



Orrville Mennonite Church  
1305 W. Market St. Orrville Ohio 44667  
[www.orrvillemenno.net](http://www.orrvillemenno.net)

**Order of Worship**  
**September 14, 2025**

**Welcome**

|                        |                             |       |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| <b>Gathering Songs</b> | <i>Here in This Place</i>   | WB 6  |
|                        | <i>God is Here Among Us</i> | WB 16 |

**Call to Worship and Lamp Lighting**

Leader: We come to worship this morning with all of who we are.

*Offering Side: Our troubles and laments (one lamp is lit).*

**Piano Side: Our victories and joys (one lamp is lit).**

Leader: We come to worship this morning as part of a community of Jesus followers here and all over the world (*one lamp is lit*).

**Piano Side: As we gather, we wonder who else could bless us and be blessed by becoming a part of us.**

*Offering Side: We trust you, Lord, for growing our community (one lamp is lit).*

**All: Lord, because you are our hope we come to worship together. You are our light, so we learn together. You are our example, so we serve together. You are our strength, so we stand together (final lamp is lit).**

|                |                            |      |
|----------------|----------------------------|------|
| <b>Singing</b> | <i>What is This Place?</i> | WB 1 |
|----------------|----------------------------|------|

**Responsive Reading** Hebrews 10.19-25

Leader: Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, and we have a great high priest over God's house.

*Offering Side: Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, →*

**Piano Side: Since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water.**

Leader: Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.

**All: And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds.**

Leader: Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

**Singing**                      *What is This Place?*                      WB 1

**Offering Prayer**

**Offering Song**      *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*                      WB 340

**Offering**

**Scripture**                      Romans 8.1-17

<sup>1</sup> So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. <sup>4</sup> He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. <sup>5</sup> People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. <sup>7</sup> So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. <sup>8</sup> People who are self-centered aren't able to please God. <sup>9</sup> But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. <sup>10</sup> If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is →

dead because of sin. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it isn't an obligation to ourselves to live our lives on the basis of selfishness. <sup>13</sup> If you live on the basis of selfishness, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. <sup>15</sup> You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

**Sermon**            *We Are Not Alone*

**Love Step Prayer**

*Lord, open my eyes to see when you introduce me to someone. Help me to meet them with love where they are and to be met in love where I am. Help us to walk together, learn from each other, and share your love with others. Help us to see that as we do these things together, we are growing closer to Christ.*  
*Amen.*

**Song of Response**    *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*            WB 307

**Benediction**

Send us, Lord, in your love and in your joy.

Go. Be Jesus' Love. Be Jesus' Peace.

**All: Amen.**

**Sermon Response**

**Prayer Requests, Prayer**

**Announcements**

Greeter, Kathy Schmid  
Usher, Sherm Amstutz  
PA Operator, Virgil Troyer  
Accompanist, Missy Short  
Song Leader, Jane Beyeler  
Preschool/Nursery, Sandy Miller  
Quiet Table, all ages welcome  
Reader, Lou Erb  
Sharing & Prayer, Tim Short

**The "Quiet Table" is available** in the coffee area during the worship services at Orrville Mennonite. People of all ages are welcome to come to do quiet hands-on activities as a way of listening and focusing during the worship time. This area works best if there are equal numbers of adults and children sitting together. If you are someone who enjoys listening while creating, maybe this area will be your new regular pew! Our youngest children will "graduate" to this area after their nursery Sunday School hour. If you have been a nursery volunteer in the past, please consider continuing your relationship with the littles at this table.

## **Announcements**

**Monday Meals** served 134 meals this week. This Monday, Martins Mennonite will serve goulash, green beans, roll, dessert, and a tangerine.

**Wild Church.** If you are someone who feels closer to God when you are outside, you're invited to Wild Church at Dan and Jeanne Jantzi's place on the 4th Sunday of each month at 4 pm year-round no matter the weather. (Except for lightning or tornado!) We meet for an hour. We'll start with scripture and a question to ponder and then everyone takes 45 minutes alone to wander and wonder, watch, draw, listen, or reflect in the beauty of God's creation. Then we return to the campfire for a few minutes of reflection or silence, ending with a blessing. If that sounds like something you'd try, then dress for the weather and bring something to sit on. The address is 6426 Chippewa Road, Orrville.

Feel free to invite others. The next dates to put on your calendar for the coming year are August 24, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 23, Dec 28, Jan 25, Feb 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26.

## **Schedule-At-A-Glance for September 14 – 21, 2025**

Sunday, September 14

Gathering and Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Sunday School, **9:30 am**

Worship, **10:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Monday, September 15

Monday Meals, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, September 16

Yoga Class in Fellowship Hall, 5:30-6:30

Wednesday, September 17

Men's Breakfast, 8 am, Bill's making quiche

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Gathering and Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Sunday School, **9:30 am**

Worship, **10:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

## **Looking Ahead**

September 28 – Wild Church at Dan and Jeanne Jantzi's, 4 pm

October 5 – Carry-In Fellowship Meal

October 20-23 – MCC Meat Canning at Gerber Bldg in Kidron

## **Offering Report for September 7, 2025**

Ministry Spending Plan: \$3,073.82

Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,367.00

Central Christian School: \$100.00

Mennonite Central Committee: \$50.00

Mennonite Mission Network: \$50.00

Ohio Conference: \$100.00  
 Open Arms: \$100.00  
 Yoga Class Donation (August): \$40.00  
 Dollar Project (Meat Canning): \$424.00

**September Birthdays and Anniversaries**

|    |                   |    |                    |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 5  | Jaydon Nissley    | 19 | John/Barb Shilling |
|    | Josiah Bixler     | 26 | Roland Kauffman    |
| 8  | Sue Steiner       | 29 | Bret/Amber         |
| 9  | Amos Bixler       |    | Andreasen          |
| 16 | Alexander Seymour | 30 | Megan Sohar        |

**Orrville Mennonite Church**

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Orrville Mennonite Church Website  
 Ohio Conference of MC USA Website

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 9 am - 12 noon

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## Sermon Notes

### Who We (Orrville Mennonite Church) Are and Can Be

1. We are a worshipping body under the Lordship of Jesus; a community of people who are in Christ, bound to Christ, together. This makes us heirs with him and we hold our status of being God's children as our core identity and seek to be continually transformed into the image of Christ. John 1.12

Romans 8.1-17

Acts 2.42-47

Hebrews 10.19-25

Matthew 16.19

2. Our vision is embodied in a prayer we have used in our worship every Sunday since April 2016. We call it our *Love Step Prayer*.
3. We practice hospitality. We think of hospitality as welcoming people and providing an environment for people to be safe, to rest, to heal, to grow. The guiding principle of hospitality is that the hosts are the ones who cross barriers, make sacrifices, and make accommodations. 1 Peter 4.8-9

4. Rather than protecting the institution and the majority we choose, in all matters, to err on the side of marginalized people. We choose not to protect our “optics”. We work to avoid judging others. We endeavor to accept and love all people. Micah 6.8, Luke 4.16-21, Matthew 5-7
  
5. We work at being accountable to each other (Galatians 6.2). This means speaking into each other’s lives with challenging questions and opening ourselves up for evaluation as well. And...
  - a. We are bound by a yoke of love, not a bat of righteousness. Therefore, we are patient with each other, choosing to hold each other accountable where we agree, and to hold each other in love and relationship where we do not. Romans 14.1-10
  - b. Rather than arguing over what is right and what is wrong, we strive to center our accountability around these questions: “Will this produce the fruit of the Spirit and lead towards Christ?” Galatians 5.13-15, 22-25
  
6. There are times when sin is disruptive enough for a person/community that the community needs to take action, even quick action (active violence and abuse as examples). Most of the time, however, accountability means a level of patience measured not in days, but in weeks, months and perhaps years coupled with a non-judgmental trust that the Holy Spirit will guide a person submitted to Christ in God’s time. Matthew 18.1-20
  
7. We are Orrville Mennonite Church, a member and participating congregation of The Ohio Mennonite Conference and, as such, a part of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite World Conference.

## How We Hold the Bible:

1. We believe in the authority of the Word of God. We have access to the Word of God in the Bible (written Word of God), in Jesus (Living Word of God), and in the guidance of the Holy Spirit (God's presence in us - Jeremiah 31.31, John 14.19, 26).
  - a. Therefore, for us, the Bible – the written Word of God - is authoritative, grounding, necessary, useful for teaching and correction, but not sufficient. We read the Bible through the life and lens of Jesus and with the guidance of The Holy Spirit.
  - b. While we believe that the Bible is exactly what God wants us to have, we are not literalists. We recognize that interpretation is inevitable and careful interpretation is necessary.
2. Interpreting the Bible (written Word):
  - a. We read the Bible through the lens of Jesus and we hold our interpretations up to Jesus' teachings and to the character of God as fully shown in Jesus.

Colossians 1-3
  - b. Because Jesus is most present when we gather as community, we understand that our best Bible reading and interpretation will happen in community.
    - i. This includes the community of saints in Christ who preceded us over the centuries.
    - ii. The way the earliest Christian leaders handled Scripture and the realities of life is a guiding example to us.

Acts 6.1-7, Acts 11, and Acts 15.1-35
  - c. We let Scripture first interpret itself.

Matthew 5:17, Romans 8:3-4, 10:4, Galatians 3:23-25, Ephesians 2:15, Galatians 5:1-26, Hebrews 1:1-3, John 14:1-14

- d. We identify and admit our own culture and biases, knowing they will flavor how we read the biblical text even though we try to avoid this.
  - e. We recognize that true understanding doesn't come without faith and obedience to our Lord, Jesus.
  - f. We ask and trust the Holy Spirit to guide all efforts to understand Scripture and how it applies in our community life.
3. As we apply biblical truths, we consider the culture of the world around us and hold open the possibility, that we, as a current community of Jesus-followers, can make different ethical decisions than those that are recorded in the New Testament. We can apply our faith in a different way.
- a. We do so carefully, with prayer and testing, listening for the Holy Spirit. Our goal is faithfulness that reflects God's love and mercy to the world around us.
  - b. One example of is that many Christian communities affirm and celebrate women as pastors and preachers, although there are New Testament ethical passages that disallow this.

John 8:31-32, John 14:21, James 2, 1 Corinthians 14:29-33, Acts 17:11, Ephesians 4:11, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:9-10, John 14:19-26