PRESPRESS





Spring Branch Presbyterian Church 1215 Campbell Rd | Houston, TX 77055



Dear Church Family,

I have recently returned from the Texas-Louisiana border to see what damage was caused by Hurricane Laura. The good news is that my wife's childhood home is still standing. Of course, there is major cleanup which we have started due to broken trees. But we feel so fortunate. There were many warm reunions as neighbors began to return home. People began helping one another. On the negative side, the town and most of the area is without power. Traffic lights were not just inoperable. Most were gone! All over town there are power poles down. Many that were still standing had shredded cable hanging from them. The bigger problem is that most of the electricity for that area is provided by a plant on the Louisiana side and it took the brunt of the storm. The main trunk has been severed and it is predicted to be a long and time-consuming repair. Until that time, much of the area will be without power. Please pray for the residents and for the many crews out attempting to effect repairs.

In many ways, it reminds me of how the church works. Jesus called the church into being and gave us the connection to the power, called the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that the Holy Spirit would be a comforter and guide for all Christians (John 14:16-18). He then promised that the Holy Spirit would energize the church for mission (Acts 1:8). The story of Pentecost tells of the fulfillment of the outpouring of the Spirit. Without that connection to power, the church would not exist, much like the towns near us which stand damaged, dark, and cold.

However, the story does not end there. Through the power of the Spirit the church has, and will always be, victorious. And one of the key elements in the story of God's people has been that power is experienced most vividly in community. In Matthew 18:20 we read, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

My dear church family, this can be a very tough time. And my prayer is that we would not be a church without power. But it does mean that we have to stay connected to the power source. And one of the key elements is that we must stay connected to one another. I pray that we will. Your church staff and elders are hard at work in the remarkable time doing what we can to make it happen.

In that light, please let me share an opportunity happening this coming Sunday, September 6. We will have our next drive-in service starting at 8:30. (We will finish before the temperatures rise too high.) Perhaps we cannot be in close proximity, but we can be close enough to see each other, to hear God's word, to worship, and to partake of Holy Communion together. This has always been God's gifts to us on how to stay empowered. Many of us are discovering just how important that is to our lives. So please do come join us, come feel the Spirit that happens when we come together. Sing, honk your horn, be fed by the Word and Sacrament, and enjoy the power that community brings.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you soon!

In Christ's Service, Kevin Boyd, Pastor Kein R. Boyd



The "Mission of the Month" for September is CarePartners. CarePartners is a nonprofit, volunteer led organization that provides support, education, and resources for caregivers and

quality care for those living with memory loss and other challenges of aging.

Much of the care is for the vulnerable elderly and individuals with Alzheimer's or related dementia. CarePartners, serves all people at no cost. They



provide life-changing care as well as educational and support services to more than 5,700 people in the Greater Houston area. Their award-winning volunteer Care Team® model includes more than 2,500 individuals who help support four primary programs:

Gathering Place – A 3.5 hour highly engaging program specifically for individuals living with early to moderate Alzheimer's, related Dementia, or memory loss. Planned activities strengthen motor and social skills through games, music, crafts, lunch, and socialization. Family caregivers receive 3.5 hours of respite, a break and time away from caregiving responsibilities, while their loved one attends each Gathering Place.

Second Family – A homebound program focused on helping individuals living with illness or other challenges due to aging. An extended family of trained volunteers offers support and companionship for homebound individuals who belong to a partnering congregation. Family caregivers receive respite, a break and time away from their caregiving responsibilities.

Common Ground – A support group established for family caregivers that offer emotional support, encouragement, friendships and helpful tips about self-care and caregiving. Family caregivers caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's, related Dementias, memory loss or other challenges due to aging may join this monthly support group.

Caregiver Conferences – Educational events that connect family caregivers with education and community resources on how to provide quality care to their loved one.

September Mission Updates & Opportunities

Hurricane Preparedness — We distributed 40 Hurricane preparedness kits prior to Hurricane Laura making landfall last week. While the storm spared Houston, it was not so kind to our neighbors east of here. We still have a few extras left, so if you know anyone who needs a kit, please let Steve Blair know at (713) 494-1804 or sgbtxrealestate@gmail.com.



MAM Back to School Supplies – The 2020 school year has officially kicked off here in the Spring Branch Independent School District! As with everything else this year, it has been an interesting start to the year with virtual classes and a break for a potential hurricane. We have been collecting funds for school uniforms to provide MAM with vouchers that families can use to purchase uniforms. We will have an update in the next PresPress regarding this campaign.

SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends – The current COVID-19 restrictions have made this service opportunity possibly more important than ever. These types of services have been declared "essential services" by the county, so we have been able to continue delivering meals. The 4th Saturday of each month we look for individuals to deliver meals to shut-ins. We have 2 routes with about 14 people on each route, so we usually need a total of 4 volunteers each month. Please contact Lu Taylor if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month. The Saturday for this month will be September 25th.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 6th at 8:30 AM

Drive-In Communion Worship Service

Come to the SBPC parking lot on the 6th and tune your radio to FM station 89.5 to hear everything. You will receive a copy of the Bulletin prior to Sunday for you to print for you and your family, or you can follow along on a smartphone. Should you need a restroom, the Sanctuary Narthex bathrooms will be available. Otherwise, we kindly ask that you remain inside your vehicles.

Streaming Live at <u>facebook.com/springbranchpres</u>

September 6th will start a Season of Peace at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. This sermon series will take a look at Peace with God, with ourselves and with one another. A Season Peace can feel difficult to attain with all that is going on around us these days, and so it is more important than ever to take a



look at how God can guide us to find his peace that surpasses all understanding.

We have planned a few new things to introduce this month alongside our sermon series.

On Sunday, September 6th there will be a **Drive-In Service** at 8:30. Please come join us to share in the Word, music and socially distant fellowship as we worship and praise together from inside our vehicles.

On Sunday, September 13th we will host our first **Virtual Narthex**. The service will be shown, in your normal viewing method, from 10:45-11:30. Afterwards, everyone is invited to a zoom (link will be sent out the week before) to share in fellowship with one another. This is a time to discuss the sermon, or anything else you wish to with your brothers and sisters at Spring Branch Presbyterian. We have missed each other so much and want a chance to connect. Break out rooms will be used so that you can talk with a smaller group of people and catch up with how one another has been doing. Please consider joining us for the time of fellowship. We plan to continue the virtual narthex through at least the end of the month.

Peace be with you, The Worship Team



Presbyterian Women this Month

PW at a Glance

PW MODERATORS on 9/2 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

PW BOARD MEETING on 9/2 at 10:15 a.m. (via Zoom)

PW CIRCLE meeting on 9/9 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)



THE HORIZONS Evening Bible study using **ZOOM** will be on Tuesday, <u>9/15</u> at 8:00 p.m.

Introduction: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/into-the-light/

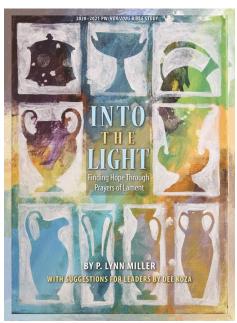
Lesson 1: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/into-the-light/

There will be no **ZIP TRIP** or **HAPPY HANDS** in September.

BIBLE STUDY books are available in the Church Office, or can be picked up from Sarah Dikeman's House. The cost is \$10. Last year's study books can be delivered to the Church Office to be recycled to other groups.

PW DIRECTORIES are available in the Church Office or for pickup from Sarah Dikeman.

Evening Bible study using Zoom to start Sept. 15 at 8 p.m.



The "Horizons" Bible study used by Presbyterian Women throughout congregations will be available once a month in the evening for SBPC women who work or who are unable to attend the PW circle meetings on Wednesday morning. The study this year is *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by Rev. Lynn Miller, and it is the same one used by the PW Circle on Wednesdays. Join our small group for fellowship and study as we meet on Zoom in the convenience of our homes. We usually meet during the third week of the month, either on Monday or Tuesday at 8 p.m., depending on the schedules of the participants.

Please contact Carol Davis at caroldavis@entouch.net to receive a Zoom invitation for Sept. 15. Study books are available from Sarah Dikeman for \$10 each. Instructions on using Zoom will be provided! You can access Zoom on your PC, tablet, iPhone, or regular phone (sound only).

Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper — *Back by popular demand!*

As we ease back into the fall, we will be serving dinner every other week during the month of September.

Sept. 16 — Lasagna

Sept. 30 — Baked Potatoes with Taco Meat Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women.

All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.

You will drive through the main entrance, past the port-cochere to where you will see Kevin loading dinners. You do not have to get out of your vehicle, just roll down the window or unlock the passenger side door. Kevin will also be offering prayers for all who wish. Please try to arrive between 6:00-6:20 PM. All sanitary precautions will be strictly observed during preparation and delivery. *Watch your email for placing orders!*

The dinners will be free, but we are accepting donations. We are also accepting donations for the Fair Haven Food Pantry (non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, and paper products). We are also continuing to accept thank you cards for our dedicated Houston healthcare workers. Per the request of the hospitals, please do not seal the envelopes.

A Women's Retreat and a Men's Retreat in 2021?? We need your input to start planning.

Want to start thinking about "in-person retreats for SBPC?? We hope that in 2021, this will be possible----and what better time to start planning for a men's retreat and a women's retreat than now! We want EACH woman and EACH man to complete this questionnaire by September 11. You can fill out this online questionnaire HERE

(or by visiting: https://forms.gle/

R7QvVqmX7V3Y49rr9), or by filling out the next 2 pages and returning them to Carol Davis for the Women's Retreat or Donald McDaniel for the Men's Retreat. Retreats will be sponsored by your Faith Development Team---we want to hear from each of you!

QUESTIONNAIRE CONCERNING 2021 SBPC RETREATS

Your	name:
1.	Have you attended a SBPC retreat in the last 5 years?YesNo
2.	How likely are you to attend a SBPC retreat in 2021?
	Not likely Very likely (highlight or mark X next to one) 1 2 3 4 5
3.	What month in 2021 would work best for you for a 2021 retreat?FebruaryMarchAprilMay
4.	What type of retreat would you be most interested in? (Rank 1, 2, and 3) Fellowship and "free time" Biblical-related or Christian-living topic Non-Biblical related topic Hand-on mission project (at SBPC or off campus) Arts and crafts Other: name
	Space for comments and suggestions is at the end of this questionnaire.
5.	Length of retreat: (Rank 1 and 2)Saturday morning only, ending with lunchSaturday morning and ending about 2 p.m., including breakfast snacks and lunchSunday after worship, including lunch and ending about 5 p.mFriday evening session at SBPC, followed by 9 a.m2 p.m. SaturdayOvernight from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon at off-campus location (to be determined)
6.	Cost of day retreat: (Rank 1 and 2)\$10 for food\$15 for food\$20 for food Actual cost of catered food, plus gratuity Estimated cost of food prepared by SBPC volunteers

/.	Cost of overnight retreat, including 3 means and lodging.
	\$75 and under
	\$100
	\$150
	over \$150
	I am not interested in an overnight retreat.
8.	How would you like to help with the retreat? Check all that apply. Design publicity flyer Help with publicity among your friends and family Help with set-up of Fellowship Hall at SBPC Help with clean-up of Fellowship Hall at SBPC Take a major role in food preparation at SBPC Take a major role in kitchen clean-up at SBPC Volunteer your away-from-Houston home for retreat location Volunteer to be responsible for food at away-from-Houston-retreat Give an opening devotional Give the closing prayer Invite friends/relatives to attend retreat with you Provide transportation to away-from-Houston-retreat for other participants Please provide specific suggestions for speakers and topics, locations, and other comments in the space below.
	Women: return questionnaire to Carol Davis at caroldavis@entouch.net
	Men: return questionnaire to Donald McDaniel at

Requested deadline: September 11

Masks, Masks, and More Masks

Several people in the congregation have been busy during the pandemic making Masks for the safety of us all. A pandemic doesn't stop us from helping others. This is such a helpful ministry for our community.

Betty Magnuson, Kay Craig, Luna Lassiter, Silvia Argyriou, Sarah Dikeman and Doris Wright have made well over 350 masks. Others in the congregation have probably made some, so we most likely don't have a complete tally (Let Doris Wright know of your mask making, so we can get a more complete count).

In addition to being given to family and friends, the masks have gone to Village Medical Center and some were given to Miguel Carlin for workers at the food pantry at Pathways Presbyterian Church. Some were shared with Masks for All with the Restoration Network with Houston Responds. Some also were taken to Gallery Furniture for their program with Hilton America-Houston with Volunteer Houston and Interfaith Ministries. Some have gone to the church office for staff and others who may need them.

Betty and Kay are now making masks for the kids of friends & relatives as they prepare to go back to school.

Thanks to all our you who have made and given masks to others.



A PRAYER FOR MASKS

A prayer as I put on my mask

Creator,

As I prepare to go into the world Help me to see the sacrament In the wearing of this cloth -

Let it be "an outward and visible sign Of an inward and spiritual grace"-

A tangible and visible way of living

Love for my neighbors

As I love myself.

Christ,

Since my lips will be covered,

Uncover my heart,

That people would see my smile.

In the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled,

Help me to speak clearly,

Not only with my words,

But with my actions.

Holy Spirit,

As the elastic touches my ears,

Remind me to listen carefully -

And full of care -

To all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be

Shield and banner,

And each breath that it holds

Be filled with your love.

In your name and in the name of love,

I pray.

May it be so, May it be so.

Amen.

Pastors Bible Study

The Pastor's Bible Study with Kevin is continuing to meet online at 11:00 AM on Tuesday mornings. Here is the information to join the study:

Meeting ID: 897 7951 2452 | Password: 754888 | Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89779512452?pwd=VU1VZVByeFI1MEwxNmxrR090S0JVQT09

September 6, 2020; 14th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Text: Exodus 12:1-14

Title: "A Season of Peace 1: Peace With God" Focus: True peace starts by having peace with God.

September 13, 2020; 15th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Exodus 14:19-31 Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Title: "A Season of Peace 2: The Importance of Forgiveness" Focus: Peace in our world is brought on by forgiveness.

September 20, 2020; 16th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-15 Text: Philippians 1:21-30

Title: "A Season of Peace 3: Who Matters?"

Focus: Peace happens when we lay down our lives for others.

September 27, 2020; 17th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 Text: Matthew 21:23-32

Title: "A Season of Peace 4: Together on Purpose"

Focus: True peace is only possible when we are intentional about spending time together.

Virtual Sunday School

The Explorer's Sunday School Class is continuing to meet virtually using the video conferencing Platform *Zoom*. The group meets at the usual 9:30 a.m. time on Sunday mornings. If you would like to participate and don't normally attend the class, please contact Linda Crawford to receive a Zoom Invitation.



The Crawford family thanks folks for condolence cards, letters, emails and calls following the death of Andy Crawford in Panama. A Memorial Service will be held at some undetermined time in the future.



"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." —Colossians 3:23

Fall 2020 Blessing of Students and Teachers



This year, just as every year, Spring Branch Presbyterian Church blessed our students and teachers as they approached the beginning of this school year, whatever that beginning may

look like. On Wednesday, August 19 during our drive through dinner, Rev. Boyd greeted everyone attending and

added a special blessing for those heading back to school this fall. Students received a pencil bag filled to the brim with school supplies from the church to remind them they are loved and supported. Donations were also collected for Memorial





Assistance Ministry's Back to School uniform drive. During on-line worship on Sunday, August 23, viewers were encouraged to gather around their computers with backpacks and computers in hand as Rev. Boyd shared a blessing during our virtual worship for students and teachers. Many thanks to Miguel Carlin for planning and preparing the gift bags; and to Bryan Evenson, Marguerite Priest, and Donald McDaniel for their help in this effort.

Save the Date!

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday, March 20th, 2021 Presbytery of New Covenant meeting. The session approved our hosting the meeting earlier this year and the Presbytery staff is thrilled to have us serve as the host

church. All team leaders have been provided a plan of the tasks which need to be addressed and completed for the day of the meeting. Session members and pastors from across our presbytery will attend. This will be an all hands on deck effort as we open our doors in hospitality to those who will discern, conduct, and address the matters of the church. Presbytery of New Covenant and Spring Branch Presbyterian Church are planning for the meeting to be in person at this time. COVID-19 data and trends in the spring of 2021 will be closely monitored in case the meeting needs to be shifted to virtual.





Save-the-Date!

Sunday, October 4th

Drive-In Worship Service

More information coming soon!

October 4, 2020



By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries. Together we are building God's house where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

Ways to Give:

- Through your congregation (at the October 4th World Communion Sunday Drive-In Service, or by mailing contributions to the church office)
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global
- Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10

Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the word.

"May the God of peace give you peace at all times in all ways."
-2 Thessalonians 3:16

2020 Census Responses Due September 30, 2020

If you have not yet done so, you still have time to complete your 2020 Census form online or by phone. Participating in the census will better support funding for services and emergency responses (among other things) in your community. Below are just a couple of key bits of information. For more detailed information you may go to: https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html

What do I do if I can't find my Census ID?

Your Census ID is the 12-digit number that can be found on your questionnaire, letter, and postcard. You can still respond online to the 2020 Census even if you did not receive a letter or paper questionnaire. Go to my2020census.gov and select the link that says, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." It is located below the Census ID login field.

I did not receive anything in the mail. How do I respond?

You can still respond online to the 2020 Census even if you did not receive a letter or paper questionnaire. Go to my2020census.gov. Select the link that says, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." It is located below the Census ID login field.

https://2020census.gov/en/help.html

Responding by Phone

The 2020 Census is happening now. You can now respond online, by phone, or by mail.

Getting Started

The 2020 Census asks a few simple questions about you and everyone who was living with you on April 1, 2020. To see an image of the questionnaire, and for more information on answering each question, please visit Questions Asked.

You have the option of completing the questionnaire by phone. To begin, call 844-330-2020, or call the number associated with your preferred language below.

https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html

Important November 3rd General Election Dates

- Last Date to register to Vote: Monday, October 5, 2020
 https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/important-election-dates.shtml
- Voters Registration Information for Harris County: https://www.hctax.net/voter/registration
- Early Election Dates: October 13, 2020 October 30, 2020
 https://www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo
- Mail in Ballots:

Can apply now for November 3 election mail in ballot; last day to apply for Ballot by mail (received not postmarked) is October 23, 2020

https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/important-election-dates.shtml

- Mail in ballot Application for Harris County (apply sooner rather than later)
 https://www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo?lang=en-US#VoteByMail
- Additional voting information
 - You can check your registration status and find your sample ballot by your address at https://www.vote411.org/
 - Voter's Guide and Polling locations https://lwvhouston.org/







Support SBPC by using AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com,

or directly at our Charity Link: smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486

Anytime you place an order on Amazon.com, you have an opportunity to contribute to the Church (or any charity of your choice) through the Amazon Smile Program,

and it's so easy to use!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Support Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates. Go to smile.amazon.com

Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

- 1. Visit smile.amazon.com
- 2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
- 3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations (smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486)
- 4. Select your charity
- 5. Start shopping!
- 6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start shopping at AmazonSmile

In order to support Spring Branch Presbyterian Church through AmazonSmile, you have to make purchases through smile.amazon.com. When you are at that website, there is an indicator under the search bar that you are supporting the Church:



Thank you to everyone who has been contributing to the church each week in the absence of our usual *Presentation of Tithes and Offerings* time on Sunday mornings. Don't forget that the church expenses continue just the same. If at all possible, please mail in your contributions, or use the online giving option (www.springbranchpres.org/give).

Thank you for your continued commitment!



Kaylee Ann Earnest	9/1	Dylan Mancilla	9/17
Mike Wright	9/1	Daphne Holder	9/18
Donal McRoberts	9/4	Steve Blair	9/19
Lisa Merritt	9/7	Warren Ballesteros	9/20
Garth Heitshusen	9/12	Ashley Powell	9/20
Carol Davis	9/13	Frances Millar	9/22
Lindsey Craig	9/15	Grace Daley	9/24
Katie Fairchild	9/15	Jake Miller	9/26
Ruden Vakiari	9/15	Jackson Qualls	9/29
Kamden Cole Walters	9/15	Sarah Dikeman	9/30
Del Kennedy	9/16	Ron Fake	9/30

Happy Anniversary!



9/1
9/2
9/15
9/22



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