

New Holland Mennonite Church

August 23, 2026 • Volume 71, No. 33
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



WEEK 4: *RESTORE*

As we have practiced **remembering**, **releasing**, and **reimagining**, we conclude the series by focusing on **restoration**. Ultimately, practicing faithful stewardship heals us as individuals and helps us restore right relationship with one another. In Genesis 33, Jacob and Esau experience a surprising reconciliation after years of strife and estrangement. In the final chapter of John's gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples and fills their empty fishing nets. Even after death, Jesus restores our hope and provides an abundant feast.

Gathering & Praising God

Gravity of Love (VT 494)

Call to Worship & Prayer

Together (VT 389)

"The Extraordinary in the Ordinary"

Jenn Esbenshade

Sue Martin

Ray Hurst

Hearing God's Voice

Conversation with Children

Jenn Esbenshade

Based on John 21:1-19

Scripture: Genesis 33:1-17

Sermon: "Restore"

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Silent Journal Reflections (*back of bulletin*)

Responding

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, Help Us Live in Peace (VT 719)

Communion

Prayer of the People & Announcements

Brenda Hurst

Sending

Go, My Friends in Grace (VT 810)

Sending Blessing

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Coffee: Ashly Escalante

Greeters: Francisco Morales & Lois Zimmerman

Sound: Wade Esbenshade; **Nursery:** Ruth Douglas Miller

Close: Jim Bailey; **Offering:** Wade Esbenshade & Sue Martin

August 23: Attendance and Offering

Attendance: 37 (6 Zoom) • **Offering:** \$1,390.00

NEXT SUNDAY: August 30

Coffee: Ray Hurst; **Greeter:** Brenda Hurst

Worship Service: Led by Children & Youth with Dawn Kaczor

Song Leader: Jenn Esbenshade; **Sound:** Wade Esbenshade; **Nursery:** Lois Zimmerman; **Close:** Bryan Hower

Offering: Francy Bailey & Wanda Gonzalez Bortzel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 26: Sue Martin; **August 28:** Jenn Esbenshade

August 29: Bryan Hower

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 26: Sue & Tim Martin

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

Freeze Corn for ELC: This coming week! Let Ray know how many dozen ears of corn and which day you are able to freeze in gallon plastic bags.

EVERY TUESDAY, Sprouts for Peace Garden Work, 6 p.m.

Membership: Interested in joining New Holland Mennonite Church? Talk with Pastor Dawn about preparing for Annual Covenant Sunday on November 22.

SUNDAY, August 30: Children & Youth Worship: Parable about Sowing Seeds: Matthew 13:3-23, Led by Dawn Kaczor.
Picnic Following Worship: Bring your favorite picnic lunch and join us at the picnic tables below the playground.

SUNDAY, August 30, End 287(G): Organize in Your Municipality Kickoff: 1-3 p.m. Landisville Mennonite Church. Plan together how to keep local police focused on serving their communities — not working with ICE to enforce federal immigration policy. Sign up in weekly email update.

THURSDAY, September 3: Men's Dinner at Garden Spot Village Concord Room: Room is reserved from 5:30-8:00.

SUNDAY, September 6: Outdoor Worship at Esbenshade Farm: Season of Creation. Picnic lunch followed by lawn games. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on, food you signed up for, and lawn games. Sign up in weekly email.

WEDNESDAY, September 16: Women's Dinner at Garden Spot Village Concord Room: Room is reserved from 5:30-8:00.

SUNDAY, September 20: Juntos en el Duelo, Unidos en la Oración (Together in Grief, United in Prayer): 3:30 p.m. Join us as we remember, lament, listen, and pray together in solidarity with immigrant communities. Spread the word — especially to anyone in the immigrant community, or to anyone who supports them! More information in weekly email update.

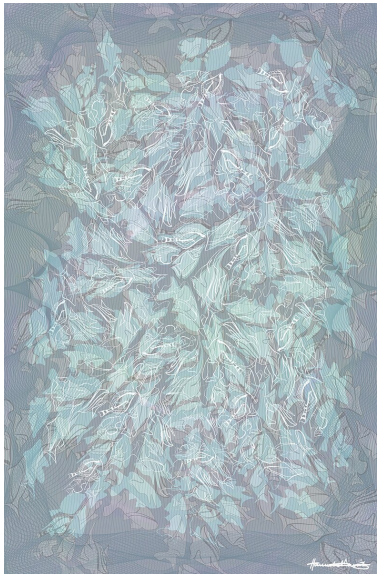
WEDNESDAY, September 30: "God's Love Knows No Borders" Float in New Holland Parade (Sign up by September 1). Details in weekly email update.

Journal Prompts

- ◇ What money story am I living right now? Is it a story of scarcity, fear, security, generosity, enough, or something else?
- ◇ Where in my life am I constantly striving for more? What might it mean for me to say, like Esau, "I have enough"?
- ◇ What relationships or wounds in my life need restoration—and what might restoration look like, even if it does not mean returning to the way things were?
- ◇ What would it look like for me—and for our church—to live more fully into God's economy of "enough"?

Pastor: Dawn Ranck-Hower; **Leadership Team:** Dawn Kaczor, Ruth Douglas Miller, Steven Lantz, Lois Zimmerman
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Artist Statement



Safety Net, By Hannah Garrity
Inspired by John 21:1-19
Digital Painting

How does this miracle text relate to our present fear? Right now, in the midst of COVID-19, people are dying, people are losing their livelihoods, people are isolated, people are going to run out of food, people are going to run out of money, people are going to lose their family members, people will lose their homes. This moment in our story delivers scarcity in ways that we have not seen in living memory. Our whole precious glob-

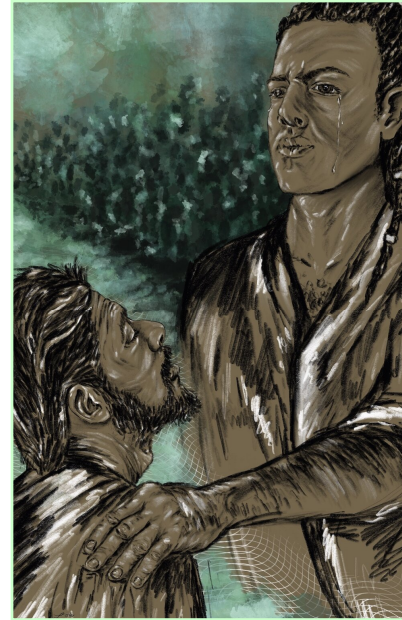
al society could unravel. **Can we be the safety net?**

Three weeks into stay-at-home orders, our local food banks are being tapped more heavily than normal. Economic stimulus checks are arriving in American bank accounts. Factories are retooling to build medical equipment. The public is following the stay-at-home measures. Legislative consensus should ensure that unemployment will be enough for many to survive on. All of these miraculous actions are funded by each of us.

In the artwork, patterned fish represent the miracle that Jesus performed that morning so many years ago. This miracle convinced the disciples that they must tell the story of Jesus and act out the love Jesus modeled. This miracle continues to inspire us to contribute and act as God's disciples in this critical time for humanity. **We are the safety net.**

As I worked with this text, I contemplated that money has a lot to do with saving lives. Therefore, the background of this piece is woven with a guilloché pattern, reminiscent of currency. It portrays the flow of financial resources from government support, to charities, to crowdfunding, to church missions that are the fabric of the net that will catch us all.

Jesus inspires us in this text—and in this moment—to weave God's safety net.



Return By Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Genesis 33:1-17
Digital Painting

Jacob and Esau shared a womb but soon grew to be enemies. Torn apart first by Jacob's hunger for *status* (*he buys Esau's birthright*) and then by Jacob's deceit (*he steals Esau's inheritance*), their relationship is deeply fractured by money. They become estranged—living in different lands with different families, cultures, and customs. Jacob steers clear of Esau, fearing Esau will kill him, until the time comes to leave

his father-in-law, Laban, and return home to Canaan. But to do this, Jacob must pass through Esau's territory in Mount Seir. He must come face-to-face with the brother he has wronged.

In this image, I've imagined the moment they meet—Esau winged with an army of men, and Jacob bowing, offering up half of his wealth and household. Esau's men hover behind him, ready for the signal to charge. Instead, they watch Esau run to Jacob, embracing him with tears and warmth. Somehow, over the years, Esau's rage has softened. He has found a way to make peace with the past. Esau looks beyond Jacob at his children and maids—at what Jacob offers to him as reparation for what he stole. "I have enough, my brother," Esau replies. Esau has learned what Jacob struggled to know from the start—that constant striving for more leads only to suffering.

In this encounter, Jacob finally bows before Esau, owning up to his wrongs and giving up his power. And yet, after this stunning moment of reconnection and forgiveness, Jacob journeys away from Esau to Succoth. They cannot continue side-by-side. Perhaps there are too many wounds, too much harm done.

Forgiveness does not cancel out pain. Restoration does not erase wounds. Restoration invites us to return what we have wrongfully taken from others, to return to God's hopes for us. In restoration, we return to enough.