

A Dream Comes True
Celebrating 60 Years in Current Building

The Moving Congregation Finds a Home in Springs

A Brief History of the Springs Mennonite Church, 1780-2014

Under the leadership of Jacob Saylor, the Springs Mennonite congregation had its beginning south of Meyersdale, PA, on Saylor Hill around 1780. Saylor was the first Mennonite minister west of the Allegheny Mountains. He, along with Joseph Gundy and Peter Fahrney, also ministers, met at members' homes and barns.

After Saylor and Gundy died, Fahrney left to join the Brethren Church. This now left the Mennonite congregation without a minister. They were served by itinerant ministers from Fayette, Westmoreland and Cambria Counties, including Conemaugh Township. For 45 years they continued to meet in private homes and barns.

Later the congregation helped the German Brethren congregation build the River Bridge Church at West Salisbury. In 1853, Henry H. Blauch was ordained as a minister and the membership was reorganized. Pioneer members at this time were: John Folk; Samuel Folk; C. P. Livengood; John, Jacob and Henry Keim; Jeremiah Hershberger, plus 22 additional members. John Folk was chosen first deacon.

In 1859 the Union Church, at Keim (later known as St. Paul), was built with the Lutheran and Reform congregations.

The congregation was on the move again in 1878 when the Folk Church at Springs was built at a cost of \$1,150. John and Samuel Folk and Jeremiah Hershberger were on the building committee. For the first time in 100 years, the congregation worshipped in their own church.

In 1906 the church was remodeled at a cost of \$2,000 and the name was changed to the Springs Mennonite Church. In 1913, the church was again remodeled as well as enlarged at a cost of \$1,963. Membership went from 22 in 1853 to 247 by 1906.

Christmas Eve services

Prayer veiling (covering) not worn by all women

More informal dress for worship

Programs and Activities initiated or changed since 1954
(Not all are currently active)

Fellowship time with breakfast before Sunday school

JFK and JYF begun in addition to MYF

Joyful Noise Day Care

Evening Bible School and 1-week of Bible School

2001-Hand Spring Puppet Team begun

Hands for Him

Youth Bible Quizzing

MYF 30 Hour Famine

Free Community Yard Sale (2004-present)

Springs Community Fun Day

Senior Citizens and Community Thanksgiving dinner

Easter (men's) breakfast

Senior Citizens Programs

Annual Church Retreat (1997-2004 at Camp Hickory)

Springs Community Picnic

Community Worship service participation in Grantsville and Salisbury

2001-present—Tri State Relief Sale participation

Meat canning for relief

Participation at World's Attic

Church van purchased

MDS trips, Mission trips

Significant Event 1998-Salisbury Tornado – The church had 12 families affected by the disasters. Members were part of the Wind of Hope Restoration Committee, worked at the Salisbury food pantry and with MDS in construction to repair/rebuild in Salisbury. The former Springs parsonage was unoccupied and was offered as a place of lodging for MDS volunteers. Food for volunteers was provided by members of the congregation.

For more information about Springs Mennonite Church and pictures of activities, see: www.springsmc.org.

Springs Mennonite Church

Springs, Pennsylvania



"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." – Psalm 122:1

Pews padded, angled & some shortened for wheel chair accessibility

Elevator

Handicapped restroom on main floor

Nursery area on main floor

Restrooms remodeled and handicapped restroom added in basement.

Signage within church building

1998 & 2010 new sign in front of church

Additional outside lighting for parking lot

Oak trees in front of church cut down, numerous changes to landscaping

Picnic area created with pavilion, barbecue pits and playground equipment

Memorial trees planted in picnic area

Parsonage demolished

Church building locked

Changes in Worship

Use of *The Church Hymnal* (black), *Life Songs*, *The Mennonite Hymnal* (red), purple praise book, *Hymnal a Worship Book* (blue), *Sing the Journey*, *Sing the Story*

Not shaped notes music

Use of taped/recorded music for weddings, etc.

Use of an organ, piano, instruments for accompaniment

Lay worship leaders

Home audio feed via telephone for shut-ins

Projection screen/Use of audio visual equipment

Informal communion (evening)

Some communion services without foot washing

Special Lenten and Advent services

Easter sunrise services

Additional improvements followed:

1915—Sewing Circle was organized under the direction of Mrs. A. W. Maust and Mrs. N. C. Miller.

1925—Basement was put under the church, cost \$700, paid by the Ladies Sewing Circle, under the direction of Annie L. Miller, Sewing Circle leader.

1953—A building committee of Aaron Miller, Homer Yoder, Roy Otto, Alva Yoder, Cleman Folk, Daniel King, Myron Miller, Allen Otto, and Walter Otto was appointed. The present building was constructed with much volunteer labor at a cost of \$87,000.

It was built on land donated by Allen Wengerd.

1954—Dedication of current building: Richard Martin of Elida, Ohio, preached the morning sermon and Paul Erb the dedication sermon that afternoon.

1956—Debt for the building of the church was paid.

1975—First Board of Elders installed.

Ministers of the Congregation

Henry H. Blauch, Minister, 1853; John Folk, Deacon, 1856; Jonas Blauch, Minister, 1862; David Keim, Minister, 1870; W. C. Livengood, Deacon, 1874; David Keim, Bishop, 1875; David Maust, Minister, 1882; Daniel H. Bender, Minister, 1887; Harry M. Gelnett, Minister, 1887; Gideon D. Miller, Minister, 1891; Daniel W. Maust, Deacon, 1891; Edward Miller, Minister, 1899; Noah E. Miller, Minister and Bishop, 1912; William E. Haning, Deacon, 1929; Roy Otto, Minister, 1930; Simon J. Maust, Deacon, 1931; Resley Tressler, Minister 1937; Roy Otto, Bishop, 1938; Alva R. Yoder, Deacon, 1943; Walter Otto, Minister, 1944; Darrel Otto, Minister, 1949; Paul E. Bender, Minister, 1949; James Burkholder, 1963; John Kraybill, Installed as Minister, 1971; Steven J. Heatwole, Ordained, 1982; Lawrence Brunk served as interim pastor while Steven Heatwole was on sabbatical in 1996, and Laban Peachey and Owen Guengerich served as interim pastor when he resigned in 2005; Casey Rohrer, Ordained, 2009; Owen Guengerich again served as interim pastor in 2011 after Rohrer's resignation; current pastor, Eric Haglund, installed July 15, 2012, licensed toward ordination.

The Church Continues to Move and Grow

In the 1950's the congregation became more family-oriented with men and women sitting together as a family instead of on different sides of the church. Sunday school classes also became integrated with men, women, young and older members mixed together.

During John Kraybill's pastorate beginning in 1971, changes took place with the discontinuing of designations of Bishop and Deacon. Instead, a Board of Elders was elected, and the Gifts Discernment Committee picked people to serve with congregation approval.

1979—Fellowship Hall wing was added.

Steven Heatwole was ordained in 1982, and served as pastor until 2005.

The front of the church was remodeled, small covenant groups met for Bible study and fellowship and the Praise and Worship group was started.

Lawrence Bunk served six months as interim pastor in 1996 during Steven Heatwole's sabbatical. In June 2005, upon Pastor Heatwole's resignation, Laban Peachey and Owen Guengerich served as interim pastors. March 2007, Casey Rohrer was installed as the minister and was ordained in 2009. During his term an intercessory prayer ministry was begun under the leadership of Twila Guengerich. Following the resignation of Casey Rohrer in 2011, Owen Guengerich again stepped in to fill the post as interim pastor, and served until July 15, 2012 when the current pastor, Eric Haglund, was installed.

The following are some changes or additions (not listed above) to the administration, buildings and grounds, worship, activities and programs of the Springs Mennonite Church in the past 60 years. The list is not all-inclusive or chronological. There was no intent to omit any change or activity nor to assign a greater significance to one than another.

Changes to Administration

2005—Ministers of Visitation commissioned

Administrative Assistant hired

Constitution adopted and revised

Changes to building and grounds:

Stained glass windows installed

Quilt frame that could be lowered in kitchen for use by Daughters of Dorcas

Cupboards and cabinets built for Daughters of Dorcas in sewing room

Gym carpeted 1998

Dishwasher

Ceiling fans in sanctuary

Remodeling of Sanctuary--Railing and benches on platform removed

Original red carpet replaced

New pulpit and chairs for platform

Foyer opened (cloakrooms removed)

Individual mailboxes installed

Tile in foyer

New glass entrance doors

Handicapped accessible heated ramp replaced steps at front of church

A Dream Comes True
A Moving Congregation Finds a Home
Celebrating 60 Years in Current Building
September 12, 1954 – 2014

Saturday, September 20, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Welcome – Pastor Eric Haglund

Congregational Singing and Praise – Alyssa
Green

A Dream Comes True (DVD)
Composed by Alton Miller and narrated by
Rhoda Miller

Recognition of the current living church
members from the “walk across” to the new
church.

Recognition of former pastors present
James Burkholder – 1963
John and Thelma Kraybill – 1971

A Time for Stories

Congregational Singing and Praise – Alyssa
Green

Closing Prayer

Please continue a time of fellowship by going
to the downstairs to enjoy Anniversary Cake
and ice cream.

Note: Children activities are being provided
for children of all ages. - Igna Haglund