

## OMC Calendar

January 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Communion Patty Friesen Preaching No S.S.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bible study 10:30 am. Executive mtg 1:00 pm	<b>5</b> Council meeting 7 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Terri Lynn Friesen preaching	<b>9</b> Worship committee meeting 7 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Bible study 10:30 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Patty Friesen preaching  Deacons mtg @ noon	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Bible study 10:30 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Dr. Ehmann Preaching. Potluck @ noon Afternoon session 1 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Bible study 10:30 am	<b>26</b> M & S meeting 7 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> MCC IVEP'ers speaking	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				<u>Each Sunday</u> Worship: 10 am  Sunday School: 11:15 am

## The Osler Mennonite Church JANUARY 2017 Newsletter

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



#### **Upcoming Worship Services at OMC**

- Jan 1, 2017 Communion service "New Beginnings"- Patty Friesen
- Jan 8 "Creation stories" – Terri Lynn Friesen
- Jan 15 "Abraham & Sarah: Old age in the Old Testament" – Patty Friesen
- Jan 22 Winter Study: "Mental health in the church" - Dr. Ehmann
- Jan 29 MCC IVEP'ers: World Fellowship Sunday

**"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD;  
 I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG ALL NATIONS,  
 I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH."**

PSALM 46:10

**Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. [www.omchurch.org](http://www.omchurch.org)**

## **Patty's Ponderings:**

This Epiphany season, I got a solar lamp to help my winter blues. I call it my grow light. These dark mornings, I sit under it and prayerfully colour in the TV room. Patrick opens the door, shakes his head and backs out, closing the door. Is it making me happier? I don't know, but I'm happy to have the excuse to sit quietly for 30 minutes and ask for the light of God to be with me and our congregation.

*2017 National Park Sabbatical by Patty Friesen*

Our national parks are places of pilgrimage - a place we can return to over and over again with family, with memories, with a desire to be contemplative. I do think they're the closest thing we have in this country in terms of sacred lands.

Our national parks are a reservoir for our spirits - memory palaces made of sandstone, granite, a sea of grass - and they spark something in us that is both uniquely and divinely human. We remember who we are and who we are not. And we remember in our national parks where the source of our true power lies, in the land.

Not only do we save these lands, they save us. There's something about this wild continuity that gives us courage, that allows us to be the best of who we are as human beings. I think our national parks remind us that beauty is not optional but at the very core of our being. - Terry Tempest Williams, *The Hour of Land*

Our Canadian national parks are free in 2017 for their 150th anniversary. I'm negotiating with OMC Executive and Terri Lynn for an 8 week unpaid leave of absence/sabbatical this summer mid-June to mid-August to take advantage of these free national parks with Patrick and our cozy little trailer. We plan to hike and sit by the campfire and soak in the beauty of creation. We'll be back to work before the snow flies!

## **Patty's Picks**

\*Upstream by Mary Oliver is a collection of thoughtful, attentive, poetic essays by my favourite poet.

## **Patty's Picks – continued:**

\*Alison Krauss (CD) *A Hundred Miles or More* has been on continuous repeat this winter as her ethereal voice takes us out of our winter blues.

*Prayer of An Aging Abbess:*

Lord, though knowest better than myself that I am growing older and will soon be old. Keep me from becoming too talkative and especially from the unfortunate habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and at every opportunity.

Release me from the idea that I must straighten out other people's affairs. With my immense treasure of experience and wisdom, it seems a pity not to let everybody partake of it. But though knowest, Lord, that in the end I will need a few friends.

Keep me from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Grant me the patience to listen to the complaints of others; help me to endure them with charity. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains - they increase with the increasing years and my inclination to recount them is also increasing.

I will not ask thee for improved memory, only for a little more humility and less self-assurance when my own memory doesn't agree with that of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.

Keep me reasonably gentle. I do not have the ambition to become a saint - it is so hard to live with some of them - but a harsh old person is one of the devil's masterpieces.

Make me sympathetic without being sentimental, helpful but not bossy. Let me discover merits where I had not expected them, and talents in people whom I had not thought to possess any. And Lord, give me the grace to tell them so. Amen.

## Old Testament Worship Themes 2017

- Jan 1 Genesis 1: “New Beginnings and Communion” – Patty Friesen  
Jan 8 Genesis 2: “Creation Stories” – Terri Lynn Friesen  
Jan 15 Genesis 21: “Abraham & Sarah – Old age in the Old Testament” – Patty Friesen  
Jan 22 “Mental health in the church” – Dr. Ehmann preaching.  
S.S. forum at 11:15 am and 1:00 session led by Dr. Ehmann.  
Jan 29 MCC IVEP’ers: World Fellowship Sunday

### ✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

**“We seek peace, knowing that peace is the climate of freedom.”** Dwight D Eisenhower

Poem by John Gascho

If God loves us unconditionally then why would we not love unconditionally as well. God doesn't just love.....God is love.

The tree doesn't decide whether to grow or not, it just grows so long as the Cosmos will allow. It doesn't fret about nutrients or sunlight or warmth. It doesn't concern itself about surroundings or conditions, whether this is the best location or not. If the soil is conducive to roots penetrating the darkness and there is plenty of light, warmth and rain then just sit back and watch the miracle.

We think we know so much about our existence and yet we know very little.

So long as we continue to invest in distraction and clutter our world becomes very dull and boring. We have to invent Salvation. How lonely and sad is that?

Think about what might be beyond, and then mine the wisdom found in your soul so you can taste what is beyond! Crave it! Become obsessed!

**Terri Lynn's Takes:** It's hard for me to get excited about January. I enjoy most everything about the Christmas season. I also enjoy getting back into the rhythms of regular life. What I miss most about Christmas is the waiting....

Advent, for many years, has been a beautiful friend. It was a rare and raw time that I have felt permission - in the quiet and shiny stillness (of which there is way more when you don't have a partner or children), to let surface the hopes and dreams that are so close to ones' heart that it is risky to speak of them too often or too loudly. It seems a little more appropriate to do so, being reminded that we are good company in our waiting and longing: the whole of ancient Israel, in general, Anna & Simeon, in particular. Singing our story is helpful to feel less lonely in our waiting, and to be reminded that the coming Christ will restore the broken pieces of the world that prevent our hopes and dreams from being so.

And so in January, I need to remind myself that there IS good music beyond Christmas music, and I share with you some of my favourites here. My top picks of late seem to share in common a folksy sound that makes hymns new for the next generation, and do not shy away from songs of lament, of longing, and of hope...some more overtly than others.

Josh Garrels: <https://joshgarrels.bandcamp.com/> Josh Garrels' music a genre-blending mix of folk and hip hop, so every song may not be for you, but highly likely that there will be something that speaks to your soul. Garrels' music explores themes of compassion, hope, longing, and liberation.

Tom Wuest: <https://tomwuest.bandcamp.com/> Tom Wuest and his wife Karen describe their music as "... an extension of our lives and is a gift for us to share, in the same way that we would offer a neighbour a jar of homemade jam, a loaf of bread baked in our wood-fired oven, or a hand-crafted bottle of wine." I wrote a quick note to thank them for a CD I purchased and they actually wrote back.

Ordinary Time: <http://music.ordinarytimemusic.com/> They met in a “History of Christian Worship” class in seminary, where they discovered a shared love for old songs in danger of being forgotten. The band's oeuvre seamlessly weaves the hymns of generations past with their own new songs—often indistinguishably—producing a sound that ranges from bluegrass-tinged Americana to sacred harp hymn songs.

## CAPSULE SERMONS

\*We inherit our temperament, but we must build our own character.

\*Remember, a rumor is about as hard to unspread as butter.

## HUMOR

Olaf is the vicar of a Protestant parish in western Norway and Lars is the priest at the Roman Catholic Church across the road.

One day they are seen together, erecting a sign which says.  
"THE END IS NEAR. TURN YOURSELF AROUND NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!"

As a car speeds past them, the driver leans out his window and yells,  
"Leave people alone you religious nuts, we don't need your lectures!"

From around the next curve they hear screeching tires and a big splash.  
Shaking his head, Father Lars says, "Dat's da terd one dis mornin'.

"Yaa," Olaf agrees, then adds,  
"Do ya tink maybe da sign should just say "BRIDGE OUT"?"

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### 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**

\*We will have **Communion** during worship on New Year's Day.  
There will be no Sunday School on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

\***Old Testament Bible Study for all ages and genders** starting  
Wednesday Jan. 4 - Wednesday April 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m. following  
the scripture themes in worship.

\***Sunday, January 22: Mental Health in the Church. 10:00 a.m.**  
**Dr. Tim Ehmann preaching**, 11:15- Adult S.S. Forum Dr. Ehmann  
presenting; 12:00-12:45 Potluck; 1:00-2:00 Dr. Ehmann's afternoon  
session.

\*SMYO Senior High Retreat is a Camp Kadesh this year, January 27-  
29. The theme is "The road less travelled". For more information, talk  
to Terri Lynn; or you can email Kristen Hamm-Epp at  
[youthminister@mcsask.ca](mailto:youthminister@mcsask.ca)

\***OMC Annual General Meeting: Sat. Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m.** All  
welcome to be a part of this exciting launch of our OMC new year,  
thanking outgoing committee members and welcoming new ones and  
eating donuts.

### OMC CALENDAR

Jan 1, 2017	Communion service 10:00 am. No Sunday School.
Jan 4	Bible study <b>every Wednesday</b> at 10:30 am. Executive meeting, 1:00 pm.
Jan 5	Council meeting, 7:00 pm.
Jan 9	Worship committee meeting, 7:00 pm.
Jan 15	Deacons meeting at noon.
Jan 22	Potluck at noon in conjunction with our Winter Study on mental health. Afternoon session at 1:00 pm.
Jan 26	Missions & Service committee meeting, 7:00 pm.