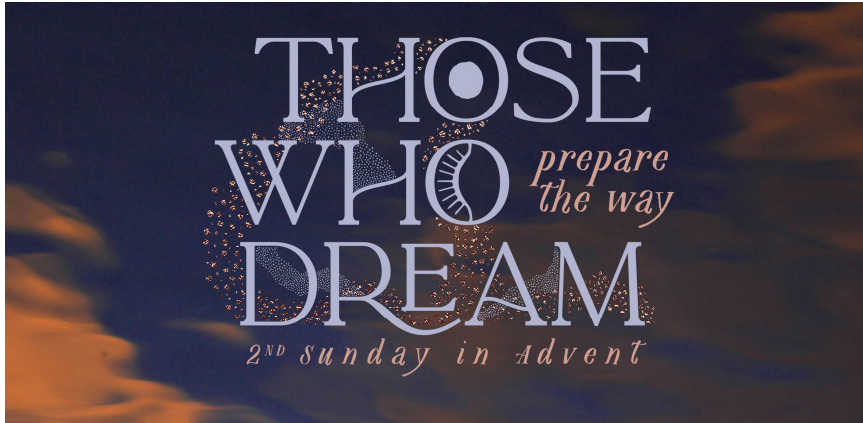


# New Holland Mennonite Church

December 6, 2020 • Volume 65, No. 49  
Zoom Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. & Worship: 10:00 a.m.



**Second Sunday of Advent:** John the Baptist calls the crowds into the journey of repentance and transformation. Similarly, we are called to prepare the way for God's message of love and liberation to be shouted, heard, and received. Those who dream make way for righteousness and peace to kiss, for faithfulness to spring up from the ground (Ps. 85:10-11).

## Gathering & Praising God

### *Those Who Dream*

"Those Who Dream" song written and recorded by The Many | Art by Lauren Wright Pittman, Hannah Garrity, & Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Video by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Call to Worship

Candle Lighting

Prayer for Illumination

*Come! Walk in the Light (SS 10)*

Brenda Martin Hurst

Good Family

Brenda Martin Hurst

## Hearing God's Voice

Children's Time

Pastor Dawn Ranck Hower

"Little People, Big Dreams: Rosa Parks"

by Lisbeth Kaiser, illustrated by Marta Antelo

Scripture: Psalm 85:1-2; 8-13

Brenda Martin Hurst

Sermon: "Prepare the Way"

Sylvia Shirk\*

## Responding

Prayer of Confession

Brenda Martin Hurst

Holy God,

We wish that peace was something we could buy.

We wish that peace could be ordered

in a subscription service,

found on a map, downloaded in an app,

or voted for in a ballot.

We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice

when we were feeling our best.

However, what we have found is that peace involves

everyday decisions over and over,

whether or not we are feeling my best.

So today we confess that we need your help

in this Advent season.

Prepare the way for greater peace,

and teach us how to be a part of it.

Words of Forgiveness

*Open my ears, open my eyes (SS 5)*

Sharing and Announcements

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Congregational Prayer

Prayer for Tithes and Offerings

## Sending

*Behold the lamb of God*

Andrew Peterson &

(Look for Seth Lantz)

Mennonite Children's Choir

Benediction

Brenda Martin Hurst

\* Sylvia Shirk's faith journey began at New Holland Mennonite Church, where she was baptized in 1964. She lives with her family in Oregon and is a member of Portland Mennonite Church. She works part time as a district pastor and a French interpreter.

### **November 29 (Zoom)**

**Attendance: 38 • Church Offering:** \$4,240.00

As you are able, please mail your offerings to the church office.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**December 8:** Shirley King

## **Upcoming Events**

*All activities are on zoom unless otherwise stated.*

**Tuesday, December 8: Congregational Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 9: "Shine Bright Club" Zoom, 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 13**

**Youth/Adult Sunday School:** 9-9:50 a.m.

**Worship:** 10:00 a.m.

*Sermon:* Dawn Ranck-Hower

*Worship Lead:* Wanda Gonzalez Bortzel

*Children's Time:* Jenn Esbenshade

*Congregational Prayer:* Ray Hurst

**Tuesday, December 15: Congregational Meeting**

**Monday, December 21: 7 p.m. Longest Night Service**

**Thursday, December 24: 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service**

**Friday, January 22, 7 p.m. Movie and Chat**

## **Church News**

**Congregational Meetings (Zoom): Tuesday, December 8 AND December 15.** 7 p.m. A meeting to discuss the possibility of renovating the church sanctuary into a multipurpose room in order to share the space with the Early Learning Center children. Attendees and Covenant Members are invited to participate. The final vote (ballot handed out after the December 15 meeting) will be made by Covenant Members who participated in the meetings OR who watch the video of the meeting AND talk to one of the Leadership Team members (Wade Esbenshade, Steven Lantz, Dawn Ranck-Hower, Lois Zimmerman)

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**Pastor:** Dawn Ranck Hower; dawn.ranck@verizon.net; 1/215/237-1485

**Leadership Team:** Wade Esbenshade, Steven Lantz, Lois Zimmerman

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www.NewHollandMC.org

**An Update:** NHMC has recently received a check of \$3525 for the Early Learning Center from the Everence Sharing Fund.

**A Praise:** The Sprouts for Peace Garden produced 12,749 pounds of produce for the local community.

**Longest Night Service, Monday, December 21, 7 p.m.** There's an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together for the Longest Night, a night around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. **It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world.** Known also as "Blue Christmas," a Longest Night Gathering is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth."

**Christmas Eve Service, December 24:** Outdoors (weather permitting), 5 p.m. A service of singing carols and scripture reading.

**Movie and Chat: Friday, January 22, 7 p.m.** Bring your popcorn to watch "White Savior: Racism in the American Church" on your computer through zoom (consider hooking it up to your TV). A conversation with others to follow. About "White Savior": Despite the progress many see in the US over the years, it's become increasingly clear that the deep roots of racism and white supremacy continue to run through our political, cultural, and religious institutions. White Savior explores the historic relationship between racism and American Christianity, the ongoing segregation of the church in the US, and the complexities of racial reconciliation.

## **Community News**

**Everence Stewardship University:** Postponed until 2022  
To ensure the health and safety of our members, Everence® Stewardship University will be postponed until March 5, 2022. Contact Lynette Morales at lynette.morales@everence.com or 717-394-0769 for ways that Everence can help you or your congregation on your stewardship journey.