



# SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 14, 2025



## Signs of God's Presence

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

**All: We rejoice in the signs of God's presence among us.**

**Leader:** We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

**All: We rejoice in the ongoing work of creation.**

**Leader:** We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

**All: We rejoice in these old stories and songs that remind us of the promise God has made.**

**Leader:** Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

**All: Come! Let us rejoice in the presence and promise of God.**

### Lighting of Peace Lamp

### Opening songs

**First Reading** Isaiah 35:1-10

### Lighting of Advent Candles

**Leader:** In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10).**

**Leader:** We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

### *Engaging Community*

### **Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

### *The Call of the Gospel*

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1:46-55

### **Song**

### **Offertory Prayer**

*\*\*Collection of coins for My Coins Count\*\**

**Program: "If We Do It, It Will Work"**

### *Digging Deeper*

**Third Reading** Matthew 11:2-11

### **Message**

### **Song of response**

### *Going Out into the World*

### **Benediction**

### **Sending Song**

**Worship Planner:** Beth Green  
**Worship Leaders:** Youth  
**Candle Lighting:** Landon Clark & Nash Hoover  
**Accompanist:** Dixie Otto  
**Song Leader:** Rich Beitzel  
**Sound Room:** Don Green  
**Video:** Reuben Tice  
**Live Stream:** Isaac Tice  
**Volume 71-No. 15**

### **Church Information**

**Phone:** (814) 662-4201

**Pastor:** Wes Bergen (681) 209-2029

**Office hours:** Winter Hours – days will vary.

**Email:** [wes@springsmc.org](mailto:wes@springsmc.org)

**Church Administrator:** Sherry Abel (814) 233-0510

**Office hours:** Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Email:** [office@springsmc.org](mailto:office@springsmc.org)

#### **Elders:**

Don Green (Chair) (814) 521-5709

Sherry Abel (814) 233-0510

Doug Berg (814) 442-4313

Rosie Cupler (301) 697-1772

Terry Livengood (301) 707-7173

#### **December 7, 2025, Attendance and Offering**

**Offering: \$5,078.00**

**Attendance: 111**

**On-Line Giving is available @ <https://app.tithely.com/login>**

#### ***Happy Birthdays***

**December 14 – Holly Clark, Sharon Livengood**

**15 – Brayden Thomas, Phoebe Wiley**

**16 – Shirley Brandes, Deb Brenneman**

**17 – Deb Strickland**

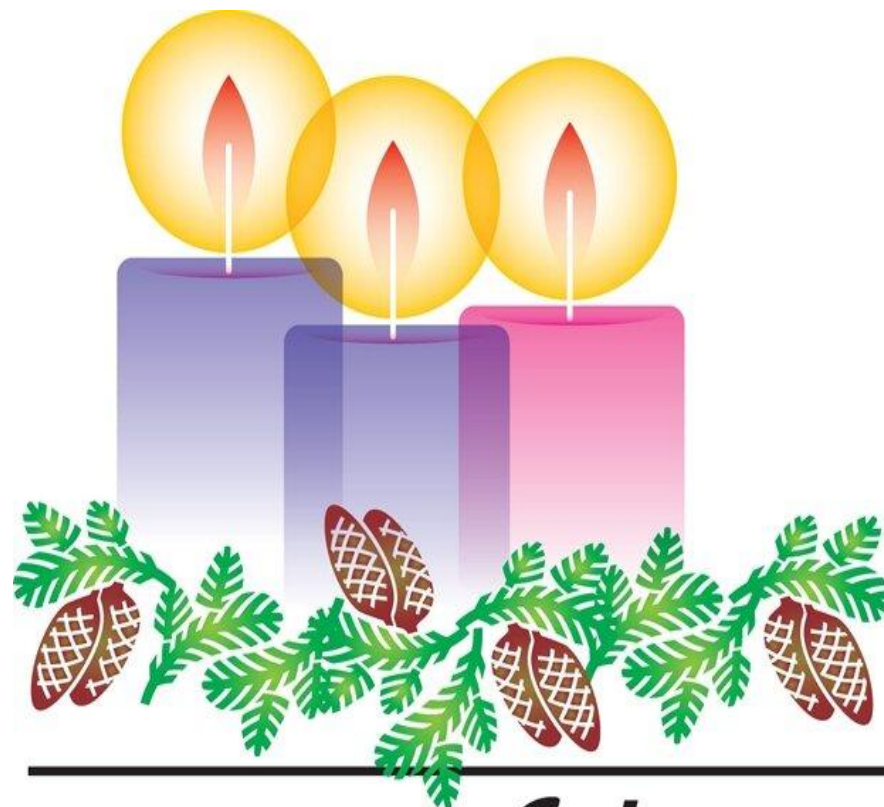
**19 – Nash Hoover, Diori Pattison**



#### **Springs Mennonite Church is Handicap Accessible**

A restroom and elevator are available on the main floor. There is also a restroom located downstairs in the basement. There are also large print songbooks and hearing devices; please ask an usher for assistance with these items.

**AED (Automated External Defibrillator)** is located at the back of the church near the elevator.



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Signs of God's  
Presence**

**Cookie Swap**  
**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**  
**5:30 p.m. – Church Basement**

Bring at least 3 dozen of one kind of cookie or sweet.

You will go home with 2 dozen assorted cookies and sweets.

The extra dozens will be shared with local shut-ins, the sick, and anyone you think may enjoy a Christmas treat!

Feel free to invite any friends that enjoy baking!

**Take a seminary course this spring!** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's distance-friendly options include Biblical Foundations for Peace and Justice; Christian Attitudes Toward War, Peace and Revolution; Doing Theology in the Anabaptist Tradition; Faith Formation and Spirituality: Adults and Seniors; Numbers: Encountering Wilderness; Spiritual Practices: Play and Rest; and more. In-person courses are also available. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first two courses for credit. Courses run Jan. 13 – May 1; sign up by Jan. 5. [ams.edu/upcoming-courses](https://ams.edu/upcoming-courses)

**FOOD DRIVE**

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has generously donated food so far. Your contributions are making a real difference.

Our food drive is still ongoing, and we are continuing to collect non-perishable food items. Every donation helps us support those in need.

**Calendar of Events**

**.Today** - Children's Christmas Program during Worship Service

**Today** – Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m. – Book of James

**December 17** – Daughters of Dorcas 9:30 to 3:30

**December 17** – Cookie Swap – 5:30 p.m.  
(see announcement in bulletin)

**December 21** – Children's Church

**December 21** - The Longest Night Service – 7:00 p.m.

**December 24** - Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

**SIGNIFICANT ITEMS**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**December 2, 2025**

1. Council approved the draft amendment to the by-laws giving more freedom for the Gifts Discernment Committee and other leadership to use non-members when necessary. A copy will be placed in the bulletin to be voted on as soon as possible.
2. Council reviewed the November and first quarter financial reports.
3. The Trustees will be adding more handicap parking spaces in the Spring.
4. The Trustees will be working on floors and painting in the secretary's office and the pastor's office after the first of the year.
5. Food is being donated for those in need and is brought to the church. We will alternate giving it to the food banks in Grantsville and Meyersdale.

The holiday season is a special time to remember and connect with members of our community who may not have regular access to church mailboxes. To ensure that everyone receives Christmas cards, please follow the guidelines below for distributing cards to those in nursing homes and others without a church mailbox.

- Mabel Beiler and Doretha Hoover do not have a church mailbox. Please place their Christmas cards in the basket located on the offering box table. They both are currently at Goodwill Nursing Home.
- Lisa Durst Frye is currently residing at Patriot Nursing Home in Somerset. Cards for Lisa should also be placed in the basket. Arrangements will be made to mail these cards to her.
- If you know of anyone else who does not have a church mailbox, please place their cards in the basket as well. We will make sure they receive their Christmas greetings.

**Notes:**

Council has had a request from the Gifts Discernment Committee to allow for non-members to serve in some positions when slots cannot be filled with members as required by our Bylaws. Enos and Isaac Tice worked on an amendment that would allow this until the Bylaws can be revised, and Council revised the proposed amendment as follows. The congregation will be asked for affirmation on January 11, 2026.

**Article X. GRANTING EXCEPTIONS FOR POSITIONS TO BE FILLED**

The following exceptions are being granted through fiscal year 2026-2027 to allow time for the Plan of Organization of the Springs Mennonite Church to be updated.

- A) From time to time the Gifts Discernment Committee, Church Council, or Elders may find it difficult to fill positions that require church membership. When that occurs, and non-members considered to be good candidates for the needed position(s) have been identified, the Gifts Discernment Committee may request the Elders or Council, as appropriate, to grant an exception. Church Council and the Elders can decide if an exception is appropriate for any positions they need to fill.
- B) In some cases, the position to be filled no longer seems to be needed. Elders can grant the exception for not filling positions they or the Gifts Discernment Committee fill and Church Council can grant that exception for positions they fill.

The Elders, Council, and the Gifts Discernment Committee are all agreed to try this process.