

**OMC Calendar**  
**February 2018**

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am				1	2	3 AGM, 9:30am  CMU Men's Choir 7:30 pm
4 RJC Chorale	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Patty Friesen preaching. 11:15 Adult SS-"Streams of Spiritually" By Terri Lynn	12	13	14	15	16	17 Serve at Friendship Inn
18 Julie Bergen preaching.	19	20	21	22 M & S committee mtg 7:00 pm	23 Nate & Nina's classical music concert, 7:00 pm	24
25 Dave Feick preaching.  Fab Feb Faspa & Games 5:00 pm	26	27	28			

**Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. [www.omchurch.org](http://www.omchurch.org)**

**The Osler Mennonite Church**  
**FEBRUARY 2018 Newsletter**

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



**Upcoming Worship Services at OMC**

- Feb 4** RJC Chorale
- Feb 11** "O Healing River: Jesus' baptism in the Jordan", Mark 1:1-11 by Patty Friesen
- Feb 18** First Lent: "The Call of the Disciples by the Sea and Healing in the Synagogue", Mark 1:16-28, by Julie Bergen
- Feb 25** Second Lent: "Another Healing in the Synagogue and the Multitude by the Sea", Mark 3:1-12, by Dave Feick

"GOD IS LOVE. WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE, LIVES IN GOD,  
AND GOD IN HIM."

1JOHN 4:16

### **Patty's Ponderings:**

I appreciate the church calendar that leads us to intentionally reflect on the first and second coming of Christ in Advent and Christmas. In January's season of Epiphany, we reflect on how Christ's light is at work transforming our marriages and sexual ethics. Our winter Bible study in Mark's Gospel asks what does Mark teach us about Jesus.

At our AGM Sat. Feb. 3, 9:30 a.m. we will call out the gifts of new committee members and thank exiting committee members and start a new church year with a new budget and spiritual focus of Deeper Life in Christ. February 14 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of seven weeks of Lent where we are invited again to be intentional in our spiritual and eating disciplines as we walk with Christ in the last weeks of his ministry and death. In Adult Education during Lent, we will have opportunity to dig deeper into the habits that enrich our spiritual lives. May God bless us in the changing seasons and church calendar as it rolls us towards Easter and resurrection.

### **Patty's Picks**

-Strangers Tell Me Things by Amy Dickinson is a lovely memoir of her single parenting, her relationship with her mother and late in life love.

-Braving the Wilderness by Brene Brown is her latest convincing call to courage and healing in our souls and relationships.

-The Book of Joy by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his friend the Dalai Lama is a bestseller of hope and compassion in a stressed world.

-Healing the Heart of Democracy by Parker Palmer isn't new but also was a hopeful, timely read for me over Christmas in the US.

-Becoming Wise by Krista Tippett deserves a book club discussion. Coming to the church library soon!

The Crown DVD got us through a cold Christmas season.

The Journey DVD was a fascinating imagining of how the peace process started in Northern Ireland.

Rams DVD was a fascinating story of brothers and sheep in Iceland.

Downsizing DVD was a fascinating imagining of the future and the environment, starring Matt Damon.

Lady Bird DVD was up for awards and for good reason, I thought, but my in-laws didn't like it.

### **"An Enneagram Blessing" from The Road Back to You**

by Ian Morgan Cron

May you recognize in your life the presence, power and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May you have respect for your individuality and difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny here, that behind the I of your life there is something beautiful and eternal happening.

May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.

### **HUMOR**

"Sweet deal"

**Mother:** "Johnny, who bought you that big ice-cream cone?"

**Johnny:** "No one. I bought it myself with that dollar you gave me."

**Mother:** "But that money was for Sunday School."

**Johnny:** "I know, but the minister met me at the door and got me in for free!"

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The police were not allowed to hunt down a suspect in the cathedral without a "church" warrant. (submitted by Art Z)

### **CAPSULE SERMONS**

Bending over backward is a good exercise for building good relationships.

Laughing is good exercise; it's like jogging on the inside.

### **Terri Lynn's Takes:    Introducing: the Vine & Table**

About this time last year, Thomas and I decided to buy a house in Riversdale. It had six more bedrooms than we needed, and substantial renos were part of the foreseeable future. But we sensed it was the right season for such an adventure. Other folks thought it had huge potential or was a huge mistake.

We have oscillated between sharing those opinions ourselves.

But Thomas and I have each lived in different kinds of house communities that shaped our young adulthood and our faith journey significantly. Our learning, support, and spiritual growth has happened - through church and camps and Sunday School - yes - but is *digested* and *integrated* while living in community, through countless shared meals, late night conversations and the in-between times that happen as we just live life.

This fall, at the Thanksgiving potluck, Dayna Goerzen told me about the home of her family friends in Winnipeg, called Emmaus House. Rod & Susan Reynard live with 11 students, sharing evening meals, chores, weekly meetings and daily life together. They call it Emmaus House. On the 5 minute drive between OMC and our garden plot, we decided we'd ask the Reynards if we could come and visit their community house. They said yes. On the 8 hour drive coming home from our visit in Winnipeg, we decided that Emmaus House embodied what we - within our own gifts and context - would like to pursue.

And so, this September, *the Vine & Table* will come to life, welcoming 8 post-secondary students and young adults to who will share in evening meals, household life, and spiritual growth as we offer mentorship and support in academic study and vocational exploration. At the Vine & Table we will offer young adults a place to have those conversations that allow them to integrate their studies, their passions and their faith; we'll share in preparing and enjoying delicious, healthy food; we'll practice giving and receiving hospitality; we'll seek to be good neighbours; and we will companion one another on our journey of living lives of faith and following Jesus.

We would love to talk with you about it, and hope to have an Open House in the spring, once our next round of renos are finished up. We would welcome your prayers for us as we prepare, and for the young adults who might be looking for such an opportunity. We also invite you to spread the word - to young adults that you may know who are moving to Saskatoon to study or work. More of the story and the vision is at [vineandtable.ca](http://vineandtable.ca) .

### **OMC YOUTH CALENDAR**

- Feb 11 “Sunday Night Fever” at RJC, 5:00-8:00 pm.  
Supper & Coffee House. Contact Terri Lynn before Feb 5 if you would like to go.
- Feb 12 Valley-Wide Youth Worship Night in Hepburn 7:00-9:30 pm  
Talk to Terri Lynn if interested.
- Feb 24 Youth Group at OMC 6:30 - 8:30

#### **On the U of S Campus:**

Inspired Green: Sustainability, Spirituality and Faithful Living in Saskatchewan

Feb 28 7-9:30pm STM 1001

Mar 1 5-9:30pm STM Cafeteria (dinner included)

Engage through film (The Story of Stuff), discussion, connecting with organizations, and eating together. Contact Terri Lynn about tickets!

Mar 9 Annual Delegate Sessions MM event, Swift Current

Apr 3-4 Honouring the Earth over-night MM event

May 25-2 Jr. High Retreat @ Youth Farm Bible Camp

June 8-9 Kid's Corner at MCC Relief Sale

### **OMC CALENDAR**

Feb 3 **Our AGM, 9:30 am**

Feb 3 CMU Men's Chorus, 7:30 pm

Feb 11 Adult S.S. – “Streams of Spirituality” with Terri Lynn Friesen

Feb 17 Serve at Friendship Inn, 11:30 am

Feb 22 Missions & Service meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb 23 Classical Music concert with Nate & Nina 7:00 pm

Feb 25 Fabulous February Faspa & Games night, 5:00 pm - a family event, sponsored by the Deacons.

#### **☼ Pieces of Peace ☼**

**Worrying is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere.**

## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Loose Change Project.** For the last number of years the money collected on Loose Change Sunday's has supported MCC Colombia "Education Brings Hope" project. This program has discontinued and M&S Committee has chosen a new project for 2018. With the expected arrival of the Al Nouri family from Syria we thought it would be appropriate to chose a project helping Syrian refugee children living in Lebanon. When children arrive in Lebanon they must adjust to a new home and school system where the classes are in English rather than their native Arabic. A kindergarten supported by MCC's education program helps them make the transition, providing a safe place for them to learn, play and grow. This kindergarten project in Beirut is supported through MCC's Education fund. Please support this project with your donations and help Syrian refugee children receive an education.

**\*Student MDS trip to Clearlake, CA** during spring break Feb. 18-25 will involve Matthew Stefaniuk, Dayna Goerzen, Katie Wiebe (MC Sask Youth Minister interim) and Stephanie Siemens building 5 houses for seniors that were burned in the 2015 wildfires. We will send them with our blessing on February 11 and they will report in church on March 4.

**\*Winter Bible Study 2018 at OMC:** Wednesdays 10:00-10:45 a.m.  
Feb. 7: Mark 12-13      Feb. 14: Mark 14-16

**\*Friday, Feb. 23, 2018, 7:00 pm:** Come enjoy an evening of **Classical Music with Nate and Nina.** Cellist Nathaniel Froese and pianist Nicola Davies, both based in Winnipeg, will present an evening of music in our sanctuary.

**\*Sunday, Feb 25, 5:00 pm: Come one, Come all, to our Fabulous February Faspa & Games Night!** Please bring faspa food to share and your favourite table games. You don't want to miss out on this evening of good food, great fellowship and fearless fun!

## 18 Ways Churches Can Change Their Culture in 2018

1. Maintain and update safe church child protection policies.
2. Require all leaders to take boundary training, even non-ordained leaders.
3. Post domestic violence and sexual violence hot-line numbers in church restrooms.
4. Teach the warning signs of domestic abuse and abuse of children in the church newsletter or bulletin.
5. Intentionally use the words *sexual violence* in the liturgy – for example, in a prayer of confession.
6. Use the hashtag #MeToo on the church's outdoor sign.
7. Take a special offering for a local domestic violence shelter.
8. Hang posters in April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month and in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
9. Plan education classes on these issues during April and October.
10. Education the congregation about the grooming behaviours of predators.
11. Invite a victims' advocate to lead an adult education class or series.
12. Focus education about sexual violence on justice, rather than healing.
13. Have various groups sponsor a #MeToo night.
14. Preach a sermon or series on biblical texts of terror, such as Tamar's story.
15. Put women in high-level positions in leadership.
16. Speak about sex from the pulpit in a frank and forthright manner without using code words or making inappropriate jokes.
17. Have the leaders create a no-tolerance statement and post it beside the church's mission statement: If any abuse occurs within the fellowship of this church we will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law no matter who the offender might be.
18. Pull the skeletons out of the church closet and prosecute the offenders.

-Ruth Everhart, p. 25, Christian Century, December 20, 2017

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR FEBRUARY

### February 4, 2018

Entrusted with a commission

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

### February 11, 2018, Transfiguration

Sunday

Let light shine out of darkness

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalms 30

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

*or*

Transfiguration (additional scriptures)

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

### February 18, 2018, Lent 1

This is the sign of the covenant

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

### February 25, 2018, Lent 2

It depends on faith

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 *or* Mark 9:2-9

## The Vietnam War by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick (Christian Century review, Jan. 17/18)

Ken Burns and Lynn Novick begin their PBS documentary The Vietnam War with a statement of belief. The narrator declares that the war was "begun in good faith, by decent people, out of fateful misunderstandings, American overconfidence and cold war miscalculations. And it was prolonged because it seemed easier to muddle through than admit that it had been caused by tragic decisions, made by five American presidents, belonging to both political parties."

But the rest of the film casts doubt on these assertions. Over ten episodes and 18 hours, viewers learn that the war was begun more in bad faith than good, by leaders who often behaved indecently, and that its fatefulness derived more from willful blindness than well-intentioned misunderstanding. Americans may have been overconfident and miscalculating, but there were also calculating and cruel. And if they muddled through, they did so not only tragically but with blood on their hands.

The creators of The Vietnam War seem to know that something more haunting lurks behind their narrative, something more damning than a tale of tragic miscalculation. They never have their narrator say so, but the facts they highlight speak for themselves. What if Americans were not wearing the white hats in Vietnam? Buried beneath the regular nods to tragedy and misconception, and the recitation of beliefs that protect us from more bitter truths, Burns and Novick suggest answers to those questions. Their film allows unprecedented space for Americans to imagine a Vietnam War that was not only mistaken but wrong, and not only wrong but reprehensible. (A difficult but important viewing for Mennonite conscientious objectors.)

## **Second in a series of 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Notes of Osler Mennonite Church – by Jake Buhler**

**On Sunday morning, February 5, 1928**, a group of worshippers gathered to worship at the home of Isaac J. and Elisabeth “Louise” Schoenfeld Kasdorf. Their home was located in Schlorrendarp about 200 meters from where Ross and Valerie Wiebe live today west of Neuhorst. Then they had a potluck meal, setting a precedence for the next 90 years!

After the meal, a founding meeting of the Osler Mennonite Church was held. Diana Braun Buhler’s grandfather, Jacob P. Braun was elected chairman, along with Johann J. Neudorf (Hella Neudorf Banman’s father), and G.G. Koslowsky. These three formed the first church board of trustees. A 5 member building committee was also elected that included Jacob J. Boldt, and his son, Jacob B. Boldt (all related to Dennis, Bruce, Linda, Kevin, Keith, Garry, Adam and Liam). A third member was Abram Driedger (Irvin Driedger’s uncle). The congregation voted to join the Conference of Mennonites of Canada.

That night, on February 5, at the Osler School (then located where today’s housing complex is situated - where Art and Edna now live), the first Jugendverein or Christian Endeavour was held. For the next 8 months Sunday School and Sunday worship services were held in the school. Later this building became the Museum. Rev. John G. Rempel and Rev. Jacob J. Boldt were the first ministers to serve the congregation.

The R.M. of Warman #374 donated 20 lots in Osler free of charge to the Church. Construction began in Spring, and the new building was dedicated by Aeltester David Toews on September 9, 1928.

**On Sunday morning, February 4, 2018**, ninety years later, a group of worshippers will gather in the newer church building constructed in 1997. The chairperson of the congregation is a woman. The two ministers of Osler Mennonite Church are women. From 1928 to 1964, only men voted in the Bruederschaft or Brotherhood meetings held annually.

Early ministers were paid a small stipend, but no salary, for their dedicated work. The first “paid” minister was Walter Franz, who

arrived in Osler as a 24 year old from CMBC in Winnipeg. The longest serving minister was Jacob H. Pauls who was also ordained at age 24, and served from 1938 to 1963, a total of 25 years. During his tenure, he never baptized one congregant, as that task was left to the Aeltester. The first musical instrument in the church was an organ; pianos could not be used because during the week the church was unheated, and the piano would have gone wildly out of tune. There were many times when the congregation sang acapella in 4 voices, as there was no accompanist. Grace Day, who was the CNR station master’s daughter, was an early accompanist. Today we are blessed with fine accompanying instruments, and fine musicians. Over 90 years, this congregation continues to seek the will of God, and to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus.

### **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.