

MCC Connects: Palestine & Israel: Let No Walls Divide, MCC's annual Advocacy Student Seminar is happening February 15-17, 2018 in Ottawa. Contact Myriam at MyriamUllah@mccsk.ca to apply for flight subsidies from MCC by January 10, 2018. Visit mcccanada.ca/ottawa-student-seminar for more information.

***Prayer Request from MC Canada:** Please pray that the new structures of the Mennonite Church Canada international ministry will find ways to involve our international partners in the changes that are happening.

OMC CALENDAR

Dec 6 Executive meeting, 1:00 pm
 Dec 7 Council meeting, 7:00 pm
 Dec 8 Osler School Christmas Concert: 10:00 am
 Dec 16 S.S. program dress rehearsal, 10:00-11:00 am
 Dec 16 Youth Christmas Party, 6:30-8:30 pm @ Wallace's
 Dec 17 Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 am
 Dec 17 Blue Christmas/Lament in Advent, 7:00 pm
 Dec 24 Christmas Hymn Sing 10:00 am
 Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00pm
 Jan 7/2018 Communion service, 10:00 am

Worship Leader: John Reddekopp Song Leader: Loretta Sawatzky
 Pianist: Naomi Schellenberg Sound: Chris Buhler
 Ushers: Carl Martens-Funk, John Gashco Nursery: Adeline Cox

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0
 Vol. LVIII December 3, 2017 No. 49
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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan
 A Welcoming Christian
 Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Focus Statement: We awaken to God's purpose, which begins in darkness-whether seed in the ground, child in the womb, or new self in the soul. We are shaking, fearful, and resistant, yet we call upon God to tear open the heavens and be present with us in our uncertainty.

Prelude
 Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: "Wisdom & Wonder" Advent reading by Kathy Braun & Nora Bergen-Braun

Invocation

***Hymns: Blue/HWB #189 "To us a Child of hope is born"**
Blue/HWB #318 "Joy to the world"

Sharing Joys & Concerns / Prayer of the Church

Offering - Choir: "In the Bleak Midwinter" / Offertory Prayer

Children's Time Terri Lynn Friesen

Hymn: Blue/HWB #208 "Love came down at Christmas"

Scripture lessons: Isaiah 64:1-8; Mark 13:28-37

Hymn: Blue/HWB #174 "Bless'd be the God of Israel"

Sermon: "A Wakeful Faith on First Advent" Patty Friesen

Hymn: Blue/HWB #182 “Oh, how shall I receive thee”

*Benediction: As you go from this place, may you be given peace. When the presence of God shakes the world in which you live, may you remember that the invitation to walk with Jesus is not a promise of safety, but rather a call to courage. May the Spirit embolden you to let it be. Amen.

(*Please rise)

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshipping with us.

Scent Free: We are striving to be considerate of those with sensitivities to scents/fragrances and ask all to avoid wearing scented products.

Children’s Worship Binder, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

TODAY.

- **Centering Prayer** in Classroom 1 at 9:15 am.
- **Beverages & snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School** for all ages begins at 11:15 am.
- **Adult S.S. Forum 11:15-11:30 am: Children & Communion. 11:30-11:45 am: Q & A with Council about budget and other interests.**
- **Adult choir practice at Noon.**

THIS WEEK

- **Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1:00 pm Executive meeting**
- **Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:00 pm, Council meeting**
- **Friday, Dec. 8, 10:00 am. Osler School Christmas Choir**

NEXT SUNDAY

- **Adult S.S., 11:15 am with Dave Feick**
- **Adult choir practice at Noon**

Next Sunday, Dec. 10, Advent 2: Patty Friesen “John the Baptist”.

Worship Leader: John Reddekopp

Children’s Time: Jake Buhler

Nursery: Diana Buhler

Song leader: Michelle McKinnell

Pianist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard

Sound: Matthew Stefaniuk

Ushers: Carl MF, Lloyd S

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 10: Second Advent – “John the Baptist” by Patty Friesen

Dec 17: 10:00 am – Sunday School Christmas Program -

“Outstanding in their Field” followed by Christmas coffee.

Dec 24: 10:00 am – “**The Music of Christmas**”. *This service will include our adult choir, special music, Christmas favourites and will end with our traditional homecoming mass choir singing the “Friedensfurst”.*

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec 31: “Christ is born!” – Audrey Bechtel preaching

Patty’s Week: Tues: sermon, visits; Wed: office, visits; Thurs: council; Fri: Osler School Christmas choir.

Terri Lynn’s Week: Wed: CPE; Thurs: office/visits, council (pm); Fri: Osler School Carol Fest/worship prep; Sat: Buncha Guys/Sonrisa concert.

Remember in Prayer:

-Esther Patkau’s stroke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Seniors’ Christmas Cards:** Please sign cards on the back table for our seniors that are homebound during this season.

***Student Care Packages:** The deacons invite you to bring goodies for our post-secondary students. Gift boxes will be in the foyer for the next couple of weeks to collect your Care gifts, such as gift cards, treats, KD ☺ etc. for Zachary, Matthew S., Dayna, Liam and Steph. Thanks for your support. Please bring your items by **December 10th**. *Donations to Dayna, Steph and Matthew’s MDS spring break trip also welcome!*

***Christmas Hampers:** Mission and Service Committee is planning to distribute Christmas hampers in December. If you are aware of families or individuals that would benefit from a hamper please contact a member of the M & S Committee: John G., Sandra G., Jean, Marlene or Margaret D.

***Advent calendars** are available on lobby lace table.

***Advent at Home** - Families with children:

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of “Yes! Let It Be!” a free, downloadable guide for family worship from December 3 to January 6. Pick and choose the activities that work best for your family. www.anabaptistfaithformation.org.

***Rejoice Devotionals**: Please sign up if you are interested in receiving the Rejoice, which costs OMC \$37.70 per subscription. Users please consider giving as able.

***Adult choir practices** on Sundays at **noon**.

***Pies! Pies! Pies!** Katherine Penner is once again selling pies for RJC’s Faith and Life Fundraiser, this year called Adventopoly. **100%** of the money raised leaves the school to support the organizations the students work with while on their ALSO trips in April. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board to place your order, Apple Pies (\$10) and Saskatoon Berry Pies (\$15) (limited quantity). Thanks for your support!

***Nursery volunteer opportunity**: If you would like to join our team of nursery room supervisors, please contact Diana Buhler by Dec. 10

***Sunday School Christmas Project;**
...keeping watch over their flock by night (Luke 2;8).

This year the Sunday School Christmas Giving Project will be one that helps to provide rabbits and chickens for poor people around the world. Rabbits produce quickly and cost little to raise and chickens provide eggs and meat. MCC-supported training helps people raise and sell animals such as these. We hope to receive donations towards this project during the month of December. Our goal is \$750.00 this year.

***Baptism or Membership in the New Year?** Please talk to a deacon, Patty or Terri Lynn.

*Tickets are available for the **Osler Seniors Christmas Banquet** on Thursday, December 7, 6:00 pm. The cost is \$15. Talk to Art Z if interested.

***Friday, December 8, 10:00 am: Osler School Christmas Carol Festival** here @ OMC. Come & enjoy the hard work and beautiful music prepared by these grade 4-6 students and their teachers. Coffee and goodies to follow.

***Hotties in the Hood** with The Princess Bride at The Roxy, this Sat. **Dec. 9**, meet in theatre lobby 3:30ish for saving seats and popcorn. For any hot OMC female of any age. Talk to Michelle if interested. Tickets are limited.

***RJC Gym Blast** - Saturday, December 9. Students from grades 6-11 are invited to a gym blast at RJC, featuring SK Roughrider Henoc Muamba. Registration to begin at 11:30 am. RSVP by Thursday, December 7 to office@rjc.sk.ca or 1.303.232.4222

***Sonrisa Women’s Choir and A Buncha Guys** come together for two concerts this Christmas season. **Saturday, December 9th** at 7:30 at Knox United Church in Saskatoon, and Sunday, **December 17th** at 7:00 at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Donations from both concerts will go to support Shekinah. Please join us!

***Monday, December 11, 7:30pm : Station Singers** present “Have you Heard the Story?” with John Rutter at Station Arts Center in Rosthern. Tickets: Adults \$20/Students \$10/Kids 12 & under \$5. (Call 306-232-5332)

*Please join **OMC Singers for Seniors** at Oliver Lodge, **Tuesday, Dec. 12@10:30 am**, with lunch to follow and another singalong at John and Anne Friesen's at 1:30 p.m.

*Please join **OMC Singers for Seniors** at Warman Special Care Home on **Friday, Dec. 15 @10:30 am**, followed by 12:00 lunch and another singalong at Susan Bueckert's farm near Neuhorst.

***Saturday, Dec. 16, 10:00-11:00 am: S.S. Dress Rehearsal.**

***Saturday Dec 16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm:** Youth Christmas Party @ Josh & Cindy Wallace's. A jolly, fun evening of Movie watching and Christmas baking munchies!

***Winter Study on Marriage, Sex and Divorce** begins with Sunday, Jan. 7, 14, 21 sermons and 11:15 Adult Ed with Kaytee leading an Enneagram Personality study on Jan. 14 at 11:15 am and at 12:45-1:30 pm following a Student MDS fundraiser potluck.

***Winter Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark and Ephesians** on Weds. Jan. 10, 17, 21, 28, Feb. 7, 14 at 10:00 a.m. OMC coffee room.

***Address change** for Dennis & Margaret Boldt:
P.O. Box 307, 307-1010 Ruth St. Saskatoon SK S7J 4M9
Phone: 306-979-4702 Email: mardenb@sasktel.net

***Address update** for Keith Boldt & Merel Kriegsman:
P.O. Box 308, Osler, SK S0K 3A0
Home phone: 306-239-4702 Keith cell phone: 306-321-4702

RJC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERTS:

*Concert #1: **Wednesday, December 20**, 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon.

*Concert #2: **Friday, December 22**, 7:00 pm at Rosthern Junior College. Admission is free; a collection will be taken in support of RJC. Everyone is welcome.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 64:1-8

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Mark 13:28-37

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

28 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

32 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'