

OMC Calendar

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Each Sunday: Worship:10am</p> <p>SundaySchool @ 11:15am</p>			1	2 Maundy Thursday Service & Potluck 7:00pm	3 Good Friday Tennebrae Service of Darkness 7:00pm	4
5 EASTER Brunch Potluck Easter Egg Hunt <i>No Sunday School today.</i>	6	7	8 Ukraine Presentation 7:30pm SMYO Youth:Honoring the Earth	9 Church Council 7:30pm Youth: Honoring the Earth	10	11
12 John Bueckert's 100 th Birthday Faspa 2-4pm	13	14	15	16 Deacons Meeting 7:30pm / Education Committee Mtg7:30pm	17	18
19	20	21 Worship Committee Meeting IsabellaSt Kathryn's 7:00pm	22	23 Missions & Service Comm Mtg 7:30pm	24	25
26	27	28 CMU here in Concert 7:30pm	29	30		

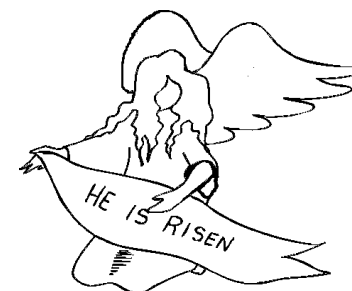
Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. www.omchurch.org

The Osler Mennonite Church April 2015 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church
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<http://omchurch.org>
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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



**The seed grows in two directions simultaneously.
 One direction into darkness, the other towards light.**

Upcoming OMC Events

***Holy Week Services:**

April 2: ***Maundy Thursday family-friendly Potluck supper & Service, 7:00 p.m.**

April 3: ***Good Friday: Stations of the Cross Tennebrae Service of Darkness, 7:00 p.m**

April 5: ***Easter Sunday Choir Practice: 9:00am**

***Easter Sunday Service, 10am: "Healer of our every ill"**

***Easter Brunch after worship and kids' Easter Egg Hunt will follow. No children's Sunday School.**

***Please bring bells to the Easter service, and eggs, paska, fruit, cheese, etc. for Easter Brunch following worship.**

Patty's Ponderings

From Vanishing Grace by Philip Yancey: "I visited a church that makes grace the center point of ministry. This congregation addresses the contentious gay issue not by writing position papers but simply by welcoming all who come. Their bulletin expresses it this way:

Married, divorced or single here, it's one family that mingles here.

Conservative or liberal here, we've all gotta give a little here. Big or small here, there's room for us all here. Doubt or believe here, we all can receive here. Gay or straight here, there's no hate here. Woman or man here, everyone can serve here. Whatever your race here, for all of us grace here. In imitation of the ridiculous love Almighty God has for each of us and all of us, let us live and love without labels."

-Patty Friesen

Patty's Picks:

Food: A Love Story by Jim Gaffigan: a laugh out loud fun book on audio CD.

Together Tea by Marjan Kamali was as delightful as a novel about an Iranian family can be. *Deep Down Dark* by Hector Tobar is the fascinating survival of the 33 Chilean miners. *This Changes Everything* by Naomi Klein is important if depressing account of current climate change.

The Man Who Ate New Orleans DVD is a hopeful foodie doc.

Cyber-Seniors DVD is a hopeful senior documentary.

Akeelah and the Bee DVD is a compelling story.

Napolean Dynamite was Adam Boldt's fun pick for youth movie night.

Things I Have Never Done Before Working in Osler by Patty

1. Eaten a bison burger at the Osler Cafe every two weeks. At this rate I will have consumed 36 burgers by the time I'm finished at OMC.
2. Been goosed by a mastiff - a new and unusual experience.
3. Had a date with a 86 year old man. Thank you, John Wall.
4. Participated in a same-sex wedding.
5. Learned Low German swear words.
6. Slept with a pastor from another congregation.

(If my mother were a part of the congregation and if she wasn't my mother, she'd say, "That new interim pastor is something else - always pushing the envelope. It is exhausting. When is her term over?")

Humour ~ The Isaac Section

Country Mouse and City Mouse By Patty Friesen

Once upon a time there was a mouse called Chris, who lived in the country. He cavorted courageously, always keeping an eye not to be caught by cats, canines or coyotes. He ate corn, cabbage, and cauliflower crops. He contemplated clouds, crows and cattails and was completely content.

Once upon a time there was also a mouse called Kaytee, who lived in the city where she cycled to consume coffee and caramels in cafes. She communed with mice from other countries and learning about their cultures and cuisine. She contemplated curry, coriander, cardamom and cumin and was completely content.

Occasionally, when the company got a little too quiet in the country, Chris climbed into the cab of the pick-up and cruised into the city where he craved carousing. One day he cruised into the city to the farmer's market and was coveting collards there when he saw a capable and creative city mouse with comely curves. Kaytee was no coy cupid and she craftily questioned Chris, did he, a country mouse, know about the international mouse exchange program? Confused, Chris commented that indeed he did know about the international mouse exchange program and confessed that he himself was a Mennonite mouse! Kaytee was completely captivated and they continued their conversations and comradery, combining commonality like compassion and cooking, Carcazone and Catan! Eventually their congenial collegiality turned into courtship. What a carnal catch!

Candidly, Chris compelled Kaytee to consensual conjugal covenanted companionship in the country. He consoled her with all the carrots and cucumbers she could consume. Kaytee considered the compromise and concluded she could be cajoled into country contentment, crazy as that may be. Congratulations Kaytee and welcome to our cozy community! May you not feel claustrophobic or confined by it!

- This adapted version of *Country Mouse and City Mouse* was shared at the OMC welcoming bridal shower for Kaytee Edwards on March 16.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



*Assembly Scattered takes place before and after Mennonite World Conference Assembly Gathered (July 21-26, 2015, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA), at churches across North America. Participants get to know the people, ministries and stories of Anabaptist churches. To register for an Assembly Scattered event, go to mwc-cmm.org/pa2015.

*Mennonite World Conference is coming to North America!

MWC Assembly will be held July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA. It takes a (global) village to serve a gathering of up to 10,000 people, so volunteers are needed—find out more and register as a volunteer at mwc-cmm.org/pa2015.

***Featured prayer request from the wider church** Tom and Christine Poovong provide pastoral leadership to a new Mennonite church in Khon Kaen, northeast Thailand. On March 1 they opened a nursery for children 3 months to 3 years old. Pray that this business venture will be a good reflection of Christ in the community, and become strong enough to sustain the ministry of the church. To support their ministry visit:

<https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/Poovong>.

*Get news from your wider church family with a free e-mail subscription via www.commonword.ca/go/105.

*Canadian Mennonite University cmu.ca

Come learn about Women and Peacebuilding with Ouyporn Khuankaew and Ginger Norwood at the Canadian School of Peacebuilding, June 15-19, 2015. For more information, go to csop.cmu.ca or email csop@cmu.ca.

Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

April 5, 2015—Easter Day

On the third day

Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (4)

or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18

April 12, 2015—Easter 2

**Happy are those who don't see
and yet believe (CEB)**

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31 (29) or Mark 16:1-8

April 19, 2015—Easter 3

The Lord hears when I call

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 (3) 1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 26, 2015—Easter 4

Let us love . . . in truth and action

**Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24
(18)**

John 10:11-18



Osler Mennonite Church

A Welcoming Christian Community for Peace

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Report on Ukraine: April 8, 2015, 7:30 pm**, Osler Mennonite Church. Lucy Romanenkova, Zaporizhzhye, Ukraine retired professor of Social Work and Psychology at the Zaporizhzhye National University. Otto and Florence Driedger have collaborated with her over 20 years, teaching and assisting her as she has taken the lead in developing the Centre. She is the Director of the Family Service and Community Education Centre "Florence Centre". Lucy will provide a short Power point on the services this community agency is providing which has been developing its program and services over the last 10 years in collaboration with MCC, Communitas community services(Abbotsford) and Mennonite Benevolent Services(Winnipeg), and other groups from Germany and Canada. . You may also hear Lucy at the **MCC Centre (600-45th St W, Saskatoon) for a Brown Bag Lunch at 12:00pm** on Wednesday, April 8th.

***Wednesday/Thursday, April 8&9 – Youth: SMYO Honouring the Earth Event** – ALL-NIGHT province-wide event partnering with Mennonite Central Committee.

***John Bueckert's 100th Birthday Party Faspa** will be held **Sunday, April 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m.** OMC Fellowship Hall. *Please sign the large Birthday card for John on the Lent table in the foyer.* We will honour all our seniors at this event. Any seniors needing a ride to the Faspa Party, please contact the church office in advance or speak to one of the deacons: Dave, Loretta, Louise, Cornie or Adeline. Everyone is invited to bring veggie or fruit plates to share.

***On Tuesday, April 28, 7:30pm:** the **CMU Chamber Choir** will be singing here at OMC. We will be hosting the choir which includes billeting 19 women, 2 staff and the bus driver. If you are willing to host, please contact Margaret Dyck at 239-2205. We will be serving the choir supper at 5:30pm, and anyone wishing to bring their own supper and join the choir for the meal is welcome to do so.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***MCC: URGENT!** The unusually high number of international emergencies this winter has put a strain on MCC's resources and ability to respond to disasters. **We are low on funds and out of relief kits, hygiene kits and blankets.** For more information contact Del Lennea at MCCS at 306.665.2555 or dellennea@mccsk.ca

***Save the Dates: April 10 -12** – “The Church in China: Its...” George and Tobia Veith, Witness workers in China for 2 decades, will be at **Rosthern Mennonite Church** to share stories, pictures, and their personal experiences of God at work in this dynamic and changing country. For details, see <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/calendar/2015-04>.

***Sask. Women in Mission Enrichment Day:** Saturday, **April 25**, 10:30 am – 4:00pm at Waldheim Zoar Mennonite Church. Registration starts at 10:00am. Patty will be speaking on the theme: *Voices of Change: Navigating Life's Transitions*. Bring a sack lunch. Faspa & beverages will be provided. All ladies are invited!

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

**While they were still talking about this,
Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,
"Peace be with you."**

Luke 24:36

What Color is Snow (continued)

The church is like snow in so many ways
Just people meeting to pray and to praise
Covering blemishes, making things better
Just flakes like us, sticking together

So next time you see a huge blanket of snow
Think of the vision of healing and hope
Think of the safety that a blanket can give
Of people sticking together, to love and forgive

A Letter of Joy

From Fra Giovanni to Countess Allagia, Christmas Eve, 1513 (applies to our Easter joy)

I am your friend and my love for you goes deep. This is nothing I can give you which you have not. But there is much, very much, that, while I cannot give it, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in today. Take heaven! No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. Take peace! The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within our reach, is joy. There is radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see. And to see, we have only to look. I beseech you to look!

Life is generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by the covering, cast them away as ugly or heavy or hard. Remove the covering, and you will find beneath it a living splendor, woven of love by wisdom, with power. Welcome it, grasp it, touch the angel's hand that brings it to you.

Everything we call a trial, a sorrow or a ditty, believe me, that angel's hand is there, the gift is there, and the wonder of an overshadowing presence. Your joys, too, be not content with them as joys. They, too conceal diviner gifts.

Life is so full of meaning and purpose, so full of beauty - beneath its covering - that you will find earth but cloaks your heaven. Courage then to claim it; that is all! But courage you have, and the knowledge that we are all pilgrims together, wending through unknown country home.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

* OMC Commitment to Saskatoon Friendship Inn

OMC youth set the Friendship Inn service example earlier this year, and they now have extended this commitment for a further six months. On March 26th, the Mission and Service Committee agreed to be the lead on this project and committed OMC to assist our youth in providing 1-day a month service, for a six-month "trial" period, to Friendship Inn. Sounds interesting? Sounds like a worthy service project? Might be something you would do? They serve meals to poor people...right??

Let's find out a little bit more about what Friendship Inn (FI) is:

- A few concerned individuals started FI as a soup kitchen, in 1969. Today, the soup kitchen or food service program has expanded to include other programs for Saskatoon people living in poverty
- Many of FI clients have mental illness and addiction issues
- FI does not receive government funding. It relies on community donations, grants and partnerships to provide regular meal service and fellowship
- FI needs about \$5,000 per day to cover costs, or around \$1.825 million per year. Their current maxim is "\$5 will feed 1 person for 1 day"
- **"(FI) believe(s) in community development, public education and advocacy to encourage solutions to poverty in our city"**
- **"FI is responsive, compassionate and fosters a sense of belonging"**

...and what Friendship Inn does:

- FI is open from 8 am to 2 pm, 365 days a year. It serves both breakfast and lunch for a total 600-1,000 meals each day
- FI non-meal programs include mom and baby clinics, diabetes clinics, client legal services and addictions counseling

- FI provides individual and group services and programs to children, youth and adults experiencing poverty
- FI meals and services are “**served without cost or judgment and in a compassionate spirit**”

OMC has agreed to provide 8-10 volunteers for lunch service on April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18 and August 15.

Sign up sheets are on the church bulletin board or call Sandra 239-4999. If these dates do not suit your schedule, or in addition to serving meals, please consider making a **donation** through OMC designated to **FI or leave food and other items in the OMC collection box.**

Requested items include diapers size 3/4/5, baby formula, peanut butter, jam, pancake mix.

The Mission and Service Committee is enthusiastic about OMC’s commitment to our trial service period with Friendship Inn. We anticipate a much longer-term partnership will develop!

Thank you for your responsive and compassionate support to a basic need not available to everyone in Saskatoon.

- Mission and Service Committee

(Bold statements are quotes from Friendship Inn website)

Jadrian’s Friendship Inn Experience

Last month I went to help at the Friendship Inn. It was a good experience to help others. At first I felt uncomfortable because it was different to help others in need and I have never done anything like this before.

My job was to hand out the desserts and the time flew by. The discomfort I felt before was gone. I would love to have this experience again in the future.

-Jadrian Guenther



What color is snow?

-by Jerry Buhler

It’s a real silly question, but I’ll ask anyway
 I’ll run it by you, and see what you say
 The answer’s so easy, I’m sure you all know
 The question is this, what color is snow
 It’s not red orange or green like traffic lights or jello
 It’s not blue it’s not purple and no, it’s not yellow
 No, it’s white! So white, as white as can be
 So white, so pure, so spotless and clean
 It floats down from the sky without any sound
 Like magic it comes, and piles up on the ground
 It covers the world with a glistening blanket
 We play in it, lick it, throw it and pack it
 We sweep it, shovel it, plow it and blow it
 Yeah, it’s white all right, and everyone knows it

But wait, is the answer really that simple?
 Is it really as plain as a great big red pimple?
 Is it really as obvious as we’ve always thought?
 I don’t know, let me think, maybe it’s not

Lets say for a moment, just for argument sake
 That we dissect some snow, down to individual flakes
 If we go that far in taking it apart
 Even that’s not the beginning, where everything starts
 We break it down more, to tiny crystals of ice
 And if we could go further, with a small enough knife
 We’d end up with tiny ice ions
 So very small, they’re impossible to spy on

So to answer the question I asked at the start
 We need to know what color the ice ions are
 Well, they’re transparent, there’s not a color to be seen
 As clear as a crystal, or a window that’s clean

So why is snow white, it seems a bit strange
 If it starts without color, how does it make that change
 Well, the ions and crystals and flakes like old friends
 Cling, and stick together, and turn white in the end ...continued over