



# New Holland Mennonite Church

September 1, 2024 • Volume 69, No. 35  
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.

## Table Church

As you enter we invite you to find a place to sit. Our meal liturgy will begin shortly. Words in **bold** can be said together. Please don't pass the bread, pour the water or juice until asked to do so. They are part of the worship service.

### The Welcome

Jesus said, "Listen, I am standing at the door and knocking: if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me."

**We give thanks for this promise, for the company of each other, and for God's presence with us.**

### Call to Worship

Every year we celebrate the life of Jesus.

**Every month we break bread.**

Every week we gather for worship.

**Every day we count our blessings.**

Every minute God is near.

**Yes, every minute God is near.**

These are the rituals of our faith.

**Let us worship God together.**

### Prayer of Confession

Let us confess to God the excuses we have made for not living in the kingdom of God. [pause for silent confessions]

For the distraction in this day

**by neglecting God's offer of love**

**and by ignoring the cries of the poor.**

**Lord have mercy**

For our diversion from your way  
**by speaking harsh words to our friends  
and by failing to love our enemies.**  
**Lord have mercy.**

For the evasion of our responsibilities  
**to care for the earth which sustains us  
and to combat the injustice which surrounds us.**  
**Lord have mercy.**

For the confusion of our priorities  
**by seeking success and not faithfulness  
and by trying to pray without acting.**  
**Lord have mercy.**

### The Gift of Bread

Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "**Lord, give us this bread always.**" (John 6:32-34)  
[Pass the bread, butter, and jam around table for each person to take a slice. Feel free to begin to eat or wait until you have the rest of the meal.]

Be gentle when you touch the bread.

Let it not lie uncared for, unwanted.

So often bread is taken for granted.

There is so much beauty in bread.

Beauty of sun and soil,

Beauty of patient toil.

Winds and rain have caressed it.

Christ so often blessed it.

Be gentle when you touch bread

### The Gift of Water

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "**Lord, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty.**" (John 4:13-15)

[One person at table pour a glass of water for each person.]

Be grateful when you drink water.  
Let it not be unnoticed or squandered.  
There is so much life in water —  
Springing, gushing, flowing,  
Living, cleansing, and healing.  
God gave it.  
The Spirit hovered over it.  
Christ transformed it.  
Be grateful when you drink water.

### **The Promise of Transformation**

Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from he called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” (John 4:13-15)

**This is a sign of the glory of Christ. We put our trust in him.**

[One person pour a glass of juice for each person. Greet those around your table and welcome each other. Each table will be invited to come to the buffet. This is an informal time of eating and chatting together.]

### **Prayers**

Thank you, Lord, for this meal but we cannot live by bread alone.

**We have shared it together**

**because we need each other gathered round this table.**

**We need** [we will go around until everyone has been named]

Reply: And I need you.

Lord God, as we bring our prayers we thank you that we can share in your Kingdom of justice and peace.

**We come in our poverty, not in our wealth**

**in our blindness, not with great faith,**

**in our weakness, not in our strength.**

You welcome all people. So now we bring to you those from the wide and narrow streets of our world who need the love of the God to whom we pray.

[Sharing time: a microphone will be passed around. Your sharing is our prayer. After each person shares we will say “Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**”]

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation.**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

**Video:** “We Believe”

### **Wondering and Responding**

What one or two things did you notice?

Where does it feel like God may be speaking to you?

What do you wish you knew more about?

### **Sending**

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. And to know this love that surpasses knowledge— that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**Now to God who by the power at work within us**

**is able to accomplish abundantly far more**

**than all we can ask or imagine,**

**to God be the glory in the church**

**and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.**

**Amen**

### **Clearing the Table**

[Our final act of worship is to clear the tables and clean up. Feel free to help wherever you like: clearing the tables, washing and drying, collecting trash, putting away tables and chairs, etc. Thank you for joining us at Table Church]

**Coffee:** Sue Martin; **Greeter:** Jon Sommer & Lyn Sommer;  
**Offering:** Keith Miller & Lois Zimmerman

**August 25 (1719 House)**

**Attendance: 39 • Offering:** \$1,665.00

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**September 1:** Irvin Weaver; **September 3:** Joe Kehm

**September 4:** Shawn Cunningham; **September 5:** Mekdes Anshebo;

**September 6:** Caleb Siyoum

**NEXT SUNDAY: September 8**

**Coffee:** Pat Thomas; **Greeters:** Michele, Ellie, Maggie Good

**Worship Leader:** Ruth Douglas Miller; **Song Leader:** Jenn Esbenshade;

**Children's Time:** Steven Lantz; **Nursery:** Bryan Hower;

**Congregational Prayer;** Jenn Esbenshade; **Sound:** Mike Good

**Offering:** Wanda Gonzalez Bortzel & Francly Bailey; **Close:** Mike Bortzel

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

**Nursery:** On **Sunday, September 8**, we are beginning nursery during the worship service for ages 3 and under. Thank you to those who volunteered to serve for this important ministry.

**Garden:** Join the fun in the garden Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m.

**Book Club:** Jenn Esbenshade's house, **Friday, September 6**, 7:00 p.m. Discuss "The Sun Does Shine" by Anthony Ray Hinton. *Sign up on link in weekly emails.*

**Sunday School** begins on **September 8** for all ages.

**Kindergarten—Grade 4:** Class in Library.

Taught by Dawn Kaczor. Substitute Michele Good

**Grades 5-8:** Class in Pastor Dawn's Office

Taught by Steven Lantz. Substitute Ray Hurst

**Adults: September 8:** Wade Esbenshade & Mike Good will present details about Goodville Mutual purchasing the parking lot from the church.

**Adults:** Class in Sanctuary begins September 8

Taught by Jenn Esbenshade

Conflict is a normal part of life that arises in our workplaces, in our churches and with our families. Our fall adult Sunday

School will use MCC's new curriculum, *Peaceful Practices: A guide to healthy communication in conflict*, to help us learn and to practice working through divisive issues. It invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other. Make sure to join us!

**Creation Care Evening Worship on Sunday, September 15:**

4:00 p.m. Picnic: **Sign up on link in weekly emails.**

5:00 p.m. Worship

There will be no Sunday School or Worship in the morning.

**Climate Change Talk: Thursday, September 26:** 7-9 p.m.

Presentation by Dr. Keith Miller a geologist with expertise in climate science. What is the evidence for any human impact on climate? What changes are happening now and what can we expect in the future? Come find out and bring your own questions.

**Note:** *This is being advertised in the local community.*

**Blood Drive:** American Red Cross: **Monday, October 14**, 1-6

p.m. Register: Download the Blood Donor App, go to Red-CrossBlood.org, or call 800-733-2767. Walk-ins welcome.

**Book Table:** A reminder to take a book to read from the table in the front of the sanctuary.