

OMC Calendar

September 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am.					1	2
3 Patty Friesen & Ben Buhler preaching.	4 Holy Hikers @ Wanuskewan	5	6 Executive Meeting 1:00 pm. Education meeting 7:00 pm.	7 Council meeting 7:00 pm	8	9
10 S.S. begins 11:15 am Patty Friesen preaching. Potluck @ noon	11	12 Worship meeting 7:00 pm	13	14 M & S meeting 7:00 pm	15	16 Serving @ Friendship Inn.
17 Patty Friesen & Glen Grismer preaching.	18 Wedding shower for Lacey 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 Florence Driedger preaching. MC Sask Listening & Discernment Faspa 5:00 pm	25	26	27 Deacons meeting 1:00 pm	28	29	30 Ancient Echoes Tour in Herschel

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

The Osler Mennonite Church SEPTEMBER 2017 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

- September 3 - Leadership is a Necessity by Patty Friesen and Ben Buhler
- September 10 - Leadership is a Challenge by Patty Friesen
- September 17 - Leadership is a Calling for All of Us by Patty Friesen and Glen Grismer
- September 24 - Florence Driedger preaching

“SING TO THE LORD OF HARVEST, SING SONGS OF LOVE AND PRAISE. WITH JOYFUL HEARTS AND VOICES YOUR ALLELUIAS RAISE.”
 FROM THE HYMNAL, A WORSHIP BOOK, #98

***Congratulations to Terri Lynn Friesen** for being accepted into Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Paul's Hospital beginning Sept 19-April 11, 2018 for two days a week in class and in visitation. As a congregation, we are thankful for this opportunity and will be in prayerful support.

OMC CALENDAR

Sept 4 Holy Hikers @ Wanuskewin, 11:00 am
 Sept 6 Executive meeting, 1:00; Education meeting, 7:00 pm
 Sept 7 Church Council meeting, 7:00 pm
 Sept 10 Sunday School begins, 11:15 am
 Sept 10 Fall Fellowship Feast potluck at noon. Lunch group D-L in charge.
 Sept 12 Worship committee meeting, 7:00 pm
 Sept 14 M & S meeting, 7:00 pm
 Sept 18 Wedding shower for Lacey Braun, 7:00 pm
 Sept 24 MC Sask/OMC Listening & Discernment Fasp meeting, 5:00 pm. Please bring goodies for fasp.
 Sept 27 Deacons meeting, 1:00 pm
 Sept 30 Ancient Echoes Tour in Herschel. Check upcoming bulletins for more information.

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

Jesuits are returning 525 acres of land in South Dakota to the Rosebud Sioux. The land, given to the Jesuits in the 1880s by the US government to be used for churches and cemeteries, is scattered throughout the 900,000-acre Rosebud reservation. At one point there were 23 Catholic missions on the land.

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

***Ride for Refuge: September 30th**, the Prairie Goats will be riding to support The Bridge Fellowship Centre. To support the Prairie Goats, there are donation sheets on the bulletin board or give directly through the Ride for Refuge website. If you would like to join the ride, just check in with team members; Keri, Kathryn or James. The more the merrier! Cash or cheque donations can be given to Keri or Kathryn for safe keeping 'til ride day.

*** Forever in Motion Drop-In Seniors Exercise Group** (Saskatoon Health Region) for women and men will be meeting Tuesdays and Fridays at the Community Hall at 10:00 a.m. beginning with our Fall Kick-Off on Tues. Oct. 10 at 10:00 a.m. Lunch to follow. Contact Susan Braun with questions: 306-239-4201, susan.braun@hotmail.ca.

***From Mennonite Disaster Service:** Please pray for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the severe flooding on the Texas Gulf Coast. MDS is closely monitoring the situation and is preparing for a response. We will be sending an assessment team to the area this week to determine short and long term responses.

MDS is accepting financial donations for its Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, which can be given [online](#) or by cheque and made payable to: MDS Region 5 Office, 6A-1325 Markham Rd, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 4J6. Designate "Hurricane Harvey" on the memo line.

Churches for Environmental Action present
Seeking Sustainability: Practices for Mindful Living
 Key note speaker **Paul Hanley**, author and former Star Phoenix Environmental Columnist.

October 14, Saturday, 2017 1-3:30 pm
Nutana Park Mennonite Church, 1701 Ruth St. East
 Three People who are walking their talk
 1. Pursuing Net Zero Living- Rod McLaren retired Citizen of Earth
 2. Urban food Production- Jared Regier Urban farmer
 3 Environmental Education in School- Melchior Sysing Teacher

Patty's Ponderings:

What a gift my July national park sabbatical was. It wasn't a technical paid sabbatical but an unpaid leave that felt like a soul sabbatical. The two-weeks spent in solitude in southern Saskatchewan and Waterton National Park, particularly were powerful spiritual encounters that will come out in sermons. I've written my sabbatical journal reflections in the church library for more detailed reflections but these are the highlights.

Sabbatical lesson #1 - I learned from hiking across the prairie with no path: not taking a prescribed path is difficult but important. It takes more faith and trusting to follow a destination than a path.

Sabbatical lesson #2 - I need to know our aboriginal history in Saskatchewan.

Sabbatical lesson #3 – We need wilderness more than ever as a place of contemplation and connection with God. How can other church members and I detach from technology and get back into nature? How can we build deeper relationship and trust with each other in nature?

Sabbatical lesson #4 – We need to hear from each other's experiences more – sharing especially the tough ones so that our young people can hear that they are not alone in their struggles. I may do a shared sermon series where I do the biblical work and others reflect on how the bible story connects with their personal experience. We can poll the congregation for whom they'd like to hear from and about what so we have some leverage when asking people to share.

Sabbatical lesson #5 – I care so much about these people and enjoy them and believe in what they want to accomplish. I want to be a part of the congregation even when I'm retired from pastoring. I'll leave for six months like Anita Retzlaff did with Nutana Park while Suzanne got settled but then come back and make coffee like a regular member.

Sabbatical lesson #6 – This time off has been so good for me. I need more than a day off here or there and need to take more regular week long vacations – at least once a quarter and then hopefully 4-6 weeks unpaid time off in the summer.

Sabbatical lesson #7 – I want to listen more and talk less.

Sabbatical lesson #8: Continue to work at safe space and inclusion of our gay and lesbian children and First Nations' experience and spirituality and rural libraries!

Sabbatical lesson #9: How can we create vision quests for Mennonites? How can we deepen our connection to our Creator and creation so that we may be empowered and led to our true callings?

Patty's Ponderings Part II

This is what I learned from my visit to St. Thomas Wesley United Church on 20th Street, Saskatoon.

Sunday, July 23, 2017

This morning I got my first Mennonite volunteer chaplain call to St. Paul's ICU. I felt like I was in a good emotional spiritual space to be present with the Friesens (!) whose family member was being taken off life support. In the waiting room I met a woman whose husband was in for an emergency appendectomy. We had an amazing conversation. It was a morning of "flow" as Julie describes the Spirit's work in the hospital.

It was too late to go to Nutana or Mount Royal for church but I caught the 10:30 service at St. Thomas Wesley United Church on 20th. I've always been curious about them and think we learn a lot from visiting other churches. To begin with, I was a little late and the usher was gabbing so I didn't get a bulletin. Then they made me stand up and say my name during the welcome time when I wanted to slip in late and anonymously like OMCers! Let's not put visitors on the spot at OMC. There are other ways of being welcoming to visitors.

They kind of look like us. They have a middle-aged female minister whom congregation was blessing her on her four week sabbatical as well! Her sermon had a mix of liberal politics and personal awareness on anger as the blessings of weeds in our lives but maybe was a little light on Jesus. I appreciated the Lord's prayer but struggled singing through the new-agey choruses.

They are a grey-haired congregation with no children. I'm glad we did visioning for keeping young families and children engaged in church two years ago with a hired staff position. But they have aboriginal people and we don't. I appreciated their First Nations altar cloth of a trout. The early Christians used the fish sign as a symbol for Jesus.

They are an opening affirming congregation of LGBT people and their visual art reflected their values – the rainbow flag and

rainbow Christ candle. I'd say we're a quietly affirming congregation and I hope our gay children know we and God love them.

I didn't stay for coffee – despite the friendly invitations – that's too intense on a first visit. Anyone else have interesting visits to other congregations this summer they would like to share about in next month's newsletter?

Patty's Summer Picks

My Life, My Love, My Legacy by Coretta Scott King - a powerful memoir from one of our most influential women in history.

A Mother's Reckoning by Sue Klebold - a powerful memoir from a wounded mother struggling to find meaning in her son's murder suicide at Columbine High School.

Planted by Leah Kostamo - featured on CBC Tapestries, a beautiful memoir of people and conservation.

Change of Heart by Jodi Picoult - an engaging tale, especially on a long road trip through southern Saskatchewan!

Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood - now made into a series, it's a tale that holds its' relevance through time.

Hidden Figures DVD - an important true story of African American women at NASA.

Deep Water Horizon DVD - an important true story of corporate negligence and environmental disaster.

Call the Midwife Season 6 - perhaps the best season of all in tis series.

The Power of Myth DVD interview with Bill Moyers and Joseph Campbell, now 30 years old and still powerful.

The Killing DVD series - intense and not for family viewing but an engaging detective series adapted from the dark Danish murder mystery series.

Advice from a Deer (as given to Patty in southern Alberta)

Look both ways before you cross the road.

Be a good listener.

Know when to lay low.

Tread lightly on the earth.

Take time to browse.

Leap over obstacles. Don't pass the buck!

HUMOR

Teacher: Johnny, please us the words “letter carrier” in a sentence.

Johnny: Yes, ma'am. “My dad said that after seeing how many things my mom was bringing on vacation, he would rather letter carrier own luggage.”

A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, “Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you.”

Two fishermen sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft it sank.....proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

CAPSULE SERMONS

ALL I EVER REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN

KINDERGARTEN. By Robert Fulgham

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in Kindergarten.

These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work some every day. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

Think about what a better world it would be if we all had cookies and milk at 3:00 every afternoon and then lay down on our blankets for a nap. Or if all nations would always put things back where they found them and clean up their own messes. And it's still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.