

New Holland Mennonite Church

November 30, 2025 • Volume 70, No. 48

Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. • Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. • Worship: 10:00 a.m.



Gathering & Praising God

Prelude: In the Bleak Midwinter Matt Carlson
O Come, O Come, Immanuel (VT 210) v. 1,2,6,7
Call to Worship Sue Martin
Candle Lighting
Prayer for Illumination
O Lord, Hear My Prayer (VT 685)

Hearing God's Voice

Scripture: Luke 1:5-13 Sue Martin
Conversation with Children Dawn Kaczor
Sermon: "Hope is not ..." Matt Carlson*

Responding

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness Sue Martin
In the Time of Herod (insert)
Prayer of the People Jen Morales
The Lord's Prayer
Announcements

Sending

Hope Is a Candle (VT 211)
Benediction Sue Martin

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

* **Matt Carlson** is the Associate Pastor at Akron Mennonite Church. He and his partner, Monica, parent three very active teenagers (the oldest is away for her first year at college) and enjoy working on house projects. Matt finds energy when engaging at the intersection of faith, peacebuilding, ecology and the arts.

Coffee/Greeter: Pat Thomas; **Worship Leader:** Sue Martin
Prayer: Jen Morales; **Sound:** Tammy Snader
Children: Dawn Kaczor; **Nursery:** Ruth Douglas Miller
Offering: Ruth Douglas Miller & Wanda Gonzalez Bortzel
Close: Mike Bortzel

November 23: Attendance and Offering

Attendance: 41 (3 on Zoom) • **Offering:** \$2,190.00

NEXT SUNDAY: December 7 (Advent 2)

Coffee: Ray Hurst; **Greeters:** Lisa, Joe, Grace Kehm;
Worship Leader/Song Leader: Jenn Esbenshade
Sermon: Dawn Ranck-Hower; **Prayer:** Ruth Douglas Miller;
Sound: Wade Esbenshade; **Children:** Ray Hurst
Nursery: Bryan Hower; **Close:** Steven Lantz
Offering: Wanda Gonzalez Bortzel & Keith Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

All events are at New Holland Mennonite Church unless otherwise indicated

2025 Financial Update: See the weekly email update for the latest numbers.

Leadership Team Affirmation: There was strong affirmation for adding a fourth elder to the Leadership Team. Steven Lantz has been unanimously affirmed for a three-year-term as Elder of Administration and Lois Zimmerman has been unanimously affirmed for a three-year-term as Elder of Worship. Thank you to each person who voted and to Steven and Lois for their willingness to serve.

THURSDAY: December 11: Gathering of Support POTLUCK: A safe place to connect in the midst of current chaos: 6 p.m., at the

Projected Artwork: “Zechariah and the Angel”

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 1:5-13 • Paper lace & graphite drawing,
backed with cyanotype print

“Within the political landscape of Herod’s time, hope was not on the horizon—that’s the point. And Elizabeth had been barren for many years. This miracle visited her—in her body, in her womb— because it was so unexpected. In this piece, I imagine the angel in a female form arriving close to Zechariah in the darkened Temple, surprising him by her presence. His reaction is a fearful one in this image. He leans away, squints his eyes, and covers his head. He protects himself from her, from her presence, from her power, from her words, from her gaze. He hides. The incense swirls around them. In contrast to his fear, her message is one of hope: long-yearned-for-joy and family security. Here the angel’s message is represented by the doves and the stars. Her message flows into his space with the same power that invoked his fear. I imagine Zechariah lets his guard down then, and listens to her in shock. I imagine he takes in her words, lets his arm down, meets her gaze, and holds onto joy, despite his ongoing apprehension. In this image, I placed my paper lace over a cyanotype print, which is created using photo-sensitive paper, objects, and sunlight. The cyanotype didn’t work the first time; I had to paint the light-sensitive solution again and then expose the print for longer in brighter daylight. I really needed plexiglass to hold my branches and leaves tightly to the paper, but I didn’t have it. Nonetheless, the final print reflected the flow of energy in this text. The movement in the cyanotype is horizontal—perfect for the lateral conversation between the angel and Zechariah. Pine needles created shapes that appear to reiterate the angel’s words as they are leaving her mouth toward Zechariah’s ear. These words, this unexpected and miraculous hope, are the focal point in the text and the art. In the cyanotype, there are deep blues with silhouettes of leaves and stems, but nothing so powerful as these words, these pine needles creating a high-contrast focal point. God is breaking in.

— Hannah Garrity

church. Bring a dish to share and join in conversation to find mutual support and build friendships in local community. (Beverages and place settings provided). This gathering will continue on every second Thursday of the month. Invite friends!

SATURDAY, December 13: Singing Light: The Walking Roots Band Christmas Concert, 6:30 p.m. at Stumptown Mennonite Church. A wonderful evening of music, community, and supporting the Pennsylvania Relief Sale’s Annual Christmas Concert. Seating is available on a first-come basis. A free-will offering will be collected. Proceeds benefit Mennonite Central Committee.

WEDNESDAY, December 17: Book Club: *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, 6:30 p.m. at Palermo’s. Discussion led by Jenn. (NOTE: New date, time, and place.)

WEDNESDAY, December 17: NO Women’s Dinner at Garden Spot Village this month.

SUNDAY, December 28: Christmas Brunch (9 a.m.) and **Worship** (10 a.m.). More details to follow.

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 Esbenshade, Dawn Kaczor, Ruth Douglas Miller
18 Western Ave., New Holland, PA 17557 • 717/354-0602
www.NewHollandMC.org • **Hearing Aids Available**

In the Time of Herod

CRANHAM 11.11.11.11

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Gustav Holst, 1906



In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep-ing in
Pierc-ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song
In the time of Her - od, fear has ta - ken hold

5



Hope was bur - ied deep and hid - den, rare as gold
Day by day the peo - ple bent and drew with - in
"Do not fear!" rings hol - low when we've feared so long
Still we share a long - ing for a glimpse of hope

9



Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared not speak a - loud
With the clouds so hea - vy, who could see the stars?
Still in the re - cess - es of our wea - ry souls
Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout the truth we trust:

13



Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break-ing through the clouds
Hope - less-ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars
Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?
God will stop at no - thing to be here with us