

furnishes. Do this so that in everything God may be honored through Jesus Christ. To him be honor and power forever and always. Amen.

Singing *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* WB 577

Offering Prayer

Offering Song *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* WB 592

Offering

Scripture Acts 15.1-11, 19-21

15 Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we’ve received from Moses, you can’t be saved.” ² Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position.

The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders. ³ The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters. ⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity. ⁵ Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, “The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. ⁷ After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, “Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. ⁸ God, who knows people’s deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. ⁹ He made no distinction between us and them but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. ¹⁰ Why then are you now challenging God by

placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? ¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

¹⁹ “Therefore, I conclude that we shouldn’t create problems for Gentiles who turn to God. ²⁰ Instead, we should write a letter, telling them to avoid the pollution associated with idols, sexual immorality, eating meat from strangled animals, and consuming blood. ²¹ After all, Moses has been proclaimed in every city for a long time, and is read aloud every Sabbath in every synagogue.”

Sermon Jesus Community, Part 6
 A new openness?

Song of Response *We Walk By Faith* WB 570

Love Step Prayer and Benediction

All: 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.

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

All: Help us to see that as we walk with people and share your love together that we are growing closer to Christ.

Leader: Go. Be Jesus’ Love. Be Jesus’ Peace.

All: Amen.

Sermon Response

Over 6 weeks, you have heard and participated in discussing a way of being Jesus Community together – a way that Bill and the Elders favor. What would you like us to do with our confession? Next week, October 26, Sunday school classes are being asked to discuss this question as well.

Prayer Requests, Prayer Announcements

Greeters, Jan and Rollie Kauffman
Usher, Jo Bixler
PA Operator, Norm Sohar
Accompanist, Missy Short
Song Leader, Jane Beyeler
Preschool/Nursery, Sky Lofty
Quiet Table, all ages welcome
Readers, Charles Bontrager and Danae King
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

Thank you note. Dear Orrville Mennonite Church, thank you for your love and care in so many ways for the memorial service and thank you for the wonderful meal enjoyed after the service. Your kindness is so appreciated! God bless!

~ Sons and Families of John Kauffman – Stan, David, Rollie, Jeff, Barry; Sister, Bernita

Monday Meals served 155 meals this week. This Monday, we will serve beef and noodle casserole.

I need help for Advent! Please check your sewing cupboards and craft boxes for pieces or rolls of felt - any color - that you'd be willing to donate for this year's Advent theme. My goal is to only use recycled materials, so any bargains that you may find at a thrift store are also welcome. I'll be collecting supplies through November 2nd. Thank you! ~ Sharon

Mark your calendars for the Fall Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 2nd. Stay tuned for more information.

Schedule-At-A-Glance for October 19 - 26, 2025

Sunday, October 19

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

Sunday School, **9:30 am**

Worship, **10:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Monday – Thursday, October 20-23

Meat Canning in Kidron (Gerber Building)

Monday, October 20

Monday Meals, 5:30 pm

Thursday, October 23

Elder Council, 3:30 pm

Saturday, October 25

Memorial Service for Sandra Seymour, 11 am

Sunday, October 26

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

Sunday School, **9:30 am**

Worship, **10:30 am**

Shawn Hilliard preaching

Offering Report for October 12, 2025

Ministry Spending Plan: \$2,423.82

Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,367.00

I.W. Royer Fund: \$20.00

Memorial service donation: \$50.00

Funeral meal donations: \$570.00

Dollar Project (Red Lake School): \$120.00

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Mim Wenger	16	Arthur Andreasen
4	Christopher Kalapodis		Stan/Marilyn Kamp
5	Sherm/LaVonne Amstutz	29	Dan Jantzi Daryl Steiner
13	Barb Shilling	31	Diane Hostetler
15	Missy Short		

Sermon Notes

Summary of Bill's Thoughts on Human Sexuality

1. I think that the church, historically, is partly responsible for keeping queer identity and behavior in the darkness by not imagining and offering a way to bring it into the light, by blessing faithful same gendered relationships, including marriage.
2. I think that we can faithfully offer inclusion and acceptance of queer people in the church.

Summary of what convinces me to be affirming of same gendered marriage in the church

1. Reality: What the church has tried in the past (bully people into being hetero or at least remaining celibate) hasn't worked and isn't working. It is, however, causing harm.
2. Jesus' example and lack of reiteration of prohibition and the possible hint of an affirmation in Matthew 19.
3. A Change in interpretive principle that I tentatively made in 2019 and have been practicing and growing into since.
 - a. That we can, faithfully, in Spirit-led Jesus Community, make different ethical conclusions than the ones we see in the New Testament Epistles.
4. In the Binding and Loosing passages of Matthew 16 and 18, and in Acts 15 I find the freedom to try the above.

Overall Conclusions?? – Be This Jesus Community

1. **We live around a center, Jesus**— God Incarnate, Jesus—our Lord. We are bound to him (Colossians 2-3). We hold everything we do up to the standard of Jesus' character, life, teachings, crucifixion, and resurrection.
2. **We are people of the Book.** We believe the Bible is exactly what God wants it to be. We look to God's written Word (Bible), God's Living Word (Jesus), God's Spirit, and God's Spirit moving in our church community, to understand and discern God's will for us.
3. **We welcome everyone to the table** and, like Jesus, we intentionally identify with marginalized people – those who are outside of power

and majority: Immigrants, women, people of color, queer people, the poor and/or oppressed, others.

4. **We believe in the need for transformation** into Christlikeness. God is both radically for us and against our selfishness and wants to work in us for transformation. We help each other to grow in faithfulness to Christ in relationships, prayer, and the measurement of whether an attitude or behavior produces spiritual fruit and leans towards Christ.
5. **We welcome queer and hetero people fully in all aspects of faith life and service, according to faith and Spirit discernment.** We believe that faithfulness to God and sexual fidelity in romantic relationships is the common goal.
6. **We denounce Christian Nationalism as idolatry** and call Christians to faithfulness to Christ, not countries, flags, leaders, or political ideologies.
7. **Are ALL really welcome?** No. Because we choose to stand with marginalized people, those wishing to have their power or standing honored, massaged, and encouraged will not find a welcome here.

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Ohio Conference of MC USA Website		www.ohiomennoniteconference.org
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Elder Council		
	Dan Jantzi – Elder for Finance/Facilities & EC Facilitator	208-971-6488 (Cell) djjantzi@gmail.com
	Bill Seymour – Elder for Worship	330-347-7034 (Cell)
	Louisa Pirozzi Erb – Elder for Missions	330-317-0726 (Cell) louerb@gmail.com
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<p>Unless otherwise noted, Bible Passages in the bulletin are from the CEB Bible. <i>The Common English Bible: Bible dictionary</i>. Nashville: CEB Bible, 2011. Print.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OMC WiFi password – OMCpub4u</p>		