

# SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 5, 2021

10:30 AM

FM 87.9

**Focus:** *Imagine the wideness of God's embrace of all creatures and creation! It will widen our hearts to do the things that make for peace.*

## Welcome

## Call to Worship

In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes. God comes close, open-armed. We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly. God's embrace is wide. A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord," and God pulls the cries close. God is already here.

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: We light a candle of peace. And we imagine:

**People:** God's tender mercy, God's compassion.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to feel God's embrace, God's nearness, God's breath.

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

## Opening Songs

### Confession

We willingly silence our many thoughts, and bow our heads, as we bring ourselves into the forgiving embrace of God's presence. (*silence*)

**Leader:** God, we begin these moments of confession by imagining your beauty and goodness. In silence, we ask you to hold us in peace. (*silence*)

**Leader:** Held in your strength, we give to you the noise, the conflict, and the irritations that occupy and zap us of energy we need for other thoughts and tasks. (*silence*)

**Leader:** Confident because your arms hold us close, we dare to imagine freedom from sin. We are ready to step into the crooked and uneven world in which we live, knowing your hand will guide us. (*silence*)

## Assurance

**Leader:** I invite you now to imagine the support of God's hands as you rise to your feet physically or in spirit. Hear now God's words of assurance and peace: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (*Luke 1:78-79*)

## Offertory Prayer

## Children's Time

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Affirming Jeff and Michelle Maust's Decision to Join the Church

### Scripture- *Luke 1:68-79*

<sup>68</sup> "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.  
<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn<sup>[a]</sup> of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David  
<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—  
<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear  
<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
<sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

**Message-** *"Break out the Band—God's Plan is coming!"*

### Visual Song of Response

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ4JA3YZCj0>

### Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6jKhNAtvVk>

**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](mailto:jlverb@hotmail.com)

**Secretary: Wendy Brenneman**

**Email:** [office@springsmc.org](mailto: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 6-** Shari Beitzel

**December 7-** Norma Jean Doyle

**December 10-** Mary Lou Jordan, Justin Livengood,  
Noel Livengood

**December 11-** Tammy Miller, Bob Brenneman

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**December 11-** Scott & Betty Kinsinger

### **Calendar of Events**

**December 7-** Council Meeting, 7:00 PM

**December 8-** Daughters of Dorcas, 9:30-3:30 PM

**December 11-** Progressive Dinner, 3:00 PM

**December 13-** Music/Worship Committee Meeting

**December 14-** Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM

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

dare to imagine

God's  
Embrace



The Daughters of Dorcas would like to let everyone know that there is an abundance of Rada cutlery available for sale...they would make great Christmas gifts and are a great product to use in your kitchen... the items will be available for purchasing on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm when the ladies meet to quilt, knot comforters, sew, iron and other jobs that need done...just stop by the Church, come to the sewing room, and check out what we have... we thank you in advance!

Osheta Moore's *Dear White Peacemakers* has been added to our church library. This book will help readers to feel more equipped to seek shalom and healing in our racially torn world.

*Progressive dinner is Saturday, December 11 starting at 3. Those who are participating: Be at your first stop at 3 or be at the church at 2:30. If you did not get your agenda, check your mailbox.*

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

*We are inviting children to participate in worship through pre-recorded videos on December 19th. If you haven't received a part and your child wants to join us, contact Carolyn Tice immediately.*

Thank you, Jane Benson, for providing the candles for the advent wreath.

#### *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.*

<u>November 28, 2021 Totals</u>	
General Offering	\$6,477.00
Attendance	64

THROUGH THE  
*heartfelt mercies*  
OF OUR GOD, GOD'S SUNRISE WILL  
BREAK IN UPON US, *shining*  
ON THOSE IN THE DARKNESS,  
THOSE SITTING IN THE SHADOW OF  
DEATH, THEN SHOWING US THE  
WAY, *one foot at a time,*  
DOWN THE  
*path of peace.*  
-LUKE 1:76-78-

**Worship Leader:** Jeff Maust  
**Message:** John Verburg  
**Accompanist:** Byron Miller  
**Sound Room:** Ryan Critchfield  
**Song Leader:** Ron Beitzel  
**Video:** Reuben Tice