



SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

November 30, 2025



Expecting God

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

All: We journey together. What are we expecting this Advent?

Leader: We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

All: The people of old were watching and waiting. What are we waiting for?

Leader: We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

All: Are we ready for the transformation that God has in waiting for us?

Leader: Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and joy for all creation.

All: We will prepare ourselves for the coming of God among us.

Lighting of Peace Lamp

Opening songs "Beauty for Brokenness" STS 115 vs 1&5
"Hope is a candle" STS 15

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

Lighting Advent Candle

Reader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

Reader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Engaging Community

Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Call of the Gospel

Gospel Reading Matthew 24:36-44

Song "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" HWB 178

Offertory Prayer

Children will collect coins for My Coins Count

Gospel Time

Digging Deeper

Third Reading Romans 13:11-14

Message

Song of response "My soul cries out" STS 124

Going Out into the World

Benediction

Sending Song "Peace before us" STS 16

Worship Planner: Julia Tice

Worship Leader: Julia Tice

Candle Lighting: Shirley Brandes

Accompanist: Byron Miller

Song Leader: Karin Miller

Sound Room: Don Green

Video: Reuben Tice

Live Stream: Isaac Tice

Volume 71-No. 13

Church Information

Phone: (814) 662-4201

Pastor: Wes Bergen (681) 209-2029

Office hours: Mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

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 23, 2025, Attendance and Offering

Offering: \$3,407.00

Missions Offering: \$250.00

Attendance: 93

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

Happy Birthdays

Birthdays:

December 3 – Doug Otto

4 – Matthew Green

6 – Shari Beitzel



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.



Expecting God

Local MDS Project Needs Your Help

Casselman Valley Mennonite Disaster Service is in the process of building a two-bedroom home in Stoystown, PA. (North of Somerset.) The house will be built according to MDS House Plans. The owner is disabled and lost his home in a fire; he did not have insurance.

Aaron Tice & Joseph Byler are supervising and coordinating this local project. The foundation has been excavated, the basement walls erected, and the concrete floor has been poured. The goal is to have the house framed and under roof as soon as possible. There will be a need for framers, electricians, plumbers, HVAC, drywallers, and various other general labor as the project proceeds. Please contact Reuben Tice or Aaron Tice if you are willing to help.

The funds for our Casselman Valley Unit are running low. Instead of doing a local fundraiser, we are asking the local churches for contributions to help fund this project. Our November Missions offering allocates a percentage for MDS, but this would be additional contributions for this home. Donations may be placed in the offering box made payable to Springs Mennonite Church or Mennonite Disaster Service. Please be sure to note or earmark that the donation is for MDS-Casselman Valley Unit. The regional office at Lititz, PA, handles all the contributions for MDS and allocates those funds to the satellite units.

We appreciate your consideration and donations. We also ask your prayers for the safety of the many volunteers who are graciously giving their time, working together to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

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.

Tuesday, November 25, Daughters of Dorcas shipped **90 comforters** to MCC, and **130 crocheted caps** to Christian Aid Ministries (CAM).

Calendar of Events

Today - Intergenerational Sunday school
First Sunday of Advent

December 1 - Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

December 2 – Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

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

December 6 – Christmas Caravan – Tour 7 Homes in Somerset & Garrett Counties, Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. at Oak Dale Church. Entry fee: Donation basis – to benefit their annual ReNew Women's Retreat.

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 13 - Christmas Progressive Dinner – Children are Welcome

December 14 - Children's Christmas Program during Worship Service

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

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

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 stays available; talk to Deb Bergen)

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE for Springs Mennonite Church, using the Tithely app and website to manage online giving. Postcards with details on how to sign up are by the offering box in the foyer. Those of you who are already giving through a bill pay service with the bank do not need to change over. This is just another option to make one time or regular digital giving easy. If interested, pick up a postcard. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melinda Gibson, Treasurer.

Link: [Welcome | Tithe.ly](#)

Full website address: <https://app.tithely.com/login>

Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 28 – March 10. Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. This six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will be taught by Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 7 to save \$50. ambs.edu/short-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.

Significant Items Elders Meeting 11-19-2025

1. Sherry began the meeting by sharing a devotional centered on the theme of trusting God, drawing from Proverbs 3:5-6.
2. Don informed the group that the Search Committee has scheduled a Zoom call with a potential pastor for Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.
3. Wes provided his report and emphasized several important updates:
 - a. The upcoming Sunday will feature the Thanksgiving Celebration.
 - b. During the Thanksgiving Drive-Thru dinner, there was enough food for everyone, and no shortages occurred.
 - c. The pie-making event was well attended.
 - d. Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. Wes met with Rich Beitzel and the Visual Arts Committee .
 - e. The Longest Night Service is scheduled for December 21st.
 - f. Preparations are underway for both Advent and Christmas Eve services.
4. Don reported that Amy Yoder-McGloughlin, our conference minister, has agreed to assist in securing speakers for our services beginning in February and continuing thereafter.
5. The meeting concluded with prayer for members of the congregation. In addition to these prayers, there was a collective expression of gratitude and praise for the many positive developments and blessings currently taking place within Springs Mennonite Church.