

Silver Spring Presbyterian Church

(717) 766-0204 www.silverspring.org

Sunday, November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent, 9:00 am

Please silence your cell phone.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE	"O Come, Little Children"	J. Schultz
SSPC Brass Ensemble	"Away In a Manger"	Martin Luther
	"Joy to the World"	G.F. Handel

+WELCOME — Austin Shoop

MINUTE FOR MISSION — "Being Good Shepherds" — Scott Pepperman

MUSIC FOR ADORATION — "I Saw Three Ships" — arr. Luther Henderson
SSPC Brass Ensemble

+*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING — Matt, Tracy and Nathan Wieseman

L: Keep watch for the Messiah is coming!
P: We hope for the righteous branch of David.
L: He will execute justice and righteousness in the land.
P: Our hope is in the Lord. From death, the Lord brings life.
L: God of promise, God of hope, shine the light of your love into our darkness.
ALL: Let us worship God!

+*HYMN #82 — "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — Bob Davis

Merciful God, we have wandered from your ways, neglected your gifts, and grown weary of watching for you. We are the clay, and you are our potter. Forgive us and shape us anew, to be more like you. Let your face shine upon us and renew our hope and our strength as we wait for the Lord Jesus Christ to return. In his name we pray.

(Continue in Silent Reflection and Confession)

KYRIE – HYMN #551 "Lord, Have Mercy"

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON Bob Davis

L: Hear the good news! The God who created us has not abandoned us. We are the work of God's hands, lovingly shaped like clay in the hands of a potter. Even when we have wandered, even when our faith has grown weary, even when we have failed to watch for God's presence, God remains faithful. We are forgiven, we are loved, and we are held in the steadfast faithfulness of God. We do not have to be afraid of the darkness, for Christ is coming to make all things new.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

+*RESPONSE TO PARDON #39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hast provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness, Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

*PASSING THE PEACE Bob Davis

L: Now, as those who know God's peace in Jesus Christ, let us share his peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN		Austin Shoop
FIRST READING	I Corinthians 1:3-9	Bob Davis
SECOND READING	Mark 13:24-37	Rev. Lisa Chase

SERMON "Believe in the Christmas Story" Rev. Chase

SPECIAL MUSIC "Do You Believe? (The Christmas Story)" James Weagley
Lisa Chase and Tracy Wieseman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Don Wahlig

TITHES AND OFFERINGS Rev. Dr. Wahlig

*Doxology, Hymnal #606 "Doxology"
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SENDING IN THE SPIRIT

*HYMN "Trust and Obey" see insert

*BENEDICTION Rev. Chase

*MUSICAL RESPONSE #541, v.1
God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE "Sussex Carol" arr. Luther Henderson
SSPC Brass Ensemble

**Please rise in body and/or spirit* *+Latecomers will be seated*

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Hearing-assist devices are located at each entrance of the Meeting House.

To assist those who for some reason must leave the sanctuary during the worship service, a video-camera link broadcasts the service to the Chapel.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR SERVICE THIS WEEK

Thank you to Lucy Vaughan for being our organist today and to Matt, Tracy, and Nathan Wieseman for being our Advent candle lighters and readers.

Ushers: Mike and Susan Evans **Liturgist**: Bob Davis

Deacon Servers: Jenny Bell and Beth Wahlig

Downtown Daily Bread on Dec. 4th: Dennis and Jenny Bell

WEEKLY SSPC ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Our Special Music today "Do you believe? (The Christmas Story), is a lovely song written and composed by James Weagley, who is Linda and Dale Darkes's brother-in-law. James could not be here today, but wanted to share his beautiful statement of faith here with us and the story behind the song:

"When I retired, I prayed and asked God what he would like for me to do with the extra time I now had. The answer came back quickly and quite definitively - write a book and share my faith journey. I have never enjoyed writing and definitely had no plans to do this, so I asked again just to be sure. The answer did not change so I thought it best not to argue with God and I wrote my first book, *Bet on the Turtle, My Long, Slow Journey of Faith.* My song, "Do you believe? (The Christmas Story)" is simply an extension of the desire to share my faith. I wrote the song in the format to prompt self-reflection. *Do you believe the Christmas story and do you believe God's promise to be faithful? Do you believe also that he's always with us and has promised us the opportunity for eternal life in Heaven with him?*

I believe God uses the least of us to accomplish his purpose. I have no musical ability. In fact, I don't play an instrument and cannot read or write music. With God's help, I wrote the lyrics and developed the tune. I was blessed to find Julianna Lane, a local musician and songwriter who also plays the piano and sings the song. She also coordinated the parts contributed by the other musicians and produced the song."

Results of Meal with a Mission: A Record!

Many thanks to all who participated in the Meal with a Mission here at SSPC last week. Because of the congregation's faithfulness, and the help of a number of guests from the Cumberland Valley High School Key Club and wider community, we packed 86 emergency food boxes and delivered 2,536 pounds of food to New Hope Ministries this past Monday morning. This was a record, 500 pounds more than last year and more than double our first-year tally in 2024. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Angel Tree: We are again partnering with Cumberland Valley schools, and each angel represents a student's wish for a special gift or gift card. Select an angel from the tree and sign it out on the corresponding color sheet at the table next to the tree. **Please return your gifts by December 13**, with the colored angel attached. Be sure to remove the white tags before attaching the colored angel to your gift. We are incredibly grateful for your continued kindness and willingness to make a difference in the lives of these students. Suggested gift amount is $50. Thank you for helping spread some holiday joy!

Poinsettia Dedications
Christmas poinsettia order forms are available in the Gathering Place. Please return the form to the box in the Gathering Place by December 13th. The names of dedication will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20th. The cost of each poinsettia is $12.

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry Cookie Baking at the church – November 30th
For questions, please contact Roy McLain.

Sunday morning nursery for infants to three (3) year olds is available.
Contact CE if you need this service on Sunday mornings.

Adult Forum and Sunday School today, 10:10-10:50 am in Room 204
Join us for an Advent study from Pastor Louis Giglio, titled "Waiting Here for the Lord".

Sunday School for High School/Middle School Youth - Room 203, 10:00 am
We will begin in Room 112 with singing and then split up for study. We are studying the "Creation Story." Parents are welcome to attend with their children. Last week we welcomed five young men into our biggest class to date! Come and find out what's going on in this new class taught by Reverend Andrew and Jenny Jillson.

Youth Church and Pre-K/K Youth Church today: Room 112 10:00 am
Sunday School is music, bible lessons, crafts, and lots of fun! Pre K/K will learn about David and Goliath! Sunday School is for 3-year-olds to 18-year-olds.

Join us for these special ADVENT events at Silver Spring:

- Annual Christmas Cantata: December 13th at 10:00 am, in the Meeting House
- Advent Feast and Festival: Immediately following the Cantata on Dec. 13th, hosted by CE, Worship and Fellowship. All are invited to join us in the gym for a complete ham dinner. Following dinner, the Worship Committee will lead us on a **"Journey to Bethlehem**" (see more on the next page).

- After we complete the journey we will reconvene in the gym for dessert, Christmas cookies and a celebration of our many volunteers. Please sign up ahead in the Gathering Place. Come and join us for this Annual celebration!
- Journey to Bethlehem: Step back in time and experience the wonder of the very first Christmas! Join us during the Advent Feast and Festival for a special *Journey to Bethlehem*! Children will experience the excitement of the Christmas story, meet some **friendly beasts**, and discover the joy and wonder surrounding the birth of Jesus. Join us for an afternoon of fun, adventure, and Christmas cheer!
- Service of Love, Gratitude and Hope: Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 pm
  We hope you will join us for this special service to fill your heart with light, gratitude, hope, and love, during this Advent Season.
- Christmas Eve Services: Family Service at 5pm; Candlelight Service at 7 pm
- Christmas Breakfast / Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 27th
  Breakfast in the gym at 9:30 am; Lessons and Carols at 11:00 am.

Parent's Night Out – Kid's drop off is here! Saturday, December 12th
Parents can drop off their children, ages 3 to 10 at the SSPC gym from 3 pm to 6 pm and take a break, go shopping, enjoy some time together. Our certified youth mentors and youth will take great care of the children. We'll make crafts, watch an appropriate video and play safe and fun games. Pizza, chicken nuggets and tater tots will be provided. Sign up for all church and Preschool families can be done by contacting Scott Pepperman, Christian Education Co-Chair at puppytrainer52@aol.com or the church office.

Monday Afternoon Bible Study – December 7th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Room 204 and Zoom
We meet every first and third Monday of the month. We will cover the end of John 12 and 13 in our next session. If you need the Zoom link, contact Scott Pepperman. Due to high interest, we will now feature this class on Zoom as well as in person. If you are interested reach out to Scott Pepperman for Zoom details. This is not a continuing study, so anyone is welcome at any time.

Men's Bible Study Monday night, December 14th at 7 - 8:30 pm, Room 204 and Zoom
We will be studying Leviticus 23:34. We will discuss the passage and the question, "What do other people do that makes me feel loved?" Any men 18 and above are welcome to join. It is not a continuing study so jump in anytime. Suggestions for courses of study are welcome, contact Scott Pepperman at puppytrainer52@aol.com.

Lunch Bunch – Wednesday, December 16th at 11:30 am
Join us for lunch on Dec. 16th at Angelina's 398 N York St, Mechanicsburg. Don and Chris are offering ride services; simply call us a couple days ahead to request please. We hope you can join us. Use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place or call/text Don Winning 717-704-6962 so we may give the restaurant a final head count the day before.

From Pastor Lisa
A few people have come up to Pastor Lisa asking when she will do another sermon that includes stories of answered prayer. As you recall, she did a series in the fall of 2025 about answered prayer. She would like to do another sermon, which includes a few stories from the congregation that are new, and print out the stories she's received. This sermon will be delivered sometime in early 2027. If you would like to share your new story about answered prayer, please send directly to Lisa, or put in her box by Jan. 10.

Core Youth
There is no CORE this Sunday, November 29th.

eBay Sales Ministry
Our contact who is managing the program, Mark Armbruster, has had great success turning donated items into financial support for the church. If you have something you'd like to donate, please send a photo of the item(s) to Mark at csuf1mark@aim.com. He will review your submission and let you know whether the item is appropriate for sale. After approval, Mark will arrange a time for the item to be dropped off at the church. Please note: Items cannot be accepted without prior approval. For questions regarding the process, please contact Gary Hollinger at ghollinger52@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting this growing ministry.

Prayers of healing and comfort:
John Clegg, Ken Engle, Bob Gaffney, Carol Gebert, Margaret Glockner, Phil Hippensteel, Judy LaPointe, Esther Leinaweaver, Gil and Joyce Longwell, Pat Miller, Cheryl Moore, Betsy Neilson, Chris Sebring, Bill Spoon, Millie Swatt, Tanya Wagner

Prayers of sympathy: Family of Joe Nokovich

Prayers for our Military Members & First Responders: Olivia Chase, Jacob Flenner, Wyatt La Pointe, Justin Ledvina, Josiah Scandle, Chloe Scott

ATTENDANCE

November 15	November 22
9 am Traditional – 109 YouTube – 77	9 am Traditional –135 YouTube – 70
11 am Gathering – 52 YouTube – 24	11 am Gathering – 52 YouTube – 26
Christian Education – 64	Christian Education – 38

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Donald B. Wahlig	Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Lisa S. Chase	Associate Pastor
Tracy Wieseman	Director of Music
Erica Ickes	Organist
Ryan Edwards	Worship Tech Specialist
Emily Cocores	Preschool Director
Austin Shoop	Youth Director
Diane G. Rabold	Business Manager
Priscilla Biller	Office Manager
John Clegg	Sexton

We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Our Mission is to love and praise God, love and nurture our church family, and love and serve our neighbors,

through worship, prayer, fellowship, education, hands-on work, financial support and compassionate care,

in order to follow Jesus and make known the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our Vision is to be a grace-filled family of faith sharing Christ's love with all.

Our Values:

Glorify God: Glorify and praise God through discipling, sharing faith and serving with love

Show Compassion: Compassion expressed as care and concern for all

Share Hospitality: Inclusive hospitality through welcome, acceptance and fellowship

Nurture Relationships: Nurture relationships through respect, support and communication

Steward God's gifts: Faithful stewardship of all God's gifts

Soli Deo Gloria

Silver Spring Presbyterian Church
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