CONNECTIONS

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED WITH
WHAT GOD IS DOING AT OSAC

ISSUE 37| July 2021

Believer's Baptism Service

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen. www.lords-prayer-words.com

On Sunday, July 27 OSAC congregation gathered to witness seven baptism. PRAISE THE LORD! We were able to listen to their testimonies during our in-person service at the church earlier that morning testimonies of God's goodness on display in their lives. Family and friends came to witness and pray for the candidates. A big thank you to Pastor Ryan and his minions for the freezes, that young and old enjoyed following the service. Would you like to be baptized? Please contact one of our pastors, they would be delighted to walk you through the process.

Zyan Musselman

Zack Koehler

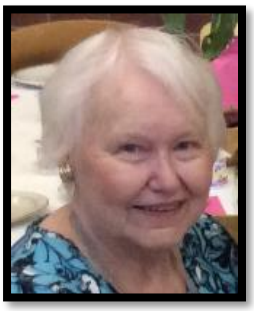
Ashley Lynch

Joe, Jamie & Billie Thistle

Mila McMurry

Forever friends

Did you ever have that one friend who made you deeply sad when they moved away, and you promised to keep in touch, but time and life got in the way? If there was one thing this present pandemic has given many of us, it's TIME. Time to clean a long overdue closet, read a few extra books, go on long walks and reconnect with some old friends.



Ed and Doreen McReynolds packed up and moved to Woodstock, ON four years ago to live closer to family. I gave them a call and had a wonderful time reconnecting and realized just how much I missed my chats with Ed and what a blessing it was for OSAC to have them attend our church for so many years. When I asked Ed when it was that he started attending OSAC, he laughed and said "I was carried in". I took some time to ask him how he and Doreen are handling the pandemic. "We're not too bothered by it. The lockdown has stopped us from getting some everyday items from the store but, that's ok. We wear our mask. I (Ed) have had my first dose of the vaccine and am scheduled for my second in July.

Doreen is doing well and she still works away at quilting at her own pace. She bakes biscuits the odd time and such. I still enjoy going on hikes, the scenery isn't as nice as Grey Bruce but, it's a much safer walk for me and I love getting out. I'll be 86 this year .

Ed's Reflections .....

I grow up in a Christian home, my father was saved as a young boy and step away but though a vision he had from the Lord he returned and never looked back. I came to the Lord at the age of 11yrs old. I remember during, a children's meeting at church, Pastor Ernest C. Lewis lead me through the Lord's Prayer. My mom drove myself my younger brother and sister Olive (Palmer) to church. When dad came to pick us up after service in his 1928 Whippet, he stop outside and waited (by the old Dufferin School where the church use to be located). When I came outside dad said "Oh well, did it happen?" I said "Yes" and he said "PRAISE THE LORD!" Dad's desire was to see all his children come to the Lord.

I started High School in 1948 and attended OSCVI until I was in grade 10, then began farming with my dad. During my time on the farm I felt I was being called to Bible College, so in 1958 I went out to Regina to attend Canadian Bible College (now known as Ambrose). I tell everyone that I went to a few schools because of the many name changes of the school: Western Canadian Bible Institute, Canadian Bible Institute, Canadian Bible College and Canadian Theological Seminary (that's when Rev. Franklyn Pyles was there).

After Bible College I went back home to work on the farm then applied at the Alliance District and was issued papers to become a Christian Worker. I then moved to Pictou, Nova Scotia and served there in a small church, Faithway Baptist Church from October 1959 - February 1961.

How did you and Doreen meet?

"I met Doreen at my brother's wedding in 1958. She was a good friend of the bride. My eye caught her and I said "that bridesmaid looks pretty nice". Later on that fall my friend, Bev (Howell) asked me to buy a ticket to a Child Evangelism banquet and I got brave and thought I'd ask Doreen and she agreed. I asked her to a few other events prior to the banquet. I began to get cold feet thinking about a possible future together, but I smartened up and I know it was the right thing to do. We got married on July 11, 1959 and I've been with my honey for 62 years! The best part of being married was that I got to take her home and I didn't need to say goodnight."

Is there anything rewarding about getting older?

Well, not much. You lose some ambition, but the government has been very good to us financially.

Do you have any advice to pass along?

Keep on trusting the Lord and make sure he is a vital part of your day to day life. Always be in the scripture and prayer.

How would you like to be remembered?

As a person that sought to follow the Lord.

Ed and Doreen attended OSAC for many years and served in a verity of ministries over those years. One of the last areas Ed served, was to help clean up all the papers left in the pews after a morning service and refill the pew slots with prayer and encouragement cards. Ed recalls when Pastor Jeff first arrived at OSAC, he thanked him for doing this behind the scene job and letting him know how important and vital this job was. Ed was very moved by his compliment. This couple may moved but they will never be forgotten. They have also seen many pastors fill our pulpit. Maybe you can recognize a few of these names…

Pastor Ernest C. Lewis, Pastor Ron McLean, Pastor Sacwell Palmer, Pastor Henry Alexander, Pastor Franklyn Pyles, Pastor Steven Conway, Pastor Kendall Schmitke, Pastor Steven Hardbridge, and presently, Pastor Jeff Sensenstein. Ed remarks they were all wonderful leaders of the church.

Ed and Doreen would like to say hello to everyone and is hoping everyone is doing well, and staying close to the Lord! They would love to hear from you.

You can send letters and notes to:

117 -6635 Canterbury Street

Woodstock, ON

N4K 8X9

I'd choose you in a hundred lifetimes

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person. A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' comes together, it is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences.

I Thought I'd have a little fun with a few men in our congregation and ask them some questions about their wives. Hopefully the wives will get a little chuckle and realize that their husbands would choose them time and time again.

Jeff Sensenstein

1. How long have you been married?

33yrs., we have 3 children and one grandson

2. Where did you meet your wife?

Bible College OBC (AKA Bridle College)

3. What were your first thoughts of her?

"Huba Huba"

4. What's her best feature?

Those eyes!

5. Who said I love you first?

Me… I think?

6. What's her hidden talent?

Her discernment. She definitely has a gift for that

7. What's the best gift she gave you?

Apart from my children, a model of a wooden ship I had to build

8. If your wife had a super power, what would it be?

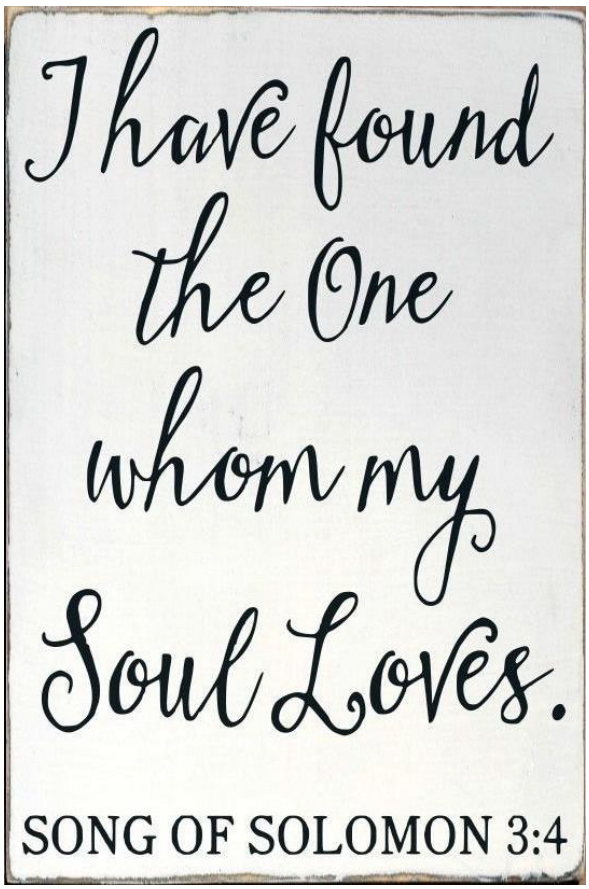
All seeing

9. What would be her dream job?

Taking care of me of course.. Probably not the answer you're looking for…lol. She'd like to be a French teacher for primary grades

10. What did your family think of her when they met her for the first time?

In my mother's words, "it's about time he found someone we approve of".



Perry Lochbihler

1. How long have you been married?

40yrs. and we have three children

2. Where did you meet your wife?

We met through a Bible study group

3. What were your first thoughts of her?

I thought she was very energetic and bubbly

4. Who said I love you first?

I have no idea, I have a feeling it was probably me.

5. Who does the most cooking?

Defiantly my wife. I keep telling her she's good at it. She is a great cook

6. What's her best feature?

She's a beautiful woman all around to me

7. What is you wife's favorite movie?

Downton Abbey, really anything British

8. What's her hidden talent?

She is a **VERY** good cook and very knowledgeable on all things about wild flowers

9. If your wife had a superpower, what would it be?

Administration and coordination for everybody

10. What did your family think of her when they met her for the first time?

It was nothing but good, they knew she was special

THE GREATEST THING A MAN CAN DO FOR A WOMAN IS TO LEAD HER CLOSER TO GOD THAN TO HIMSELF.

I'D CHOOSE YOU EVERYTIME

Shawn Stein

1. How long have you been married?

15yrs. and we have three children

2. What were your first thoughts of her?

She's Kind

3. Who said I love you first?

I don't know but she probably does

4. Who does the most cooking?

She does. I do 50% but she does it better and she wants to.

5. What's the best gift she gave you?

She surprised me with a DS light handheld gaming system (this was the most surprised I've ever been)

6. If your wife had a super power, what would it be?

Compassion

7. What would be her dream job?

She would love to do something with babies a midwife possibly

8. Who's more emotional?

it depends on the emotion

9. What's her hidden talent?

Probably the way she nurtures the kids

10. If money were no object where would you live?

She would say the biggest horse ranch you could find. Maybe New Zealand because we love the landscape. Plus they seem to have done well with Covid.

Tim Wood

1. How long have you been married?

12 yrs., 5 children with our mixed blend and 3 grandchildren

2. Where did you meet your wife?

We met through what we both enjoy, running

3. What were your first thoughts of her?

I noticed how her kindness was intentional

4. Who said I love you first?

OH I DID!

5. What is her favorite band or group?

ABBA

6. What's the best gift she gave you?

The cards she gives are always encompassed with such love. It's not just the card itself but the words and thoughts meet you where you're at in that moment.

7. If your wife had a super power, what would it be?

Empathy

8. What's her hidden talent?

She is a great editor, a basketball referee and a 3x basketball MVP at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University

9. What did your family think of her when they met her for the first time?

Some were cautious of us stepping into marriage. My brother thought she was a breath of fresh air.
All in all my family was very pleased

10. What would be her dream job?

She jokes and laughs about being a greeter at Walmart. I'd say probably something on the beach, possibly a lifeguard

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

—Matthew 19:6

Love never fails

An everlasting love

Gord Unger

1. How long have you been married?

43yrs., 3 children and 3 grandchildren

2. What were your first thoughts of her?

Not sure, I was just attracted to her

3. What is her best feature?

Her smile

4. Who said I love you first?

I don't remember, that was a long time ago-probably me

5. Who's the better driver?

Oh boy… well I think I am

6. What's her favorite restaurant?

Swiss Chalet

7. What would be her ideal vacation?

A southern destination to soak up the sun.

8. If your wife had a super power, what would it be?

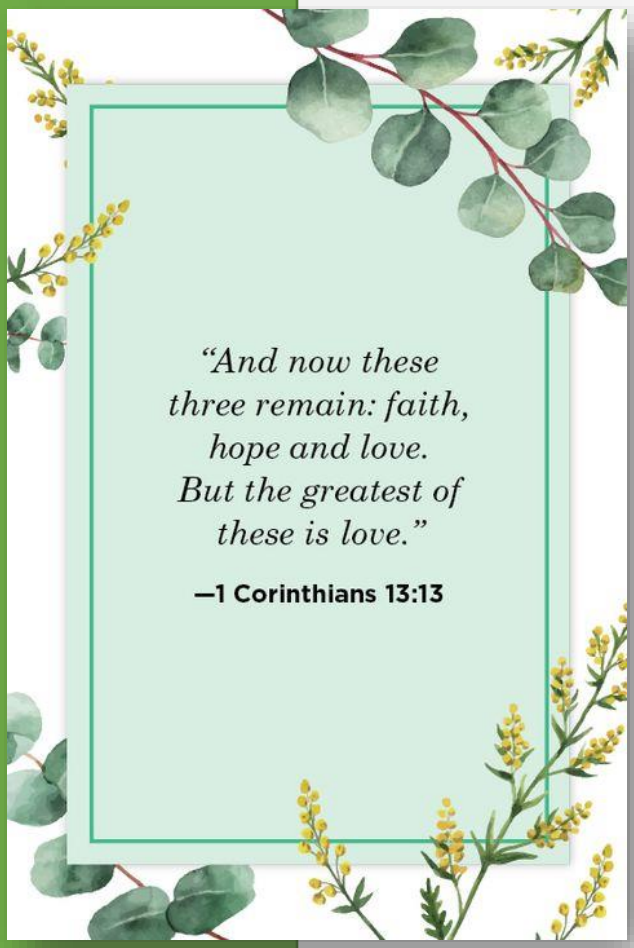
Her ability to organize, she can do ten things at once

9. What's her hidden talent?

Her gardening skills. She enjoys it and does it well

10. What did your family think of her when they met her for the first time?

They just fell in love with her. When we were dating they would say to me "You can't let this one get away"



James Turner

1. How long have you been married?

6yrs this November and we have four daughters

2. How did you meet?

We met on an online dating site (I wouldn't recommend it) I just got very lucky!

3. First thoughts?

I thought she was beautiful

4. Who said I love you first?

I did and she said "THANK YOU"

5. Who's the better driver?

Me

6. What is the best gift she ever gave you?

A pair of running shoes before I was about to run a 5k race

7. If your wife had a super power, what would it be?

Her intelligence would be her power. She is probably the smartest person I know

8. Who's more emotional?

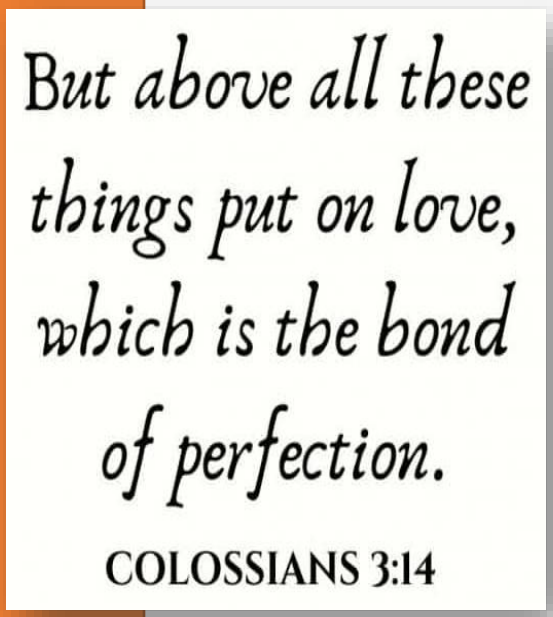
Me

9. What would be her ideal vacation?

Disney World

10. What did your family think of her when they met her for the first time?

My mom thought she was very nice. They could see that she made me happy.



I still fall for you everyday.

By Oneself During COVID

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO *Shirley Webster*

Shirley Webster has attened OSAC since October 2001. ***"I came to OSAC for the first time when my friends, Carolyn and Ivan Byrans invited me to a BRING A FRIEND CAMPAIGN geared towards drawing intrest to the church. Rev. Franklyn Pyles was the lead pastor at that time. My first thoughts were it was great, it had been a few years since I had attended church. I moved back from Kitchener five years earlier and hadn't settled in anywhere yet."***

Shirley was born in Owen Sound and her married life took her all around Southern Ontario. She was busy raising her five children, but sadly loss her youngest son 11 years ago this November. I asked her how she was feeling during this present pandemic and how does she spend her days… "***I feel cut off and shut out because everything you want to find out you need to go onto a computer and I'm terrified of them. I tend to spend my time reading, doing house work and doing the crossword puzzles that comes in the paper. I also have a penpal. We were former neighbours. It keeps me feeling connected to them. Also since I haven't been able to get out to excerise one of the ladies from the SMART class (SENIORS, MAINTAING ACTIVE ROLES TOGETHER). This group is greared towards seniors 55yrs and up and is run through the VON. They called me weekly to check in. I use to bowl until the pandemic happened and I'm unsure when that will start up again. I've lost friends and family through the pendemic and that has been very difficult not being able to attend their funerals."***

Shirley regularly spends time in daily reading of the scriptures and she believes God has multiplied a lot of the help she has received through the pandemic. Members of her church family have been so helpful. She is so extremely grateful to everyone but a special thanks to Tim & Deb Wood and Fiona Sensenstein for the many drives to and from the grocery store, church services and medical appointments. ***When it was ok to gather in homes I was invited to Tim & Deb's house to watch the service online. I do enjoy being back in person at the church, it's very comforting. I find it so nice seeing and talking to people's faces. Even though there are some protocols while being in the church building, I don't mind, I'm managing just fine. The fellowship is just so comforting.***

When things in the world return to normal or we begin our "NEW NORMAL" Shirley looks forward to returning to her SMART exercise classes and bowling, but most of all meeting her two great grandchildren for the first time. The pandemic has prevented her from seeing her two new grand little ones.

Thank you Shirley for going under the microscope and giving us a glimpse into your life. The pandemic has been very difficult for all of us but living through it alone has its own separate challenges. I've enjoyed learning how she has kept herself busy and connected with others and most of all staying connected to God through scripture. If you are still sitting on the fence about returning to in-person church, Shirley may be someone to talk with who can shed some light on what to expect.

Online schooling

"It wasn't what I was expecting, and so much has changed that I barely remember what I was expecting in the first place."

My name is Annika Bringleson and I have been attending Owen Sound Alliance Church for 15 years now. I am a high school student at OSDSS and have been asked to share a bit about my online learning and COVID-19 experience. Before COVID started I was involved with the Sr. Youth group, attending on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings. Since COVID started, I have attended youth virtually through Zoom calls on Wednesdays. Although I am no longer able to visit with my friends in person, youth online is still fun, and I always looked forward to the calls.

I played multiple sports including volleyball and basketball with my school as well as rep basketball in Collingwood. COVID-19 prevented me from playing sports and also prevented me from having a normal high school year. I was halfway through Grade 9 when we switched to online learning back in March 2020. Honestly, at the time I didn't think it was too bad. I was able to have an extra couple of weeks off school, which gave me time to be outside with my family, enjoying the extra time we had together. Looking back though, I now realize how I also missed many high school experiences and opportunities.

Now I have finished grade 10 and school has been a whirlwind. High school changed from the usual semester system to a quadmester system, where students had 2 new classes for each quarter of the year. We had a single class all day for an entire week, and then a second class all day for another week and this alternated back and forth until the next quadmester began and we had 2 new classes. The quadmester system was nice because you only had to focus on 2 classes at a time, but it was also very difficult to attend one class for the entire week and then go back to your other class the next week and try to pick up where we had left off.

Online school was difficult. It was hard to be motivated and at times I felt alone when I didn't understand something. Being home with a makeshift desk and lagging Wi-Fi didn't help either. I have missed eating lunch with my friends and getting to know new classmates. Throughout the year we have transitioned from in-person learning to online learning, back to in-person, and then finished online. The constant changing has taught me how to be adaptable and really to not dwell on the unknowns of the future and what may or may not happen. Although I have not been able to visit with friends, be in class, or play sports, COVID has given me time to learn new things. During my online schooling I had extra time to learn a bit of German (which I now mostly forget), I also was able to start a 2021 Bible reading plan with some friends where we have been reading through the Bible in a year. Because of COVID I have learned a lot about technology, which allowed me to connect more easily with friends and family who live far away. I was also able to start weekly Bible studies with another friend on Zoom. I was able to bake with friends on Zoom and I was able to gather with extended family on Zoom, some family whom I had never met before because of how far away we live. COVID has definitely been hard, and it's disappointing that I have not been able to have a normal high school experience or see my extended family and many friends. However, it has taught me a lot, like appreciating the little things in life because you never know when they may be taken away.

“Pivoting” to online learning

Hello Church family

My name is Christine Mink and I am a high school teacher at Owen Sound District Secondary School. I have taught there for many of the past 15 years and am currently teaching in the French department. My husband, Kurtis, and I have been married almost 14 years and started attending OSAC just before we were married. We have three children, a daughter and two sons and live just outside of Owen Sound.

Being a teacher online and a parent of children doing online learning on and off over the past year has had its challenges as well as benefits, but if I am honest, I am ready to return to “normal” in person learning!

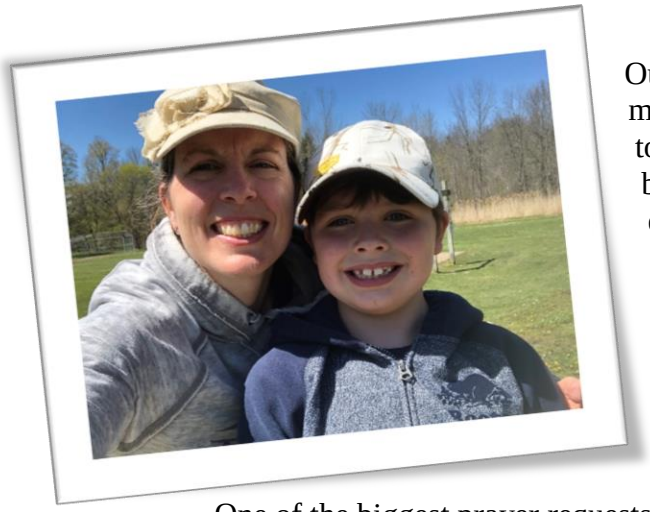
When the pandemic was identified last year and we were told we were staying home for two weeks after the March Break, 2020, it was as if we had been given a longer vacation. After those two weeks passed and the provincial government announced that we would not be returning to school yet, the process of learning how to connect with our students online or by telephone began. During those first weeks, I did my best to make contact with my students via email and provide them with curriculum related tasks that could be easily accomplished and returned via email. At the same time, our two oldest children, 9 and 6, were receiving work from their teachers. Kurtis and I had to navigate online learning platforms, different from what I was using myself, and try to encourage our children to complete tasks in a digital environment that was so new to all of us. One of the most difficult things during that time was the continued unknown of when we would return to school and in-person learning. Every few weeks another provincial announcement was made that we would not be returning to school yet (alongside continued restrictions within the community), and this uncertainty made it difficult to stay motivated for both students and education workers.

As with everyone during those first few weeks, our vocabulary grew to include words like social distancing, virtual learning and asynchronous learning (not face-to-face). The students in my class remained motivated (perhaps because I was teaching French immersion phys.ed. and not a more arduous course!) and most completed the assigned weekly work. I was only able to create tasks for my students during the evening as our own children required our attention during the day. Our youngest child, 3 years old at the time, was also home with us so our days were full trying to manage virtual learning for two and to occupy the third. Kurtis continued to work shift, fulltime on-site as he is part of the essential complement at Bruce Power. This meant that some days I was on my own and some of those days we just didn’t accomplish too much school work at home. But, we were all together and we were safe for which we were thankful. The provincial government announced that for high school students, everyone would earn a mark the same or higher than their earned mark in March. For the students I taught, this only caused some to lose interest in their schoolwork. For our own children, learning and assessment continued as it would have in class, but the concept of working in front of a computer and the continued time at home contributed to a decline in their motivation. We could also see the difficulties that isolation was beginning to have in their young lives.

Like each family with school-age children, and as a teacher, we enjoyed when summer arrived last year. Thankfully, we were able to go to the beach like usual, have cousins over for pool parties and even met up with friends a few times. It was a much needed “normal” time after such a different previous three months.

When school resumed in September our family was very thankful for the opportunity to return to in-person learning. Professionally, I learned how to use Microsoft Teams and OneNote (*digital learning platforms*

where live video instruction can occur and student work can be shared and submitted) that could be used should we have to "pivot" (a new key word that was used often when the future was discussed regarding the effect of COVID 19 on education) to virtual learning. I made a point of using Teams with my students in the classroom so that we all knew how it would work, should the directive to pivot occur. The chatter in the staffroom at work often included the most recent provincial announcements and questions of what the case numbers have to look like before we transition home again. It was so encouraging to come back to the building at the end of January, 2021, after only a short virtual learning session as it allowed us to begin teaching the next "quadmester" (*a divided semester*) in person. In April of this year, we did begin the fourth quadmester at home and we did not meet our students. I have known my students by their icons and by what time they would arrive to our virtual classes, but not by their faces, or their voices as they chose not to use their video (or did not have internet capacity to do so). I learned that asking questions to spark a discussion in a virtual environment isn't usually successful and I often found myself teaching to the small video box of my face at the bottom of my screen.



Our children have adapted to virtual learning with more maturity this spring than last year. It has certainly been tough some days for them not to see their friends in person, but the beautiful thing I have found about younger elementary students, is that they use their video to see each other and participate in class. I have missed that personal element teaching high school students virtually over the past year. However, I am thankful that we are almost though this third session of virtual learning and am hopeful for a full return to in-person learning in September.

One of the biggest prayer requests that I could suggest for our students and education workers is the challenge of sustained positive mental health. Isolation and independent work have taken their toll on many and yet it is very hard to connect with people virtually to offer / receive supports that are in place. Pray that our province would have appropriate case numbers that in-person learning could resume and that students and education workers would benefit from the change and break that summer provides.

Thank you Christine Mink and all our educators for all you do and for all of your hard work at this time. Know that we see all your tireless work and that without your selflessness, our community of students and parents/caregivers would not be able to make it through the pandemic.

Summer Salad Recipes

Pasta Salad

Ingredients

1 pound dried pasta like fusilli, penne, rotini or farfalle (bow tie)

1 cup sliced bell pepper (1 medium)

1 cup thinly sliced zucchini (1/2 medium)

1 cup halved cherry tomatoes

1/3 cup thinly sliced scallions (5 to 6)

1/4 cup sliced pepperoncini or banana peppers, optional

1 cup (4 ounces) halved mixed olives

1 cup (2 ounces) grated parmesan cheese or hard cheese

1 cup (6 ounces) fresh mozzarella balls, chopped

1/3 cup fresh parsley or basil, optional

Homemade Dressing

1/3 cup red wine vinegar, white wine vinegar or champagne vinegar

1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt, plus more to taste

1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

Instructions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until tender, 6 to 10 minutes (check the package for recommended cook time). Drain and rinse well under cold water.

While the pasta cooks, in the bottom of a large bowl, make the dressing. Whisk the red wine vinegar, salt, pepper, oregano, pepperoncini juice (if using), and the olive oil until blended. Add the drained and rinsed pasta to the dressing and mix well.

Stir in the bell pepper, zucchini, tomatoes, scallions, pepperoncini (if using), olives, parmesan, mozzarella, and the herbs (if using). Taste for seasoning and adjust with salt and pepper as needed. Serve or for the best results, cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes and up to 5 days.

Cucumber salad with vinegar

Ingredients

- 2 large, thin cucumbers (English if possible)
- 1 small yellow or white onion
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill (optional)
- ½ cup white vinegar
- 1 to 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- Fresh ground pepper

Instructions

- Slice the cucumbers as thin as possible, using a mandolin if desired. Peel and thinly slice the onion into half moon shapes. Layer the cucumbers and onions in a large shallow bowl; add the dill (if using).
- In a small bowl, mix the white vinegar, sugar, salt, and pepper. Pour the mixture over the cucumbers and onions, mixing everything together to ensure even coverage. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Stir again to evenly mix the dressing. Then serve with a slotted spoon. Store refrigerated for up to 7 days; the flavor even improves over time

Strawberry Spinach salad

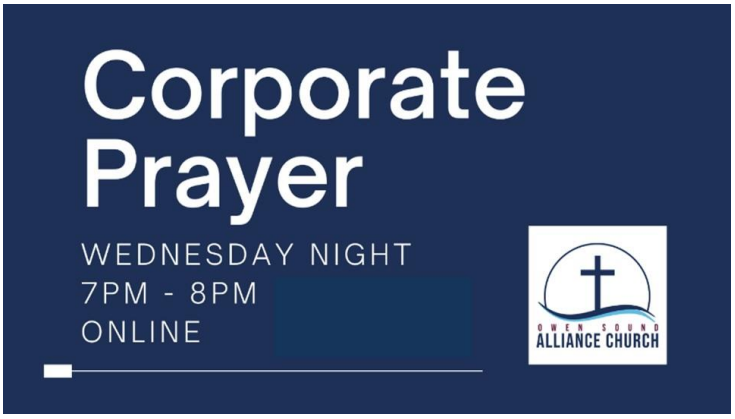
Ingredients
For the strawberry vinaigrette salad dressing (makes 1 ¼ cups total)

- 1 ½ cups sliced strawberries
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt

For the strawberry spinach salad

- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 handful thin sliced red onion
- 5 cups baby spinach leaves
- 3 cups mixed greens
- ¼ cup chopped pecans (toast in 350 oven for 8-10 mins)
- ¼ cup feta cheese crumbles (optional)
- ½ cup Strawberry Vinaigrette Salad Dressing

HAPPENINGS



Increasing

Sermon series schedule

July 4 – Love God

July 11 – love people

July 18 – holy

July 25 – truth based

Aug 8 – evangelistic

Aug 15 – god dependent

Parents

Please remember to fill out and return your child's 2021/2022 Sunday school registration form to Pastor Lise so she can prepare for your child for this coming Fall programing

In person services have resumed please register weekly to join us for our 9am & 11am services

https://www.alliancechurch.net/register

Please view our online service @ 9am through our webpage and social media pages YouTube