



CrossRoads

Springfield Presbyterian Church

December 2018

Advent at Springfield Church



Hope • Joy • Peace • Love

● Christmas Carolling
Nov 25 @ SPC at 11:30am

● Shelter Party
Dec 15
Meet @ SPC at Noon

● Blue Christmas
Dec 21 @ SPC at 7pm

● Advent Craft Fair
Dec 2 @ SPC at 11:30am

● Christmas Play
Dec 23 @ SPC at 10:30am

● Christmas Eve
5:30pm Family Service
8:00pm Traditional Service
11pm Contemplative Service

* Special Youth-Only Events *
6-12th grades

- Community in Action (C.I.A.) @ SPC - 4:30-6pm - Dec 10 & 17
- Symphony of Lights - Meet @ SPC @ 7pm - Nov 29

7300 Spout Hill Road | Sykesville | Maryland | 21784 | springfieldchurchmd.org | (410) 795 - 6152

5:30 pm Service

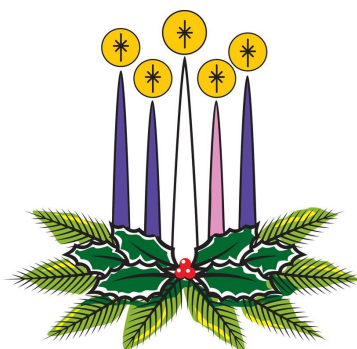
Featuring Red Sea Parting, with candlelight and Communion

8:00 pm Service

Featuring the Bell Choir, with candlelight and Communion. Prelude begins at 7:40 pm

11:00 pm

Contemplative Service



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

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Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace to you, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Romans 12:15

From department stores, to Christmas tree farms, to lights on houses and wreaths on doors, there is no doubt that we are in the season of Advent, marching forth towards Christmas. This Advent season, the carols are often sung merrily and joy warms the air even despite the depths of cold air and sweeping winds. Yet, what if you are not feeling cheerful? What if you do not want to join in the song, the carol, and yuletide banter?

You might just find that you are not alone. This season, for the first time at Springfield, we are offering a 'Blue Christmas' service, which is on **December 21st**. It is also called 'The Longest Night' service, as it is the darkest day of the year. Perhaps you think that you need particular qualifications to come to such a service – a tremendous loss, a deep sadness, a tangible pain. You may be relieved to know that there are no such parameters – even the happiest person in the congregation is welcome to this service. This service recognizes all of us, each human, as people who experience great joys as well as deep depressions. Perhaps you are happy this season, but this service is still useful for you – as you can come on behalf of someone else in your life who is suffering and learn how best to support them and encourage them. All are welcome to this service.

What might this service look like? It is a time to gather together as community, to remember and light candles, to recognize that even in our sadness, we recognize Emmanuel – God with us. The best way to understand this service is to come and join, to bring a family member or a friend. If you have questions, concerns, or would like to see the liturgy of the service, I am happy to sit down with you and share it with you, so you can better grasp this 'new thing' that is happening at Springfield.

Whether this season finds you joyful, sad, glad, numb, or any of the other feelings that can be tied to such a season – know that you are welcome here at Springfield to find respite, peace, and renewal in this family of love.

In Christ,
Pastor Becca

Session News

From Sharon Pappas - Clerk of Session



At Thanksgiving, thoughts went to remembering friends, family and our many blessings. On All Saints Day we gave thanks and remembered loved ones no longer with us. Our vase of carnations was especially full this year. In our gratitude we also look to ways to help those around us who might need a meal or a friend. November 19 was our turn to serve the Feed My Sheep meal to such a community of neighbors. Wesley Freedom, St. Joseph, and several other local groups put together Thanksgiving boxes for families.

We are participating in *Holy Cow*, an assessment tool provided by Presbytery, with encouragement for all of our members and regular attendees to participate. This is a brief online document with options for a paper and pencil form, or a friend can help. See Pastor Becca for more details.

There are many Advent activities planned for December starting with the Annual Advent Craft Day with SERRV sale on **December 2**. The Christian Education committee organizes the crafts, food and photo booth, Sue Holmes has the SERRV sale organized for three Sundays in December. Concert by Iron Ridge Band on **December 9**. A party is planned for the family shelter in Westminster on **December 15**. Read about our first Blue Christmas service at 7:00 pm on Friday, **December 21**. There are lots more details on CE, Music, and Worship pages.

The Greening of the Sanctuary is completed, as well as the training for the new sound/av system. Pastor Becca, Jennifer Wise and Tony Caviglia worked to identify the functions we wanted and the configuration for our space. They are all eager to try those systems. We can smile from our pews and watch as the knowledge and use evolve. Also, in the Sanctuary you will see new paraments, choir robes, hymnals, and hear a new octave of bells.

At the meeting of the congregation on November 18 there was unanimous approval of the Terms of Call for Pastor Becca. Thank you to all who were able to be present to show your support for her ministry. This meeting is usually held in February but Presbytery and legal resources recommended we approve it now so all the proper figures are on tax documents before the end of the year.

Session will meet next on **December 13** with a primary focus on setting the budget for 2019. We will have figures from the Stewardship Campaign and a few recommendations for adjustments from committees.

Our Current Session Members:

Tony Caviglia

Elizabeth Meirowitz

Sue Holmes

Beth Oates

Mark Kearney

Diana Stepling

***Next Session Meeting:* December 13, 2018 7:00 pm**



- ~ Prayers of comfort for the family of Kay Freas, who passed away on November 16. The memorial service will be held on Saturday, **December 1**, at 1:30 pm at Haight Funeral Home, with reception following at Libertore's in Eldersburg.
- ~ Prayers for all who struggle with mental health issues.
- ~ Prayers for all who struggle with addiction/substance abuse.
- ~ Prayers for *First of Westminster, Granite, Hope, Korean United and Mt. Hebron* from our Ministry Group.

Prayer Group:

Prayer Group meets at the Manse on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 10:30 am. Due to the holidays, there will be only one meeting on **December 11**. The group has a core group of regulars, those who participate when their schedules allow, and several faithful electronic members – all are welcome! You can send your praises and concerns to Sandy Newsome at sandy.newsome814@gmail.com.

2019 Stewardship Report

Stewardship Sunday was November 11, 2018. As always, our church family has responded to God's call. To date we have received 28 pledges for a total of \$107,880. This compares to last year's 34 pledges for \$112,440. We are still anticipating a few more pledges before the end of the year. If you have not returned a pledge and would like to do so, please contact the Church Office at 410-795-6152 or Bob Stepling at 862-266-2240. We appreciate all those others who faithfully contribute to the church throughout the year!

Your Stewardship Committee

2019 PER CAPITA PRESBYTERY ALLOCATION REMINDER

As you probably know, Springfield Church is annually apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly for their core functions. The apportionment is a regular expense payable by Springfield at the spring meeting of the Presbytery.

The Per Capita for 2019 will be \$35.73 for each communicant adult and youth member of Springfield Presbyterian Church. Please note "Per Capita" on the memo line of your check.

The light Christ brings will illuminate even our darkest day.



Communion Servers

December Communion Servers

December 24 Early

1. Diana Steppling
2. Ed Newsome
3. Connie Robinson
4. Charlie Sperling

December 24 Late (Traditional)

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Don Vasbinder | 6. Sharon Pappas |
| 2. Jim Wise | 7. Barbara Nickell |
| 3. Sue Holmes | 8. Bob Steppling |
| 4. Diana Steppling | 9. Linda Black |

Church Calendar

Headhuggers

Monday, 12/10 - 7:00 pm (Manse)

Prayer Group

Tuesday, 12/11 - 10:30 am (Manse)

Church Cleaning

November 30, Dec. 1 or 2 - Lisa & Bob Rogers

December 14, 15 or 16 - Belle Vasbinder & Barbara Nickell

December 28, 29 or 30 - Mary & Jim Rhodes

Feed My Sheep Lunches

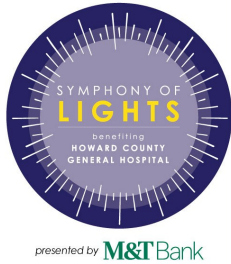
Monday, 12/17 - 9:30 am (Wesley Freedom)

Need a meal? Or know someone who does? We want to help—just need to be “in the know”. Contact Connie Robinson at robinsonconn40@gmail.com or 240-278-9040.

Assisting on Sundays	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23	12/24	12/30
Sunday Opener	Barbara Cornell	Ron Holmes	Bob Rogers	Sandy Newsome	Jennifer Wise	Linda Caviglia
Ushers & Greeters	Amy Vasbinder Bob Rogers	Jim Wise Connie Robinson	Sharon Pappas Don	Jim & Mary Rhodes	Steve & Donna Mazer	Tim Doyle Bob Rogers
Lay Leader	Mark Kearney	Tim Oates	Diana Steppling	Sharon Pappas		Max Carroll
Sunday School	Connie Robinson	Connie Robinson	Connie Robinson	Connie Robinson	Connie Robinson	Connie Robinson
Fellowship	Advent Craft Fair	Barbara Nickell	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Linda Caviglia

Sunday School & Youth News

From Connie Robinson, Sunday School Coordinator



On **November 30** the youth visited the Symphony of Lights, a time honored holiday tradition in Columbia featuring 300,000 dazzling lights with proceeds benefitting the Howard County General Hospital.

Advent Craft Fair and SERRV Sale: Our Advent craft fair will be on **December 2** following Worship - food, cotton candy, crafts, music, memories, and photo booth (photos will be uploaded to snapfish and available on line for people to print), plus shopping from SERRV. Youth will be preparing hot dogs and cotton candy for all!

C.I.A. will meet on **December 10** from 4:30 - 6 pm at the Manse to prepare for the Family Homeless Shelter party by wrapping gifts, putting together stockings and other holiday goodies. Pizza and drinks provided. Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend! We will meet again on **December 17** at 4:30 for our Christmas party—gifts, food and FUN! C.I.A is a group open to all religious and non-religious people as a means of providing the community with acts of kindness. We will be doing different activities throughout the school year to help people in our community who are in need. Come and be part of giving back to our community.

C.I.A. Community In Action

Family Homeless Shelter: On **December 15**, we will be leaving the Church at 12:15 pm, arriving at the Shelter around 1:00 pm, and departing for home around 3:00 pm. Gifts, games, food, crafts, face painting. Please see Connie Robinson or Charlie/Deb Sperling for further details. All are WELCOME!

2019 Sunday School - New Beginnings! Starting in January, 2019, Sunday School will be following the sermon. Stay tuned for further information.



December 9 -
6:30 pm (Manse)



The Christmas Pageant will be on **December 23** during Worship. Watch for the practice schedule to be announced...



From Linda Caviglia - Minister of Music

Caroling:

Thank you to all of you who came out to carol on Sunday afternoon the 25th of November. We had a good sized group this year with some youth, congregation, pastor and choir members. We caroled for 3 groups at Copper Ridge and on two of the floors at Transitions. So many of the residents/patients sang along (or at least mouthed the words) that we knew they were engaged with us and remembering happier times.

5th Octave of Schulmerich Bells

We received a generous donation from the family of **Frank LePage** in his memory. Part of that gift was used to purchase the 5th octaves of bells for our bell choir. Nancy Brightbill (Frank's daughter) said that Frank was very fond of all the music we have here at Springfield and hoped that we would be able to do something significant for the music program with at least some of the gift. We are very excited to have these additional bells (5th octave low bells have been on my "wish list" for many years!!)

Bells & Choir:

The choir is working on a special performance this year. On **December 23**, the Youth/children and adult choir will present *God Came Near*, a Christmas pageant with music and readings. We are excited to be a part of the pageant this year, and hope you will come and bring your friends and neighbors for a fresh take on the Christmas story.

The Presbyterones bells are excited to be using *all* of our bells and chimes this Christmas Eve at the 8:00 pm service. Thanks to generous donations from memorial gifts, we now have five octaves of chimes and bells!! We are having fun playing them and hearing the wider range of notes (especially those wonderful low bells... my favorite!). Presbyterones will also be playing a joyous Postlude at the service accompanied by Aaron Thacker at the piano.

Paraments:

Memorial money given to SPC in memory of **Jeannette Vasbinder**, was used to purchase some beautiful new Advent/Christmas paraments. You will see them through this Christmas season on the lectern, pulpit, and communion table. We want to thank the Vasbinder Family and all those who donated to Jeannette's memorial fund for this lovely gift.



Our Next Concert: Iron Ridge Band (Bluegrass) December 9th @ 3:00pm

Springfield Presbyterian welcomes a new group (to us) for our December concert. We are looking forward to having the Iron Ridge Band share their music with us! Following is a little bit about the group. Please plan to come and join us for music and good food following the concert on Sunday the 9th!

In January 2001, after spending a year or so jamming in various local spots throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland, the original members of the group just sort of individually gravitated to the weekly Monday night Jam Sessions at the Dutch Country Restaurant in Hanover, PA. It didn't take long for the guys to realize what a great sound they produced together and they soon decided to form a band. The group "took off" from the very start, winning first place at the 2001 Fiddler's Convention in Westminster, MD.

The band numbers four members, all who are dedicated to preserving the old-time traditional bluegrass in the style of Bill Monroe, Dr. Ralph Stanley, and others. Most bands have only one lead singer, but with Iron Ridge everyone sings lead on different songs, so the band's "sound" offers a great variety. Check out their performance schedule and come hear for yourselves. You won't want to miss the awesome picking and fabulous three- and four-part harmonies of Iron Ridge!

Missions

The SERRV sale of items will be on three Sundays in December. Sue Holmes is making these arrangements for us - please see details below.

The tree in the Narthex has gift tags for residents at Springfield Hospital. Please place **unwrapped** gifts under the tree by **December 15** so they can be delivered.

Our Christmas Joy offering is collected **December 16 and 23**. This offering goes to The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions for clergy and church workers; Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color; and Leadership Development for People of Color. Please help support our leaders around the globe - past, present, and future.

Mark Your Calendars!!!

SERRV Sale Is Just Around The Corner!!



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 hand-crafted 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.

Please stop by our SERRV table and support this worthwhile cause.

Thank you...

Springfield Mission Committee

SERRV Sale Dates:

December 2 - during Fellowship & the Advent Craft Fair

December 16 - during Fellowship

December 23 - during Fellowship



- 14** Linda & Tony Caviglia
27 Leah & Jeff Halvorson



- 3** Angel Carbaugh
4 Ryley Brown
14 Dylan Vasbinder
15 Grant Stinson
19 Becky Spicer
20 Stephanie Bunting
20 Chad Stewart
31 Lindsey Mazer

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
 Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
 Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or
 Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10;
 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;
 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 30

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

CrossRoads

Springfield Presbyterian Church (USA)

7300 Spout Hill Road, Sykesville, MD 21784

(410) 795-6152

Website/email:

www.springfield-church.org

spc.office@verizon.net

Worship Hours

10:30 am Worship & Sunday School

11:30 am Fellowship

Pastor: Rev. Becca Crate

springfieldpastor@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Sharon Pappas

Minister of Music: Linda Caviglia

Accompanist: Aaron Thacker

Organist: Jennifer Wise

Sunday School: Connie Robinson

Youth Group: Charles & Deb Sperling

Administrative Assistant: Donna Mazer



January's newsletter deadline is **December 23**.
 Please submit your information to
spc.office@verizon.net.

CrossRoads

December 2018 News

*Springfield
Presbyterian Church*



Our vision for the ministry is to be an open, flourishing, multigenerational congregation, where all can worship, study, and act to discern God's plan for us and our community. Valuing all people, we are committed to developing disciples and fostering stewardship.

*Springfield Presbyterian Church
7300 Spout Hill Road
Sykesville, MD 21784*

