

OMC Calendar

February 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Each Sunday</u> Worship: 10:00 am.</p> <p>Sunday School: 11:15 am.</p>			<p>1 Bible study 10:30 am.</p>	<p>2 Exec meeting 5 pm.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 OMC AGM 9:30 am</p>
<p>5 Patty Friesen preaching</p>	<p>6 Deacons Mtg 7 :00 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Bible study 10:30 am</p>	<p>9 .</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Patty Friesen preaching</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Bible study 10:30 am</p>	<p>16 Worship mtg 5:00 pm M & S mtg 7:00 pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Patty Friesen preaching</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Bible study 10:30 am</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 New members sharing & Communion. Family faspas & Games nite 5:00 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>				

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

The Osler Mennonite Church FEBRUARY 2017 Newsletter

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



Upcoming Worship Services at OMC

- Feb. 5 Noah drinks too much – Patty Friesen
- Feb. 12 Hagar: The other Matriarch – Patty Friesen
- Feb. 19 Jacob lies too much – Patty Friesen
- Feb. 26 New members sharing / Communion
- Mar. 5 Julie Bergen's ordination and Potluck lunch

**“KNOW THEREFORE THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD;
 HE IS THE FAITHFUL GOD, KEEPING HIS COVENANT OF
 LOVE TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM
 AND KEEP HIS COMMANDS.”**

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

Patty's Ponderings:

As our hot water heater and furnace went out on the coldest weekend at the end of 2016, I burst into tears, unable to cope with one more crazy thing in 2016. I tried to breathe deeply and sat down at the piano and played through Calm Me Lord and Jesus Draw Me Nearer. I finally got myself into a zone where I could calmly call for help and pay for one more home repair.

"Calm" has become my word for 2017, which I may occasionally need to be reminded of as we wrestle with a larger budget and the excitement of our refugee family arriving. What a privilege to be doing this work and to be a spiritual home for our 100 members and surrounding extended church family and new community friends.

My commitment to the church is that I'll work on "calm" as I work out in the Lakewood Pool and hike Gros Morne National Park trails this summer. I'll pray for the church and play the piano and breathe deeply as I seek God's calming, gentle Spirit and guidance in the year ahead. "Prayer is contemplation of the facts of life from the highest view," said Emerson and may God guide us over the hurdles right before us into the highest view of God's desires for us this year.

Patty's Picks

Toward a Prairie Atonement by Trevor Herriott is another ecological/historical look at our beautiful province and our care for it. The Marvelous Pigness of Pigs by Joel Salatin is his coming-out as a Christian environmentalist and the smartest farmer around.

Callings by Dave Isay is a collection of powerful personal stories about meaningful work.

The Heaviness of Things That Float by Jennifer Manvel is an engaging tale of a West Coast First Nations community.

The Man Who Knew Infinity DVD is my favourite movie of 2016 and the true story of an Indian mathematician at Cambridge.

The Eagle Huntress DVD and Fences DVD come recommended by church members.

Florence Foster Jenkins DVD had me laughing and applauding.

Star Trek: Beyond DVD was another action packed thriller by the New Generation.

"Abraham Bargains" by Patty Friesen

Please read Genesis 18:16-33

Abraham knows a foot in the door when he sees one. Fifty is a lot; even Abraham knew he wouldn't find 50 good people. But if you were God and you had agreed to 50, what would you do if you found a only 45? You mean those five would make the difference? You kill 45 good people but not 50? What's the sense?

None at all, God agrees. Five people are too few.

But if that is so, you are beaten, God. Step by step Abraham takes the number Down. God's mistake was ever letting any number be set. Abraham's mistake was stopping at ten. There were only four: Lot, his wife, their two daughters. They got away.

Yet think what was happening here. Think what Abraham dared do.

Is it too much of a jump to think of such a story in our own times?

The principle has to do with justice: that the innocent may not be hurt in an effort to punish the evildoers. We all ran into practical difficulties with this in the classroom: Because two kids messed around in class, everyone got extra homework. Because some child pulled the fire alarm for a joke, we all lost recess for a week. Where was Abraham when we needed him?

He makes his presence felt elsewhere. In their letter on war and peace in 1983, the US bishops said again what has been at the heart of church teaching: "No matter what the cause, you can't kill innocent people in order to get at the guilty." -Gabe Huck

“An Invitation to Participate” from the Warman Thrift Shop Board:

As one of the founding congregations, the Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan (MCCS) together with the interim Warman Thrift Shop Board would like to reach out to you for your continued support. As we start the New Year, we are recruiting for board members to continue to guide and support the efforts of the Warman Thrift Shop staff and volunteers.

The idea of the Warman Thrift Shop was born in 1984 at the annual Congregational Meeting of the Osler Mennonite Church. This idea grew into a cooperative and collaborative venture that was supported by like-minded churches and community members. They united in their support of MCC and its mission to share “God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.” The first nine member board was formed by the following churches: Martensville Mennonite Mission, Warman Mennonite Conference, St. John’s Lutheran, Warman and Osler Mennonite Conference and five congregations of the Bergthal Church.

The primary function of the board is to plan, set direction, and assist in policy development. As part of the MCC Thrift Shop network, the board also enjoys the support of MCCS and will have available to them resources to help successfully fulfil their duties and responsibilities. Board members would also be responsible to act at all times for the sole benefit of the Warman Thrift Shop and the MCC Thrift Shop Network.

To find out more about the incredible work of the MCC Thrift Shop Network and various ways to be involved, please visit <http://thrift.mcc.org/>. For further information or application details, please contact Fiseko Musonda, fisekomusonda@mccsk.ca Thrift Shop Coordinator, MCC Saskatchewan. The selection committee will be reviewing applicants in February 2017.

Old Testament Worship Themes 2017

Old Testament Worship Themes for February

Feb 5 – Genesis 9 – Noah - Patty

Feb 12 – Genesis 16 – Hagar: The other Matriarch – Patty

Feb 19 – Genesis 31-35 – Jacob’s Messed Up Family – Patty

Feb 26 – New Members Sunday – Sharing by New Members

Old Testament Bible Study Readings for Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.

Feb 1 – Genesis 21-26 – Isaac and Rebecca

Feb 8 – Genesis 27-33 – Jacob’s Messed Up Family Part I

Feb 15 – Genesis 33-38 - Jacob’s Messed Up Family Part II

Feb 22 – Genesis 39-45 – Joseph

☸ Pieces of Peace ☸

“Only those who know internal peace can give it to others” Lao Tzu

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain, teardrops and laughter, pleasure and pain; we can’t have all bright days but it’s certainly true, there was never a cloud the sun didn’t shine through. Everything is by comparison both bitter and sweet, and it takes a bit of both of them to make our lives complete. Author unknown.

CAPSULE SERMONS

*A good place to find a helping hand is at the end of your arm.”

*Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of traveling.

HUMOUR

Shear honesty:

Male Client: “Thanks, my hair looks great! Now, when would be a good time to bring in my two-year-old son?”

Barber: “When he’s four.”

Being Prepared:

Homer: (to librarian): “I’m looking for a good book to read. Can you recommend something?”

Librarian: “Do you want something light or heavy?”

Homer: “It doesn’t matter. I have my car with me.”

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.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Old Testament Bible Study for all ages and genders** starting Wednesday Jan. 4 - Wednesday April 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m. concentrating on Old Testament themes.

***OMC Annual General Meeting: Sat. Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m.** All welcome to be a part of this exciting launch of our OMC new year, thanking outgoing committee members and welcoming new ones and eating donuts.

OMC CALENDAR

Feb 2	Executive meeting, 5:00 pm
Feb 4	AGM, 9:30 am
Feb 6	Deacons meeting, 7:00 pm – New members will share their faith stories.
Feb 16	Worship committee meeting, 5:00 pm Missions & Service meeting, 7:00 pm

YOUTH CALENDAR

***Friday Night Live @ RJC - Friday, February 3rd. 7-9pm.**

***Mega Menno - Saturday February 11th @ Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon. 7-9pm**

** Terri Lynn is away this weekend so parents will need to coordinate carpooling.

***Shekinah Winter Fun Day - Monday, February 20th (Family Day).**

***Fabulous February Family Faspas and Games night, Sunday February 26th at 5:00 pm.**

*Our own *Stephanie Siemens* is featured in the *Canadian Mennonite*, January 11, 2017.

Article by Aaron Epp, Young Voices Editor

(For the full article, see the *Canadian Mennonite*, Jan. 11 edition)

10 under 30

This past fall, *Canadian Mennonite* put out a call to readers. We wanted to hear about the young adults who are making a difference in your community—the emerging Mennonite leaders from across Canada who care about and support the church.

We asked that you suggest people who are 30 years old or younger; who are active in a Mennonite Church Canada congregation; who possess a gift or skill that benefits the church or community; who can articulate their faith and how they have experienced God; who show care for others through acts of service or volunteering; and who have not been profiled in *Canadian Mennonite* in the past three years.

What follows are the 10 people *Canadian Mennonite* chose from the nominations we received. A woman working towards indigenous-settler reconciliation, a dancer who works with inner-city youth in Winnipeg, a musician who writes new songs for special occasions at her church, and a youth worker passionate about ministry in Toronto, are just a few of the people you will read about in our inaugural 10 Under 30 list. Alas, no one was nominated from Alberta, the only area church not represented. They are all faithful Christians doing significant work that you have not read about in these pages before. They are also an indication that the church is in good hands.

Stephanie Siemens, Saskatoon

Since she started going to Osler Mennonite Church in 2005,

Stephanie Siemens has become heavily involved in the life of the congregation. Currently, she serves on the church council and worship committee, teaches Sunday school, leads some youth events, works the sound booth on Sunday mornings and for church rentals, serves on a ladies group committee, leads worship and helps with various other things that happen in the life of the church, including food prep at a recent funeral.

“I really don’t feel as though I do any more than what is my part,” says Siemens, 27. “I love my church family. . . . They are not perfect, which means I don’t have to be perfect, but they genuinely seek to live lives that reflect God’s love for and service to one another and the world. Who wouldn’t want to be involved with such a group?”

Asked to talk about an experience at Osler that sticks out as a highlight or particularly meaningful, Siemens struggles to pick just one. Countless service opportunities at the local soup kitchen, the MCC Relief Sale, and Canadian Foodgrains Bank—not to mention potlucks, summer outdoor services and picnics, and Christmas parties—have all been significant in her building relationships with her church family.

Siemens is in her first year of studies at the University of Saskatchewan, and in 2017 she hopes to get more involved with groups on campus. She also plans to continue her involvement at Osler.

“My hopes for the church would be that we continue to stay relevant to those within our congregation and beyond, that we embrace change, but, more importantly, embrace people, and that we continue to create strong relationships, and to work for peace and justice with ourselves, others and creation,” she says.