



SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 7, 2025



Preparing for God

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

All: O God, we prepare our lives for you.

Leader: We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

All: O God, we choose to follow your way.

Leader: We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

All: O God, we remember your love for us.

Leader: We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all God's creation.

All: O God, we want to be transformed. Amen.

Lighting of Peace Lamp

Opening songs "Oh, Beautiful Star" STS 32
"Hope is a Candle" STS 15

First Reading Psalm 72:1-7; 18-19

Lighting of Advent Candle

Leader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Engaging Community

Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Call of the Gospel

Gospel Reading Matthew 24:36-44

Song "Oh, How Joyfully" HWB 209

Offertory Prayer

****Children will collect coins for My Coins Count****

Gospel Time

Digging Deeper

Third Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Message

Song of response "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" HWB 110

Going Out into the World

Benediction

Sending Song "O Come, all ye Faithful" HWB 212

Worship Planners: Bill Mosholder & Angie Piwonka

Worship Leader: Angie Piwonka

Candle Lighting: Doug & Harriet Berg

Accompanist: Dixie Otto

Song Leader: Melinda Gibson

Sound Room: Ryan Critchfield

Video: Reuben Tice

Live Stream: Isaac Tice

Volume 71-No. 14

Church Information

Phone: (814) 662-4201

Pastor: Wes Bergen (681) 209-2029

Office hours: Winter Hours – days will vary.

Email: 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

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

November 30, 2025, Attendance and Offering

Offering: \$3,000.00

Casselman Valley MDS: \$500.00

Attendance: 82

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

Happy Birthdays & Anniversary

Birthdays:

December 7 – Norma Jean Doyle

**10 – Mary Lou Jordan, Justin Livengood,
Noel Livengood**

11 – Bob Brenneman, Tammy Miller

Anniversary:

December 11 – Scott & Betty Kinsinger



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Preparing for God

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 a 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!

A deposit in the amount of **\$218.11** was made on Wednesday, December 3rd. This addition reflects continued support and contributions toward **My Coins Count**.

Following this deposit, the total amount for My Coins Count has reached **\$1,226.07**.

Can we sing the song of Jesus' mother in 2025, as her homeland endures increasing attacks, and our own neighbors are hungry and hopeless? Do you wonder if you could have her courage? New challenges are pushing all of us towards new steps in embodying skillful, compassionate action.

Mennonite Action is providing training through the "To Build Our Courage" tour. The Southwest Pa. chapter invites you to join us Monday, Dec. 8, at Pittsburgh Mennonite Church.

We will enjoy food and fellowship, sing and pray, identify ways to serve our neighbors as Jesus would, and try out the practical skills that give us freedom from cooperating with evil. We hope it will be a time of inspiration, courage, and connection. Learn more and sign up [online](#). This is open to anyone interested in faith-based action.

(Car-pooling and an overnight stay available; talk to Deb Bergen)

Calendar of Events

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

December 8 – “To Build Our Courage” tour (see announcement in bulletin)

December 9 – Cram-A-Van – Salisbury-Elk Lick High School
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

December 10 - Daughters of Dorcas 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

December 13 - Christmas Progressive Dinner – Children are Welcome.

December 14 - Children’s Christmas Program during Worship Service

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

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

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

Reserved Parking Spaces for Older Members

To ensure the comfort and accessibility of our facilities for everyone, we kindly ask all attendees to leave a few parking spaces open on each side of the parking lot near the front door. These spaces are designated for our older congregation members, allowing them easier and safer access to the building.

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.

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.

Thank you so much for your response to the Casselman Valley Mennonite Disaster Service project. The home in Sipesville, PA. (North of Somerset) is progressing nicely. The house is currently under roof, and the siding is completed. Two local contractors have volunteered to complete the electrical and plumbing labor. MDS is providing the materials.

Aaron Tice & Joseph Byler are supervising and coordinating this local project. There will be need for drywalling, painting, and various other general labor to complete the finish work. Please contact Reuben Tice or Aaron Tice if you are willing to help.

Donations are still needed to make this home a reality. Checks may be placed in the offering box made payable to Springs Mennonite Church & marked for MDS Casselman Valley Unit. If a cash donation is made, please put it in an envelope marked for MDS.

Your prayers for the homeowner and the safety of the many volunteers who are graciously giving their time is greatly appreciated. Little is much as we work together to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

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.