

**OMC Calendar**  
**February 2016**

Sunday	Mo n	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday: Worship:10am  SundaySchool @ 11:15am	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Youth Planning Meeting 4:30pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Church Council Meeting 7:30pm	<b>5</b> Youth: 7:00pm RJC- Friday Night Live – Mega Menno Event	<b>6</b> <b>Annual General Meeting 9:30am</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Lent 1	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> M&S Soup/Bread Supper & Presentatn 6:00pm  Youth Discussion with Steph 7:30 – 9pm	<b>18</b> Education Committee Meeting 7:00pm	<b>19</b> Youth in Saskatoon – Jake B.	<b>20</b> Friendship Inn Volunteering
<b>21</b> Lent 2 10am-Baptism & Communion  5 – 7pm – Family Faspa and Games	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Lent 3	<b>29</b>					

**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 2016 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church  
[oslermc@sasktel.net](mailto:oslermc@sasktel.net)  
<http://omchurch.org>  
Volume XI1, Second Edition

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



**Upcoming OMC Events**

**\*OMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 – 9:30am.** Everyone is encouraged to attend.

**OMC CALENDAR \* FEBRUARY 2016**

- Thur Feb 4 7:30pm – Church Council meeting
- Fri Feb 5 7pm Youth: MegaMenno-RJC Friday Nite Live**
- Sat Feb 6 9:30am ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- Sun Feb 14 First Sunday of Lent
- Wed Feb 17 6pm Soup & bread and Special Presentations**
- Wed Feb 17 7:30-9pm – Youth Discussion Nite with Steph**
- Thur Feb 18 7pm – Education Committee Meeting
- Fri Feb 19 YOUTH Nite in Saskatoon with Jake B.**
- Sat Feb 20 11:30am – Friendship Inn Volunteering
- Sun Feb 21 Lent Two
- Sun Feb 21 10:00am Worship / Baptism and Communion**
- Sun Feb 21 5 – 7pm Fantastic Family Faspa and Games**
- Sun Feb 28 Lent Three

## Patty's Ponderings

BBC's Ballykissangel series is getting me through these winter months. It's a familiar story of a small rural village with a church in the center and a new priest who comes to town and tries to fit in. He has vehicle troubles and sometimes appears to be a fish out of water. But he befriends the locals, most of whom are in the pub - it is Ireland after all, and falls in love with the place. Father Clifford sometimes is at odds with the denominational hierarchy and his mouth gets him in trouble. But he is a good-hearted fellow and has a steady faith and I can't wait to see how it all turns out for him. God bless us these February days as the light gets longer and some of us enjoy enough snow for playing and some of us get winter escapes. God bless us as we discern a new staff member and prepare for MC Sask in March and prepare for our refugee family. God bless us as we configure new committee members and enter the New Year with energy and vision for the work of the church within our walls and beyond.

## Patty's Picks

*The River and The Evening Chorus* are new fiction and non-fiction by Helen Humphreys that are different and delightful reads.

*Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber has been so popular at church, it gets passed around before Ruth can process it for the library.

*Wanted* by Chris Hoke is another interesting read about a prison chaplain serving the edge of society.

*The Road to Little Dribbling* by Bill Bryson is a typical interesting/hilarious read.

*The Intern* DVD is delightful.

*Brooklyn* DVD is the best I've seen in a long time for story and beautiful photography.

*Dial M for Murder* DVD is Alfred Hitchcock's masterpiece that I've finally twigged onto.

*Downton Abbey* Season 6 - need I say more, for all slow-moving British drama lovers.

## Humour ~ The Isaac Section



A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment of bringing something to represent their religion.

The first boy got in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is the Star of David."

The second boy got in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm Catholic and this is the Crucifix."

The third boy got in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy and I am Mennonite and this is a casserole."

One cold evening during the holiday season, a little boy about six or seven was standing out in front of a store window. The little child had no shoes on and his clothes were mere rags.

A young woman passing by saw the little boy and could read the longing in his pale blue eyes. She took the child by the hand and led him into the store. There she bought him new shoes and a complete suit of warm clothing.

They came back outside into the street and the woman said to the child, "Now you can go home and have a very happy holiday."

The little boy looked up at her and asked, "Are you God, Ma'am?" She smiled down at him and replied, "No son, I'm just one of His children."

The little boy then said, "I knew you had to be some relation."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\***The MCSask Ad Hoc Committee on Same-Sex Marriage** exists in order to guide, design, and facilitate congregation-to-congregation listening as well as a discerning process for MCSask regarding same-sex marriage. This committee will listen to all voices within MCSask. Though the committee is not a decision-making group, the committee invites any and all members of MCSask to share with them via email, letter, or in conversation thoughts about same-sex marriage as well as about the shaping of a discernment process. Josh Wallace (Committee facilitator), [pastorjoshwallace@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoshwallace@gmail.com)  
Gary Peters (Pastoral Leadership chairperson) [gmpeters@sasktel.net](mailto:gmpeters@sasktel.net)

\***Saturday, February 6 - 9:30AM** - Come out to the Youth Farm Bible Camp for our **famous Freshly Baked Cinnamon Buns**. There will be a presentation about the ministry of the camp to follow.

\***Saturday, February 13, 8:00am – 10:00am** - **Seniors 55+** are invited to a **Valentine's Breakfast** at the Osler Pioneer Centre. Admission by Donation.

\***February 15, 2016 - Winter Fun Day** is happening again this year at **Shekinah Retreat Centre!** Come join us for tubing, skiing, skating, giant crokinole, a hot dog roast and a lot more! It's fun for the whole family from 10am to 4pm. No charge for admission, but donations are welcome.

\***Wildwood Mennonite Church** invites area churches to attend a series of classes on **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**. This series is jointly sponsored by Grace Westminster United Church. **Sessions are from 7:00 – 8:00pm on the following Wednesdays:** (Jan 13 & 27 – Grace Westminster)  
**- FEBRUARY 17 & MARCH 2 at Wildwood Mennonite Church**  
The series leader is MaryAnne Morrison, a Metis woman who is a retired educator. People can attend one or all of the sessions, although you'll get the most of out of attending all.

## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Services:

Feb. 6: Wilf Buhler preaching,  
Feb. 14: George Janzen preaching  
Feb. 21: Baptism and Communion: Sarah Buhler and Charlie Clark  
Feb. 28: Patty Friesen preaching

\***The Worship committee** is inviting you to join us in **making a story quilt** to hang in our church. Please bring small pieces of cloth that are meaningful or represent part of your story. It can be anything that you like: work clothes, finery, tie-dyed, polyester plaid, baby wear, jerseys, etc... We will even accept imposters if you don't want to part with the real thing. If your piece(s) have a particular story we would love to hear that as well. Thanks very much.

\***Church Council will be doing their annual ministry review** at their March meeting with responses from the staffing calls. If anyone has anything to add to how things are going at OMC, please talk to a council member.

\***2016 Church Directory:** It is time to prepare the 2016 directory. If there have been any changes to your 2015 information, please let the church office know – Changes to your **address, phone number or email address**. Feel free to add your **Cell #**, if you so choose.

### \*Mennonite Church Sask Annual Delegate Sessions

Osler Mennonite Church will be hosting the Mennonite Church Sask ADS on March 11 and 12. We are looking forward to this as another uplifting experience for our church. In order for this to happen we need a large number of volunteers.

1. Are you able to provide billeting for one or more delegates? If so, please let Margaret Dyck know.
2. Are you able to help out in areas such as food services, registration, setup, and cleanup? See the list on the bulletin board and sign up or speak with John Reddekopp.

## Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

### February 7, 2016:

#### Transfiguration of the Lord

We act with great boldness

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

or

Transfiguration (additional scriptures)

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

### February 14, 2016:

#### First Sunday of Lent

Believe in your heart

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

### February 21, 2016:

#### Second Sunday of Lent

Seek God's face

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

### February 28, 2016:

#### Third Sunday of Lent

My soul is satisfied

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Celebrating January birthdays of our Children & Youth



#### Happy Birthday!

Brooklyn – February 12

Nora B.B. – February 16

Simon C. – February 25

And coming soon: Kathryn & James' baby – Feb. ??

Ocean & Dahlen's baby - ??

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**\*OMC – Wednesday, Feb 17, 6:00pm** - Please come to **an evening of soup and bread**, as we listen to **presentations** by two aboriginal women, Winona Wheeler and Glenda Abbott. They will share about the history of " **The Indigenous Woman** " before, during and after colonialization.

You will also hear about firsthand experiences of racism and humiliation, and how one feels as a result.

Winona Wheeler is Associate Professor and Department head of Native/Indigenous studies University of Saskatchewan. Glenda Abbott is Visitor services Manager at Wanuskewin Heritage Park near Saskatoon.

Building relationships, restoring community's creating bridges for all who seek forgiveness and reconciliation. We are all in need of healing. Please come!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*MCC Connects:** Uprooted 2016 applications are now available. Uprooted is a 3-week learning tour from May 1-25 that explores the themes of migration and peacebuilding. Travel with MCC to the northern and southern borders of Mexico! All information about the learning tour can be found at: [mcccanada.ca/uprooted](http://mcccanada.ca/uprooted). Application deadline is March 16, 2016.

### Mennoite Church Canada

**\*Burkina Faso:** We are relieved to report that no Mennoite Church Canada workers were harmed in a violent attack on innocent civilians in Burkina Faso on Jan. 15, 2016, but we grieve over the deaths of victims including 6 Canadians and people from 17 other nations. More than 50 people were wounded.

**\*The future of the church:** The Christian church is undergoing a time of much change – and opportunity. Mennoite Church Canada is looking to the future with hope and preparing for Assembly 2016 in Saskatoon, Sask., July 6-10. Based on Jeremiah 31:33 and themed “Faith, God, People,” the gathering will look to the future of the Mennoite church in Canada. To learn more about proposed changes to national and area church structures, see the Future Direction Task Force’s final report at [www.commonword.ca/go/469](http://www.commonword.ca/go/469).

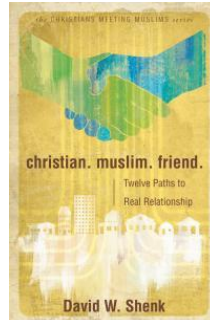
### ✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

"Peace, to have meaning for many who have only known suffering in both peace and war, must be translated into bread or rice, shelter, health and education, as well as freedom and human dignity."

— Ralph Johnson Bunche (1904-1971)

## Herald Press receives 2016 Christianity Today book award

By MennoMedia staff      January 22, 2016  
Mennoite Church Canada/MennoMedia



**Kitchener, Ont. and Harrisonburg, Va.**

*Christian. Muslim. Friend.*, written by David W. Shenk and published by Herald Press, is among 13 books chosen by *Christianity Today* as “the books most likely to shape evangelical life, thought, and culture.” Shenk’s book received the top 2016 *Christianity Today* award in the Missions/The Global Church category.

In *Christian. Muslim. Friend. Twelve Paths to Real Relationship*, Shenk lays out twelve ways that Christians can form authentic relationships with Muslims. He and his wife, Grace, have been long-time mission workers in various Middle Eastern and African settings.

“At a time when relations between Christians and Muslims are more complex than ever, Shenk has given us a wonderfully thoughtful account of how to build real relationships,” wrote Brian Howell, professor of anthropology at Wheaton College and one of the judges for the book awards. “Without giving formulas or reducing Muslims to a single type, Shenk draws on his vast experience in many parts of the world to provide an encouraging way forward for anyone seeking to share the hope of the gospel with their Muslim neighbors.”

Shenk emphasizes that Christians can build relationships with Muslims that are characterized by respect, hospitality, and candid dialogue and that still bear witness to the Christ-centered commitments of their faith. Shenk is the author of numerous books on understanding Islam and building relationships with Muslims, including a series called *Christians Meeting Muslims*. *Christian. Muslim. Friend.* is book four of that series.

Based on fifty years of friendship with Muslims in Somalia, Kenya, and the United States, the book includes stories of the author’s animated conversations with Muslim clerics, visits to countless mosques around the globe, and pastors and imams who are working together toward understanding and peace.

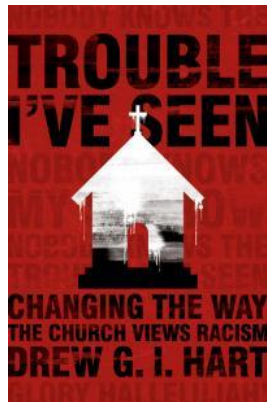
Christianity Today gave out 13 top awards (one category had a tie) for 2016, with runner-up merit awards in each category. See other book awards

at <http://tinyurl.com/christianitytoday2016BkAwards>

*Christian. Muslim. Friend.* is available to borrow or for purchase at <http://www.commonword.ca/go/416>

## Book on racism and the church attracting acclaim

By MennoMedia staff, January 22, 2016  
Mennonite Church Canada/MennoMedia



**Kitchener, Ont. and Harrisonburg, Va.**

What if racial reconciliation doesn't look like what you expected?

In a provocative new book, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*, theologian, former pastor, and blogger Drew G. I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-black stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy.

With a foreword by reconciliation scholar and author Christena Cleveland, Hart challenges Christians with an honest look at injustice while offering churches concrete practices for living faithfully in a racialized society. The book was released by Herald Press on January 19, 2016.

The book blends stories, theology, and social analysis, and has already received a positive review by *Publishers Weekly*, the trade magazine of the publishing industry: "In this emotionally wrenching yet accessible book, Hart provides an overview of systemic racism in the U.S. today, as well as the responses of Bible-based Christian theology. The book is a savvy and balanced blend of topics that should serve as a useful introduction for Christians of all races." *Englewood Review of Books* has named it to the "Top 50 Books for Christian Readers to Watch for in 2016" and *Publishers Weekly* placed it on their list of African-American Interest Adult Titles for 2015-2016.

In *Trouble I've Seen*, Hart looks at the high-profile killings of black men and women in recent years by police officers, and the protests and violence that have ensued. "These events have convinced many white Christians to re-examine their intuitions when it comes to race and justice," Hart says.

Hart argues that white Christians have repeatedly gotten it wrong about race because the dominant culture has so thoroughly shaped their social intuitions and assumptions. He also challenges black Christians to not neglect the most vulnerable in their own

communities. Hart offers practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice by pointing to the example of Jesus.

"This book is a conversation with the church to help us understand race and racism better than we currently do," says Hart. "It challenges us to respond more faithfully to our current racialized moment, considering how Jesus-shaped lives can transform us and our witness in society."

Rachel Held Evans, bestselling author, writes of Hart's book: "An unforgettable read, *Trouble I've Seen* deserves the church's full attention and considered action. It certainly challenged and changed me."

Efrem Smith, president and CEO of World Impact, finds that "Hart makes a courageous and compelling call to the church to get on the road to racial reconciliation and righteousness."

Herald Press managing editor Valerie Weaver-Zercher says, "This prophetic, practical book is for anyone who is saddened or angry or baffled by the racialized society that shapes all of us. Drew is a compassionate and incisive guide, giving us tools for understanding our times and for aligning with God's transformative work."

Hart is a PhD candidate in constructive theology and ethics at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, with 10 years of pastoral ministry experience. An adjunct professor at Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, Pa., Hart regularly speaks at churches, conferences, and colleges. He writes a blog hosted by *Christian Century* titled, *Taking Jesus Seriously* and has contributed to other publications including *A Living Alternative: Anabaptist Christianity in a Post-Christendom World*, *Sojourners*, and *The Mennonite*.

Hart, his wife, Renee, and two young sons, Micah and Dietrich, live in Philadelphia.

*Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* is available at [www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com) as well as local bookstores and other retail websites.

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