



# New Holland Mennonite Church

December 15, 2024 • Volume 69, No. 50

Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. • Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



## Gathering & Praising God

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (VT 103)*

Jenn Esbenshade

Call to Worship / Candle Lighting

Dawn Kaczor

Prayer for Illumination

*Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called (VT 220)*

## Hearing God's Voice

Conversation with Children

Ray Hurst

"The Wild Man" based on Luke 3:7-16

written by

Rev. Anna Strickland

Scripture: Isaiah 58:9b-12

Sermon: "Do the Good That Is Yours to Do"

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

## Responding

Prayer of Confession/ Words of Forgiveness

*Do the Good That's Yours to Do*

Prayer of the People

Steven Lantz

Lord's Prayer

Announcements

## Sending

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel (VT 210) (Vs. 1, 6, 7)*

Benediction

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

**Coffee/Greeter:** Judy Schweitzer

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

**Offering:** Mike Good & Brenda Hurst; **Close:** Mike Good

## December 8

**Attendance:** 42 (5 on Zoom) • **Offering:** \$2,905.00

## NEXT SUNDAY: December 22

**Coffee:** Evelyn Bailey; **Greeter/Close:** Jim Bailey

**Song Leader:** Jenn Esbenshade; **Children's Time:** Jen Morales

**Worship Leader:** Keith Miller; **Sound:** Bryan Hower

**Sermon/Prayer:** Dawn Ranck-Hower; **Nursery:** Ray Hurst

**Offering:** Ruth Douglas Miller & Lois Zimmerman

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

**Financial Update:** Approximately \$2,070 additional is needed by the end of the year to meet 2024 expenses.

**Administrative Elder:** Wade Esbenshade was approved as Administrative Elder for the next year with a 100% affirmation.

**Monday, December 13: CrossNet Meal, 5:30 p.m.:** Let Pastor Dawn know by noon on Monday if you would like to have seats reserved at the church/ELC table.

**Wednesday, December 18:** NO Women's Dinner in December

**Saturday, December 21: Mennonite Action: Longest Night for Gaza:** Blossom Hill Mennonite Church, 7 p.m. Opening Service of lament and reflection. All are welcome, whether or not you will be part of the all-night vigil. 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. All-night Vigil. We will build community, learn, pray, and lament. Join when you can and stay for as long as you are able. We remember that Jesus was born into a time of occupation, oppression, and violence. We look forward to drawing strength from our faith and from each other for the days ahead. Please register for the vigil.

**Sunday, December 29: Christmas Brunch & Worship:**

Brunch: 9-9:45 a.m. (note updated time!) 10:00 a.m. An informal worship service around tables led by Brenda and Ray Hurst. Please sign up by Thursday, December 26. (Sign up in weekly email). There is no Zoom and no Sunday School on December 29.

**Thursday, January 2: 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, January 5, NO Communion or Fellowship Meal**

**Friday, January 24, Book Club:** 7 p.m. At Pat Thomas house. Led by Dawn Ranck-Hower Book: *All That She Carried*

**Saturday, February 1: Church Fondue Game Night!** 5 p.m. Sign up link provided in weekly email.

**Sunday, February 9: Congregational Meeting:** 9 a.m.

**Projected Artwork  
“Full Life in the Emptiest of Places”**

by Lauren Wright Pittman  
Inspired by Isaiah 58:9b-12  
Digital painting

After repeated readings of this text, I began to see a garden bursting out of a spring. I imagined the flowers working together to build a beautiful arched structure in a parched place. For me, the structure came to represent the rebuilt ruins in the text which create a safe space for restored communities to thrive. I began creating the piece by finding both drought-resistant and water-emergent plants to create the structure. The water-emergent plants lay the foundation in the midst of the gurgling spring: lotuses, birdbill dayflowers, blue flags, and buttonbush flowers. Building from there, drought-resistant plants craft the strong bones and arches of this rebuilt ruin; from the base to the top of the shelter are: catmint, coneflower, geraniums, dianthus, butterfly weeds, agapanthus, and verbena. Metaphorically speaking, the health of the garden depends on the hard work of

gardeners culling weeds (which in the Isaiah passage could be represented by removing the yoke, the pointing of fingers, and the speaking of evil). The garden also depends on adding necessary nutrients to the soil (offering food to the hungry and satisfying the needs of the afflicted). This is the good that is ours to do.

I have a difficult time considering an image complete without a person as the focal point. As I worked on this piece, the flowers and structure alone felt insufficient to represent the fullness of life I was hoping for, so I decided to add bees floating and fluttering throughout this restored flower sanctuary. The community garden shelter provides nourishment for the twelve bees, which in turn provide for the whole ecosystem. When we do the good that is ours to do, our work in discipleship raises up the foundations of many generations. The whole community is uplifted when we lean into God’s will in our life and share that goodness with others.

— Lauren Wright Pittman

**What We Value**

**With Jesus as our center, we commit to  
including all people,  
strengthening our relationships (and)  
practicing peace and justice.**

**Land Acknowledgment:** We acknowledge, with humility, that the land where we sit and stand today is land that was home to the Susquehannock, Shawnee, and Lenape people. Let us be aware that we occupy their homeland, and that their presence is imbued in this land.

**Pastor:** Dawn Ranck-Hower

**Leadership Team:** Wade Esbenshade, Dawn Kaczor, Ruth Douglas Miller  
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