

OMC Calendar

March 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am.			1 Bible study 10:30 am. Exec 1:00 pm	2 Council mtg 7:00 pm	3	4
5 Julie Bergen's ordination. Potluck lunch	6	7	8 Bible study 10:30 am	9	10	11
12 Bunch of Guys singing service	13	14 Ladies Heart to Heart 7:00 pm	15 Bible study 10:30 am	16 Worship mtg 7:00 pm	17	18
19 Patty Friesen preaching	20 Blanket making starting 9:00 am	21 Blanket making 9:00 am	22 Blanket making 9:00 am. Bible study 10:30 am	23 Blanket making 9:00 am. M & S 7:00 pm	24 Blanket making 9:00 am.	25 Family Movie Night 7:00 pm
26 Patty Friesen Preaching	27	28	29 Bible Study 10:30 am Deacons mtg 1:00 pm	30	31	

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

The Osler Mennonite Church MARCH 2017 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church
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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



Upcoming Worship Services at OMC

Mar. 5 Julie Bergen's ordination and Potluck lunch
 Mar 12 Bunch of Guys Service – Russ Regier
 Mar 19 Jacob's Alternative Facts – Patty Friesen
 Mar 26 Joseph, Prince of Egypt – Patty Friesen

“OUT OF THE DEPTHS I CRY TO YOU, O LORD;
 O LORD HEAR MY VOICE. LET YOUR EARS BE ATTENTIVE TO
 MY CRY FOR MERCY. I WAIT FOR THE LORD, MY SOUL WAITS,
 AND IN HIS WORD I PUT MY HOPE.

PSALM 130: 1,2,5

Patty's Ponderings:

I recently heard of a child asking her mother when they were going to the "Listening House," meaning church. I like this child's perception of church as listening house. To her it means she has to be quiet and listen to others (as we all need to) but hopefully she comes to understand that we also try to listen to God at church.

On Mental Health Sunday, Dr. Tim Ehmann spoke of the church as the Listening House where we don't try to fix people or do things for them but accept them as they are and just be with them. He suggested "being" might be a spiritual challenge for Mennonites who are used to "doing." While using language that we may not be used to hearing in church, he cracked open the conversation on mental health in a new and fresh way and deacons are looking for ways to continue the conversations.

I had a dream that Donald Trump was moving into Bethany Manor. He said he needed a place of peace and quiet among the Mennonites. I pray for him every day. A big thanks to Glen Grismer and Joe Guenther in their service to Bethany Manor these last years and making it a viable place for my generation to live in. They are getting out in time if Donald Trump is moving in!

Patty's Picks

Northern Exposure DVD - this delightful series on an Alaskan town has kept Patrick and I entertained all winter.

The Innocents 2016 DVD - an amazing courageous French film about a post WWII abbey in Poland.

Open Heart, Open Mind by Clara Hughes is her courageous memoir of family alcoholism and mental illness paralleling her athletic success.

Sisters or Strangers by Marlene Epp is a timely read on the migration experiences of women, timely as we prepare to receive the Al-Nouri family.

Terri Lynn's Takes: "Lent-ing"

Growing up, Lent was the time when Catholic kids in my class wouldn't eat chocolate. That seemed like a really holy thing to do but didn't really help me understand what Lent was about.

The most helpful explanation of Lent given to me since then was by a chaplain at the University who said Lent is a time for us to let go of something so that we could re-orient our lives towards Jesus. For him, that was cleaning his house - each week he would prayerfully tackle a junk drawer or pile of papers as a meditative act of prayer. This helped me think outside the chocolate box when considering Lent.

Since then, Lent has looked like different things in different seasons - an attempt to go without this or that, or making room for something new - and discover how that change re-oriented me towards Jesus.

This year we're inviting OMC folks to consider participating in *Lenten Guided Prayer*. This is a 7 week journey developed by the Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada. It's a chance for each of us to set aside time - or be more intentional with the time we have - to re-orient ourselves in prayer as we consider Jesus' journey towards the cross, both individually and as a group.

It's not prescriptive; it allows us each to set our intention for our Lenten journey. What burdens, questions, or hopes do we each bring? How do we hope to hear God speak? But it also is stretching: perhaps we will find a new way to experience prayer, or just learn to be more comfortable with being in silence. Praying can be singing, it can be running, it can be reading, it can be baking - it is the posture of being open to hearing God speak.

Each week you'll have a prayer sheet with suggestions of prayers for the week. Then we'll meet as a group and a facilitator will guide us in prayer and reflection on the week's experience. Maybe you feel like you don't have the time to meet up with the group? Please grab a weekly prayer sheet anyways; I'd be delighted to go for coffee with you and chat about our Lenten journeys.

Thanks for considering this invitation. I'm looking forward to journeying towards Easter with you.

Old Testament Worship Themes 2017

Old Testament Worship Themes for March

Mar 5 – Julie’s Ordination Service – Eileen Klassen speaking
Mar 12 – Bunch of Guys Service – Russ Regier
Mar 19 – Genesis 27 – Jacob’s Alternative Facts – Patty Friesen
Mar 26 – Genesis 37 – Joseph, Prince of Egypt – Patty Friesen

Old Testament Bible Study Readings for Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.

Mar 1	Genesis 46-50	When Israel was in Egypt Land
Mar 8	Exodus 1-4	Go Down Moses
Mar 15	Exodus 5-10	Plagues
Mar 22	Exodus 11-17	Escape to the Wilderness
Mar 29	Exodus 18-23	Laws to live by

☸ Pieces of Peace ☸

“Part of kindness is loving people more than they deserve.” anonymous

***Feast and Share: Monday, March 13, at 6:00 P.M.** Potluck Supper: Bring a dish, if you wish! At **Nutana Park Mennonite Church**, 1701 Ruth St. E, near the corner of Louise Ave.

Annie Battiste and Monica Johnson will speak and lead discussion on the structural influences on the **Indigenous peoples and the settler people**: the Doctrine of Discovery, the Indian Act, the vocabulary we use, the attitudes we have, and more. And **how can we work together for reconciliation?**

Annie Battiste: Indigenous Relations Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatchewan

Monica Johnson: Member of Augustana Luth. Church, taking Indigenous Studies at U of S.

CAPSULE SERMONS

*The heaviest thing a person can carry is a grudge.

*Difficulties are things that show a person what and who they are.

*The smallest good deed is better than the greatest good intention.

HUMOUR

Grandma to Grandson: “When I was your age, the closest thing I had to texting was spelling things out in my alphabet soup.”

Husband to wife: “How are people at my 40 year class reunion going to recognize me? I look in the mirror and even **I** don’t recognize me!”

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

***Old Testament Bible Study for all ages and genders** starting Wednesday Jan. 4 - Wednesday April 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

***Blanket Making for MCC on March 20-24 starting at 9:00 am** each morning. MCC provides material aid assistance to refugees and displaced people in the world and we want to help by providing blankets. Please come out and spend a few hours, a day or the week.

***MHSS** (Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan) invites you to attend their Annual General Meeting on March 3-4 at Bethany Manor Fellowship Hall, Saskatoon. Wesley Berg will be speaking on "Old Colony Mennonites and the Old Way of Singing" and "Singing by the Numbers". George Epp will host a workshop on "Creating a Mennonite Interpretive Centre."

***Mennonite Church Saskatchewan** Annual Delegate Sessions will be held on March 10 & 11, 2017 at Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon. The theme is "Extending the Table: Enough for All"

***90th Anniversary October 2018 History Writing Project:** Please pass on any stories, photos you would like included in a 90th Anniversary History Writing Project to Jake Buhler and watch the project evolve on the History Room bulletin boards.

OMC CALENDAR

Mar 1,8,15,22,29	Bible study, 10:30 am
Mar 1	Executive mtg, 1:00 pm
Mar 2	Council meeting, 7:00 pm
Mar 14	Heart to Heart, 7:00 pm. Study on the Book of Esther
Mar 16	Worship meeting, 7:00 pm
Mar 20-24	Blanket making, starting at 9:00 am each day
Mar 23	Missions & Service meeting, 7:00 pm
Mar 25	Family movie night, 7:00 pm.
Mar 29	Deacons meeting, 1:00 pm

YOUTH & INTERGENERATIONAL CALENDAR

Sunday March 5, 6:00 pm - Mentorship & Youth: Escape Room Event - for youth and mentors. Terri Lynn has sent an email to all youth and mentors with details.

Friday March 10, 7:00 pm - Mega Menno (Youth) Event at ADS: The Gospel According to Food - A play by Theatre of the Beat! Nutana Park Mennonite Church. Parents, please coordinate rides for this event. *All* are welcome to this play (not just ADS delegates or youth!).

Intergenerational Blanket Making: March 20-24. All are welcome. See upcoming bulletin for details.

Saturday, March 25, 7:00 pm - Family Movie Night. *The Prince of Egypt.* Snacks provided - bring your friends!

Poem by John Gascho:

Our Addiction

We come together to seek healing, to seek forgiveness.

We do not attempt to dismiss or disregard our history.

The wounds and scars that make up the rot and decay provide sustenance.

We find solace in the compost of our experience.

Every time we come together we turn over in our hearts the rich organic soil that makes up our past.

We must continue to cultivate and prepare for a new beginning.

We plant the seed....the time spent in the darkness of our soul will spurn new growth.

Sunshine will seduce us, it will beckon us to new heights.

Mysteriously we are being led.

Our friendships are becoming rooted in one another's stories.

The breath of life permeates everything.

We are pulled like never before.

We must surrender!!