**(Large Print)**

**Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)**

7300 Spout Hill Road, Sykesville, MD 21784 410-795-6152



**December 23, 2018 - 10:30 am**

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We're glad you are here! Cards at the ends of each pew are for you to fill out and drop in the Offering Plate. Please let us know you are visiting, and join us for refreshments and fellowship following the service. The Sanctuary has an induction loop system to assist the hearing impaired. The system will also work on the telephone setting of hearing aids.

Springfield Presbyterian Church is rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, and called to loving relationships through vibrant worship and service. Valuing all people, we are committed to developing disciples and fostering stewardship.

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD**

(**\*** those who are able are invited to stand)

***Please prepare for worship by listening to the music of the Prelude.***

**PRELUDE** *O Little Town Medley* arr. by D. Clydesdale

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** (Greeting)

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**Advent Reading - Week 4** *Love* [Psalm 89:1]

The fulfilment of God’s promises were ultimately to be displayed in a kingdom founded on love: “I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.” [H. Ernest Nichol, 1896]

**Lighting of the Candle**

The darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright; and Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

**Congregation joins choir in singing:** *Light the Candle*

Light the candle of LOVE today, the Giver of love is here!

Welcome the love we live and die for, but only Christ can give.

Flicker and flame and glow - with love, light up the world around you.

Flicker and flame and glow - with love, light up the world around you.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God came near,

**People: So that hope could be seen in unexpected places.**

Leader: God came near,

**People: So peace would take on a whole new meaning.**

Leader: God came near,

**People: So our joy would be complete.**

Leader: God came near,

**People: So love would reign.**

Leader: For in Christ’s coming,

**People: We abide in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**ALL: Let us praise our God!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous God, in our cynicism, we claim that hope is a false reality. In the hectic lives we lead, we no longer sense peace. In the daunting responsibilities of the season, we lose sight of joy. In our own pain, we forget that in Christ, you brought us unconditional love. Forgive us, O God, and realign our hearts to feel hope, peace, joy, and love in a new and brilliant way this Christmas. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: In this Advent season, we remember that Christ has come to offer us great hope, peace, joy, and love. In Christ’s coming and our repentance, we are made new again!

**People: We rejoice in God’s forgiveness, offered as God’s holy gift to us. Praise be to God!**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

“For this I pray to God.” / “For this I give thanks to God.”

**Congregational Response: “Hear our prayer, O God.”**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Springfield Choir and Youth

Music and Arrangements by Tom Fettke & Narration by Max Lucado

Musical Selections:

*God Came Near: Overture*

*Advent Celebration*

*Nothing Is Impossible with God*

*On This Holy Night*

*The Night Was Ordinary No More*

*A Child and Yet a King*

*Magi from the East*

*The Christmas Gifts*

*Light and Life*

**OFFERING**

Offering Plates can be found in the Narthex and we greatly appreciate any gift you may offer to show forth hope, peace, joy, and love in Christ to our community and to our world.

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* UNISON AMEN**

**POSTLUDE** *Hallelujah Chorus*  by Handel

Congregation Sing-Along

**Sunday December 30 Lectionary**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

**Assisting in Worship:** We appreciate those who serve:

Today 12/23 Christmas Eve 12/24

Sunday Opener Sandy Newsome Jennifer Wise

Greeters & Ushers Jim & Mary Steve & Donna

Rhodes Mazer (8:00 pm)

Lay Leader Christmas Pageant Charlie Sperling (5:30 pm)

Linda Black (8:00 pm)

Sunday School Christmas Pageant N/A

Fellowship Leah & Natalie Halvorson N/A

**Christmas Eve Communion Servers:**

**5:30 pm Service 8:00 pm Service**

1. Diana Steppling 1. Don Vasbinder 6. Sharon Pappas

2. Bob Steppling 2. Jim Wise 7. Barbara Nickell

3. Connie Robinson 3. Sue Holmes 8. Ed Newsome

4. Charlie Sperling 4. Diana Steppling 9. Linda Black

5. Bob Rogers

**Church Attendance:** December 9 - 51 December 16 - 40

Concert - 22

**Church Cleaning:** Dec. 28, 29 or 30 - Jim & Mary Rhodes

**Happy Anniversary!** December 27 - Leah & Jeff Halvorson

**Happy Birthday!** December 31 - Lindsey Mazer

**Announcements**

**Christmas Joy Offering:** This offering goes to [the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions](http://www.pensions.org/PlansAndPrograms/AssistanceProgram/Pages/default.aspx) for clergy and church workers; [Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racial-equity-womens-intercultural-ministries/leadership-development-leaders-color/schools-colleges-equipping-communities-of-color/); and [Leadership Development for People of Color](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racial-equity-womens-intercultural-ministries/leadership-development-leaders-color/). Please help support our leaders around the globe - past, present, and future. Write “Christmas Joy” on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

**SERRV Sale: TODAY** after Worship, once again the Mission Committee has arranged for a consignment SERRV sale. Shop SERRV's unique, handcrafted, fair trade items from around the world. Fill your home and kitchen with authentic decor, handmade dishware and stunning handcrafted baskets. Adorn yourself with gorgeous fair trade jewelry, scarves and bags. Indulge in delicious chocolate and fair trade gourmet coffee. Give special fair trade gifts that will impact so many lives. Items sold through SERRV will help to fight poverty and build the communities of impoverished artisans and farmers. These artisans and farmers live in challenging circumstances and work diligently to provide for themselves and their families.

**Newsletter Deadline:** The deadline for submission of information for the January newsletter is **TODAY.** Please submit your info to [spc.office@verizon.net](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net).

**2019 Sunday School:** New beginnings! Starting in January, 2019, Sunday School will begin after the sermon. Stay tuned for further information…

**Weekly Announcements:** If you have an announcement to include with next week’s bulletin, please call the Office at 410-795-6152 or email to [spc.office@verizon.net](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net) by **Wednesday** each week.

**Prayers & Thanksgivings**

~ Prayers of comfort for Belle Vasbinder and her family on the sudden loss of her sister, Janet Sevits, on December 14. The graveside service is planned for December 27 in Somerset, PA, and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

~ Prayers for *Mt. Hebron Presbyterian* from our Ministry Group.

***The Congregational Care team wants to know what YOU or someone you know needs...****a visit...a call...a meal. Please contact Diana Steppling or Connie Robinson.*

***Today:***

**Sunday December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Christmas Pageant

***This Week:***

**Monday December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service

8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

11:00 pm Contemplative Christmas Eve Service

**Wednesday December 26**

No Choir Practices

***Looking Ahead:***

**Sunday December 30**

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

11:30 am Fellowship

**Wednesday January 2**

6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

7:45 pm Adult Choir Practice

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Springfield Presbyterian Church**

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

11:30 am Fellowship

**Website:** [*www.springfield-church.org*](http://www.springfield-church.org)**Church Office**: 410-795-6152

**Like us on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/SpringfieldPresbyterianChurch

**Pastor:** Rev. Becca Crate

**Email:** springfieldpastor@gmail.com

**Clerk of Session:** Sharon Pappas

**Minister of Music:** Linda Caviglia

**Accompanist:** Aaron Thacker **Organist:** Jennifer Wise

**Youth Group Coordinators:** Charles & Deb Sperling

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Connie Robinson

**Administrative Assistant:**Donna Mazer

**e-mail:**[*spc.office@verizon.net*](mailto:spc.office@verizon.net)