The Osler Mennonite Church

October 2021 Newsletter



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

Pastor Patty's Ponderings

I'm thankful for the ongoing energy from sabbatical in May and the good times this summer with friends and family. I'm thankful for a warm place to live and a supportive spouse to share it. I'm thankful for meaningful work and a car that works - most of the time. I'm thankful for a faith community that helps me think beyond myself. I'm thankful for a general sense of hope and trust in a caring Creator of a beautiful world in all seasons.

I find it helpful to make an inventory of thankfulness even when it is not Thanksgiving Day. This year particularly has been challenging to find things to be thankful for. Some of the biblical people had trouble with that as well. Job in the Bible had a charmed life until he lost it all. I will tell his story on October 3 and our text for Thanksgiving Communion Sunday is Habakkuk 3:17-19: *"Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; who makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights."*

I'm thankful for our hard-working committees meeting in masked person in homes and at church. I'm thankful for our hard working volunteers who keep the cemetery mowed and teach Sunday school and pray for us. I'm thankful for the opportunity to go to Canadian Mennonite University for the J.J.Thiessen lectures on Meditation and the Immediate God, Oct. 24-27. I'll preach about what I learn there on October 31.

Patty's Picks

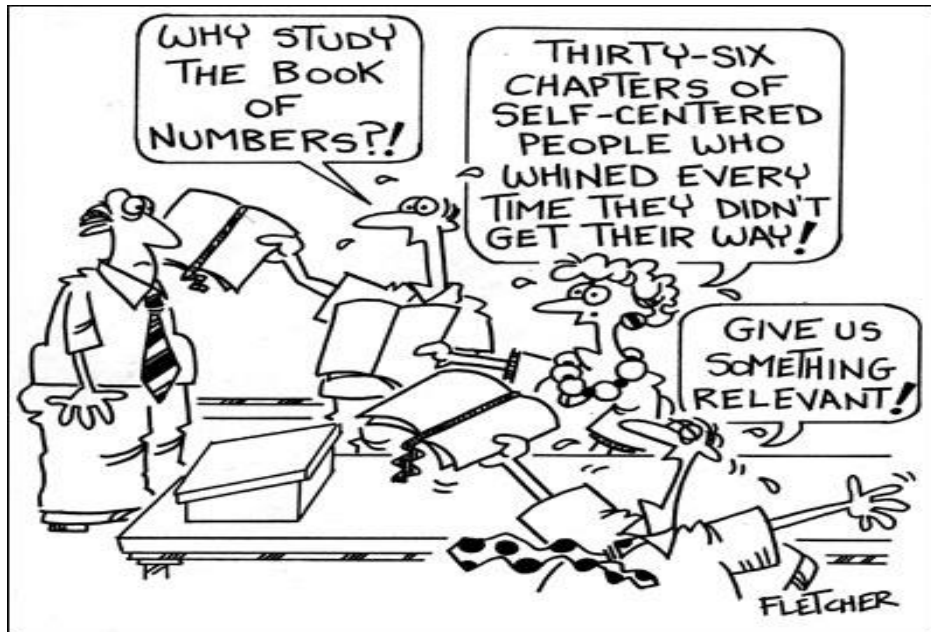
Ordinary Grace by William Krueger (not Bill Kruger!) was a delightful read of a pastor's family and Minnesota town in midst of crisis.

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri has been around for awhile but I enjoyed reading about Indian immigrants a decade later.

RESPECT movie about Aretha Franklin's life was interesting. Now showing at The Roxy.

Patrick and I went to the following local restaurants for our 25th Anniversary Year-Long Celebration: Broadway Ave - Ace Burger, Yard and Flagon, Prairie Sun, Keos, Calories, Odlá, Hearth on Ruth St; 20th St - Primal, Odd Couple and Hometown Café; Downtown - Black Pepper, Night Oven, Sticks and Stones, Botte Chai (Kendra Reddekopp's cafe on Ave C); other - Berry Barn, Osler Cafe, Wanuskewin Restaurant **but** the *best meal* was at home in the backyard with Pineview Bacon Beef Burgers with Floating Garden salad!

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: **MCC Blankets on Display** will be selling via Silent Auction to raise money to purchase :
: supplies for the fall MCC blanket Making. Starting bid is \$25. with bids open until the end :
: of October. (*Donations also accepted*) Facebook people may call the church office with :
: their bids. :
:.....



Nora's Notes

Looking into fall this year and another wave of COVID, I have felt a little like a squirrel scrambling about to prepare for the scarcity of winter. I carry fear around the continual rise in COVID cases, the prolonged impact of restrictions, and the way colder weather will limit outside connections. I have also been reflecting on what it looks like to be a person who lives into the spiritual gift of joy in a context of great gloom and sadness.

I realized that I am far more accustomed to thinking of the work of discipleship as the work of peacebuilding, justice-seeking, and compassion. It takes me more effort to remember that we are also called to be a people of joy. Looking into how to cultivate joy has led me into the work of Stuart Brown and Brene Brown around the importance of play in our lives.

Dr. Stuart Brown states. "Play is a survival drive that is necessary for adaptation, flexibility and social learning. Play helps us belong in the community, develop the ability to suppress unwanted urges, and regulate our emotions." This means that play is a vital tool for us in maintain our wellbeing in a time of immense gloom and sorrow, its essential to getting through a pandemic. He continues by stating that "the opposite of play is not work – it is depression."

In thinking of how to be a person of love, who cares for those around me and for myself in this time of great stress, I've focused on tasks of rest and comfort. However, Brown's research indicates I can't rise out of melancholy just based on rest, it requires intentionally incorporating play into our lives. I think this goes beyond the individual, and extends to play within our relationships, our church, and our world. It is a call to cherish the fun, and silly moments that gift us with an enjoyment of this world.

As recipients of the gifts of the Spirit, we claim joy as a part of who we are, and how we participate in relationship with God. But the key to all this is actually participating in play, not just thinking about it, so Brene Brown has presented us with a task list to get us started:

1. Create a Play list: write down three things you love for the experience of doing it (not connecting it to its result)
2. Carve out time in your calendar

3. Play well with others: helping to spread this gift of joy into our relationships and community, so that it helps to heal not only the gloom that can settle into our own being, but also the world around us.

MC SK UPDATES

Transitions:

- Glenn Sawatzky (Grace Mennonite Regina) has stepped in to complete a term on the MC Sask Council
- Rosthern Mennonite installed Andrea Enns-Gooding as their pastor on Sept. 12
- Warman Mennonite & Pleasant Point Mennonite are installing Len Rempel as pastor in a joint service on Oct. 24

Coming Events:

November 15-19: 21st Century Preaching with Meghan Good This 5-day intensive course will be available for credit through CMU or for audit through MC Sask. Registration and details are available at <https://mcsask.ca/event/10691>

Postponed: Songfest of Thanks – With heavy hearts, we announcement the postponement of the MC Sask Songfest of Thanks Choral Workshop and Concert, scheduled for Oct. 15-16. While we long to gather to sing and laugh once again, keeping one another safe remains our higher calling. We hope to reschedule the event in 2022.

The Mennonite Nursing Home Complex Board of Directors wishes to announce the retirement of Joan Lemauviel, CEO/Administrator of the Mennonite Nursing Home Complex, effective Dec 31, 2021. Read the full news release at <https://mcsask.ca/news/9126>

YOUTH

Congratulations to this year's MC Sask **Student Education Fund Scholarship** Winners (in alphabetical order): Braden MartensFunk (RJC), Kennedy Martens (CMU), Markus Martens (CMU), Rachel Neufeld (CMU), and Tyreese Hildebrandt (RJC). Blessings in your studies this coming year!

Upcoming Mega Menno Events: Friday, October 15 @ Youth Farm Corn Maze July 31 – August 4, 2022, Amplify! @ Camp Valaqua, AB Details about group travel coming soon!

MC Canada - Gathering 2022 in Edmonton - We Declare: What We Have Seen and Heard is the theme for MC Canada's Gathering 2022 in Edmonton, July 29 to August 1. The webpage is now live: www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022. Learn about our speakers and what you can expect for our next nationwide gathering in Treaty 6!

Amplify! giving voice to what we've seen and heard – **MC Canada nationwide youth** (gr. 6-12) gathering, July 31- August 4, 2022, at Camp Valaqua, AB. Isaiah 40:3-5 will guide us as we spend time in nature: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord." Together, youth from across Canada will find their voices and raise them in joy and worship!

From MDS:

As you know, 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 them through Hay West, which will find farmers in that province donating hay for farmers in Saskatchewan through MDS Saskatchewan. The first truckloads arrived on the weekend. It is hoped to have 50 truckloads of donated hay before the project ends. The hay will be made available to family farms in Saskatchewan at a current competitive cost of ten cents per pound for dairy grade and seven cents per pound for beef grade.

How can you help?

First, you can get the word out to any livestock producers in your congregation or community to let them know about Hay West. Farmers who need hay can call 306-716-5909 or go to the MDS Canada website at www.mds.org to download an application form.

Second, you can invite people in your church and community to donate to help defray the cost of transportation of the hay. People who want to donate can also go to the MDS website and choose Hay West when they go to contribute. Donations can also be mailed to MDS Hay West 2021, 200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1.

For more information, you can check out a story about Hay West at <https://mds.mennonite.net/mds-canada-launches-hay-west-to-deliver-hay/> or contact: Daryl Bueckert (306-717-3987) or Ike Epp (306-342-7921).

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR OCTOBER

October 3

Job 1:1,2:1-10 - Psalm 26

Genesis 2:18-24 - Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4,2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Oct 10

Job 23:1-9,16-17 - Psalm 22: 1-15

Amos 5:6-7,10-15 - Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

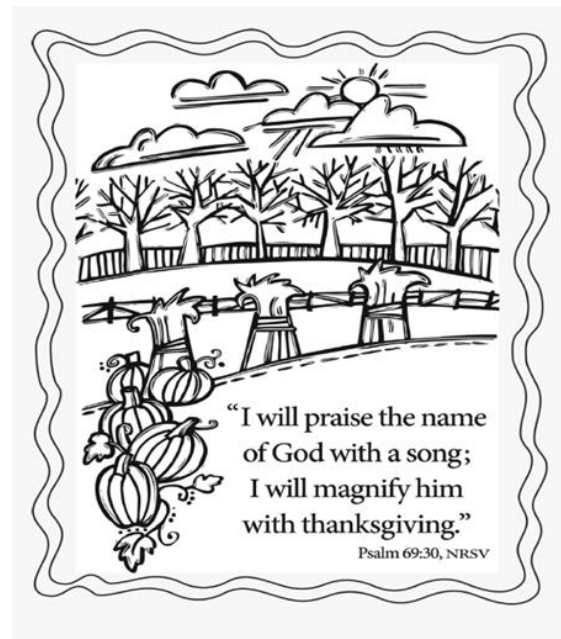
Mark 10:17-31

Oct 11 - *Thanksgiving Day*

Joel 2:21-27 - Psalm 126

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Matthew 6:25-33



Oct 17

Job 38:1-7,(34-41) - Psalm 104:1-9,24,35c

Isaiah 53:4-12 - Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 24

Job 42:1-6,10-17

Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

Oct 31

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalm 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

Quotes:

What lies behind us and what lies before us are but tiny matters compared to what lies within us. – *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance. - *Samuel Johnson*

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. – *Robert J. Burdette*

OMC CALENDAR

Oct 1 6:30 pm **Youth Event**

Oct 3 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking *(also on Facebook)*

12:00 pm Deacon Mtg

1:30 pm Congregational Mtg via Zoom

Oct 6 1:00 pm Education Committee mtg

Oct 10 10:00 am Communion with Patty Friesen *(also on Facebook)*

Oct 15 **Youth Event** *going to the Youth Farm Corn Maze*

Oct 17 10:00 am Anita Retzlaff *(also on Facebook)*

Oct 18 7:00 Worship Committee Mtg

Oct 20 6:00 Executive Committee Mtg

7:00 Council Mtg

Oct 24 10:00 am Nora Pederberg (she/her) speaking *(also on FB)*

Oct 31 10:00 am Patty Friesen speaking *(also on Facebook)*

October

- 1 – Bruce Boldt
- 3 – Natalia Guenther
- 6 – Lanae Martens-Funk
- 6 – Jadrian Guenther
- 8 – Matthew Stefaniuk
- 12 – Stephanie Siemens
- 12 – Naomi Schellenberg
- 16 – Loretta Sawatzky
- 16 – Dan Richert
- 24 – Rachel Buhler
- 25 – Diane McKinnell
- 27 – Bree Schellenberg
- 29 – Mikwanis Bird
- 31 – Zenon Borne

*Have a
Beautiful
Birthday*