

SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 19, 2021

10:30 AM

FM 87.9

Focus: What amazing love is this that the Godhead comes down to us in the little clan of a little people and takes on a human face? With Mary, we rejoice in God, our Savior, by actively participating in God's leveling mercy.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come. Come as you are. Come with your needs, your doubts, your dreams, your hopes. Come, expecting God to meet us -- here and in the innermost longing of our souls. Watch. Wait. God is present in our worship!

Lighting of Advent Candle

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine

People: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.

Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, to restore us.

People: Imagine that... we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Time of Singing

Prayer of Confession

Leader: We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.

People: We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.

Leader: Teach us to love.

People: We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.

Leader: We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.

People: Reorient us to your vision of equality.

Leader: God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

Words of Assurance

All: Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. God has looked with favor on our lowliness. The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

Children's Hymn

Offertory Prayer

Special Christmas Video

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Scripture- *Luke 1:46-56 / Luke 2:1-7*

Message- *"Wow! My, My Goodness -- What Mercy!"*

Visual Song of Response

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z-ZfA1rgJs>

Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vw--yxcDNM>

Merry
Christmas

Worship Leader: N/A

Message: John Verburg

Accompanist: Dixie Otto

Sound Room: Don Green

Song Leader: Melinda Gibson

Video: Reuben Tice

Church Information: Phone: (814) 662-4201

Pastor: John Verburg

Office hours: Generally Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Cell phone: (256) 624-7252

Email: jlverb@hotmail.com

Secretary: Wendy Brenneman

Email: office@springsmc.org

Cell Phone: (814) 279-8637

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and otherwise by
appointment



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 song books 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 19- Diori Pattison, Marisa Perez, Nash Hoover

December 23- Fannie Beachy

December 25- Hunter Sines

Calendar of Events

December 24- Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 PM

January 2- Carol Singing Service

January 4- Daughters of Dorcas, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
Council Meeting, 7:00 PM

January 10- Worship/Music Committee

January 12- Elders' Meeting- 6:30 PM

January 21- Kids Night, 5:00-7:00 PM



Luke 1: 46-56

⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”
⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then
returned home.



Luke 2:1-7

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

A big "Thank You" is extended to the parents of the Junior Department age children who submitted video entries for our virtual Christmas program this morning. "Thank You" to all the children who were videoed and participated! "Thank You", Isaac Tice for all your work in taking the submissions and creating the final video.

Please consider sending Audrey a Christmas message.

Audrey Kinsinger
Cumberland HealthCare Center Room #223
512 Winifred Road
Cumberland, MD 21502
(240) 609-3682

A big thank you to Janet Bender and Rosie Cupler for all their hard work to make the church beautiful for Christmas.

We will be having a Christmas Carol Service on January 2, 2022. If you have a Christmas Carol you would like to sing please send your request to Phoebe.

Thank you Jeremy and Andi Hoover for making the cut outs for our outdoor manger scene.

Renee Jones is currently in UPMC Western Maryland. Please consider sending her an e-card. If you wish to do so, you can at the following: ecards.upmc.com, Room 613.

The Elders would like to resurrect the Mentor Program at the church in early 2022. If you would like to be a mentor please let an Elder know. We have several young individuals interested in having a mentor.

The office will be closed on Friday, December 24th. If you have any announcements for the bulletin, please have them in no later than Thursday, December 23rd.

<u>December 12, 2021 Totals</u>	
General Offering	\$1,672.00
Attendance	74

Two books have been added to our church library:

Turtle Heart; Unlikely Friends with a Life-Changing Bond by Lucinda Kinsinger demonstrates what happens when a young Mennonite befriends an ornery old Ojibwe woman and finds that old woman has more to teach her about God and humanity than she ever dreamed. The author lives in Garrett County, MD, and writes a column for *Anabaptist World*.

Once Removed by Andrew Unger is a novel from the author of *The Daily Bonnet*. It is an affectionate picture of small-town Mennonite life, replete with duty, irreverence and joy.

The Missions offering this year totaled \$7584.00 !! The offering will be sent on to these missions groups:

\$1000.00	Somerset Co Mobile Food Bank
\$1000.00	Garrett Co Food Bank
\$1000.00	Somerset Co Food Pantry
\$2750.40	Mennonite Central Committee (60% of remaining)
\$1833.60	Mennonite Disaster Service (40% of remaining)

We will be having an outdoor Christmas Eve Service back of the church on Saturday, December 24th starting at 5:00 PM. There will be a live nativity as well as congregational singing.

Christmas Cards for Goodwill residents: Once again, we are collecting Christmas cards to be delivered to Goodwill residents. A basket has been placed in the church foyer for your cards. Thank you!

Springs Mennonite Church Vision Statement

We, the Springs congregation, have been changed by Jesus Christ. Saved by His love and forgiveness, we are empowered to carry forth His ministry through obedience, teaching, service, and healing. Reaching out to all people, by faith we journey together praying, worshiping, and making disciples. By our living in the Spirit, we reflect His love, joy, hope, and peace.

Elder's Meeting

12/14/2021

Attending: Pastor John, Don Green, Ken Detrick, Julia Tice, Deb Brenneman, and Sherry Abel.

1. Don gave the devotional from his Sunday school material, and then opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Discussion on Mentors: A message regarding Mentors will be placed in an upcoming bulletin. Plans are to resurrect the mentor program for our church young people in early 2022.
3. Christmas Eve Service will be held outside, back of the church.
4. Ken attended the Worship Committee meeting on Monday, December 13th, and stated that they are very organized and are doing a great job.
5. Deb stated that 38 poinsettias were delivered by her and Bob, Becki and Ron Peck, and Carolyn and Enos Tice.
6. The Progressive Dinner was successful; everyone had a good time.
7. Discussion about the Lipscomb family donation to the church:
 - a. Sunday school classes, as well as the funds from the Lipscomb family are helping several individuals.
8. Don stated that there was a good response from the attendance/inclusion surveys that were distributed.
9. People in need of prayer were discussed.
10. The meeting ended with each Elder and the Pastor praying for all the needs that were discussed in the meeting.

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REASON