

the church. Bring a dish to share and join in conversation to find mutual support and build friendships in local community.

SATURDAY, January 17: Fondu and Game Night: 4 p.m. Sign up in weekly email update.

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.

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

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.

(adopted February 2023)

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
18 Western Ave., New Holland, PA 17557 • 717/354-0602
www.NewHollandMC.org • Hearing Aids Available



December 28, 2025 • Volume 70, No. 52
Brunch: 9:00 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



The Meal

Prayer of Blessing

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

We Gather to Worship

O Come, All Ye Faithful (VT 241)

Call to Worship

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Jesus is Born! Luke 2:1-20

Lighting the Christ Candle

Francy Bailey and Joe Kehm

Prayer

Deb Hatfield and Danika Snader

Angels We Have Heard on High (VT 249)

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

The Family Flees! Matthew 2:13-23

Table Discussion

Deb Hatfield

Francy Bailey

Video: "Is Justice Worth It?" by Micah Bournes

We Respond

Angel Prayers

Deb Hatfield

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born (VT 259)

Prayer of the People

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Announcements

We Go to Serve

Joy to the World (VT 240)

Benediction

Francy Bailey

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

Musicians: Dawn Kaczor, Valetta Kaczor, Elsa Lantz, Seth Lantz, Steven Lantz; **Coffee:** Evelyn Bailey; **Greeter:** Jim Bailey

Planned by: Francy Bailey, Deb Hatfield, & Dawn Ranck Hower

Sound: Bryan Hower; **Close:** Jim Bailey

Offering: Ruth Douglas Miller & Sue Martin

December 21: Attendance and Offering

Attendance: 35 (1 on Zoom) • Offering: \$4,600.00

Happy Birthday

January 1: Paul Kelley; **January 2:** Gloria Hartley

NEXT SUNDAY: January 4 (Epiphany)

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

2025 Financial Update: As of December 24, New Holland Mennonite Church has a \$15,961 deficit for the year.

Vacation: Pastor Dawn and Bryan fly this afternoon to Sarasota, Florida for vacation and to visit Bryan's brother and his family. They will return on Sunday, January 4. Please contact Ruth Douglas Miller with pastoral care concerns.

Note: There will be no weekly update the week of December 29. The bulletin for January 4 can be found on the church website.

Update: Rhoda Clemens has returned to Garden Spot Village. She is in skilled nursing, Springwood 112.

THURSDAY, January 8: Gathering of Support POTLUCK:

A safe place to connect in the midst of current chaos: 6 p.m., at

"Stay With Me"

Inspired by Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

18"x24" • Acrylic on canvas board

I used to think my mother was cheap. When we'd go on road trips, she'd spend the night before preparing food for the trip. I thought it was because she didn't want to spend money on fast food. She didn't. But her reasons had nothing to do with a drive-thru.

My mother was a Black child in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s. When they went on road trips, they had to leave in the dead of night with everything they'd need for the trip. For Black folks, there was no casual stopping along the way. If you stopped at the "wrong" place, you might not make it home. Her elders taught her what they had to learn themselves, often the hard way. My mom grew up in the Steel Belt, but the family had moved there after leaving the Jim Crow South during the Great Migration for greener (and ostensibly safer) pastures. Her preparations were vestiges of a circumspect upbringing designed to keep her safe.

I was well into adulthood when I realized my family had been refugees in their own country.

The story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt takes new significance as I consider not only the experiences of dear ones around the world, but also my own ancestors. My piece focuses on a parent's desperate grip of their child's hand as they escape a despot's fiery wrath, possibly in the dead of night. The colors subtly recall the Pan-African, Palestinian, and Sudanese flags. I remember those left behind, and the lower part of the composition depicts the anguish of mothers whose children were not spared. Rachel still weeps (Matthew 2:18).

Our fears aren't unfounded. Salvation may have arrived, but the world still isn't safe. How will we remember Rachel's children as we resist and rebuild?

—Rev. T. Denise Anderson