

**\*MCC Connects** - Over the past few months Ten Thousand Villages has had many changes in its' Saskatchewan stores. As of March 1 the following stores are open and offering a wonderful selection of fair trade products: in Saskatoon on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and at Ave. C & 45<sup>th</sup> St and in Regina on University Park Drive. Visit [tenthousandvillages.ca](http://tenthousandvillages.ca) for more details.

**\*Prayer Request from MC Canada:** As the tragic history of Indian Residential Schools continues to be revealed through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mennonite Church Canada is exploring how Mennonite involvement in Indian Day Schools fits into this larger story of assimilation. Pray for understanding, courage and discernment as we strive to articulate a honest history that will help bring hope and healing to our relationships with indigenous peoples.

\*Come enjoy a wonderful evening of singing! **Sonrisa Women's Choir's** end of the year concert at Knox United Church, 7pm March 31st. Theme: "The Real Things We Live By" If you are interested tickets are \$10 and available on March 4th from Erin or Kathy Boldt."

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Worship Leader: Stephanie Siemens  
Song Leader: Ben Buhler  
Accompanist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard  
Sound: Dave Klassen  
Ushers: Cornie Guenther, Russ Friesen  
This Sunday nursery care: Amalia Aldana & Loren Gomez  
Next Sunday nursery care: MaryAnn Braun

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The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0

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## OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan

**A Welcoming Christian  
Community for Peace**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
March 4, 2012

### **WHERE DO I SIGN?**

#### ***Lent Two***

**Focus Statement:** *We give up everything to follow Jesus and in turn gain everything – as Abraham and Sarah did when they accepted God's generous covenant and committed themselves to a walk of faith. How can we too sign on to the journey, following in the footsteps of our ancestors in faith and responding to God's initiating call to let go of our lives for the sake of the gospel?*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Our Story: reporting on the MC Sask. Assembly

### GATHERING

Chiming to Worship / silent reflection

**Theme song: SJ #44                      "The love of God"**

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Let all who fear the Lord shout their praise!  
All you children of faith honor the Lord!

**People: God neither ignores nor belittles  
the suffering of the needy**

Leader: We acknowledge and turn to the Lord,  
and not only we ourselves -

**People: future generations also will hear of God's great  
wonders, and those not yet born will experience God's  
deliverance.**

**All: *They will hear about everything our God has done.***

Invocation

**\*Hymns: HWB #229 “Lord, you have come to the lakeshore”**

Sharing of joys and concerns

Discipline of Silence & Prayer of the church

PRAISING AND HEARING

Children’s Time

Jake Buhler

**Hymn: SJ #2 “Come, walk with us”**

Drama - Part One

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Drama - Part Two

Gospel lesson: Mark 8:31-38

Drama - Part Three

Offering and Offertory Music

Offertory prayer

**Hymn: HWB #250 “Beneath the cross of Jesus”**

Confession: (in unison)

**God, you have given us a choice. We can hold on to our comforts, possessions, independence, and power – or we can give up all the things and plans that make us feel secure, and, in losing our life, gain your promised blessing. We confess that we waver in our faith walk with you, that we’ve tried to ensure our future apart from you. We want to be Christians without the suffering and challenges of taking up our cross and following Jesus’ steps. Forgive us. Restore us. Reinstate your covenant with us. Amen.**

Assurance of pardon:

Almighty God, like Abraham of old, we trust you to make us strong in faith as we give you glory. You are able to do what you have promised: You alone give life to the dead and call into existence that which does not exist.

Sermon: "A sign of Innocence" Gordon Allaby

RESPONDING

**Hymn: SS #39 “Will you come and follow me”**

\*Benediction

**\*Please rise**

**We welcome all who are worshiping with us today.**

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshiping with us.

**Nursery care is provided** during the worship service for those who desire it (children over 4 years should be accompanied by an adult).

**Children’s Worship Binder**, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

**TODAY**

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the service.
- **Sunday School for children** begins at 11:15 am.
- **Floor hockey:** 7:00 – 7:30pm – younger children  
7:30pm-8:30pm – older kids, youth and adults

**THIS WEEK**

- **Monday, March 5, 7:00pm OMC Book Club meeting**
- **Wednesday, March 6, 7:00pm “Do Art” for kids**
- **Wednesday, March 7, 7:30pm, Church Council meeting**
- **Thursday, March 8, 7:30pm Deacons meeting**
- **Saturday, March 10, Youth Glow Bowling – Meet at church at 6:30pm**

**Remember in Prayer**

**Dave & Joanne Feick and family, following the death of Dave’s mother Monday, February 27th.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*Today is the second Sunday of Lent.** Our theme: **“Where do I sign”** can suggest signing in, signing on or signing up. All variations imply the present moment and the future, and signing one’s name is pledge to commit. During Lent the Old and New Testament passages contain adventures about those in a relationship with God, including those who were invited to follow Jesus. Lent prompts us to commit to God / to be a follower of Christ.

\*Copies of “**Sign Up and Follow Jesus**”, a **Lent At-Home resource** are now available in the foyer. Help yourself to this booklet produced by Mennonite Church Canada for daily and weekly worship, as we make holy space in our homes and hearts for God during the season of Lent. The booklets include Children’s activities.

\***OMC Book Club** will meet Monday, March 5, 7:00pm to discuss "The Midwife's Confession". Everyone welcome to join in.

\*“**Do Art**”, an **Art Club for Grades 4 to 9 students** for three Tuesday evenings in March – **March 6, 13 & 20 from 7:00-8:30pm**. Instructors are Clint Neufeld and Cheryl Haas. Kids – don’t miss it! Bring a friend!

\***Our 2012 OMC prayer chain** is now posted on the bulletin board. For focused prayer concerns, please contact prayer chain volunteers.

\***Note of Appreciation:** Thank you to everyone who attended the shower for our daughter Sydney. We feel blessed by all the gifts, good wishes and support. Sherma and Sheila

\***Saturday, March 17, 2:30 – 4pm, OMC Family Swim at the Shaw Centre** sponsored by the Deacons. Meet at the Shaw Centre Rates: Adults: \$8.30, Youth \$5.00 (but save 50cents if part of group) Family (2 adults & up to 5 kids) \$16.60. Bulk tickets can be purchased in packs of 10 tickets for \$66.40, for more savings.

\***Just Food Exhibit.** In this Canadian and worldwide art exhibit, visual artists add their voices to growing numbers connecting the right to food with a faith-based response to hunger in our world. For the month of April, one half of the exhibit will be hosted at the Rosthern Station Arts Centre, and the other half at MCC on 600-45th Street West, Saskatoon. Check out the poster on the bulletin board.

\***RJC Guys & Pies Fundraiser and Dessert Auction** - Sunday, March 11, 7:00 pm at RJC. Come and enjoy an evening of pie, coffee and music and fun, featuring A Buncha Guys and the RJC Man Choir. Included in the evening will be a dessert auction, with funds going towards RJC program projects.

## TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)** <sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**Mark 8:31 - 38 (NRSV)** <sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

\*Did you know that the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings stream live over the internet?** The TRC is holding 12 Community Hearings throughout Saskatchewan, and the schedule appears in the information posted on the bulletin board. Watching or attending these hearings is a good way to prepare ourselves for attending the event in June. For the latest information go to <http://sk.mcc.org/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-canada>

\***Songfest** will be at First Mennonite Church, **March 23 & 24**. See the bulletin board for a poster and registration forms.

### **MCC Response to Middle East Crisis**

MCC has launched a \$500,000 Middle East Crisis response to assist partner organizations as they provide humanitarian aid and build peace. At this point MCC's response includes:

- Emergency assistance: food, medicine and non-food items for Syrians affected by violence and in need of basic supplies.
- Relief kits: people in the U.S. and Canada are encouraged to assemble kits and drop them off at their nearest MCC office or warehouse.
- Building Peace: grassroots, community efforts that encourage conflict prevention.

### **You can help**

**Donate to MCC's Middle East Crisis Response.** Contributions to this appeal will support MCC's humanitarian and grassroots conflict prevention efforts in the region.

- Donations should be made out to Mennonite Central Committee and marked Middle East Crisis. Credit card donations can be made online at [mcccanada.ca](http://mcccanada.ca)

**Pray** for the people affected by violence, pray for a just peace in the region and for the MCC partners and MCC workers working to reduce conflict and providing humanitarian aid.

**Assemble a relief kit** and drop it off at the nearest MCC office or warehouse.