

New Holland Mennonite Church

December 18, 2022 • Volume 67, No. 54
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent



This week we return to Mary's experience. After receiving the news from the angel, she retreats to her cousin Elizabeth's house. When Mary arrives (perhaps unannounced), Elizabeth doesn't just welcome her—she is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks a blessing upon Mary as her own child leaps and kicks within her womb. She sees how God is at work and names it out loud. In this moment of profound solidarity, Mary and Elizabeth see the divine in one another. From generation to generation, we can see how God is at work in our relationships. The way we see the divine in each other impacts how we live and move in the world. When we view every human being as a child of God, we generate a different world.

Gathering & Praising God

Love Came Down at Christmas (VT 255)	Praise Team
Call to Worship	Karina Morales
Candle Lighting	Ellie Good, Michele Good,
	Wanda Gonzalez-Bortzel, Terra May
Prayer for Illumination	Karina Morales
<i>Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee (VT 215)</i>	

Hearing God's Voice

Sharing our Tithes and Offerings	Karina Morales
Children's Story: Ruth Graybill	Jenn Esbenshade
Scripture: Luke 1:39-58	Karina Morales
Sermon: "Mary"	Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Responding

Prayer of Confession	Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower
Words of Forgiveness	
<i>My Soul Cries Out (VT 412)</i>	
Sharing and Announcements	Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower
Prayers of the People	

Sending

<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (VT 218)</i>	
Benediction	Karina Morales

Coffee: Evelyn Bailey; **Greeters:** Ellie, Maggie, Michele Good

Close: Jim Bailey; **Song Leader/Piano:** Jenn Esbenshade

Praise Team: Francy Bailey & Jen Morales

Sound: Davin & Kai Esbenshade

Gather & Count Offering: Wade Esbenshade & Ruth Miller

NEXT SUNDAY: December 25

9:30 a.m. Brunch • 10 a.m. Worship

Greeter: Bryan Hower; **Close:** Dawn Ranck-Hower

Song Leader/Piano: Jenn Esbenshade

Sound: Davin & Kai Esbenshade

Congregational Prayer: Dawn Ranck-Hower

Children's Time: Steven Lantz

Gather & Count Offering: Mike Good & Keith Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

December 21: Longest Night Service: 7 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Brunch: 9:30 a.m.; **Worship:** 10 a.m.

January 1: No Sunday School. Worship: 10 a.m.

January 14: Men's Breakfast: 7 a.m. Eli's Restaurant

January 18: Women's Dinner: 6 p.m. Garden Spot Village,
Harvest Table

January 28: Fondue and Game Night: 5:00 p.m.

February 5: Congregational Meeting: 9:00 a.m.

December 11

Attendance: 45 (6 on zoom) • **Church Offering: \$3,320.00**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 23: Keith Miller

Church News

Financial Update: As December 15, the congregation has a deficit of \$5,020 for the year.

Longest Night Service: Wednesday, December 21, 7 p.m. This service is titled, "The Longest Night," because so often the glow of Christmas lights, holiday cheer, and Advent candles can feel unreachable to those surrounded by loss or grief. Our hope is that this worship service will create a safe and sacred space for those who are struggling to feel the joy and light of this holiday season due to loss of any kind. We do not intend for this service to be a service of healing, for what we lose cannot always be replaced. We hope this service will acknowledge the hole that grief leaves in one's heart while simultaneously remembering that we worship a God who is with us, even in the darkest of times.

Please enter and exit in silence so that people know that nothing will be expected of them.

December 25 Brunch: Please sign up to attend the 9:30 a.m. brunch on Christmas Day! Consider signing up to bring an item to share. Hot beverages provided.
www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AAAE23A6F49-christmas

CENTENNIAL PLANNING FOR 2023: November 18, 2023 will mark 100 years since New Holland Mennonite Church organized as a congregation. The Centennial Planning Committee (Brenda Martin Hurst, Steven Lantz and Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower) announces plans to recognize this milestone in our congregational history. Beginning on Sunday, February 5, we will remember our history, using the Sunday School hour on the first Sunday of every month to cover our congregational story from 1923-2023 (taking a break for the summer months). This year-long historical review will culminate with a celebration on Covenant Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Women's Dinner: Wednesday, January 18, 6 p.m., in the Concord Room at Garden Spot Village. Pick up food at the Harvest Table Restaurant. Food available for purchase until 6:30 p.m.

Community News

Volunteer Opportunity: Do you enjoy meeting people from other parts of the world? Mennonite Central Committee is in need of volunteer drivers to transport people to and from Lancaster train station and Philadelphia and Harrisburg airports. If interested please call MCC at 717-859-1151 and or send an email to receptionist@mcc.org.

Deux Voix, Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m. Highland Presbyterian Church (500 E Roseville Rd, Lancaster). Formed in 2014, Deux Voix ("two voices") has amassed a sterling reputation with national and international acclaim. In their mission to expand the world of trumpet and organ, Stephen Langham and Justin Distad are constantly adapting works from other genres and instrumentations. Details: www.highlandpc.org.

Rizzetta's Tones: Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m. Highland Presbyterian Church (500 E Roseville Rd, Lancaster). Rizzetta's Tones is a Celtic Americana band whose repertoire includes music from Ireland, Scotland, and the United States, but draws on other sources as well. Forging new arrangements and writing their own material, they present audiences with a pleasing twist on musical traditions. Details: www.highlandpc.org.

MCC PA Relief Sale Craft Stand: A reminder to be creating for the annual sale to be held Friday and Saturday, **March 31 & April 1, 2023**, in the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg, PA. We are seeking new quality items made from fabric, yarn, thread, wood, paper or your specialty medium, including fancy soaps, candles, etc. See bulletin board at church for details or contact Janet Runion Patton: 717-926-4008; jcpatton99@gmail.com