

**OMC Calendar**  
**October 2017**

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Stewardship Reflections by Christy Martens-Funk	<b>2</b> Love Soup Making 7:00 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Thanksgiving, Communion & Potluck. Patty Friesen Preaching. S.S. Forum @ 11:15 am.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Worship meeting 7:00 pm	<b>12</b> Council meeting 7:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Intergenera- tional Field Trip at Wanuskewin 2-4 pm. Youth: 6:30- 8:30 pm
<b>15</b> Patty Friesen preaching	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Serving @ Friendship Inn.
<b>22</b> Patty Friesen preaching	<b>23</b> Blanket making all this week, 9:00 am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Education & M & S Meetings 7:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Patrick Preheim preaching. Faspa 5 pm with Terri Lynn on "Spiritual Streams".	<b>30</b> Heart to Heart 7:00 pm	<b>31</b>				<u>Each</u> <u>Sunday</u> <b>Worship:</b> <b>10:00 am.</b>  <b>Sunday</b> <b>School</b> <b>11:15 am.</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**  
**OCTOBER 2017 Newsletter**

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



**Upcoming Worship Services at OMC**

- October 1 Stewardship: Readings and songs
- October 8 Thanksgiving & Communion - Patty Friesen  
Quest for Respect 1 by Patty Friesen
- October 15 Quest for Respect 2 by Patty Friesen
- October 22 Quest for Respect 3 by Patty Friesen & Harold Loewen
- October 29 Quest for Respect 4 by Patrick Preheim

“...LET US BE THANKFUL, AND SO WORSHIP GOD  
ACCEPTABLY WITH REVERENCE AND AWE.”  
HEBREWS 12:28

**Patty's Ponderings:** Someone helpfully asked at Mission and Service recently, "What is our focus for the year so we can dig into it in a deeper way?" Observing the year with our learning tours of Willow Cree Healing Lodge, Ancient Echoes and Wanuskewin Heritage Park this month and MC Sask's Mennonites and Cree Meet at Muskeg Lake and the Spruce River Festival and MC Canada's initiatives with Steve Heinrichs and Intotemak and our own members participation in TRC and cross-cultural learning at Beardy's First Nation; I would say that our focus for this next year is on what we can learn from indigenous peoples and how we can support the ongoing work of the broader church.

Leonard Doell shared so eloquently at our August 6 joint worship service with Aberdeen and Warman about our slowing down and listening. I will do two sermons this month on how I've been trying to slow down and listen to aboriginal neighbours and am eager for other opportunities we may have to connect. Please share any ideas you may have with me, Executive, Mission and Service and the Worship Committee.

**Patty's Picks** - some recent movies and documentaries I've watched to help me in this quest for respect are:

- Reserve 107 - renowned MCC Sask project - in church library.
- Thunderheart - an oldie but a goodie.
- Smoke Signals - with humour and very religious themes, a must see - in church library.
- A Geography of Blood by Candace Savage is an important book on Sask history of First Nations and settlers.
- Quest for Respect - Intotemak - heavy-duty and ripe for study and discussion.
- God is Red by Vine Deloria - essential reading in the quest for respect.

### Quotes:

Life is like a roll of toilet paper. It goes faster the closer you get to the end. Except for that little bit that hangs on at the end!

Seminary was where I got my questions answered. And life is where I got my answers questioned.

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Petter Farms Vegetables for fresh West Osler veg, petterfarms@gmail.com, 306-260-7395. On the Local Food Trail with Saskatoon Food Council.

### OMC CALENDAR

- Oct 2 "Labour of Love" soup making bee, 7:00 pm
- Oct 8 Thanksgiving & Communion service; S.S. Forum, 11:15 am with Patty Friesen; Potluck at noon.
- Oct 11 Worship committee meeting, 7:00 pm
- Oct 12 Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Oct 14 Intergenerational Field Trip to Wanuskewin, 2-4 pm
- Oct 14 Youth: 6:30-8:30 pm at OMC
- Oct 21 Serving at Friendship Inn
- Oct 26 Education mtg, 7:00 pm; M & S mtg, 7:00 pm
- Oct 28 Youth Mega Menno Event, 7 pm at Mount Royal Mennonite Church
- Oct 29 Faspa @ 5:00 pm with Terri Lynn- "Spiritual Streams"
- Oct 30 Heart to Heart meeting, 7:00 pm

### ❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner. *Nelson Mandela*

## The following was submitted by Jake Buhler:

What you got is what you got; what you don't got, you try not to want!

I recall three things clearly about August 25, 2016: I drove to St. Andrew's College on my bike to prune an Amur Maple Tree 15 feet up; I got up on the garage roof to clean the eavestroughs, and; I was able to run up the stairs in 3 seconds.

On August 26, after breakfast, I suffered a stroke. After admission to the RU Hospital, I have memories of the ceiling above me spinning. I was treated and quick treatment saved my life. Six weeks later I returned home; I could walk but I limped. I continue to limp. I struggle with balance. Strokes do stupid things to people. It now takes me almost a minute to climb the stairs. I can no longer prune trees nor can I get up on the roof to clean eavestroughs. And I cannot ride a bike!

If I concentrate on what I lost, it would drive me crazy. I would like to run again, but I cannot even do that! However, about 6 months ago I dreamt that I was running. I watched myself in my dream running along a path. I was so surprised that I told myself that was impossible. I woke up to the true reality that I could walk with a limp, but I could not run. Darn!

So today, my models are people like Christy Martens Funk and our departed sister, Tena Kruger. There are a number of others in our community but I will mention only these two. Tena lived, and Christy lives, as though their current condition is normal. If only Christy would complain, or if she would draw attention to herself, or if she would feel sorry for herself...then I would think they were/are normal. But Tena did not complain, and Christy does not make a point of her life in a mobile chair. Christy like Tena before her, wants to be regarded as "normal in a chair". We have in these two persons, testimonies of saints! Nothing short of that.

So I now try, as best I can, to concentrate, on what I have. And I have lots. I can now drive a car, I can continue to walk with a limp, I can make good breakfasts for grandchildren, I can worship with my dear friends in my church, I can garden (with some limitations), I can continue to work around St Andrew's (with some limitations) and I can engage in many volunteer committees (with some limitations).

What I like about my church (Osler Mennonite) is that no one feels sorry for me, or regards me less equal than themselves. I am fortunate that our membership is mature, and is accepting of me or people like me who have some sort of limitations. God's spirit is amongst us. I am fortunate to be amongst such good people.

So if you wish, you can ask me, perfectly in good taste, how my limping is. I will reply that "until further notice, my limping is just fine".

## Terri Lynn's Takes:

In light of Patty's Ponderings, here's a list (though definitely not exhaustive!) of events in the larger church community to engage with in October. Different dates, times, venues and vectors - music, lectures, activities, conversations, hikes. The journey is often richer with companionship; consider inviting a friend that may not have known about an event you are going to. There is more info on all events on the bulletin boards.

October 6 - Walk the Talk Teach In - 7pm @ St. Thomas More Auditorium  
October 14 - Wanuskewin visit/hike 2-4pm  
Charting a Path for Reconciliation Event (see poster on bulletin board)  
October 15 - Cheryl Bear Concert - 7:30pm @ First Baptist Saskatoon  
October 17 - Blanket Exercise - 7-9:30pm @ Emmanuel Baptist Church  
October 21 - Charting a Course for Reconciliation workshop - 10am-4pm @ Emmanuel Baptist  
October 28 - Equipping Day - with workshop by Steve Heinrichs on the *Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights*

## Spirituality Wheel: Sunday Night Faspa - Sunday, October 29 at 5pm.

The model of 'Spiritual Types' is one that intrigues me, and (I think) explains lots of friction and misunderstanding that happens in church communities. The notion of 'Spiritual Types' is not to label ourselves or put others in a box, but to put to words the bend that each of us has towards how we express our spirituality. Some of it is common sense and personal observation; but put into practice it can *deeply* affect our relationships with others in our congregation and our community. All 'types' have strengths to offer, and natural ways of encountering God that can enrich our life together. This also means that it's not uncommon to feel as though some of our spiritual needs aren't being met, or that we don't "fit in" our community. If you've ever wondered, "Why do we spend so much time as a church doing \_\_\_\_\_ when we should really be focusing on \_\_\_\_\_?", then you're not alone, and you will enjoy this discussion!

This meal and discussion will strengthen our understanding of our collective identity as OMC. I hope it will deepen our own spirituality, give us an appreciation for our neighbours, and moving forward, help us shape worship and community life that allows us to express our faith in deep and meaningful ways.

## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\*Wanuskewain Heritage Park Exhibit until Oct.6: Axenet'ith'al: This exhibit is the product of a two year residency artist Michele Mackasey and guest artist Manuel Chantre did with the Dene people of English River First Nation.

\* **Forever in Motion Drop-In Seniors Exercise Group** (Saskatoon Health Region) for women and men will be meeting Tuesdays and Fridays at the Community Hall at 10:00 a.m. beginning with our Fall Kick-Off on Tues. Oct. 10 at 10:00 a.m. Contact Susan Braun with questions: 306-239-4201, [susan.braun@hotmail.ca](mailto:susan.braun@hotmail.ca).

\*Wicihitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference for community organizations, churches, government and business to learn about respectful engagement and inclusion with Aboriginal people. Registration deadline is Oct. 4. TCU Place, Oct. 11-12. See [unitedwaysaskatoon.ca](http://unitedwaysaskatoon.ca).

\*St. Thomas More Gallery: Bonnie Conly: Walking Meditations exhibit of photographs and postcard drawings produced by the artist during a 2015 residency at Grasslands National Park (until Oct. 27)

\*Seniors Continued Learning Classes at the U of S, [www.sscl.usask.ca](http://www.sscl.usask.ca), 306-343-6773. We are never too old to learn something new!

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**Edna and Art** volunteered at Mennonite Disaster Service at Hepburn-Hague-Fort Mac RTM project this summer. They served 770 meals & 499 snacks over 7 weeks May-July 2017. Thank-you Edna & Art!!

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\*Paint Night Fundraiser for a Girls Home in Ukraine. Saturday, October 21, 7:00 pm. at St. Joseph's Basement Hall (Corner of 8th & Broadway). Cost \$45. For tickets call 306-934-1744 or 306-668-0502.

## MEGA MENNO YOUTH EVENTS:

October 28, Mega Menno @ Mount Royal Mennonite Church  
November 18, Mega Menno @ Osler Mennonite Church  
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

### 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.

## HUMOR

**City Slicker:** "This will be the first time I ever got on a horse."

**Wrangler:** "Do you want an English or a Western saddle?"

**City Slicker:** "What's the difference?"

**Wrangler:** "Well, the English saddle is flat, while the Western saddle has this horn in the front."

**City Slicker:** "Better give me the English saddle. I don't expect to be riding in traffic."

## CAPSULE SERMONS

The best exercise for strengthening the human heart is reaching down and lifting people up.

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A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

**OMC Quarterly Congregational Report**  
**By Patty Friesen, October 8, 2017**

Since last Thanksgiving, we've had several deaths in our extended families. The deaths of our loved ones and our grief over them shapes who we are during a year, even if they are anticipated deaths. Other health crises involved recovery from strokes, heart and breast surgeries and struggles with our brain health. We had elders move into the city and elders move into long-term care. We had two new members, one ordination, one licensing, one wedding, no babies and no baptisms and 10 non-participating members transfer their membership to other congregations.

Having envisioned an emphasis on youth and using our building for community outreach, we increased our budget by 10% to include another pastoral position for youth and our building has been used for weddings, funerals, community garden meetings, watershed meetings and senior exercise. We had our first joint service with Warman and Aberdeen Mennonite Churches on August long weekend. We discussed children taking communion and the possibility of more formal mentorship programs for ministry students with us in the summer. We've changed the former curriculum Sunday School class to a three week rotation adult education class like the children's education 3 week rotation. We had another successful Vacation Bible School.

We had a whole new executive turn-over which was a little dramatic and scary – the average now is 40 years old on executive but we're thankful for the energy and intelligence that the new executive bring as well as their seeking the wisdom of Wilf and I as the over 40 year olds! This year we had 14 youth and children at Camp Shekinah which leads Shekinah to seek a fundraiser supper here in a couple of weeks.