

# The Springs

December 1, 2025

Where The Thirsty Find Life

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Poplar Springs Drive UMC family,

Happy New Year! It's a new church year as we begin the season of Advent on Sunday with our Sanctuary adorned in blue and surrounded by signs and symbols that point us to the journey of searching for hope, peace, joy, and love. We give thanks for all who helped transform the Sanctuary this past Sunday. Decorating our houses and the church is more than making things look festive for the holidays. Much of our decorations have rich historical and theological significance. The word "Advent" means "arrival." As everyone is getting ready for Christmas, we as a church remember the coming of Jesus in a manger and look forward to the coming of Christ in glory. It is a time of joyous remembrance and eager anticipation.

During our Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, we will walk through each part and try to reclaim the meaning and spirit behind our holiday decor. I enjoyed watching folks put up the tree and fill it with cross-stitched Chrismons, or "Christ monograms," which are white and gold designs made from Christian symbols that signify Christ. Stars, crosses, fish, crowns, anchors, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity and of the Holy Trinity. They help to remind us of the bigger story of Christ coming to save us. Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. I encourage you to come to the front of the Sanctuary to reflect on these beautiful symbols that remind us of some of the ways we experience Christ together in this season.

I hope that you will take time to slow down in the midst of the hustle and bustle to listen to the scriptures and allow the music to sink into your soul. Advent is the time that we look back to the birth of Jesus and look forward to the same time. It is a time of devotion and waiting, of repentance and faith in the promised Messiah of Israel. Consider all of the things that a family does as they prepare to welcome a child—making room in their home for a crib or a bassinet, receiving gifts of baby clothes, blankets, bottles, and bibs, and watching a baby bump grow with hopeful expectation. How will we make room and prepare for Christ's birth this year? Perhaps you will join us in our Advent study, Advent in Four Words, whether you read along with the lectionary passages or join us for weekly discussion on Tuesdays at noon. For those who have experienced loss or strained relationships, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. We will host a "Longest Night" service on Sunday, December 21 at 4 p.m. in the Parlor. May we open our hearts to reach out to all who are hurting to offer comfort and hope.

In the stories and season of Advent, God opens everything to us through hope born of expectation—expectation that Christ is coming to make all things new. May you like an expectant parent, use these days and nights to make room and patiently prepare your heart for the peace, hope, love, and joy that Christ brings.

Grace and peace,  
Emily

## New Prayer Requests

Rev. Johniel Henry  
Betsy Littleton



### Continue to pray for

Jim & Sylvia Autry, Otha Barham, Ron & Carol Burton, James Carson, Shirley Dooley, Francois duPlessis, Neal Martin, Kristin Pratt, James E. Smith, Kristi Taverner, Bobby Townsend, Rev. Kathy Vaughns, Carolyn Wall, Jake Warren, Neldia White, Van Wilkes, Joe Don Yates

## December Birthdays

Dec. 1 Hendrix Joyner  
Dec. 2 Brian Smith  
Dec. 4 Keller Joyner  
Dec. 5 Maliya Fluker  
Dec. 7 Megan Mendiola  
Dec. 19 Otha Barham, Jr.  
Dec. 20 Braeden Allen  
Dec. 21 Richard Dixon  
Dec. 24 Kevin Peterson

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday:

9:30 A.M. Worship  
10:45 A.M. Sunday School

### Wednesday:

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 P.M. Children & Youth  
6:00 P.M. Faith & Fitness

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Communion Servers:

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Julian & Carolyn Wall, Lucy & Katie Autry  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>:** Ginny Adkins, Danny, Debbie, and John Landon Young

### Greeter:

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Margaret  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Regena  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>:** Cathy  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>:**  
**December 28<sup>th</sup>:** Robin

### Counters:

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Kevin & Danny  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Nelida & Robin  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>:** Cathy & Jeffrey  
**December 28<sup>th</sup>:** Kevin & Danny

### Sunday Snacks:

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Carrol & Cathy  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Suzanne  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>:**  
**December 28<sup>th</sup>:** Sarge & Ginny

### Meals On Wheels:

**December 1<sup>st</sup>:** Margaret & Cathy  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>:** Cindy & Dixie  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>:** Gary & Robin  
**December 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Marjorie  
**December 29<sup>th</sup>:** Janet & Carrol

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> Hanging of the Greens

4:00-6:00 pm Advent Fair Central UMC

### Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

12:00 pm Advent Bible Study

### Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

11:30 am Women of the Church meet at Olive Garden  
3:00 pm Deadline to order poinsettias

### Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

12:00 pm Advent Study

### Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm Hops & Hymns at Mugshots

### Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

12:00 pm Advent Study  
6:00 pm Executive Team Meeting

### Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

TBA Christmas Party with Caroling

### Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

4:00 pm Longest Night Service

### Wednesday, December 24

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Church Office Closed 12/24 through 12/26 and 12/31-1/2

## Newsletter deadline:

**December 20<sup>th</sup> for January Newsletter**



# Get Up and Go at The Springs



Rise Against Hunger Packing Event was great. We even learned where the meals we packed in 2015 went.



Thanksgiving Lunch

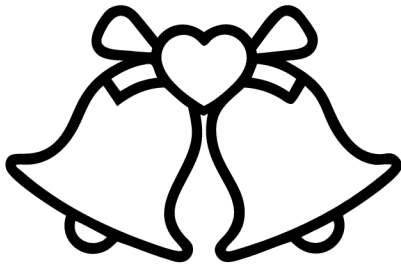


Thank you for helping prepare for Advent





# Family Ministries at The Springs



Congratulations!

Mr. & Mrs. Colby Allen on  
their November 8<sup>th</sup> Wedding



## Youth & Children Dates

Regular Wednesday night activities -

December 3rd, 10th, and 17th

Christmas Caroling and Christmas Party

Saturday, December 20th

No Wednesday night activities - December  
24th and 31st

Regular Wednesday night Children and Youth  
activities will resume on January 7th

Youth helping  
with food drive  
at Wesley  
House



Children Sabbath &  
Art Show



## Day School:

Tuesday, 12/2 - Christmas pictures by Creative Images

Wednesday, 12/17 - Class Christmas parties

Upcoming Holiday Closings:

Monday, 12/22 - Friday, 12/26 (Closed for Christmas)

Wednesday, 12/31 - Friday, 1/2 (Closed for New Years)

Thanksgiving  
Feast in the  
Day School







### ***We are fast approaching 2025!***

*All monetary giving should be received by the church office no later than **Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>** in order for you to claim a deduction for income tax purposes in 2025.*

*Any received after 12/28 will be applied to 2026.*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

### **Women of the Church**

December meeting will be held Monday, December 8 at 11:30.

We will meet at Olive Garden.

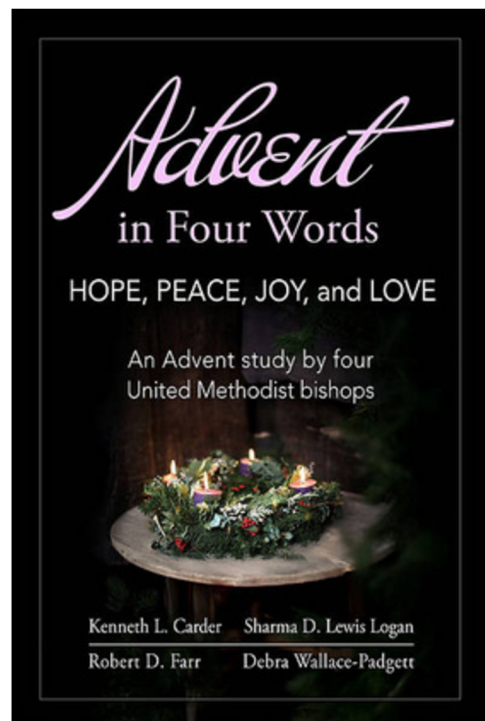
Note: Please let Cathy Ellis know if you plan to attend so we have adequate seating. We will adopt angels from Home Instead this year and will take up money at lunch to do so. Some of the ladies will take care of the shopping. Hope you can join us!!!

## Poplar Springs Drive UMC Monthly Financial Report Summary as of October 31, 2025

<u>2025 Summary</u>	9/30/2025	10/31/2025	10/31/2025
	Actual Y-T-D	Actual M-T-D	Actual Y-T-D
Budget Offering*	\$165,347	\$21,846	\$187,193
Budget Expenses	\$176,204	\$19,522	\$195,726
Receipts Over (Under)	\$ (10,857)	\$2,324	(\$ 8,533)

Join us as we study Advent in Four Words: An Advent Study by Four United Methodist Bishops. The devotional is designed to guide individuals and groups through the sacred season of Advent, using four central themes of the Christian journey: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Written by Bishops Kenneth L. Carder, Robert D. Farr, Sharma D. Lewis Logan, and Debra Wallace-Padgett, this powerful resource follows the 2025 Advent Lectionary.

**Tuesdays at noon on  
December 2, 9, and 16.**



# The Springs

Where The Thirsty Find Life

November 24, 2025

Dear Church Family,

As most of you are aware, this is the time of year when we ask for your expressions of gratitude to our church staff for their efforts and contributions in the various ministries and leadership in growth of our congregation. If you would like to make a gift of love this year, please do so by Sunday December 14, 2025. Please mark your gifts as "Staff Love Offering".

In addition to your financial expressions of appreciation, please continue to support your church staff with your prayers, your presence, your witness and participation in your ministry of interest. We at PSDUMC have numerous service opportunities each day. Remember, a simple word of thanks to each staff member for their hard work can be very effective.

Yours sincerely,



Patti Coxwell, SPRC

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Mark Adkins

Maintenance

To:

**Lectionary Readings**  
**Week of December 7, 2025**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

**Week of December 14**

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Luke 1: 46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

**Week of December 21**

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalms 80: 1-7 17-19

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

**Week of December 28**

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalms 98

Hebrews 1:1-4- 5-12

John 1: 1-14

**Mailing Address:**

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