

SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 8, 2024

10:30 AM

Together on the Journey

Opening Hearts

What Do We Ask For?

“God generously pours out the Holy Spirit on all who are humble and seek God’s ways. By keeping our eyes on God as we journey, despite the turmoil around us, we open the door for the following movement of God’s Spirit.”

Leader magazine, Fall 2024, Menno Media, p.39.

Welcome

Call to Worship/Advent Candle Lighting

Reader 1: We know God to be merciful and compassionate,

Reader 2: patient and full of faithful love,

Reader 1: ready to forgive.

Reader 2: Created in God’s image, we yearn to reflect these same attributes in our hearts and lives.

(Candlelighting)

All: We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, to become more like our loving God.

Congregational Singing

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

People: With our whole heart?

Leader: The hurting and hurtful part?

The bleeding and empty part?

People: The sewn-up-tight-don’t-come-in heart part?

All: With our whole heart, with all our hearts we come to worship the Lord God,

Leader: whose merciful compassion, abundant patience, and faithful forgiving love meet us in our need.

Offertory Prayer

Children will collect coins for My Coins Count

Children Time

Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Message-

-Bill Gavin

Song of Response

Benediction

Sending Song

Message: Bill Gavin

Worship Leaders: Glenn & Tammy Miller

Worship Planners: Glenn & Tammy Miller

Advent Candle Lighting: Ron & Becki Peck

Children’s Time: Beth Green

Accompanist: Dixie Otto

Song Leader: Melinda Gibson

Sound Room: Noel Livengood

Video: Reuben Tice

Live Stream: Isaac Tice

Volume 70-No. 15

Advent Visuals: Our journey’s purple path leads to a heart. We are called to open our hearts and re-turn to the Lord. Once our hearts are opened and cleansed of debris and extra baggage, the Holy Spirit is waiting to be invited to fill *all* the spaces of our hearts with the loving nature of God. We can ask for the gifts we know we need—maybe slowness to anger, abundance of love, compassion for everyone. Don’t be surprised to receive *more* than asked for because God knows what we need more than we do. *Leader p. 40.*

We welcome Bill Gavin this morning. He is the regional Director of Development and Outreach for **Mary’s Meals**. He has served for the last 25 years in youth ministry, religious education and formation, and service to the poor. Bill is originally from Northern Virginia where he did ministry for 18 years, and then was in ministry in Vermont for six years prior to arriving in Ohio 3 ½ years ago. He is married with five children, and today is his 25th wedding anniversary.

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


Sherry will not be in the office on Friday, December 13th,

Elders	
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

<u>December 1, 2024, Offering Total</u>	
General Fund	\$4,922.70
Attendance	74

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
December 10 – Mary Lou Jordan, Justin Livengood, Noel Livengood
11 – Bob Brenneman, Tammy Miller
14 – Sharon Livengood, Holly Clark

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
December 11 – Scott & Betty Kinsinger

 **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.



The second candle of Advent is called
“Peace” “The Bethlehem Candle”

One of the prophecies about Jesus calls him “the Prince of Peace.” When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they ended their message by saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:14).

Welcome – Bill Gavin

Cookie Swap – Flyer is in your mailbox and copies are on the credence stand in the foyer of the church.

Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 Church Basement

Bring at least 3 dozen of one kind of cookie or sweet and go home with 2 dozen assorted cookies and sweets. The extra dozens will be shared with local shut-ins, the sick, or anyone you think may enjoy a Christmas treat!

**The Bus Trip for August 16th is on!
For Sight and Sound, NOAH.**

We have sent the deposit.

We have the bus ½ full, if you would like to go, please complete the form that is on the credence stand in the church foyer and place it in Sherry Abel's mailbox or send an e-mail to the church office.

**CHURCH COUNCIL
SIGNIFICANT ITEMS**

December 3, 2024

1. Melinda presented the treasurer's report which included financial statements for November and the first quarter of the church year. The MDS portion of the Missions Offering will be designated for wherever it is needed most.
2. Council brainstormed for ideas of how to improve traffic patterns during the Thanksgiving meal.
3. The folding machine in the church office needs to be repaired or replaced.
4. The trustees are considering a concrete pad for the dumpster. Heating system repairs are being made.
5. The Pastor Search Committee is working with the Conference Minister to plan their next steps.
6. Council agreed that there should be a separate committee to make the revisions to the Plan of Organization, and that we should ask for individual committee input to get things started.

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.)

Calendar of Events

Today - After Church—Dress Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program—(lunch will be provided for participants and their families).

December 9 - Worship Committee Mtg 6:00 p.m.

11 - Daughters of Dorcas 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 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

17 - Cookie Swap – 5:30 p.m.

18 - Elders' Meeting 6:30 p.m.

24 - Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Gary Bowser, Richard Brenneman, Ron Brenneman,
Ann Critchfield, Diana Detrick, Kathy Durst, Marty Durst,
Andrea Hoover, Carson Hutzell, James Hutzell,
Janice Jackson, Renee Jones, Mary Lou Jordan, Dwight Kipp,
Deb Kolb, Ron McAmis, Michael & Beth & Lainey Miller,
Richard Rembold, Bobby Smith, Faith Verburg, Gary Warnick,
Tom White, Fay Yoder

THOSE IN MISSIONS

Naomi Tice –Bammental, Germany
Phoebe Wiley – Prison Ministry

**NURSING HOMES, REHAB CENTERS, &
ASSISTED LIVING**

Fannie Beachy, Mabel Beiler, Shirley Brandes, Lisa Durst Frye,
Gary Miller