



December 21, 2025 • Volume 70, No. 51  
Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. • Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



### Prelude

Maggie Good & Ellie Good

### Gathering & Praising God

*The Lord Is My Light (VT 437)*

Call to Worship

Pastor Dawn Ranck-Hower

Prayer for Illumination

Candle Lighting: Joy & Hope Ruth Douglas Miller & Keith Miller

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (VT 103)*

### Hearing God's Voice

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Luke 1:26-49

Marilynn & Tom Miller

Conversation with Children

Tammy Snader

Special Music

Maggie Good & Ellie Good

Sermon: "The Prophetic Invitation of Incarnation, the

Risky Revolution of Making Space"

Kate André \*

### Responding

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

*O Come, Take Heart (bulletin insert)*

Update from Build Our Courage Tour Training

Ray Hurst

Prayer of the People  
Announcements

Ray Hurst

## Sending

### *Between Darkness and Light (VT 808)*

Between darkness and light I will always walk;  
And wherever I will go,  
I will open a window of light,  
And will plant the seeds of love.

## Benediction

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

**Song Leaders:** Dawn Kaczor & Dawn Ranck-Hower

**Coffee:** Sue Martin; **Greeter/Close:** Tim Martin

**Sound:** Bryan Hower; **Nursery:** Lois Zimmerman

**Offering:** Francy Bailey & Lois Zimmerman

### December 7: Attendance and Offering

Attendance: 33 (2 on Zoom) • Offering: \$3,070.00

### December 14: No Worship Service

### NEXT SUNDAY: December 28 (Christmas Brunch & Worship)

**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 & Tammy Snader

### UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

**2025 Financial Update:** As of December 11, New Holland Mennonite Church has a **\$14,962 deficit** for the year.

**SUNDAY, December 28: Christmas Brunch** (9 a.m.) and **Worship** (10 a.m.). Sign Up by **WEDNESDAY, December 24**, in weekly email update to attend, bring food for brunch, and/or set up or clean up!

**THURSDAY, January 8: Gathering of Support POTLUCK:** A safe place to connect in the midst of current chaos: 6 p.m., at the church. Bring a dish to share and join in conversation to find mutual support and build friendships in local community.

## O Come, Take Heart

VENI IMMANUEL 8.8.8.8 with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Plainsong adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1854



O come, O come though tim-id and un-sure And  
O come, O come though you feel un-pre-pared When  
O come and join God's kin-dom work And  
trust that God de-clares your worth Re-mem-cour-age fails you, do it scared Don't let  
be God's hands and feet on earth You're called  
ber when you're feel-ing small That ev-ery child of the fear of ma-king mis-takes Im-pede you from the ex-act-ly as you are To love the world with  
God is called path you're called to take Take heart, take heart! The One ev-ery bro-ken part  
who calls to you Will give you strength and see you through

**SATURDAY, January 17: Fondu and Game Night:** 4 p.m. More details later!

**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.

**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.**

**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 Esbleshade, Dawn Kaczor, Ruth Douglas Miller  
18 Western Ave., New Holland, PA 17557 • 717/354-0602  
[www.NewHollandMC.org](http://www.NewHollandMC.org) • Hearing Aids Available

### "Mary's Yes"

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity • Inspired by Luke 1:26-39  
Photography with digital drawing

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel goes to Nazareth to find Mary. I was six months pregnant with my second daughter when I reread this scripture and began this image, so at first, this detail seemed like a happy coincidence. But as I pondered it, I wondered if Elizabeth's pregnancy might have everything to do with Mary's willingness to say yes to this wild, wonderful—but risky and terrifying—undertaking.

Elizabeth's pregnancy provides reassurance that Mary can trust the angel's impossible news. By the sixth month, Mary will be able to see for herself that Elizabeth is truly pregnant. By the sixth month, Mary can place her hands on Elizabeth's belly and giggle as the baby leaps and kicks. By the sixth month, the risk of miscarriage has significantly decreased. By the sixth month, Elizabeth will be emotionally, mentally, and physically preparing for birth. Her miracle is real, even as it is yet to be born. Therefore, Mary can rest her hope in an emerging—not empty—promise.

Mary's willingness to say "yes" is also fortified by the assurance that she is not stepping forward alone. Even as fears surely surround her, Mary will go to Elizabeth for protection and comfort. She won't fulfill her calling without support. Her hope will be strengthened in solidarity.

In this image, we see the angel greeting Mary in the form of dappled light.<sup>6</sup> Mary's back is turned to the angel, but we see her in the process of pivoting toward the warmth of the cascading light. I imagine this is the moment after the angel responds to her initial question, "How can this be?" After hearing the angel's response, Mary closes her eyes, imagining her cousin Elizabeth and perhaps her many ancestors holding her up as she prepares to step forward. The wrap around her head carries the angel's good news, anointing her with the promise that fear won't stop her. Embroidered along her neckline is Mary's willing response: "Here I am." Her lantern earring is a sign to each of us, to anyone who is fearful. It's as if Mary herself becomes a lantern, emanating courage in the face of a fearful calling, lighting a way forward.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity