

OMC Calendar
January 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Patty Friesen preaching. Communion. S.S. Forum on Marriage	8	9	10	11 Council meeting 7:00 pm	12	13 Men's Breakfast @ Osler Café 9:00 am
14 Patty Friesen preaching. 11:15 Part 1 Kaytee E-B Enneagram. Potluck. 12:30-Part 2 Enneagram	15	16	17 Education committee meeting 7:00 pm	18 M & S committee meeting 7:00 pm	19	20 Serve at Friendship Inn
21 Patty Friesen preaching. Adult S.S. on Divorce	22	23	24 Deacons meeting 12:45 pm	25	26	27
28 Dave Neufeld speaking & leading adult S.S.	29 Worship committee meeting 7:00 pm	26	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
JANUARY 2018 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church
oslermcoffice@sasktel.net
<http://www.omchurch.org>
Volume X1 First Edition

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



Upcoming Worship Services at OMC

- Jan 7 Marriage That Works: Seeking Wisdom by Patty Friesen, & Communion
- Jan 14 Marriage That Works: Let's Talk About Sex by Patty Friesen
- Jan 21 Marriage that Doesn't Work: How to Divorce Without Killing Anybody by Patty Friesen
- Jan 28 Dave Neufeld speaking

“ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD RISES UPON YOU.”

ISAIAH 60: 1

Patty's Ponderings: Part 1

What makes a special day in your marriage? For Patrick and I, it is a day-off that begins with Special Breakfast which includes cracklings and eggs and toast with jam. This is followed by three games of Scrabble, the third usually being a tie-breaker. By then, the sun is up this time of year and we can go for a walk along the river near our home. Returning home, we read the paper and go our separate ways for awhile, sometimes for the rest of the day but this morning-off tradition of play and exercise has seen us through 22 years of marriage and intense ministry.

Processing recent pre-marital counselling experiences with the deacons, I've come to realize that we need to be talking more about marriage in church. We need to talk about all our relationships but this publically covenanted one is the one that makes or breaks us as individuals and impacts our families and congregations in particularly powerful ways. So I'm going to stick my neck out on a 3 part series on marriage, sex, and divorce accompanied with 3 Sunday School Forum discussions to follow, including the enneagram personality study with Kaytee Edwards Buhler. You won't want to miss this series that heats up winter at Osler Mennonite.

Patty's Picks

Laughing Your Way to a Better Marriage DVD is one of the public library resources that shaped our marriage series.
Making Marriage Work DVD is another public library resource that helped.
The Crown on Netflix has been a delightful series to watch over Christmas.
Maudie DVD is a must see for art and drama lovers alike.
Get Low DVD was a movie that put the fun into funeral.

Enneagram in Love and Work by Helen Palmer is a helpful resource for marriage.

The 7 Principles in Making Marriage Work by John Gottman is another helpful resource for marriage prep and renewal.

Devotions by Mary Oliver is a reverential collection of her best poetry.

Finding Magic by Sally Quinn captured me at Mary Oliver's first quote to the end.

The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan has been out for a long time but a read worth returning to.

Patty's Ponderings: Part 2

Legacies, Bursaries and Scholarships Don't Have to Wait Until We Are Dead!

Patrick and I just updated our will - thank you, Karl Martens! Not having children, our estate goes to our favourite Mennonite institutions, including Osler and Nutana Park Mennonite Churches.

We recognize that our favourite Mennonite institutions, including Osler and Nutana Park could really use our money now before we die!

Thinking beyond family inheritances, Nutana Park has numerous student and service bursaries established by people who are still living so they can enjoy their financial gifts in action now to young people who are serving the church and their communities. Patrick and I are considering this kind of giving to our churches and invite others to consider the same in 2018.

HUMOR

Government surveyors came to Ole's farm in the fall and asked if they could do some surveying. Ole agreed, and Lena even served them a nice meal at noon time. The next spring, the two surveyors stopped by and told Ole, "Because you were so kind to us, we wanted to give you this bad news in person instead of by letter."

Ole replied, "What's the bad news?"

The surveyors stated, "Well, after our work here, we discovered your farm is not in Manitoba but is actually in Saskatchewan!"

Ole looked at Lena and said, "That's the best news I have heard in a long time! I just told Lena this morning that I don't think I can take another winter in Manitoba!"

Terri Lynn's Takes: **What's the Enneagram Anyways?**

On January 14, Kaytee will lead us in an Enneagram personality study during Adult Education. This informal workshop will be a great resource for our relationships – not only in marriage – but just as much for our understanding of ourselves, and our relationship with God and each other as a church community. But what is the Enneagram anyways?

The Enneagram ('Any-a-gram) is a dynamic system that was developed primarily in an oral tradition, in the context of relationships between students and teachers. It uses a numbering system to describe personality archetypes – and how they relate to one another. At first glance, it may seem rigid and restrictive, "I seem to be an 9, and 9's behave like this". But it is not meant to bind or restrict you to a certain way of being and living. The Enneagram tool is dynamic; it recognizes that humans are too complex and nuanced to fit easily into simple categories. It can help us make sense of ourselves as whole people, and supports the evolving, maturing human journey.

The Enneagram *is* a powerful tool for self-discovery and spiritual transformation. But it's just that – a tool – and could be just one tool in your own tool box that helps you grow as a person and in your relationship with God. And while self-discovery is valuable and worthwhile, it *is not* the Enneagram's final objective. The Enneagram's purpose is to help us uncover the traps that keep us from living fully and freely *so that* we will use our unique, authentic gifts for the good of others and the world.

The Enneagram has been tremendously helpful in my marriage relationship, my friendships, my work relationships, and my understanding of my own spiritual journey. Whether you are curious or suspicious, I invite you to join us in this learning time on January 14 at 11:15.

Resources for this article, and interesting further reading are found at <https://cac.org/the-enneagram-an-introduction/#History> and Richard Rohr and Andreas Ebert, *The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective* (The Crossroad Publishing Company: 2001)

OMC YOUTH CALENDAR

January 13 at OMC - 6:30-8:30pm

January 27 at OMC - 6:30-8:30pm

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

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|------------|---|
| Jan 7/2018 | Communion service, 10:00 am
Adult S.S. Forum, 11:15 am: "50 year of marriage"
by Louise & Jake Buhler, Deanna & John Reddekopp |
| Jan 11 | Council meeting 7:00 pm |
| Jan 13 | Men's Breakfast, 9:00 am at the Osler Café. |
| Jan 14 | Adult S.S. with Kaytee Edwards-Buhler, 11:15 am:
Part1 – "Enneagram Personality Study for marriage and
other relationships."
Potluck Fundraiser for our MDS'ers at noon
Part 2 "Enneagram Personality Study", 12:30 pm |
| Jan 17 | Education meeting, 7:00 pm |
| Jan 18 | M & S meeting, 7:00 pm |
| Jan 20 | Serve at Friendship Inn, 11:30 am |
| Jan 21 | Adult S.S. on Divorce |
| Jan 24 | Deacons meeting, 12:45 pm |
| Jan 29 | Worship meeting, 7:00 pm |

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

**"War does not determine who is right –
only who is left."** Winston Churchill

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following submitted by Jacob Friesen, Kelowna, BC:

Winston Churchill had a marvelous sense of humor but it had an edge and he loved “paraprosdokians” – a rhetorical term for an unexpected shift in meaning at the end of a sentence, stanza or paragraph :

“Where there’s a will, I want to be in it.”

“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”

“Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.”

Pray when you feel like worrying.
Give thanks when you feel like complaining.
Keep going when you feel like quitting.

(Author unknown)

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.

***Student MDS trip to Clearlake, CA** during spring break Feb. 18-25 will involve Matthew Stefaniuk, Dayna Goerzen, Katie Wiebe (MC Sask Youth Minister interim) and Stephanie Siemens building 5 houses for seniors that were burned in the 2015 wildfires. **Student MDSers will be making dessert for the January 14 fundraiser potluck.** We will send them with our blessing on February 11 and they will report in church on March 4.

*Forever-In-Motion Free Drop-In Classes at the Osler Community Hall: Mondays and Thursdays January 8 – end of April, 2018. 10:00 – 11:00 am. All adults welcome! Please wear walking shoes. Contacts are Susan Braun and Lucy Friesen.

***Winter Bible Study 2018 at OMC:**

Wednesdays 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Jan. 10: Mark 1-4

Jan. 17: Mark 5-8

Jan. 24: Mark 9-12

Jan. 31: Mark 12-16

Feb. 7: Ephesians 1-3

Feb. 14: Ephesians 4-6

***Mark your calendars for these important Upcoming Events:**

OMC AGM, Sat. Feb. 3, 9:30 a.m.

CMU Men's Chorus Sat. Feb. 3, 7:00 p.m.

RJC Chorale Sun. Feb. 4, 10:00 a.m.

RJC WINTER THEATRE - The Theatre Arts Class will present "The Mad Tea Party" in the Pit Theatre on Saturday, January 20 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, January 21 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale January 4, 2018. This play is appropriate for all audiences

*January 28, 2018 4 p.m. at **Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon** -Join in for a visit to China without leaving Saskatchewan!

You are invited to an afternoon of fun, learning and inspiration with international ministry workers George and Tobia Veith. Try your hand at Chinese brush calligraphy. Learn to skip rope the Chinese way. Hear updates from and interact with the Chinese pastors hosted in Saskatchewan in 2014. Be inspired and challenged by stories of your brothers and sisters on the other side of the world and hear about the work of Mennonite Partners in China. There will be a pot luck supper. Bring cold or hot dishes, Chinese/Asian food if possible.

Feedback on MC Saskatchewan's "Refresh, Refocus, Renew":

“After prayerfully going through the responses from the second miniretreat, three themes have bubbled to the surface: 1) Deepening our attention to God’s presence in our lives, 2) Deepening our Anabaptist understanding for the 21st century, and 3) Deepening our journey towards reconciliation. Continue to pray for the work of RRR as we work with Betty Pries and prepare to present at our Annual Delegate Sessions in Swift Current in March.”

*Fantastic news! Bill C-262, the Indigenous Human Rights Bill, was endorsed by the ruling Liberal party at second reading on December 5, 2017. One more hour of debate will take place in mid-February, then a vote likely in March. The Bill will then be sent to committee for study, come back for a 3rd Reading, and finally, be brought to the Senate for Royal Assent. You can watch the debate here—<https://goo.gl/jkzqhi>. MP Romeo Saganash expresses his sincere gratitude to our Mennonite community for all the work we’ve done to get things this far. We’re encouraged to keep sending the free *Walk the Talk* postcards (www.commonword.ca/go/1283) to all MPs, encouraging them to stand up for justice and reconciliation

What is Winter and Why do we have Winter? By Jake Buhler

Winter in the northern hemisphere arrives officially on or near December 22 and is usually the shortest day of the year. We call that day Winter Solstice. Solstice in Latin means *the sun stands still*. Indeed on that day the sun is furthest from the Equator and for a couple of days it seems to stand still before it moves closer to the Equator. Sunlight reaches us at an angle of 23 degrees, and in Winter the rays seem to glance off the earth giving us cold temperatures.

But around Osler, the real Winter comes much earlier than December 22. Our high latitude accounts for some of that. We had snow in October and with it came below zero temperatures. The temperatures will remain below zero for months. During this time the sun is low on the horizon and the sunlight hits us at an angle. The days are short.

Animals adapt to Winter. Gophers and bats and bears find places to hibernate. Their heartrate slows down and they use up very little energy. Lucky for foxes that field mice do not hibernate because foxes hunt them for food in winter. Some birds like robins and kingbirds that eat insects fly south where there is food for them. Other birds like redpolls and chickadees that eat seeds may stay around Osler and look for pine cones or grass seeds to eat. Deciduous trees that have leaves also hibernate in winter. These trees are 50% water. In winter the trees are able to push water out of their cells into non cell places so they do not die. Pine trees cover their needles with an anti-freeze substance that comes from the tree’s sap.

Osler is in a semi-arid zone. For almost 6 months of the year, trees, grasses and growing things require no water. Winter is a welcome change because, without winter, we would not be able to grow crops, have gardens and have trees. The snow we get in winter acts to insulate roots of trees to keep them from dying.

Snowstorms were once very dangerous in the Osler area, especially when horses and sleighs were used, and there was no advance warning about a storm. **On March 13, 1933**, Mr Frank Berg was on his way to church. It was snowing and he was crossing the railway just north of Osler. A train hit the horses headlong, killing them. Nothing happened to Mr. Berg who was in the sleigh. It was called a miracle. Today snowstorms are not very dangerous because we have cell phones, big vehicles and built-up roads.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JANUARY

January 7, 2018, Baptism of the Lord

Baptized in the name of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

or

Epiphany (additional Scriptures)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 14, 2018

You know all about me

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21, 2018

Trust God

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2018

Give thanks to the Lord

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28