

The Osler Mennonite Church

September 2022 Newsletter

JOURNEY OF *Faith*

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 Sixth Edition

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

Pastor Patty's Ponderings

As summer wraps up, I am thankful for a peaceful, relaxed summer. Joyful wedding and anniversary celebrations were the theme of the summer. Camp was back in full swing and the youth got to go to Amplify Mennonite Youth Assembly at Camp Valaqua. We said good-bye to Pastor Nora and hello to Zach Dueck, interim youth coordinator. We had a joint worship service August 28 with Warman, Langham and Aberdeen Mennonite Churches. As a "gemeinschaft" gathering of small Mennonite churches and part-time pastors - we are looking for ways we can work together.

At OMC, we are transitioning into a more open fall with coffee, potlucks, Sunday school and committee work ramping up again. We look forward to September 11th *Fall Kick-Off Hymn Sing* and our semi-annual meeting and potluck. We look forward to having the energy to dig into deeper issues with September 18 Adult Education Forum on MAiD with Helen Olfert, RN and Dr. Thorpe. We look forward to intergenerational games nights and baby showers and other community building activities.

According to Christian Century magazine, churches have lost 20% of Sunday attenders during the pandemic. We fit that average and are looking for ways to keep in touch with our extended on-line family and recreate church with smaller committees and inter-committee projects. We are not alone in these challenges that may prove to be life-giving in new ways. May God bless and guide us.

**Prayer for Good Health for Seniors:*

God grant me the Senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Patty's Picks

This Beautiful Dusk by *Frank Bruni* is a touching memoir of sight loss and its metaphorical power.

Transformed by *Austen Hartke* is the journey of transgendered Christians in our midst.

God and the Gay Christian is new to me but been around awhile as biblical work with LGBTQ lens.

This Here Flesh by *Cole Riley* is one of the most powerful books I've read in awhile about our bodies and liberation spirituality.

Good Poems for Hard Times by *Garrison Keillor* were delicious tidbits through the summer.

Feeding my Mother by *Jann Arden* - a timely re-read for me as I deal with my own aging mother.

The Benefits of Ignorance by *Hal Sirowitz*

If ignorance is bliss, Father said,
shouldn't you be looking blissful?

You should check to see if you have
the right kind of ignorance.

If you're not getting the benefits that most people get from acting stupid,
then you should go back to what you always were
- being too smart for your own good.



Benediction for Back to School by *Sarah Bessey*

May your roots go down deep into God's soil so you will bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

May you remember your people, where you come from, and find your place of belonging.

May you become even more fully who you were always meant to be this year. We delight in you, darling.

We pray that you would sow seeds of life and hope wherever you find yourself, cultivating a harvest of shalom.

May you be prepared for every good work that lies ahead of you.

May your mind be clear and engaged, your memory sharp, your wisdom beyond your years. May you ask for what you need without fear or shame.

May you be safe, beloved child, protected from anything that seeks to steal, kill, or destroy in any measure. When you are afraid, may you feel our love wrapped around you and take heart.

When disappointments or disasters come - and they will - may you find the depths of the resilience we already see in you and rise, rise, rise again.

May you do what is right and good and kind and just, no matter what everyone else might do. Don't submerge your true self into the dreams, plans, behaviours, or agendas of others. Bring your full beloved self to these days, knowing you are created in the image of God.

We pray that you would be a blessing to your teachers and the school staff and we pray that they, in turn, would see and affirm you in the fullness God has created.

We pray for good friendships that will sharpen and delight you.

We pray you would have eyes to see the lonely ones. May you have many opportunities to practice being both brave and kind.

Beloved child of God, we send you out in the power and peace of Love itself, prepared and anointed, knowing you walk upon steady ground.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, one God and Mother of us all.

Amen.



"If you're ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns."

Respect your parents – they passed school without google

Forgive your enemies – it messes with their heads

God Needs Spiritual Fruits not religious nuts

Can we uninstall 2020 & 2021 and install them again? These versions had a virus.

"Just Love Everyone, I'll sort 'em out later" - **God.**

Don't give up! Moses was once a basket case!

Forgiveness is to swallow when you want to spit!

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR SEPTEMBER

Aug 28

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Sirach 10:12-18 *or* Proverbs 26:6-7 Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:18-29
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sept 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1
Philemon 1:1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Sept 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14
Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Sept 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9
Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Sept 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Oct 2

Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26 *or* Psalm 137
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

**Invitation to attend the
Prairie Rivers Reconciliation Committee Meeting
Sept. 27 at 9 a.m.
Osler Community Hall, 508 - 1st Street
Everyone Welcome**

OMC CALENDAR

- Sept 4 10:00 am Amplifiers & Jake Buhler**
Sept 7 11:00 am Education mtg via Zoom
Sept 11 10:00 am Patty Friesen Fall Kick-Off
11:00 am Semi-Annual mtg
Noon Pot Luck
Sept 18 10:00 am Patty Friesen
11:00 forum on MAiD
Sept 25 10:00 am Dave Feick
11:30 am Pot Luck
1:00 pm Think Tank forum on Greening OMC
Oct 4 7:00 pm Pickleball starts

September Birthdates

- 8 – Dick Braun
12 – Cornie Guenther
12 – Jacqueline Funk
14- Mark Bigland-Pritchard
16 – Doug McKinnell
17 – Adeline Cox
18 – Anna Peters
22 – Margaret Dyck
23 – Rob Borne
24 – Chris Buhler
25 – Christy Martens Funk
26 – Tena Friesen (90)

Quote: “A winner is a dreamer who never gave up.” Nelson Mandela

Common Word

is promoting an

In-Person and Live Stream Book Launch

Thursday September 29, 7:00 PM (CDT)

Walking Together: Intercultural Stories of Love and Acceptance

by Edith and Neil von Gunten.

Join us for intercultural stories of love and acceptance that cover over 50 years of peace and reconciliation work – and why the issues they raise remain important for cross-cultural relationship-building today. Stan McKay, Norman Meade, and Clarence and Barbara Nepinak will be guest panelists. For further information, see <https://www.commonword.ca/go/2987>.

Orange Shirt Day is September 30 - Orange shirts are now in stock. Remember the victims and survivors of Residential schools on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

A portion of the proceeds from orange shirt sales will be directed to the Orange Shirt Society and additional organizations (details are noted for each design). <https://www.commonword.ca/go/orangeshirt>



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