

# New Holland Mennonite Church

November 26, 2023 • Volume 68, No. 48

Fellowship: 8:30 am • Sunday School: 9 am • Worship: 10:00 am

## First Sunday of Advent



How does a  
weary world  
rejoice? *We acknowledge  
our weariness*

**About the Logo:** “Two people—one radiating joy & the other wading into weariness—hold the world together.”

As Advent begins, we start by acknowledging the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy. We start the season with Zechariah and Elizabeth; they have battled infertility and have lived many years. Perhaps they feel the weight of hopes and dreams unattained. The angel comes to Zechariah with a promise of good news, but Zechariah can’t fully receive it. Sometimes weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. Let us acknowledge the ways we, too, are hardened by disbelief. Like the psalmist, let us ask, “how long?” and plead for restoration.

### Gathering & Praising God

*How does a weary world rejoice?*

Call to Worship

Candle Lighting

Prayer for Illumination

*Blessed be your name (VT 637)*

Video

Steven Lantz

Steven Lantz

### Hearing God’s Voice

Offering

Offertory: *Thy Will*

Scripture: Luke 1:1-23

Conversation with Children

Sermon: “A Tangle of Weariness and Joy”

Steven Lantz

Jen Morales

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

### Responding

Prayer of Confession

Words of Forgiveness

*O Holy Night*

Sharing and Announcements

Prayers of the People

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Keith Miller

*“Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed /  
A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org”*

### Sending

*When Peace like a River (VT 617)*

Benediction

Steven Lantz

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

**Coffee:** Sue Martin; **Greeters:** Michele, Ellie, Maggie Good

**Praise Team:** Craig Means, Kelsey Means, Erin Martin

**Sound:** Mike Good & Seth Lantz

**Offering:** Wanda Gonzalez-Bortzel & Keith Miller; **Close:** Mike Bortzel

### 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)

## **Projected Artwork Annunciation to Zechariah**

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 1:1-23 / Acrylic and ink on wood panel

Zechariah is dressed in a breastpiece, ephod, robe, checkered tunic, turban, and sash, just as the book of Exodus specifies. In my painting, gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarns are woven together and bejeweled with engraved stones which bear the names of the sons of Israel (Exodus 28:4).

Zechariah stands in the Holy Place wearing the most meticulous of garments. Does he expect to encounter the divine? Or is he just going through the motions, lighting the incense as an all-too-familiar scent fills the air?

After all these years of fulfilling priestly duties and “living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), Zechariah and his wife are still childless. Regardless of their desire for children, in their culture and context, childlessness bore the implication of God’s contempt.

I ruminated on this image... a weary priest wrapped in layered fabrics, colors, symbols, textures, and rare stones that proclaim God’s providence and power. The contrast is not lost on me.

I often try to neglect my weariness by putting on a veneer of unwavering trust in God—while feeling like I may suddenly unravel into a pile of beautifully-curated threads, stones, and gold accessories.

In this image, I decided to depict the angel as smoke from the altar of incense. Zechariah has one hand over his mouth in fear and disbelief, while his other hand cradles the notion—not yet hope—of his son’s existence.

**Do you bind up your weariness in a neat and tidy bow, put your head down, and project okay-ness like me? What would it look like to acknowledge our weariness, quit powering through, and open ourselves up to what God might have in store for us? Perhaps we’ll meet an angel.**

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**November 26:** Marilyn Miller; **November 27:** Mike Good

## **NEXT SUNDAY: December 3**

**Coffee:** Evelyn Bailey; **Greeters:** Jim Bailey; **Close:** Jim Bailey

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

**Song Leader:** Jenn Esbenshade; **Sermon:** Dawn Ranck-Hower

**Children:** Michele Good; **Offertory:** Kelsey Means

**Sound:** Wade Esbenshade; **Offering:** Ruth Douglas Miller & Mike Good

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

**December 1, ELC Christmas Program, 6 p.m.**

**December 9: Men’s Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.** Eli’s Restaurant

**December 21: Longest Night Service, 6:30 p.m.**

**December 24: Christmas Brunch, 9 a.m.**

**and Worship, 10 a.m.**

**January 10: Men’s Dinner, 5:30/6 p.m.** Garden Spot Village

**January 17: Women’s Dinner, 5:30/6 p.m.** GSV

**February 11: Annual Congregational Meeting, 9 a.m.**

## **November 19**

**Attendance: 52** (3 on zoom) • **Offering: \$3,362.00**

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

As of November 22, a \$7,320 deficit for the year.

## **Church News**

**Mervin Rutt** died on Monday, November 16. His memorial service was held on **Saturday, November 25**. Please hold Mervin’s family in your prayers.

**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; dawn.ranck@verizon.net; 1/215/237-1485

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

18 Western Ave., New Holland, PA 17557 • 717/354-0602

www.NewHollandMC.org • Hearing Aids Available

Bullet Insert November 26, 2023

**ELC Christmas Program: Friday, December 1, 6:00 p.m.**

Please sign up to welcome guests into our building. Sign up:  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AAAE23A6F49-45294175](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AAAE23A6F49-45294175)  
-volunteer

**December Food Drive: Fill the “stomach” so that stomachs can be filled.** Bring food items for CrossNet Food Pantry during the month of December and put them in the large bin in the lobby. **Can we fill it to overflowing?**

**First Men’s Dinner:** 6 p.m. at Garden Spot Village, on **Wednesday, January 10** and every second Wednesday of the month through 2024. Room is reserved from 5:30-8:00, so feel free to come anytime after 5:30. Note: Food is available to purchase only until 6:30 p.m. The Concord Room is across the hall from Harvest Table. (Go in main entrance, turn right, go by Starbucks, keep going down the hallway until you see Harvest Table on the right. There are different stations with food and a salad bar. Buy food and join the group across the hall in the Concord Room.)

## Community News

**The Come Together Concert to benefit Chestnut Housing, Lancaster: Sunday, November 26,** Landisville Mennonite Church, 3320 Bowman Road, Landisville. Four groups, two sets each, afternoon and evening 3-5:00 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Gospel, Folk, Folk-Rock, Blue/New Grass, and more. No admission. Freewill offering to benefit Chestnut Housing.

**Repeat the Sounding Joy: An Mennonite Children’s Choir of Lancaster (MCCL) 25th Christmas Concert featuring choir and brass** (and our very own Seth Lantz!):

**Thursday, November 30,** 7 p.m. Neffsville Mennonite

**Saturday, December 2,** 3 p.m. First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA

**Sunday, December 3,** 4 p.m. Neffsville Mennonite Church

**An evening for peace: Transforming the world's response to conflict: Saturday, December 2,** 5:30-7 p.m. Frazer Mennonite Church, 57 Maple Linden Lane, Frazer, PA. Learn about how

nonviolence is being used globally—from Sunset Park in New York to South Sudan—to keep people safe when they are at risk of harm. This interactive gathering by Nonviolent Peaceforce will help each of us explore how we can be a part of growing the use of nonviolence in our world. Nonviolent Peaceforce is an international organization that envisions a worldwide culture of peace in which conflicts within and between communities and countries are managed through nonviolent means.

**Alive with 55 & Up:** Ridgeview Mennonite Church, **Tuesday, December 12. TBD.** Lunch served after each meeting.