



SPRINGS MENNONITE CHURCH

December 21, 2025



Watching and Waiting

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit’s guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

All: We listen faithfully for the voice of Truth.

Leader: Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

All: We listen faithfully for the surprising Word of God.

Leader: For generations, God has sent signs of God’s coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

All: We listen faithfully for the unexpected Word of God.

Leader: Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

All: Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully to the Word in our midst.

Lighting of Peace Lamp

Opening songs “O Come, Little Children”
“The Friendly Beasts”
“Away in a Manager”
“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

First Reading Psalms 80:1-7; 17-19

Lighting of Advent Candles

Leader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that people could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear and judgment to the world around us.

Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Engaging Community

Announcements & Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Call of the Gospel

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Song “There’s a Song in the Air”

Offertory Prayer

Children will collect coins for My Coins Count

Gospel Time

Digging Deeper

Third Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

Message

Song of response “Helpless and Hungry” STS 26

Going Out into the World

Benediction

Sending Song “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Worship Planner: Wes Bergen

Worship Leader: Wes Bergen

Candle Lighting: Gary Brant & Madden Marks

Accompanist: Byron Miller

Song Leaders: Worship Team

Sound Room: Noel Livengood

Video: Reuben Tice

Live Stream: Isaac Tice

Volume 71-No. 16

Church Information

Phone: (814) 662-4201

Pastor: Wes Bergen (681) 209-2029

Office hours: Winter Hours – days will vary.

Email: wes@springsmc.org

Church Administrator: Sherry Abel (814) 233-0510

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

Email: office@springsmc.org

Elders:

Don Green (Chair) (814) 521-5709

Sherry Abel (814) 233-0510

Doug Berg (814) 442-4313

Rosie Cupler (301) 697-1772

Terry Livengood (301) 707-7173

December 14, 2025, Attendance and Offering

Offering: \$4,639.00

Attendance: 82

On-Line Giving is available @ <https://app.tithely.com/login>

Happy Birthdays

December 22 – John George

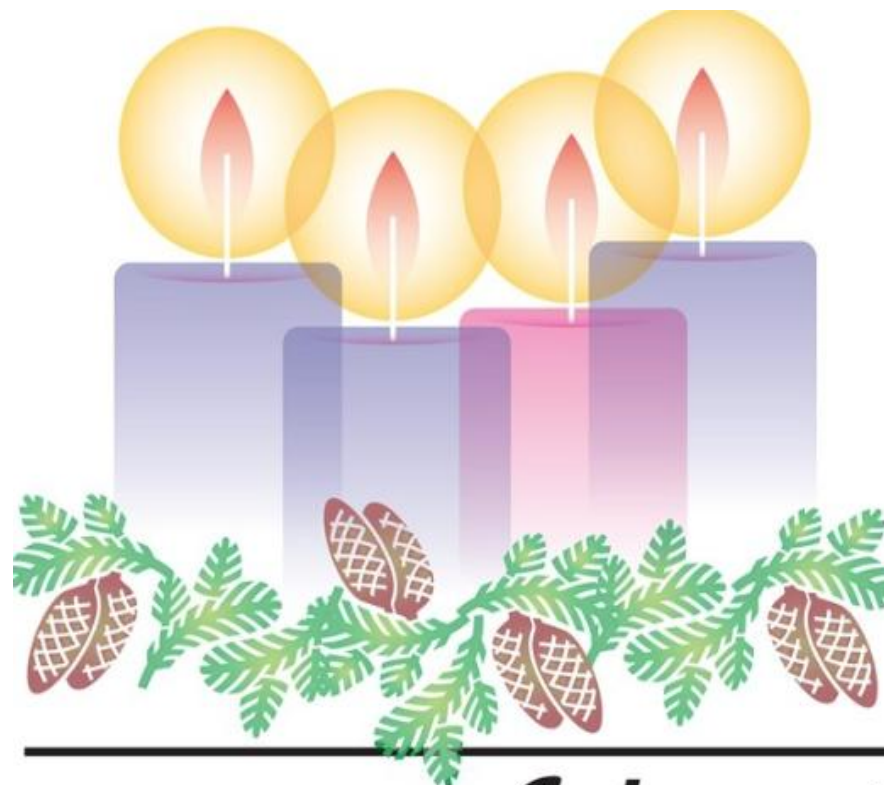
25 – Hunter Sines



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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Watching
and
Waiting**

Please have bulletin items in by Tuesday morning (December 23rd). Sherry needs to leave at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 23rd, and will be off December 24th and 25th.



Council has had a request from the Gifts Discernment Committee to allow for non-members to serve in some positions when slots cannot be filled with members as required by our Bylaws. Enos and Isaac Tice worked on an amendment that would allow this until the Bylaws can be revised, and Council revised the proposed amendment as follows. The congregation will be asked for affirmation on January 11, 2026.

Article X. GRANTING EXCEPTIONS FOR POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

The following exceptions are being granted through fiscal year 2026-2027 to allow time for the Plan of Organization of the Springs Mennonite Church to be updated.

- A) From time to time the Gifts Discernment Committee, Church Council, or Elders may find it difficult to fill positions that require church membership. When that occurs, and non-members considered to be good candidates for the needed position(s) have been identified, the Gifts Discernment Committee may request the Elders or Council, as appropriate, to grant an exception. Church Council and the Elders can decide if an exception is appropriate for any positions they need to fill.
- B) In some cases, the position to be filled no longer seems to be needed. Elders can grant the exception for not filling positions they or the Gifts Discernment Committee fill and Church Council can grant that exception for positions they fill.

The Elders, Council, and the Gifts Discernment Committee are all agreed to try this process.

Today – Children’s Church

Tonight - The Longest Night Service – 7:00 p.m.

****Daughters of Dorcas will not meet on Christmas Eve****

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

December 31 – Daughters of Dorcas - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

January 5 – Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.– Looking at the letters of John, Peter, & Jude

January 6 – Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

January 12 – Worship Committee – 6:00 p.m.

January 12 – Bible Study - 7:00 p.m. - Revelation

Missions Offering Totals:

\$1,000.00 Somerset Mobile Food Pantry
\$1,000.00 Garrett Co Dept of Aging
\$1,000.00 Casselman Valley Helpers
\$2,339.60 Mennonite Disaster Service – Casselman Valley
\$2,159.40 Mennonite Central Committee
Total: \$7,499.00

Some specific donations were given for MDS – Casselman Valley and were added into the Missions offering totals.