

# New Holland Mennonite Church

August 16, 2026 • Volume 71, No. 32  
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



## WEEK 3: REIMAGINE

Scripture calls us to reimagine a world where our social and economic systems are not built to disparage or impoverish, but instead to provide for and benefit all. This week we revisit the story of the widow's mite, a scripture that begs for reimagination and reinterpretation from the harmful ways it has been used. Instead of commending the widow's giving practices, perhaps Jesus is condemning the economic system that created her poverty. The Jewish practice of the Jubilee year invites us to imagine leaving the edge of the harvest for the poor and immigrant to reap; in the fiftieth year, the harvest is shared and disparities are rebalanced. In light of these stories in scripture, we are called to reimagine our own money stories.

### Gathering & Praising God

*Longing for Light (VT 715)*

Call to Worship & Prayer

*Blessed Are You (VT 290)*

"The Extraordinary in the Ordinary"

Jenn Esbenshade

Steven Lantz

Tom Miller

### Hearing God's Voice

Conversation with Children

Dawn Kaczor

Based on Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

Sermon: "Reimagine"

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Silent Journal Reflections (*back of bulletin*)

### Responding

Prayer of Confession

*Helpless and Hungry (VT 268)*

Prayer of Blessing for Seth Lantz    Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Prayer of the People & Announcements    Brenda Hurst

### Sending

*Love the Lord Your God (VT 288)*

Sending Blessing

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

**Coffee:** Ashly Escalante; **Offering:** Ruth Douglas Miller & Lisa Kehm

**Greeters:** Francisco Morales & Lois Zimmerman

**Sound:** Wade Esbenshade; **Nursery/Close:** Bryan Hower

### August 16: Attendance and Offering

**Attendance:** 37 (7 Zoom) • **Offering:** \$1,870.00

### Behind Every Sunday . . .

It's time to put together the September/October Worship Chart! If you'd like to help with Sunday mornings, there are many ways to serve — prepare coffee, greet, lead music or worship, preach, offer the congregational prayer, lead children's time, run the sound system, care for children in the nursery, count the offering, or close up the building.

We especially need a few more people willing to be trained on sound.

If you're interested or want to learn more, please contact Pastor Dawn. **New volunteers are always welcome!**

### **NEXT SUNDAY: August 23**

**Coffee:** Evelyn Bailey; **Greeters:** Franci Bailey & Jim Bailey

**Song Leader/Children:** Jenn Esbenshade

**Worship Leader:** Sue Martin; **Sermon:** Dawn Ranck-Hower

**Extraordinary in the Ordinary:** Ray Hurst; **Prayer:** Brenda Hurst

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

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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

**AT HOME Sprouts for Peace Garden Work:** Freeze corn for the Early Learning Center the last week of August. Let Ray know how many dozen ears of corn you are able to freeze and which day works best for you that week.

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

**Membership:** Have you been thinking about becoming a member of New Holland Mennonite Church? If so, please talk with Pastor Dawn about meeting together this fall in preparation for being welcomed into the congregation during our Annual Covenant Sunday on November 22.

**THURSDAY, August 19: Women's Dinner at Garden Spot**

**Village Concord Room:** Room is reserved from 5:30-8:00. Food is available to purchase until 6:30 p.m. **NOTE:** Parking lot is being paved, so park in Parking Lot #9. Enter building by Parking Lot #8. Door is locked, but Dot will welcome us from 5:15-5:45 p.m. Map in weekly email update.

**SUNDAY, August 23: Sunday School meeting for Parents and Grandparents, 9:20 a.m.** Childcare provided.

**SUNDAY, August 30: Children & Youth Worship: Parable about Sowing Seeds:** Matthew 13:3-23, Led by Dawn Kaczor

**THURSDAY, September 3: Men's Dinner at Garden Spot**

**Village Concord Room:** Room is reserved from 5:30-8:00. Food is available to purchase until 6:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, September 6: Outdoor Worship: Season of Creation.** Worship held at Esbenshade Farm. Picnic lunch followed by lawn games. Sign up in weekly email.

## **Journal Prompts**

***God imagines a world where everybody has enough.***

- ◇ Why are there people in our community who don't have enough?
- ◇ Who benefits because they are in need?
- ◇ What would it take for everyone to have enough?

***Can you imagine?***

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



### LAMENT IS A GIFT

By Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 12:38-44

Digital Painting

In this painting, I have depicted two coins from the time of Jesus. Two. Two is not enough to live on. Economist Thomas Picketty's new book, *Capital and Ideology* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2020), details how societies throughout the ages have structured inequality into their/our economic systems. He argues that the economy is not a force of nature. Human ideology

shapes the economy. Marshall Steinbaum sums up Picketty's new work: "In his sweeping new history, the economist systematically demolishes the conceit that extreme inequality is our destiny, rather than our choice."

In this text, Jesus agrees with Picketty. An exegesis of this text by Addison Wright establishes that Jesus is actually lamenting the widow's gift. Wright cites Jesus' overall viewpoint on the financial structures of the day, arguing that this cannot be an affirmation of the widow's selflessness. Rather, it must be a lament of the societal structures that cause the widow to give all of her resources to organized religion.

For me, the lament perspective on this traditional stewardship text is transformational. It is inspiring me to engage financially with the Church in a much more personal way. With sudden clarity, I connected the fact that Jesus' Church is the financial ideology I believe in. The hypocrisy that Jesus observes in this text is the same hypocrisy that I have always struggled with as a member of the Church of the present. So, what actions can I take, what questions can I ask, and what conversations can I have to ensure that the Church I am giving to is the Church Jesus meant to create?



## Artist Statement

### JUBILEE

By Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by

Leviticus 19:9-10; 25:8-12

Digital Painting

In the Year of Jubilee, God offers rest—a break for farmers, relief for those experiencing economic injustice,

and Sabbath for the land. This radical rest is counter to the rhythm of our lives; it resists valued ideologies like efficiency and productivity and has broad economic implications. Jubilee has remained a theoretical, hopeful concept tucked away in scripture. This kind of radical slowing down is difficult to imagine, however... so is a global, economy-halting pandemic.

Rest feels unnatural in a pandemic, but it's available to us if we are willing to receive it. Rest slows our vision and illuminates gifts that normally whirl by us. While sheltering in place, I've searched for positivity, and during such great loss, I've found more—more time, space, and color. I found a patch of mint in my yard, and the scent became my soul's balm. Rest offers recovery. The earth is thriving with a break from humanity. Scientists are seeing significant decreases in air pollution and animals are returning to previously uninhabitable waterways.

Rest offers perspective. God does not want us worn ragged, reaping the maximum extent of our harvest. God wants new eyes for us to recognize broken systems so we can enact change that sustains everyone: "You shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God" (v.10). God is found in the connective tissue of our relationships to our neighbor—particularly those most vulnerable.

Rest reminds us of our interconnectedness. Despite physical distancing, people are rediscovering one another while longing for and celebrating every moment of connection. Despite future insecurity, people are finding innovative ways to support one another. Rest uncovers the enoughness in our lives, and as my dear mentor used to say, "Enough is abundance." What will we glean from this time of rest?