

New Holland Mennonite Church

August 9, 2026 • Volume 71, No. 31
Fellowship: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



WEEK 1: RELEASE

This week we practice releasing shame, anxiety, guilt, greed or anything that keeps us from freedom and wholeness. We release the elements of our money story that prevent us from fully living into God's story. In Matthew, we see a man grieved to let go of his wealth. In Deuteronomy, we find the radical social mandate of cancelled debts, a communal release that is practiced for the good of all. Releasing is a spiritual practice that frees us from ourselves and liberates others.

Gathering & Praising God

Here in This Place (VT 10)

Call to Worship & Prayer

This is God's Wondrous World (VT 180)

"The Extraordinary in the Ordinary" Wanda Gonzalez Bortzel

Dawn Kaczor

Dawn Ranck-Hower

Hearing God's Voice

Conversation with Children

Jen Morales

Based on Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Scripture: Matthew 19:16-22

Sermon: "The Tenth Word"

Beryl Jantzi*

Silent Journal Reflections (*bulletin back*)

Responding

Prayer of Confession

See Ye First (VT 417)

Prayer of the People & Announcements

Steven Lantz

Sending

There's Enough for All (VT 757)

Sending Blessing

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

Coffee/Greet: Pat Thomas; **Sound:** Bryan Hower

Accompaniment: Ruth Douglas Miller & Keith Miller

Nursery: Ray Hurst

Offering: Francy Bailey & Brenda Hurst; **Close:** Steven Lantz

* **Beryl Jantzi** recently retired from Everence after serving for 20 years as Director of Stewardship Education. Before joining Everence, he pastored Mennonite congregations in Pennsylvania and Virginia for 23 years. He has since begun a new ministry with GraceInside, serving as a prison chaplain at Cold Springs Correctional Center in Greenville, Virginia.

Beryl and his wife, Margo Maust, a public school teacher and librarian, have two daughters, a son-in-law, and two delightful grandchildren. They live in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where they enjoy ushering at the James Madison University Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, participating in a monthly game group, and reading a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 10: Wade Esbenshade

NEXT SUNDAY: August 16

Coffee: Ashly Escalante; **Song Leader:** Jenn Esbenshade;
Greeters: Francisco Morales & Lois Zimmerman
Worship Leader: Steven Lantz; **Children:** Dawn Kaczor
Extraordinary in the Ordinary Sharing: Tom Miller
Sermon: Dawn Ranck-Hower; **Prayer:** Brenda Hurst
Sound: Wade Esbenshade; **Nursery/Close:** Bryan Hower
Offering: Ruth Douglas Miller & Lisa Kehm

August 2: Attendance and Offering

Attendance: 39 (4 Zoom) • **Offering:** \$420.00

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

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

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.

FRIDAY, August 14: Book Club: 7 p.m. at Pat's house. Francy leading discussion. Book: *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall.

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.

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.

WEDNESDAY, September 30: "God's Love Knows No Borders" Float in New Holland Parade. Walk the parade with others from church! Sign up in weekly email.

Journal Prompts

1) As you consider today's message, reflect and respond to the idea that covetousness is a "gateway sin" to breaking others sins and commandments.

2) Reflect on the comparison made in James 4:2-4 about covetousness and friendship with the world. Do you agree?

You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings. You unfaithful people! Don't you know that friendship with the world means hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the world's friend becomes God's enemy.

3) How in your experience does a commitment towards contentment act as an antidote/deterrent to the allure of covetousness? (See I Timothy 6:6-10.)

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



FINDING RELEASE

By Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by
Matthew 19:16-22
Acrylic, Ink, & Watercolor
on Canvas

When afraid, we turn inward. I see fear and loneliness in the rich man. He's focused on an individual path, leading to his personal salvation, while

missing the full picture. The man's wealth may cause him comfort, but it does not exist in a vacuum. His wealth affects the lives of others—particularly those at the margins of society.

Jesus offers the rich man spiritual grounding that completely threatens his financial stability, but it's good news just the same. Jesus reveals to the rich man the truth that we are all connected. Jesus chooses to name commandments concerning interpersonal relationships and community (v. 18-19).

Jesus offers the rich man freedom from his entanglement with wealth, and gifts him belonging and a way forward (v. 21). The rich man feels the weight of this truth. To “enter this life” he must recognize his responsibility for his neighbor, because our lives are interwoven.

Instead of grasping to Jesus' lifeline, the rich man turns away because he cannot fathom losing everything. His grief feels palpable in this time of upheaval. I meditated on his grief, layering dusty purples, muted greens, and chalky blacks. I imagine the rich man isn't turning away from Jesus altogether. Perhaps he's taking space to feel his grief, processing all he will lose so he can truly find release.

Artist Statement



RELEASE

By Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by
Deuteronomy 15:1-11
Digital Painting

The Israelites wandered the desert for forty years. Forty years was just long enough for them to let go of what they used to know, to doubt their purpose, to question God's presence, to cultivate resilience. But it was not long enough for the

sting of slavery to recede from their bones. It was not long enough for them to forget the way greed can corrupt the hearts of the powerful, the way economic disparity can bleed into overt racism, the way empire can be built on the backs of forced laborers. And so, near the end of their wilderness chapter, God guides Moses to help them release the harmful systems of their past to reimagine a new way of doing life together.

These instructions in Deuteronomy become a guide for their new economy. The scheduled practice of releasing debts every seven years was designed to be both preventive and restorative. It prevented the wealth gap from growing beyond repair. It prevented systemic poverty from becoming strategic enslavement. It softened hearts turned cold and loosened fists clenched too tight. This practice of release reminds us that net worth is not synonymous with self-worth. It cuts into greed and bondage wherever it has taken root.

How might we adopt practices of financial release in our current economy? When it comes to money, we are hard-wired to fixate on deserving. What did you do to cause this debt? What qualifies you to deserve a forgiveness loan? How did you earn this income?

And yet, in God's story, money—like grace—is released wherever it is needed instead of where it is deserved.