



March 31, 2019 • Volume 64, No. 13
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.

BLESSED HUNGER HOLY FEAST

God reaches out with open arms

Focus Statement

When we are lost and far from God,
God reaches out with open arms.
We get up and enter the feast of reconciliation.

Gathering

I come with joy to meet my Lord (WB 459)

Call to Worship (*Based on Psalm 63 and 32*)

Leader: O God, you are our God. We seek you.

People: Our souls thirst for you
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.

Leader: We confess our sin to you,
and you forgive us.

People: We offer our prayers to you,
and you embrace us.

All: *O God, you satisfy our souls
as with a rich feast.
In the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy,
and you uphold us.*

Opening Prayer

Praising God

We sing to you, O God (SJ 1)

The love of God (SJ 44)

Sharing our Tithes and Offerings / My Coins Count

Offertory: *From the depths of sin (WB 136)*

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 (NRSV)

Conversation with Children:

(*Ages 4 and under dismissed to nursery*)

Fill us with your feast

Sermon: "Leaving and Returning"

Ruth Carrasco

Jonathan Bowman *

(*Anyone who wishes may color at the tables during the sermon.*)

Responding

Beautiful Things (vs 1,2)

Leader: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart." (*Psalm 32:10-11*)

Leader: We are all invited to seek the Lord today.

Let us bring ourselves to God in prayer.

(*Prayer*)

(*A time of silence for personal confessions.*)

All: **God of steadfast love,**
we put our trust in your care for us.
When we need to find our way home,
we put our trust in you.

Leader: When we need forgiveness, we put our trust in you. When our souls hunger for a new way of living, we put our trust in you.

All: **In the morning and in the evening,**
we will listen to you.

Leader: Our generous God provides for us.

Beautiful Things (vs 3)

Sharing and Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Sending

We will walk with God (SJ 78)

Benediction

* Jonathan Bowman lives with his wife Beth and two children, Caleb (11) and Naomi (8) in Landisville, PA. They are part of Lancaster BIC Church, where they are involved in a variety of lay roles. Jonathan currently works as a manager in software development. He has served as an IT director, pastor, and teacher in other chapters of life.

Coffee/Close: Judy Nguyen; **Sound:** Davin & Wade Esbenshade
Greeters: Brenda Martin Hurst & Karina Morales
Usher: Anna Mae Weaver; **Praise Team:** Jenn Esbenshade, Wanda Gonzalez-Bortzel, Bryan Hower, Danika Snader, Tammy Snader
Nursery: Judy Nguyen and Karina Morales

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 6: Lucas Peace

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 6: Betty & Paul Martin

NEXT SUNDAY: April 7

Coffee: Ruth Carrasco; **Sound:** Judy Nguyen; **Usher:** Evelyn Bailey
Greeters: Anna Mae & Bob Weaver; **Children's Time:** Jen Morales
Worship Leader: Wanda Gonzalez-Bortzel;
Pianist: Ruth Carrasco; **Song Leader:** Bryan Hower;
Praise Team: Brenda Martin Hurst, Danika Snader, Tammy Snader
Congregational Prayer: Bob Weaver
Nursery: Kylah Morales & Lois Zimmerman; **Close:** Jim Bailey

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

March 24: 35 • **Offering:** \$1,623.00

GARDEN DONATIONS TO DATE

Total needed: \$6,000

Everence Grant: \$1,500 • Total amount raised so far: \$3,850

Total amount needing to be raised: \$650

HEATING & COOLING BILLS & DONATIONS TO DATE

Total needed: \$64,090 • Money already in capital fund: \$12,375
Total amount raised so far: \$51,451
Total amount needing to be raised: \$264

Upcoming Events

(All events held at church unless otherwise indicated)

- Apr 3** Youth Bible Study at Meadville Mennonite
Apr 7 Sermon: Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower
Apr 10 Sewing Circle, 8 a.m.-noon
Apr 13 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m .Squireside Café

Holy Week Reminders

Palm Sunday Worship Service: April 14. Journey with Jesus on his last week on earth through scripture, song, and silence. (Eastern Mennonite High School Choir will join us for this special service.) A Fellowship Meal follows the service. Meatballs, rolls, and chips provided. Bring a salad (tossed, potato, macaroni, etc) and a dessert. If you are able, bring double what you normally bring since our numbers will be doubled that morning.

Maundy Thursday Meal & Service: April 18, 6:30 p.m. Ridgeview Mennonite Church has invited us to eat a meal together like Jesus shared his last supper with his friends. The evening will include a simple meal, Scripture reading, singing, communion, footwashing, and time for reflection and confession.

Good Friday Service: April 19, 7:00 p.m. Enter and exit this service in silence. Ridgeview Mennonite Church will join us for this somber service on the saddest day of the church year. Jesus is on his way through the Roman legal system. This is the day he is accused, jailed, judged, and executed. The question confronting Christians on Good Friday is whether we are willing to follow Jesus to the cross.

Easter Service: April 21, 10 a.m. We have seen the risen Lord! Easter Sunday begins a 50-day period during which the church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the triumph of life over death. (There is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday). Please bring your Easter flowers to church and place on the platform for everyone to enjoy. Thanks!

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

Leadership Team Chair: Wade Esbenshade

Leadership Team: Steven Lantz, Lois Zimmerman

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

www.NewHollandMC.org • Hearing Aids Available

A nursery is available for children ages 4 and younger.

Church News

Help Needed April 13: Spring Mulching: Bring your pitchforks and join a group in mulching the flowerbeds at 9 a.m.

An Expanded Fellowship Meal: Sunday, **May 5**, noon. Instead of our typical monthly fellowship meal at church, you are invited to sign up to go to one of our local retirement homes to eat with folks who can no longer attend regularly. We'll take our fellowship to them! A room has been reserved at each place for the group of people from our congregation. We will each buy our own food at their dining hall and then eat together. This will vary from place to place, so see the sign up sheet in the lobby for details. **Sign up Sunday, April 28.**

Donations Needed:

1) Easter Egg Hunt: Each year the church does an Easter Egg Hunt for the Early Learning Center children. The total cost is about \$125. Talk to Lois Zimmerman if you would like to help out at the Egg Hunt on **April 16**. **\$30 donated so far.**

2) CrossNet Meal: Tuesday, **April 9**. Sign up on the table in the lobby to bring food items. Bring food to church by noon on **April 8** and put in the front office.

3) Camp Scholarships: Consider giving a donation to make it possible for children in our congregation to enjoy a week at camp this summer. Mark "Church Camp" on offering envelope.

4) Garden Tools Needed: Wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, hoes, hose, sprinkling cans, etc Bring items to the shed after April 1.

The Gap Male Chorus: New Holland Mennonite Church, 7 p.m. **April 14**. The chorus, which has been performing since 1922, will sing classic hymn arrangements, southern Gospel, spirituals, and modern styles. **Jim Bailey and Bob Weaver are members of the chorus.** Admission is free, but a love offering will be received to benefit the New Holland Early Learning Center.

What are you reading? Sign up (on the table in the lobby) to share a short (5-10 minutes) report during the worship service about a book (any genre) that you are reading or have read in the past year. What did you enjoy about the book? What did you learn? Would you recommend this book to others? Etc.

Community News

PA Relief Sale: April 5-6; Friday: 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday: 6:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Farm Show Complex (Harrisburg, PA). Additional information at PaReliefSale.org.

Mennonite Children's Choir Spring Concerts: Featuring our very own Seth Lantz. Sunday, **April 7**, 4 p.m. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster; Sunday, **April 14**, 6 p.m., Chiques Church of the Brethren, Manheim; Sunday, **May 5**, 6:30 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster; Sunday, **June 9**, 7 p.m. Mountville Lawn Concert Series, Mountville Church of the Brethren.

Harmonies Worship Hymn Sing: Sunday, **April 7**, at 6:30 p.m. at the Blossom Hill Mennonite Church.

Honoring Nelson Okanya: Celebrating seven years as EMM's president: **April 7**, 2-5 p.m., Lancaster Mennonite's Lancaster Campus Alumni Dining Hall. You're invited to a drop-in reception on April 7 from 2 to 5 p.m. A brief program at 3:30 p.m.

Stories from the Peaceable Kingdom: What does it mean to live out peace in the way of Jesus today? Come hear Gerry Keener, Nancy Heisey, Ed Martin, and Tala Bautista share how their identities as disciples of Christ have shaped their responses in times of conflict or crisis at 7 p.m. on Monday, **April 15**, at Akron Mennonite Church.

Tuesday Alive with 55 & Up: April 9. 10 a.m. Ridgeview Mennonite. *Wisdom from the Trail: Lessons from hiking the Appalachian Trail.* Lois & Ernie Hess will share pictures, stories, and learnings from their 17-year journey of hiking the 2,190 mile trail.

Shrek Jr. at Cavod Academy of the Arts: Featuring our very own Danika Snader! **May 3**, 7 p.m.; **May 4**, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; **May 5**, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. This nontraditional fairytale, through many twists and turns, sends a powerful message for the whole family. Tickets: cavodacademy.com or 717/354-3355.

An Evening with Brian McLaren: Saturday, April 27; 7:00-8:15 p.m.; Highland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA. A former college English teacher and pastor, Brian is a passionate advocate for what he calls "a new kind of Christianity" – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. Tickets: parishresourcecenter.org; 717/299-1113.