



January 4, 2026 • Volume 71, No. 1
Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. • Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



Gathering & Praising God

O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem (VT 275)

Jenn Esbenshade

Call to Worship

Brenda Hurst

Prayer for Illumination

What Child Is This (VT 267)

Hearing God's Voice

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Ray Hurst

Conversation with Children

Helpless and Hungry (VT 268)

Ron Adams *

Sermon: "When Herod Was Afraid"

Responding

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

Brenda Hurst

We've Seen God's Face (bulletin insert)

Prayer of the People

Jen Morales

Announcements

Sending

As with Gladness (VT 277)

Benediction

* **Ron Adams** served in four Mennonite congregations over 28 years of pastoral ministry. His most recent assignment was at Landisville Mennonite, from which he retired in June 2025. Ron lives in Elizabethtown with his wife Marilou and their dog Archie. They have 2 adult children, both of whom have partners, and one grandchild.

Coffee: Evelyn Bailey; **Greeters:** Francy Bailey & Jim Bailey

Worship Leader: Brenda Hurst; **Children:** Ray Hurst

Song Leader: Jenn Esbenshade; **Sermon:** Ron Adams

Prayer: Jen Morales; **Sound:** Wade Esbenshade

Nursery: Tammy Snader; **Close:** Jim Bailey

Offering: Mike Good & Lisa Kehm

**December 28: Attendance and Offering
will be in January 11 bulletin**

Happy Birthday

January 5: Steven Lantz & Lois Zimmerman

January 11: Darryl Jackson

NEXT SUNDAY: January 11

Coffee: Pat Thomas & Ashly Escalante

Greeters: Lisa, Joe, & Grace Kehm

Worship Leader: Jen Morales; **Song Leader:** Jenn Esbenshade

Sermon/Prayer: Dawn Ranck-Hower; **Sound:** Mike Good

Children: Bryan Hower; **Nursery:** Ray Hurst

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

Vacation: Pastor Dawn will be back in the office tomorrow, January 5.

THURSDAY, January 8: Gathering of Support POTLUCK: A safe place to connect in the midst of current chaos: 6 p.m., at the church. Bring a dish to share and join in conversation to find mutual support and build friendships in local community.

Wednesday, January 21: 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.

We've Seen God's Face

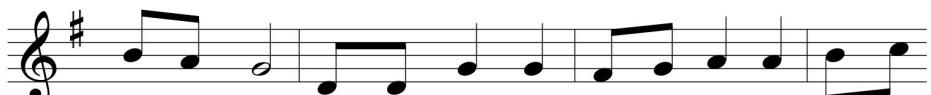
W ŹŁOBIE LEŻY 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Traditional Polish melody



Like the ma - gi from the east we tra - vel in - to
If we find our path has led us to King Her - od's
We will trust that star to guide us to the place where
When new threats de - rail our jour - ney from the path we



the un - known Step by step we make the jour - ney, called by
den of fear Still we'll keep our fo - cus fixed on chas - ing
we were called Find - ing God em - bod - ied in the humb-lest
planned to take We won't let fear par - a - lyze us, no we



God to seek the throne O - ver moun-tains, throughthe des-erts
down that star so clear Though the ty - rants rage and threat-en
dwell - ing place of all As King Her - od sends his sol-diers
won't stay locked in place Stay - ing nim - ble, we'll move for-ward



Seek - ing Christ we fol - low e - ver 'Til at last
Noth - ing weak - ens our pro-fess - ion It is God's
Time stands still while we be - hold him Here's where we
Keep - ing safe by cross-ing bor - ders Move a - round



we reach the place Where we hope to see God's face
voice we have heard Fear will not have the last word
were called to be God's in - car - nate love to see
the fear with grace For we know we've seen God's face

FRIDAY, January 30: Book Club: *The Sisters: A Novel* by Jonas Hassen Khemiri. 7 p.m. Hosted and led by Jenn Esbenthal.

SUNDAY, February 1: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: Join in this fun Sunday dinner with ... well, you'll find out! **Sign up by Sunday, January 25.** Link in weekly update email. Hosts provide the main course of the meal. Guests will provide either a salad or dessert. Where you are going and what you are to take will be emailed to you by Wednesday, January 28. ***Shhhhh don't tell! Surprise your family too!***

THURSDAY, February 5: 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.

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 Esbenthal, Dawn Kaczor, Ruth Douglas Miller
18 Western Ave., New Holland, PA 17557 • 717/354-0602
www.NewHollandMC.org • Hearing Aids Available

"King Tingz" (banner on right)

By Rev. Nicole Falson

Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

Arylic, paper, markers, synthetic hair on canvas

If there is one thing I can't stand, it is when people disregard the spiritual use of herbs, metals, and the stars. For years, Indigenous practices—such as the use of sage—have been shamed, even as high church settings actively use incense in worship. We have reached a tension where anything that does not resemble a particular kind of Christian practice is labeled pagan or satanic. I often remind people that Jesus was gifted gold, frankincense, and myrrh by those who followed the stars to find him. That truth is at the heart of my piece, King Tingz.

I wanted to emphasize the sky and the importance of the stars, which were essential to the Magi's witness, and to bless each king with a different gift woven into their attire.

Of the Magi, the one bowing bears the flower of frankincense and a map of modern Persia, marking their return home by a new route after defying Herod. Crowned with cornrows and greenery, they reflect a grounding to the earth—holding heaven and earth together, as Jesus does in his divinity and humanity.

The king to the right bears myrrh flowers and holds an infant—not Jesus—while her sleeve carries the Palestinian flag and the word *Nakba*, remembering the genocide of 1947. She weeps for the children killed by Herod and wears a crown wrapped in a blue bandana, a nod to Chola culture and the importance of *los reyes* in Latino Christianity.

The king to the left is adorned in gold and a starry durag, gazing toward the sky as the navigator and guide. This headwear reflects research into Persian Magi and their varied forms of turbans.

Living in a Hispanic community and worshiping in a Spanish-speaking church has taught me that BIPOC communities do not play about *los reyes*. I wanted people to see themselves in this art—and to remember our shared connection to both the stars above and the earth beneath us.

—Rev. Nicolette Faison