

# SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 1, 2024

10:30 AM

*Together on the Journey*

## Between a Rock and a Hard place

How Do We Continue On?

“As we journey through life, we inevitably encounter situations where the way forward seems blocked. In these times of trouble, we long to be able to patiently trust and obey God, no matter the risks. This depth of faith grows from daily seeking God’s wisdom and choosing God’s ways as we learn to rely on God.”

*Leader magazine, Fall 2024, Menno Media, p.37.*

### Welcome

### Call to Worship/Advent Candle Lighting

*Reader 1:* When we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place, we may ask how to continue on.

*Reader 2:* When Daniel’s persistent prayers brought him between opposing laws of the land and the mouths of hungry lions in a stone-covered den, despite the risk, he chose to trust God.

*Reader 1:* When Jesus found himself faced with persecution and false accusations, he chose forgiveness over self-defense.

**All: Our path may meander through rocky situations, but we will hold Christ as our center as we journey together.**

### Congregational Singing

### Affirmation of Faith

*Leader:* Responding to the call of the living God,

**People: our rescuer and Savior,**

*Leader:* we welcome the Holy Spirit’s presence,

**People: among and within us.**

*Leader:* In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord,

**All: we offer ourselves in worship.**

### Offertory Prayer

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

### Children Time

### Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

**Scripture-** Daniel 6: 6-27; Luke 23: 1-5

**Message-** “Between a Rock and a Hard place”

### Song of Response

### Benediction

### Sending Song

**Message:** Dwight Kipp

**Worship Leader:** Angie Piwonka

**Worship Planners:** Bill Mosholder & Angie Piwonka

**Advent Candle Lighting:** Jerry & Sherry Abel

**Children Time:** Carolyn Tice

**Accompanist:** Byron Miller

**Song Leader:** Jane Benson

**Sound Room:** Ryan Critchfield

**Video:** Reuben Tice

**Live Stream:** Isaac Tice

**Volume 70-No. 14**

*Advent Visuals:* The purple cloth represents the path we walk as we travel together toward a deeper understanding of faith that draws us closer to God. The rock represents times when we face challenges and discouragement, are ‘between a rock and a hard place,’ and must rely on God’s guiding hand.

### **Bring some Christmas cheer to someone at Goodwill Home!**

A basket has been placed in the foyer if you would like to send a card. The cards will be delivered before Christmas. (Church member residents are Fannie Beachy, Mabel Beiler, Shirley Brandes, and Gary Miller.)

**Church Information: Phone:** (814) 662-4201

**Secretary:** Sherry Abel

**Office hours:** Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Email:** office@springsmc.org

<b>Elders</b>	
Don Green (Chair)	(814) 521-5709
Sherry Abel	(814) 233-0510
Rosie Cupler	(301) 697-1772
Ken Detrick	(814) 662-2692
Ed Hoover	(814) 521-7128

**November 24, 2024, Offering Total**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$5,026.00</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>94</b>

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**December 3 – Doug Otto**  
**4 – Matthew Green**  
**6 – Shari Beitzel**  
**7 – Norma Jean Doyle**



**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.

**First Sunday of Advent**



The first candle of Advent is called

**“Hope” or “Prophet’s Candle,”**

symbolizing the anticipated coming of the Messiah and the hope He brings to the world.

In the Old Testament, multiple prophets told people about the Messiah’s coming.

## Calendar of Events

- December**
- 3** - Church Council – 7:00 p.m.
  - 4** - Daughters of Dorcas 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  - 5** - CRAM-A-VAN toys drop off at Salisbury-Elk Lick High School from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - 8** - After Church—Dress Rehearsal for the Children’s Christmas Program—(lunch will be provided for participants and their families).
  - 9** - Worship Committee Mtg 6:00 p.m.
  - 14** - Progressive Dinner
  - 15** - Children’s Program during Church Service
  - 15** - Last day to sign up for **Winterville at Laurelville**, January 17-19 for Students grades 2 – 8
  - 18** – Elders’ Meeting 6:30 p.m.
  - 24** - Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

### **SIGNIFICANT ITEMS Elders Meeting November 20, 2024**

1. Don started the meeting with a devotional from *Our Daily Bread* and with prayer.
2. A person is needed to fill Jeff Maust’s vacancy on the Worship Committee.
3. Planning is in progress for upcoming speakers for January and February.
4. Plans for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anabaptism are being made by the committee: Enos and Carolyn Tice, Ben Yoder, Rich Yoder, Phoebe Wiley, and Sherry Abel.
5. The meeting ended with prayers for individuals, the church, and the Search Committee.



Would you like a devotional for the season of Advent?  
*The Holy in the Night: Finding Freedom in a Season of Waiting and Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women Who Prepared the Way* are both available in our church library.

**Join the Global Anabaptist Bible Read-a-thon!**  
This is your opportunity to take part in a once-every-500-year moment of unity and faith! MennoMedia’s Anabaptism at 500 is collaborating with Mennonite World Conference in this extraordinary event as 500 voices will join together to read through the entire Bible – from Genesis to Revelation – in multiple languages. Register here: <https://anabaptismat500.com/global-anabaptist-bible-read-a-thon/>.

**Sunday School Class #6**  
is starting a new study based on *Sacred Parenting, How Raising Children Shapes our Souls* by Gary Thomas. Why not join us at 9:30 a.m. in the only classroom with couches?! We welcome parents of young children, teenagers, or grandparents. “You’ll be encouraged by stories that tell how other parents handled the challenges and difficulties of being a parent – and how their children transformed their relationship with God.”

Richard Rembold’s hospital address to send a card:  
UPMC  
200 Lothrop Street – Floor 12D Room 1249  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

We received thank yous, and thank you cards from Charles & Linda Hetz, and Richard & Gladys Wisseman. The cards are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.