

# SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 18, 2022

10:30 AM

FM 87.9

*Focus: God has promised to restore us and has acted in Jesus to further God's plan of restoration. Because of God's promise, we can act by asking for what we need and by stepping out in faith.*

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

Leader: Behold! Do not be afraid; God is with us. God is our strength and our salvation!

**People: Lord, we stand in your presence in faith, not fear.**

Leader: God will send angels to keep watch over you, to comfort you, to keep you.

All: *Praise ye the Lord!*

### Candle Lighting

Leader: We cry out for restoration, we call upon God to give us life.

**People: Do not be afraid, says the Lord. I have promised to be with you.**

### Song of Advent

### Children's Story

### Offering Prayer

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

### Congregational Singing

### Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Scripture- *Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:18-25*

Message- *"He is Born"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1H1-scfD1s>

### Benediction

### Song of Sending

### Isaiah 7:14

*14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.*

### Matthew 1:18-25

*18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>(w)</sup>: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>(w)</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>(w)</sup> because he will save his people from their sins."*

*22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>(w)</sup> (which means "God with us").*

*24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

**Message:** John Verburg

**Worship Leader:** Kim Miller

**Accompanist:** Worship Team

**Worship Planners:** Glenn & Tammy Miller

**Sound Room:** Don Green

**Song Leader:** Worship Team

**Video:** Reuben Tice

**Live Stream:** Isaac Tice

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**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) 579-1774

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

**Elders:**

Don Green (Chair)- (814) 521-5709

Deb Brenneman- (814) 662-2946

Rosie Cupler- (301) 697-1772

Ken Detrick- (814) 662-2692

Ed Hoover- (814) 521-7128



**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-** Nash Hoover, Diori Pattison, Marisa Perez

**December 22-** John George

**December 23-** Fannie Beachy

**December 11, 2022 Offering Total**

**General Offering**      \$5,625.00

**Attendance**              100

**Who can we serve?**

**How can we serve?**



# A Prayer for Love

Holy Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, your greatest gift of love to your people. Fill my heart with such love, opening my heart to accept your great love for me. Overflow my heart with your love, so I may pour it out into the world. Help me to love others as you've loved me – even those who aren't so easy to love. For following you means loving others as you love me. Lord, thank you for your great gift of Jesus as we celebrate Christmas. May I ever walk in your love and show the world I am your disciple by the love I show to others, keeping Jesus, your Son, close in my heart. Amen.

## Calendar of Events

**TODAY-** Dress Rehearsal Children's Program, After Church  
Children's Christmas Program, 6:30 PM

**December 19-** Cookie Swap, 5:30 PM

**December 21-** Daughters of Dorcas, 9:30-3:30 PM

**December 24-** Christmas Eve Service, time TBD

**January 3-** Council Meeting, 7:00 PM

**January 8-** Easter Egg Hunt Planning Meeting, 6:00 PM

**January 9-** Worship/Music Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM

**January 10-** Elders Meeting, 6:30 PM

*Thank you all for the cards and best wishes this Christmas season.  
-John & Faith Verborg*

Rick Critchfield has agreed to serve on the Gifts Discernment Committee for a three-year term. Congregational affirmation will be sought on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. -The Elders

**There will be an ice-skating trip for the kids/youth on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM at Grantsville Park. For more information, please contact Michelle Maust. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer for all those who are interested in attending.**

*We are planning a Celebration of Life for my mother (Alvina Livengood) for Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> here at the church. The time of service will be 11 AM with a meal to follow. We are hoping people will stay and visit following the meal. If you think you will be able to attend the service, please contact us at our home phone at (814) 662-2458 and leave a message or contact me directly at (301) 707-7173. This will help us to plan for the meal. Thank you, Terry*

**We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Don Tressler who passed away on Saturday, December 10.**



**Please do not bring open containers of liquid into the sanctuary. Closed lid containers only. Thank you!**

### **Advent 'Figures' Visual**

**Our Advent –Epiphany theme this year is 'Restoration is near.' "Restoration happens in our bodies when we heal. Restoration happens when our communities handle conflict well and promote justice. Restoration can happen in relationships between people; it can happen between us and God. Jesus himself was restored in the resurrection. Our world longs for restoration, and God acts to bring it about."\* Our changing visual in the front of the sanctuary represents the restoration of relationships.** \*Leader, Fall 2022, Vol.20, No. 1, Menno Media, p. 37.

The Daughters of Dorcas (quilting, making comforters, sewing, ironing, and cutting material group) has a wide variety of RADA CUTLERY for sale (steak knives, super parers, granny forks, peelers, serrated bread slicers, heavy duty paring, pizza cutter, grapefruit knife, handi-stir, tomato slicer, server spoon & food chopper) These items make excellent gifts and will be available every Wednesday from 10:00am-3:00pm in the sewing room. Come and see what we have! Christmas is just around the corner!

### **Significant Items Church Council Meeting December 6, 2022**

1. The first quarter financial reports were presented to the Council for review.
2. Enos & Carolyn Tice will be working with the SOOP Program beginning in early 2023.
3. Don Green will meet with the Gifts Discernment Committee early in January to begin their work for the coming year.
4. John & Faith will be doing some travelling in January to visit family.
5. Michelle Maust is making plans for a Jr. Dept. Sunday school field trip -- perhaps to go ice skating.

### **Significant Items Elders Meeting December 13, 2022**

Those in attendance: John Verburg, Don Green, Ken Detrick, Ed Hoover, Rosie Cupler, and Deb Brenneman

Devotions were led by Don Green based on Psalm 25:4, noting the importance of coming before God in a quiet state, willing to wait and listen.

Approval of November minutes was given.

1. Pastor and Elders discussed concerns within the church and community and how they are being addressed. Pastor gave the Elders two articles to read and consider.
2. Rick Critchfield has agreed to serve a 3-year term on the Gift Discernment Committee. This will be noted in the bulletin and congregational approval will be sought.
3. The many holiday activities were discussed. On January 1, 2023, we will return to regular Sunday school and Church times.
4. John will be gone December 25- January 1.

Meeting closed with prayer for church and community.  
Next meeting Tuesday, January 10, at 6:30 P.M.

**Our Christmas Eve service has been moved indoors due to the projected cold temperatures that evening. We have not yet confirmed the time for the service but should be able to as soon as possible.**

**There will be an Easter Egg Hunt planning meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for this year's hunt. Please plan to attend if you are interested in helping.**

*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.*