

OMC Calendar

March 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am				1 Executive mtg 6 pm. Council mtg 7 pm	2	3
4 Adult choir practice 9:15 am. MDS'ers reporting.	5 Heart to Heart 7:00 pm	6	7	8	9	10
11 Choir practice 9:15 am. Josh Wallace preaching.	12 Osler Community Garden mtg 7 pm	13	14 Deacons mtg 12:45 pm	15	16	17 Serve at Friendship Inn
18 Choir practice 9:15 am. Patty Friesen preaching. Faith Exploration class @ noon	19 Blanket making 9:00 am	20 Blanket making 9:00 am	21 Blanket making 9:00 am	22 Blanket making 9:00 am	23 Blanket making 9:00 am	24
25 Choir practice 9:15 am. Patty Friesen preaching. Faith Exploration class @ noon	26	27	28	29 Potluck & Communion 6:00 pm	30 Good Friday service 7:00 pm	31

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

The Osler Mennonite Church MARCH 2018 Newsletter

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



Upcoming Lent Worship Services: “O Healing River”

Mar. 4: 3rd Lent: Mark 4: 35-41 Jesus Calms the Storm: MDS'ers report on Wildfire Storm.

Mar. 11: 4th Lent: Mark 5:1-20 Jesus Heals the Demoniac by the Sea: Josh Wallace

Mar. 18: 5th Lent: Mark 6:45-56 Jesus Walks on Water and Heals: Patty Friesen

Mar. 25 Palm Sunday: Mark 11:1-11/Mark 8:22-29 Jesus Heals with Spit and Anointing Service: Patty Friesen

Mar. 29, 6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Service – Potluck & Communion: Terri Lynn Friesen

Mar. 30, 7:00 pm: Good Friday Service

April 1, 10:00 a.m Easter Service and 11:15 am Brunch

“CALM ME, LORD, AS YOU CALMED THE STORM; STILL ME, LORD, KEEP ME FROM HARM. LET ALL THE TUMULT WITHIN ME CEASE; ENFOLD ME, LORD, IN YOUR PEACE.” Sing the Story Hymnal, #45

Pastor Patty's Ponderings: Into the Wilderness - Again!

"And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." Mark 1:12-13

"Maybe you need to return to the wilderness of southern Saskatchewan," my spiritual director mused, listening to my anxiety and distractions and missing God. "Really?" I replied. "I'd rather go sit on a beach with an umbrella drink. God can speak to me there." "Where have been your most profound experiences with God this last year?" "In the wilderness of southern Saskatchewan," I replied reluctantly.

Lent is already a drag and going without chocolate to the wilderness of Herschel, SK sounds unbearable. Why torture myself? What good is all this wrestling with my spirit and with God? What do I hope to gain? Clarity, renewal, love.

"For 40 days of Lent we are asked to go into a wilderness place and to prepare ourselves for the journey of discipleship. Lent asks us to wrestle with the hard stuff: to pray, to fast, to do something new. To face temptation and to choose to follow Christ anyway. It's not popular. Crowds will show up at church on Easter morning, but few will have spent the last 40 days getting ready. Everyone likes a party; not everyone likes setting up for it. But those of us who choose to make this 40-day wilderness journey may discover something meaningful along the way: Christ is there too. We've often been in the wilderness, but now we've found that we're not alone."

-Emily Heath, Christian Century, Jan. 31/18

Patty's Picks

Logan Lucky DVD is an interesting action movie Patrick and I enjoyed.
The Post DVD is an interesting movie about Katherine Graham, owner of The Washington Post.
The Crown Season 2 is an interesting season about Prince Philip.

A Year with Thomas Merton is my lenten wilderness companion book.
The Sacred Enneagram by C. Heuertz guides our personality types back to God.
The Road Back to You by Ian Cron also guides our personality types back to God.
Stone by Stone by Liz Bryan is an archeological study of SK.
Islands of Grass by Trevor Herriot is an ecological, photographic study of SK.
Winter by Karl Ave Knausgaard is an essay on our life in all its seasons.

Terri Lynn's Takes

March is almost here! Here's what's coming up on the youth calendar:

MEGA MENNO:

MegaMenno for this month is actually combined with the ADS (Annual Delegate Sessions) in Swift Current.

On March 9th, as a part of ADS, the youth will have a Friday night event at camp Elim: a dutch blitz tournament! We do have overnight accommodations available, but there is limited space, so please let me know ASAP if you would like to spend the night. The event formally starts at 9:30 and goes until 11. We plan to start a bit later in the evening to give youth the opportunity to participate in the ADS worship service that evening. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch with Katie Wiebe! If you have youth interested in being a youth delegate at Annual Delegate Sessions, March 9-10, you can register at <http://mcsask.ca/registrations/>, and/or let Katie Wiebe know! Early registration deadline is this Friday, March 2!

April 5/6 - Honouring the Earth is the MegaMenno event for April (note the date change if you have the original calendar of MegaMenno events from the fall). The theme will focus on our relationship with the land and our Indigenous neighbours, and will involve an overnight adventure to the Ancient Echoes site near Herschel! I'll send out more details as I get them, but the day will begin at MCC SK in Saskatoon at noon, and will return from Herschel the next morning. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event on Easter Break!

OMC/WMC YOUTH:

Saturday, March 10 - Service Day/Games Night in Warman/Saskatoon

We're mixing things up with a fun day of volunteering at the Warman MCC Thrift Store. We'll *meet at the store*, and help sort donations and help out from **2-4pm**. From there we'll head to Saskatoon - we'll stop at a park along the way to get some outside time, and then at **5:30pm** we'll meet at Sarah & Charlie's home for supper and a games night, until **8:30pm**.

Please let me know in advance if your youth can come, so we can plan for drivers and food. **We'll need extra drivers for this event (for to and from the city)**. Thanks in advance to folks willing to drive, and to Sarah and Charlie for hosting.

Saturday March 24 - Youth @ OMC - 6:30-8:30pm

Finally, if you are willing to volunteer and spend an evening with our youth, please sign up at the link below!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19S534MNs74I2rLgGY3evtkXTZ2jWG1kpxJTNdZgxB7c/edit?usp=sharing>.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*OMC turns 90 this year! The 90th Anniversary Committee is working on a fall supper celebration and various celebrations throughout the year. **The 90th Anniversary theme is “Welcoming Refugees for 90 Years.”** Committee members are Dick Braun, Jake Buhler, Patty Friesen, Brandee Borne, Sandra Grismer.

***March 2-3: Mennonite Historical Society of Sask AGM & Workshops** at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon. Friday night is a celebration of the 500th anniversary of Reformation with Dr. Gordon Jensen. Saturday 9:30 am is the AGM business meeting, followed by Dick Braun and Leonard Doell presenting a workshop on Significant Anniversaries being celebrated by organizations with whom we connect. Lunch and then a workshop by Victor Wiebe “The Archives Come Alive”.

***We invite everyone to come to the “sewing table” March 19-23** as we again sew blankets for MCC to deliver to those in need.

OMC YOUTH CALENDAR

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

Mar 1 Executive meeting 6:00 pm; Council meeting, 7:00 pm
Mar 4 Worship committee meeting, 11:30 am
Mar 5 Heart to Heart, 7:00 pm
Mar 14 Deacons meeting, 12:45 pm
Mar 29 Maunday Thursday Potluck & Communion, 6:00 pm
Mar 30 Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

“Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” Psalm 34:14

O Healing River: Companion in our Pain

Pain is the attention-getting gift that nobody wants. Its’ signals and sensations alert us to unwelcome events or situations. Pain always engenders some kind of response. If we’re not paralyzed by it, we’re usually motivated to do something about it.

Opioid medications go a long way toward managing acute pain, though they’re far less effective in treating chronic pain. Long-term use fosters a craving that converts easily into addiction. When narcotics get used for euphoric reasons, it’s safe to assume that something is missing in the user’s life. It may be the absence of deep friendships, insufficient moral guides, a faltering sense of purpose or a feeling that life is just not adding unto significance. Many addicts are running from internal pain and suffering that is anything but physical in nature.

Religion offers a helpful response here, though not in the way Karl Marx supposed. When Marx called religions “the opiate of the people,” he understood it to function like opium, the reduction of suffering and the offering of pleasurable illusions. But the Christian faith proposes just the opposite. Jesus never operated as an opiate. There’s no evidence of him pretending to be a pain reliever who showed up on earth to eliminate all suffering. In fact, he promised a cross for every one of his followers. Disciples who believed they would escape pain or misery by loving or obeying him were only fooling themselves.

Christians are supposed to be experts on suffering, says Eugene Peterson, for one chief reason alone: their identifying symbol is the cross. People of faith who spend their lives steeped in the cross know, because of the one upon it, of a companion in their pain. While it’s true that some people become more resilient through suffering, and other people become more embittered through very similar suffering, it’s hard for any of us to conceive of a life without suffering. The Christian faith does not remove agony and ordeal from life. Rather, our lives are formed most fully through it.

-from Peter W. Marty, Christian Century, Jan. 31/18

HUMOR

The **Presbyterian church** called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the **Baptist church** the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The **Lutheran church** decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

But the **Catholic church** came up with a very creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the **Jewish synagogue**; they took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

*“Not sure how the **Mennonite church** might deal with the squirrels. I suppose the squirrels each got a hamper, and have been coming back ever since.”* Jake Buhler

CAPSULE SERMONS

“We make our living by what we get; we make our life by what we give.” Winston Churchill

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” Mother Teresa

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MARCH

March 4, 2018, Lent 3

The law of the Lord is perfect

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 11, 2018, Lent 4

By grace you have been saved

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 18, 2018, Lent 5

A new and right spirit

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

March 25, 2018, Palm Sunday/

Passion Sunday

Blessed is the one

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11 *or* John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

March 29, 2018, Maunday Thursday

Do this in remembrance

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

History page of the Osler Mennonite Church

The Librarians in our Church: At some time in the 1940s, a box was placed in the women's cloak room that contained some donated newspapers and books. In the 1950s, trustees agreed more should be done to promote Christian literature. A cupboard built by Jacob Schmidt (Edna Zacharias's grandfather) was placed in the renovated basement of the original church. More books were added. A list of librarians is included here. Their volunteer work is very much appreciated.

Anne Born Lobe: circa 1958 – 1966

Edith Rostek Boldt: circa 1966 – 1977

Linda Boldt Stucky: 1977 – 1995

Ruth Neudorf Buhler: 1995 – 2018 (and continuing)

First Ladies' Aid Group in our Church: Initially it was called *Naehverein* which is a Sewing Circle. It was formed on February 6, 1930 at the home of Mr and Mrs Abram Driedger. Nineteen women each paid 50 cents to join. Each women also donated a cotton flour sack. The photo below was taken about 1950. They met on the first Thursday of each month. Over the years they raised several tens of thousands of dollars for overseas and for local missions. Linda Boldt Stucky's grandmother is seated on far right. Jake, Ben, and Wilf Buhler's mother is standing 5th from left.



The 1960 photo above shows the Ladies' Aid Group after a chicken butchering bee at the Mennonite Youth Farm in Rosthern for the benefit of the Invaliden Heim. Home. Each woman is holding a chicken.

- Submitted by Jake Buhler

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.