

**OMC Calendar
December 2017**

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am					1	2 Ladies & Girls Christmas Luncheon 11:30-1:30
3 Patty Friesen preaching. Adult S.S. forum on Children & Communion	4	5	6 Executive meeting, 1:00 pm	7 Council meeting 7:00 pm	8 Osler School Choir 10:00 am	9
10 Patty Friesen preaching. Dave Feick – Adult S.S.	11	12 OMC Singers for Seniors 10:30 am - 1:30 pm in Saskatoon	13 Education committee meeting 7:00 pm	14	15 OMC Singers for Seniors in Osler area 10:30 am- 1:30 pm	16
17 S.S. Christmas Program	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 The Music of Christmas 10:00 am. Candle light Service 7 pm 31 Audrey Bechtel preaching	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30

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

**The Osler Mennonite Church
DECEMBER 2017 Newsletter**

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



Upcoming Worship Services at OMC

Dec 3: First Advent – “A Wakeful Faith” by Patty Friesen
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
7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec 31: “Christ is born!” – Audrey Bechtel preaching

“FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN....
AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR, MIGHTY
GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.”
ISAIAH 9:6

Patty's Ponderings:

Advent is the gospel call to awaken to God's work in the world, even if it is difficult to see sometimes. How is God waking you up this Advent? I've preached this fall about my personal awakening these past months around indigenous relations that arose from time spent in holy sites this summer, readings that have come my way and round dancing at Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Someone from our congregation had an awakening while round dancing at Muskeg Lake as well, declaring humorously, "If only my kids could see me now!"

I've appreciated Ben sharing about his awakening in the First Nations hymn "Father God, You Are Holy," and Harold and Sarah shared powerfully in Adult Ed about their awakenings through their work at Classic Legal Aid and Egadz Youth Centre in Saskatoon. At the MCC AGM, we heard the 94 Recommendations that have arisen from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have been compared to Martin Luther's 95 Thesis nailed on the Wittenburg Door that sparked the Reformation 500 years ago. May the 94 Recommendations be the start of a new Awakening in our time.

Deacons Winter Study this January takes us into a three part sermon and Sunday School series on marriage, sex, divorce and remarriage. The deacons thought we needed some heating up this winter. No one is going to a hot holiday!

Sunday, January 7, Marriage That Works: Fake It Until You Make It, sermon by Patty Friesen

Adult Education: Surviving 50 Years: Louise and Jake, Deanna and John

Sunday, January 14, Marriage That Works: Let's Talk About Sex, sermon by Patty Friesen

Adult Education: The Song of Solomon by Patty Friesen

Sunday, January 21, Marriage That Works Without Killing Anybody: Divorce and Remarriage, sermon by Patty Friesen

Adult Education: Enneagram Personality Study

Patty's Picks

True North Strong and Cree 2017 CD: While First Nations singing and drumming has felt jarringly strange and dissonant to me, I cleaned the house to True North Strong and Cree and really got into the heartbeat drumming. The Ghost Orchard by Helen Humphreys was a lovely read about the history of apples and orchards.

Confessions of a Funeral Directory by Caleb Wilde was an inspiration that I will use in future funeral sermons.

HUMOR

Some days are like popping popcorn without a lid.

Cheque-mate:

Farmer Smith: "How is your son Jim doing in the agriculture college?"

Farmer Jones: "Okay. He recently completed a course in journalism."

Farmer Smith: "You don't say. Does he write for money?"

Farmer Jones: "Yes, indeed. I hear from him at least once a week!"

No problem:

Mother: "You're home early. Did you have a good time?"

Johnny: "I had a little accident and broke Mrs. Well's lamp."

Mother: "Oh my, I hope you told her we would replace it."

Johnny: "Oh, you don't have to worry about it. Mrs. Wells said it was irreplaceable."

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.

Terri Lynn's Takes:

Blue Christmas at OMC:

Advent is a time of beauty, of hope, and of comfort and joy – for some, but not all. Many of us are attracted to the beauty and dazzle of the Christmas season – decorations, amazing choral music, an excuse to eat decadent treats (writer included here, our household of two is on it's second carton of eggnog). But this season is born out of silence from the prophets and longing for God to speak – as the people of Israel waited for their Messiah. We zero in on the cozy, romantic notion of the manger – but if we zoom out, the backdrop of this whole story is the Roman occupation and a people waiting for deliverance. Typically in advent, we focus on the culmination of the story: peace, hope, joy and love. But if we dwelt in the actual preface to the story as we journey towards Christmas, maybe it would be more accurate to focus on the silence and chaos in which Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, and all their contemporaries were living. Some of us long for this companionship in our own silence and chaos.

And so, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas – and all of the goodness that comes with it – we also want to make space for those experiencing darkness, loss, disappointment or grief. Different congregations have had a service to make space for this and given it different names – Blue Christmas, Lament in Advent, The Darkest Night of the Year, etc. It will be a time to acknowledge that not all parts of our lives bring comfort and joy – and there is space to recognize this as a church community – and to hold before God our silence and chaos, and our longing for hope and comfort, healing, and restoration. *Please consider joining us – or inviting a friend – on Sunday, December 17 at 7pm as host a Blue Christmas service through readings, prayer, song and silence.*

Terri Lynn's CPE update:

As I've spent the fall studying Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at St. Paul's Hospital, I've thought a lot about (among other things) silence – times of in conversations with others, and times in our lives when God seems silent. Both can seem chaotic. I've realized how often I try to find words to fill the space when someone speaks about something difficult – when perhaps no words are needed. In my discomfort or hope to help, I might rush the silence, but Douglas Purnell* says, "Respect people's need to be silent. Often silence comes at times of deep emotion and intense awareness. By being silent you are valuing the intensity of the deep moment." He goes on to say,

The creative space, the space of imagination, the space for the voice of God in pastoral conversation is so often the space of chaos. In the biblical narratives creation comes from chaos, water comes in

wilderness, flowers bloom in the desert, light comes in darkness, resurrection comes in death. Wilderness, desert, darkness, and death are all places of chaos and they are the places where the voice of God is heard afresh; as new and life giving. A willingness to enter the conversational space of chaos with the other is a willingness to make the conversation sacred.

These are good words for all of us, I think – in friendships, marriages, parenting – even on committees! I hope through these learnings I'm becoming a better listener, and a more pastoral person. Please invite me for coffee, and share this journey with me by letting me listen! ☺

* in his book, *Conversation as Ministry* by Douglas Purnell (Pilgrim Press, 2003) that Dave Feick kindly lent me.

OMC YOUTH CALENDAR

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

MEGA MENNO YOUTH EVENTS:

January 26-28, Sr. High Retreat @ Shekinah Retreat Centre

February 2, Friday Night Live, tentative RJC MM event

March 9, Annual Delegate Sessions MM event, Swift Current

April 3-4, Honouring the Earth over-night MM event

May 25-27, Jr. High Retreat @ Youth Farm Bible Camp

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

OMC CALENDAR

Dec 2	Ladies & Girls Christmas luncheon, 11:30 am-1:30 pm
Dec 7	Council meeting, 7:00 pm
Dec 8	Osler School Christmas Concert: 10:00 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	"The Music of Christmas" 10:00 am
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00pm
Jan 7/2018	Communion service, 10:00 am

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

Jesus, the Prince of Peace:

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

A deeply encouraging post from Richard Beck:

I have a passion for the local church. Rolling out of bed on a Sunday morning isn't the hot, cool thing to be doing as a Christian. But to me, it's one of the most radical and counter-cultural things we can be doing.

And yet, for church leaders and pastors working in small, struggling congregations, leading a church can be hard, demoralizing work.

Especially as America walks deeper into the post-Christian wilderness. The demographic tide is sweeping the church away.

So it is also a passion of mine to encourage local pastors. If you're leading a small, local church I want you to know you're a hero of mine.

And the reason is quite simple. If the kingdom of God is going to show up, it shows up among a people who gather to make and keep promises to each other, where the people of a community struggle through the generations to love each other and their particular place.

The kingdom of God is not found at conferences, on social media, in a book, or in your headphones. If you're listening to a speaker, scrolling through your iPhone, reading the pages of a best-seller, or jogging to your favorite podcast, you're not really encountering the body of Christ.

The kingdom has an address on a neighborhood block.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Advent at Home:** Nurture children's faith at home this Advent and Christmas through family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at www.anabaptistfaithformation.org. For use between December 3 and January 6, it includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together.

***Advent Calendar** with contemplative and some interesting, fun things to do each day.

<http://contemplativecottage.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Celtic-Advent-Calendar-2017.pdf>

*Our Sunday School children will present “**Outstanding in their Field**”, a Christmas musical, on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 am. Coffee and Christmas goodies to follow. Everyone welcome!

***Come join us for a service of Christmas music – adult choir, special music, carol singing, mass choir – on December 24, 10:00 am.**

***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, 7:30 pm : 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)

***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.

