

# PRES PRESS



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



Dear members and friends of SPBC,

The long-awaited reopening is just around the corner. Many of us are excited that the Sanctuary will again be hosting worship on October 11. Others of us are afraid that as we reemerge, we will see another round of this insidious virus. Some are excited that we will soon be around one another again. For others it is a daunting task to consider how we will take all of the necessary precautions. But here we are!

And so as we approach the date, here are some pieces of timeless advice which I think apply to us:

## **1. Walk by faith, not by fear.**

In 2 Corinthians 5:7 Paul tells us, *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”* In 2 Timothy 1:7 we read, *“For God has not given us a Spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* Countless times in the scriptures we are invited to trust as we go through difficult times. Does that mean bad things never happen to good people? NO! But it does mean that we are not alone in the endeavor. As we walk back into the sanctuary, Christ will be walking with us.

## **2. Relationships Matter.**

At Spring Branch we say this often. During this time, we are finding out how very true this is. Many of us have realized just how much we have taken for granted in life, and especially in the church. I hope things will never be the same. I hope we will make a conscious effort to maintain our fellowship. Right now, there is so very much stress, not only from COVID, but also from the election, employment pressures, racial unrest, and so much more. We need to make sure that we do what Paul says in Philippians 2:2: *“make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.”* My friends, relationships matter very much. Words matter. Nonverbal communication matters. Intentions matter. Forgiveness matters. Acts of love matter. When we come back, let's be a better family of faith for this experience.

## **3. This is a No Judgment Zone.**

I want to repeat what I have been saying about this: There is not a one-size-fits-all solution to worship. That is why we are putting a lot of effort into both the in-person service and a new live streamed service. Besides the fact that we all have different personalities, each person has a unique life situation. When it is right for a person to come back, I am praying that he or she will. Not before. Not after. I want us each to be guided by our Lord in how we come back together. When we do come back, we will be as safe as we possibly can be. And as your pastor, I am simply asking us all to respect the decision that each of our brothers and sisters makes.

So, here we are.... Very excited. A bit apprehensive. Perhaps it is time for a new level of trust in our Lord. I am so excited to be seeing all of you soon!

Pastor Kevin

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” - Joshua 1:9*



# WORSHIP

## Update

On behalf of the Session, I am pleased to announce that, after much prayer and discernment, Spring Branch Presbyterian Church will resume in-person worship on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:50am. We will be streaming the service live on our website, YouTube, and Facebook page so that those members who are not able to worship in-person can participate in the worship service. The Worship team has developed procedures to help safeguard the health of those members who choose to worship in person, the first of which is that those wishing to participate in in-person worship MUST let the church office know in advance as, due to social distancing measures, there will be limited space available. Please contact Kevin or any Session member with any questions or concerns you may have. Please also watch your email for more information during the upcoming week.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Powell  
Clerk of Session

Information and protocols for attending Worship in the Sanctuary, as well as instructions for registering to attend will be shared early in the week of October 5th. You will need to register to attend Worship every Sunday until the Session and Worship Team decide that we no longer need to do so. This information will also be used for the purposes of contact tracing.

***Please do not notify the Church Office of your intentions to attend Worship until this documentation has been distributed.***

Thank you,  
The Worship Team



# Missions of the Month

The "Mission of the Month" for October is the Fairhaven Food Pantry. The Fair Haven Food Pantry has been serving our community since 1975. Their mission is to provide emergency food assistance to persons in the Spring Branch/Memorial area until other food assistance is available or until assistance with food is no longer needed. The COVID-19 virus has changed the way that the Fair Haven Food Pantry works. With



the wonderful assistance of Chapelwood, the food pantry has been converted to a drive thru pick up servicing hundreds of people each day.

Thank you to everyone that has brought donations for the Fair Haven Food Pantry to our Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Suppers & Drive-In Worship Services. We will continue to accept donations (non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, and paper products) at our World Communion Drive-In Service, the Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Suppers, and at our in-person Worship Services beginning October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## October Mission Updates & Opportunities

**The Peace & Global Witness Offering** is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday, October 4. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the Church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. The Presbyterian Women will be delivering Hot Meals this month on October 24<sup>th</sup>. We still need drivers! Contact Sarah Dikeman if you would like to help.



## PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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### PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

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](https://pcusa.org/peace-global)
- Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10

***"May the God of peace give you peace at all times in all ways."***

-2 Thessalonians 3:16

**Sunday, October 4th at 9:30 AM**

**Drive-In Worship Service**



*World  
Communion  
Sunday*

Join us for our next Drive-In Service on Sunday, October 4th at 9:30 AM! Come to the SBPC parking lot on the 4th as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with our brothers and sisters in Christ from CENTI Church.

Tune your radio to FM station 89.5 to hear everything. You will receive a copy of the Bulletin prior to Sunday 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. We hope to see you there!



**SPRING BRANCH**  
Presbyterian Church



**Save-The-Date!**  
**Drive-In Movie Night**  
**Saturday, October 24th**

More information and a movie title coming soon!

Sponsored by Spring Branch  
Presbyterian Church & Academy

# Presbyterian Women this Month



## PW at a Glance



**PW MODERATORS** meet on 10/7 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

**PW BOARD MEETING** meet on 10/7 at 10:15 a.m. (via Zoom)

**PW CIRCLE** meeting on 10/14 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

**THE HORIZONS** Evening Bible Study using **ZOOM** will be on Tuesday, 10/20 at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 2: [www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/into-the-light/](http://www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/into-the-light/)

Contact Carol Davis to receive a Zoom Invitation both the Day Circle and Evening Bible Study.

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

**PW** will be delivering **HOT MEALS** on Saturday, 10/24. Drivers are still needed!

**BIBLE STUDY** books are available in the Church Office, or can be picked up from Sarah Dikeman's House. The cost is \$10.

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

## Bible Study Using Zoom: October 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 2 of *Into the Light* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Tuesday, October 20th, at 7 p.m. All SBPC women are welcomed in this Bible study group through videoconference! Contact Carol Davis at [caroldavis@entouch.net](mailto:caroldavis@entouch.net) to receive the Zoom invitation to join the meeting. Watch the author's overview of this lesson on the SBPC website, and study books are available at \$10 each in the church office or from Sarah Dikeman.



Thank you to everyone that attended and helped at our Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper on September 30th. A total of **\$677** was collected to benefit the Scholarship Fund at SBPC! Thank you for your continued support!

## Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper

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

**Oct. 14** — Tremble's Takeout Tacos



**Oct. 28** — Asian Food  
Kay Craig & Betty Magnuson

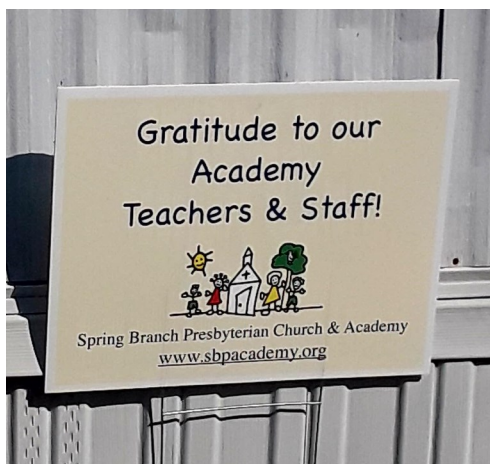


You will drive through the main entrance, past the port-cochere to where you will see Kevin loading dinners. You do not have to get out of your vehicle, just roll down the window or unlock the passenger side door. Kevin will also be offering prayers for all who wish. Please try to arrive between 6:00-6:20 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.

Our Faith Development Team has been hard at work creating and delivering surprise Teacher Appreciation yard signs for our Academy Teachers & Staff!

Thank you to everyone that has helped make this possible!



Gratitude to our  
Academy  
Teachers & Staff!



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church & Academy  
[www.sbpacademy.org](http://www.sbpacademy.org)

# 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=VU1VZVBByeFI1MEwxNmR090S0JVQT09>

## **October 4, 2020; 18th Sunday after Pentecost; World Communion Sunday**

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Text: Matthew 21:33-46

Title: Mission Impossible: Victory From Defeat

Focus: God chose the foolish things to confound the wise.

## **October 11, 2020; 19th Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading: Exodus 32:1-14

Text: Philippians 4:1-9

Title: Mission Impossible: Waging Peace

Focus: With our focus on Christ, we can be a force for peace within the church.

## **October 18, 2020; 20th Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading: Exodus 33:12-23

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

Title: Mission Impossible: Show Me The Money

Focus: When we give to God what we should, we get much more in return.

## **October 25, 2020; 21st Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

Text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Title: Mission Impossible: Our Legacy

Focus: From the most improbable of leaders God can build an amazing legacy.

## **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.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT

The SBPC women's retreat, sponsored by the Faith Development Team, will be **Saturday, February 27, 2021**, depending on status of covid/flu at that time. **Rev. Rose Niles** will be retreat leader. Details and registration information to follow---put this date on your calendar!

Women's  
Retreat

### Save the Date!

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.



### Important November 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>







SPRING BRANCH  
Presbyterian Church

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or directly at our Charity Link: [smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486)

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4. Select your charity
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start shopping at AmazonSmile

**Support  
Spring Branch  
Presbyterian Church.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
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In order to support Spring Branch Presbyterian Church through AmazonSmile, you have to make purchases through [smile.amazon.com](https://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](https://www.springbranchpres.org/give)).

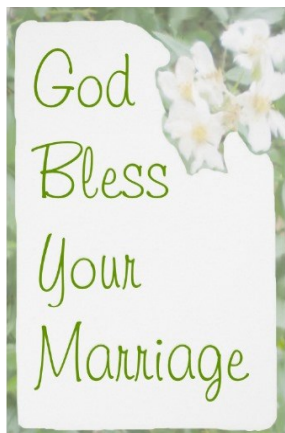
Thank you for your continued commitment!





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Atkinson Ballesteros	10/1	Neal Dikeman	10/13
Nolan Rouse	10/1	Rachel Wright	10/13
Stephanie Williams	10/1	Renae Oswald	10/14
Jacquelyn Dillard	10/3	Elaine Hall	10/16
Joan Belk	10/4	Gertrude Cooksey	10/17
Stephanie Premer	10/4	Caroline Humphrey	10/19
Nick Ballesteros	10/5	Megan Hogg	10/21
Catherine Daley	10/6	Blair Ballard	10/25
Jan Fitts	10/6	Carlette Boyd	10/28
Ravisse Massamba	10/6	Zach Farley	10/29
Miguel Carlin	10/7	Regan Oswald	10/29
Todd Miller	10/9	Jorida Vakiari	10/29
Amena Chehade	10/12	James Humphrey Sr.	10/31
Tristan Lukas Lepera	10/12	Kelly Lezon	10/31
Ludovic Massamba	10/12	Margaret Rouse	10/31
Robert Deutsch	10/13		

## Happy Anniversary!



Jorida and Ruden Vakiari	10/1
Nina and Marc Bik	10/2
Jay and Kim Tangey	10/9

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Drive-In Service</p> 	<p>7pm - Team Leader</p>	<p>9:15am - Cong. Care Mtg.</p> <p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Worship Team</p>	<p>9:30am - PW Moderator</p> <p>10:15am - PW Board</p>	8	9	10
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>9:30am - Explorers - Zoom</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p>	<p>5pm - Academy Board</p>	<p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>9:30am - PW Circle (Zoom)</p> <p>6pm - Drive-Thru WNS</p>	15	16	17
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>9:30am - Explorers - Zoom</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p>	<p>5pm - Faith Development</p>	<p>PresPress Articles DUE</p> <p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Horizon's Bible Study</p>	21	22	23	24
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>9:30am - Explorers - Zoom</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p>	<p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Session</p>	<p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Drive-Thru WNS</p>	28	29	30	31
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>9:30am - Explorers - Zoom</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p>						



Sponsored By:

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church  
1215 Campbell Road  
Houston, Texas 77055  
(713) 464-7659  
[www.springbranchpres.org](http://www.springbranchpres.org)

*relationships matter* 

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



**WORLD  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY**

**Sunday, October 4th at 9:30 AM**  
Drive-In Worship Service