

PRES PRESS



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

1215 Campbell Rd | Houston, TX 77055



relationships matter
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD 

Greetings, members and friends of Spring Branch!

It “appears” that we finally have results and this election is finally over, and that we will have a new president. You may be happy with the results or you may not. However, let’s hope and pray that it will be a time for all of our stress levels to go down.

One thing that worries me is that, while the election is over, we are still a very deeply divided nation. The popular vote was quite evenly split. I think it would be fair to say that whoever won could not claim a mandate from the people.

On June 16, 1858, the Civil War loomed on the horizon and the issue of slavery was at the heart. At what was then the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, after he had accepted the Illinois Republican Party’s nomination as that state’s US senator, Abraham Lincoln gave his famous “House Divided” speech in which he quotes Jesus in Mark 3:25. Here were his famous words:

“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free.”

As Lincoln predicted, it did not. What about us? The issues which divide us are far from clear now. During the election I heard candidates on both sides propounding many of the same ideas, while blasting opponents for not agreeing with their views. Many of us were no doubt scratching our heads. Oh there were differences of course. Many of them heart felt. But at the end of the day, I have found only a few people who can truly articulate what they are. It appears we need very few reasons to hate one another.

In 1966, Steven Stills was observing the violence on Sunset Strip, largely due to anti-war sentiment. He wrote the lyrics to “For What It’s Worth” as he watched. See if these lyrics sound contemporary:

“There’s battle lines being drawn
And nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong...
A thousand people in the street
Singin’ songs and a-carryin’ signs
Mostly say “Hooray for our side”

French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr is credited with the saying, “The more change the more they stay the same.” The origin of the of that quip is, you guessed it, political unrest. (In this case, the aftermath of French Revolution in 1849.) Will we ever learn? Perhaps I have grown a bit cynical at my age, but it appears that human hearts will always find an issue over which to hate. Even if one does not exist, we seem to be experts in fabricating them.

Yes, we live in a world so unlike the good news Jesus came to bring us. And yet, I believe that the time is ripe for the church to be different. The message of reconciliation Christ lived out is still the only hope for this world. And that brings me to my hopes and dreams for our church. It is my prayer during this time that we would be a microcosm of the Kingdom, holding out that hope for all who wish to walk in a way counter to the world around us. It is my hope that we would be a family who are in the world, but not of it. It is my dream that we would be a place where all can gather around the communion table in that promised peace which is not of this world. It is my earnest plea that each of us lay aside anything which may separate us, and come to Christ with repentant and refreshed hearts, truly enjoying both God and one another.

And yes...I believe it is possible! Will you join me?

In Christ’s Service,
Kevin Boyd, Pastor

*“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us;
we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” -2 Corinthians 5:20*

Missions of the Month

The "Mission of the Month" for November is one of our favorite ministries at Spring Branch Presbyterian – the Houston International Seafarers Center. The Seafarers Center is a multi-denominational outreach to seafarers from around the world who dock at terminals in the Houston Ship Channel.

Imagine working on a ship, far from home, during COVID-19, as Christmas approaches. This is a

reality for countless seafarers who pass through the Port of Houston every day. As the Port Chaplains share a Christmas shoebox with each seafarer, the seafarers experience true joy and excitement. Each Christmas, approximately 11,000 Christmas boxes are provided free of charge to our visiting seafarers.



A Season of Giving

During this season of giving thanks, the Mission Team is sponsoring three initiatives to show gratitude towards those around us and in our community:

1. Participate in the annual packaging and wrapping of the **Seafarers Christmas Boxes**. This year will be slightly different, but there are a number of ways that you can be involved. We will need the usual ladies sized shoeboxes and toiletries & small gifts, individuals who might be interested in wrapping presents, and someone who would like to deliver the gifts on or after November 29th. Please contact Laurie Mitchell if you have any questions.
2. We are continuing to accept donations for the **Fair Haven Food Pantry** (non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, and paper products). The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way that the Fair Haven Food Pantry works and there has been an increased need for the ministry in our community. With the wonderful assistance of Chapelwood, the food pantry has been converted into a drive-thru pickup, servicing hundreds of people each day.
3. This year, we are starting a new initiative of **calling seniors in our community on Thanksgiving** to share the love of Christ with one another. This program is being sponsored through *Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston*. Those that participate will be calling at least 10 people on Thanksgiving Day. If you would like to participate, please contact Miguel at miguel@springbranchpres.org by November 15th.

November Mission Updates & Opportunities

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 November 28th.

MAM Back-to-School Drive Update – A special thank you to everyone who donated to our Annual MAM Back-to-School Uniform Voucher Drive! This year, SBPC collected \$1,260.00 for Memorial Assistance Ministries! The collected funds will be distributed as vouchers to students to purchase new school uniforms.



Thinking Outside The Box!

The packing and wrapping of the Seafarers Boxes will look a little bit different this year. This is how you can be involved:



- Go on a family shopping trip and fill your own shoebox with goodies, make a Christmas card to put inside the box, wrap it, and return it to the church.
- Make a Christmas card or cards for the seafarer(s), and return them to the church.
- Let Laurie know that you would like to wrap gifts at your home. Filled boxes, paper, and tape can be supplied.
- Bring empty ladies sized shoe boxes to the church.
- Buy toiletries and small gifts off the suggested list and return them to the Church.
- Sign-up to deliver all the boxes to the Port of Houston on or after November 29th.



All items and family finished shoe boxes should be brought to the church by November 21. You can bring finished shoe boxes, empty shoe boxes, and goodies to fill them on Sunday mornings or WNS Drive-Thru Dinners. The Academy is open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-5:30pm to receive items at the front doors if you'd like to bring items during the week.

Below is the list of requested items from the Port of Houston. The Seafarers prefer full sized items over small travel sized items. We already have enough of the following: toothbrushes, pens, notepads, and hard candy.

Hairbrush / Comb	Kleenex	Lip Balm
Magnets	Gold Bond Powder	Gold Bond Cream
T-shirts (new)	Needle & Thread	Shaving Cream
Nail Clippers	Toothpaste	Gum
Q-Tips	Mechanical Pencils	Flashlight w/ batteries
Popcorn	Socks	Word Search/ Sudoku/ Fill-in books
Earbuds / Headphones	USB Flash Drives	2021 Calendar
Band-Aids (fabric)	Baseball Caps (new)	Disposable Razors
Dental floss	Deodorant	Lotion
Hot Chocolate	Key Chains	Texas Souvenirs
Soap & Shampoo	Playing Cards	Personal note or card

Presbyterian Women this Month



PW at a Glance

PW MODERATORS meet on **11/4** at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

PW BOARD MEETING meet on **11/4** at 10:15 a.m. (via Zoom)

PW CIRCLE meeting on **11/11** at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

THE HORIZONS Evening Bible Study using **ZOOM** will be on Tuesday, **11/17** at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 3: 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 November.

PW 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: November 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 3 of *Into the Light* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Tuesday, November 17th, at 7 p.m. All SBPC women are welcomed in this Bible study group through videoconference! Contact Carol Davis at 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.



Happy Hands

It looks like our Happy Hands group won't meet until sometime in the new year.

However, we have been notified that some of the hospitals are now accepting our handmade donations, like pillows, critters, and knitted or crocheted items. If you have kept busy during the shut down by making baby hats, scarves, blankets, etc. and would like to donate them, let me know, and I'll be happy to come by and pick them up from you. Contact Doris Wright at 281-597-1693 or by email at doriswright66@gmail.com.



Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper



Nov. 11 — Drive-By Chicken Pot Pie
Jan & Gerald Fitts

Nov. 18 — King Ranch Casserole
Laurie & Ethan Mitchell



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. During the month of November, we will be accepting shoe boxes and goodies for the Seafarer's Christmas Boxes.

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. Please do not seal the envelopes.

Take Home Ideas and After Church Treats for November!



To ponder:

How long do things last with you? Take some household objects and guess how long you've had them and how long you're going to keep them. Try it with toys, a mobile phone, a dinner plate, and clothes. Now try it with people you know – family and friends (be kind!). How long did Jesus stay with the disciples? How long did the Holy Spirit stay? How long does the Holy Spirit stay with us?

To do:

Make a "Gratitude Tree" as part of your Thanksgiving day, week, or just any day of the month! You can use a real tree, a cut branch, or an image of a bare tree to start. Cut out paper circles or leaf shapes for tree ornaments. On Thanksgiving Day, or whenever you choose, ask yourself and those around you to sit and write down on the ornaments at least three reasons you are thankful. Gather around your tree and share as you add your ornaments to the tree.

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=VU1VZVBByeFI1MEwxNmhrR090S0JVQT09>

November 1, 2020; 22nd Sunday after Pentecost; All Saints Day; Communion

Text: Matthew 23:1-12

Title: Mission Improbable 5: The Little Ones

Focus: Those who accomplish most in God's kingdom are often the least noticed.

November 8, 2020; 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Title: Mission Improbable 6: Silly Girls

Focus: Those in the Kingdom of God must remain ready.

November 15, 2020; 24th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Judges 4:1-7

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Title: Mission Improbable 7: Alternative Investors

Focus: Christians invest their whole beings into what the world may consider folly.

There will be no Pastor's Bible Study on Tuesday, November 17th.

The Gathering Place

What Have We Done Lately?

Our face-to-face Gathering Places have been cancelled through the end of 2020. Like most of you, we thought surely, we would be back in the summer, but no. Through the spring, we kept up with our guests through monthly phone calls, but in the summer, we decided to deliver bags to each home. We currently have 9 guests.

In July, we delivered 4th of July celebration bags full of flags, candy, crafts and puzzles.

In August, with the help of the Mission Team, we delivered hurricane bags which included water, insect repellent, waterless hair cleanser and a small lantern.

In September, we delivered baseball bags containing puzzles, a pennant craft, pencils, Cracker Jack, baked goodies, and a baseball stress ball.

September was also Mildred's 100th birthday! Here is a photo of her yard. Lisa Schultz delivered flowers to her. Mildred is one of our guests.



In October, we delivered a Halloween craft, Halloween banana bread and cookies, candy corn and puzzles. Each bag contains a greeting and a Bible verse of hope and comfort.



Our guests enjoy the bags, but it's the physical checking in on them that they really appreciate. Phone calls and virtual meetings do not blend well with dementia.

The Gathering Place is an ecumenical partnership with CarePartners® which provides memory care activities, lunch and a respite for caregivers of people with dementia.

A Weary World: Reflections of a Blue Christmas

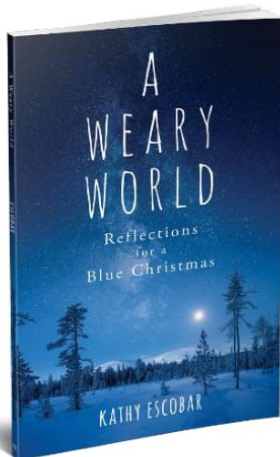
You're Invited to Participate

Discussion Group Begins Sunday, November 29 @ 1:30pm



The challenges of the holiday season can be daunting and overwhelming especially when one is not feeling the expected, anticipated holiday joy; but rather experiencing loss. The holiday season of 2020 is one through which each of us may be feeling some sort of loss or anxiety: the death of a family member or friend; the loss of social proximity with loved ones; the loss of freedom of movement due to Covid-19 healthy practices; or the anxiety of the unknown.

Kathy Escobar acknowledges the weariness many feel, especial during this historical time of pandemic. Kathy shares, “There are so many of us who—for all kinds of reasons—suffer this time of year and keep longing for hope, connection, and peace in the middle of loss, chaos, and confusion; who feel the magnitude of our weary world weighing on our hearts and souls; who are wrestling with chronic pain, broken relationships, shattered dreams, fragile faith, and unexpected losses.” She continues, “Add to it the sting of financial pressures, strained relationships, social distancing, pandemic disease, injustices everywhere we look, and wondering what we even believe about the Christmas story anymore, and Advent can be a very dangerous season for not only aching hearts but numb hearts as well. A lot of us are just . . . weary.”



You are invited to join a discussion group as we read and discuss Kathy Escobar's book, *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas*. Her book includes daily readings through this Advent season which will provide discussion and reflection prompts as we gather weekly during the Advent season. The discussion group will be a safe place to share and express your feelings as you feel called to do. *The goal of this group study will be to enact in our lives the four central themes of the book: honoring reality, practicing honesty, embracing paradox, and borrowing hope.*

Beginning Sunday, November 29 we will gather by Zoom at 1:30pm for the four Sundays of Advent. Let Denise Wilborn know you are interested in participating by email to faithdevelopment@springbranchpres.org. Zoom invitations will be sent each week. If you are interested in being in a discussion group and Sunday afternoons do not work for you, please reach out to Denise to explore other day/time options.

Personal copies of the book may be ordered from: Amazon (paperback and Kindle); Barnes and Noble (paperback and Nook); Cokesbury (paperback); The Thoughtful Christian (paperback); or Westminster John Knox Press (paperback).

SBPC has resumed in-person Worship and Sunday School. If you would like to attend Worship, you will need to register each week. By registering for Worship, you are agreeing to follow the guidelines set forth for a safe return. The guidelines for Worship and Sunday School are available at www.springbranchpres.org/worship-registration.

You can register for worship each week by completing the online form at www.springbranchpres.org/worship-registration, emailing secretary@springbranchpres.org, or by calling the Church Office (713-464-7659) and leaving a voicemail.

Every week, the service is being streamed live to the SBPC YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCK-MbvQ1TkJiUmDq1Psswg>

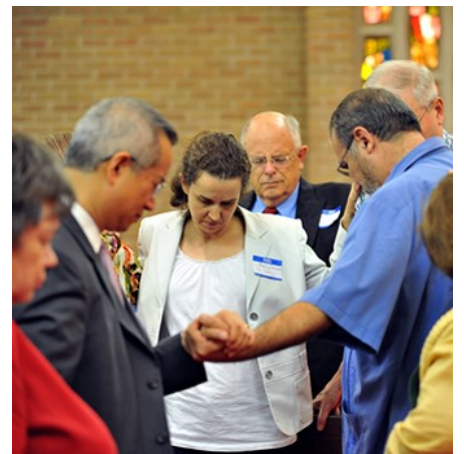
SAVE THE DATE FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT

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 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.



Coronavirus: Healthy Actions That Help You Feel Better

From WebMD (mostly)

Get Outside

The coronavirus pandemic has changed life as we know it. These changes can be hard, but there are ways you can stay mentally and physically healthy during this time. For one, try to get outside. Sunshine can boost your mood, and time outdoors brings many health perks. One study suggests green spaces can help keep depression and high blood pressure at bay. Of course, stay at least 6 feet away from anyone you don't live with.



Be Active Throughout Your Day

Even if you hit your step goal with a morning run, it's not healthy to spend the rest of the day sitting. If you have to be at a computer all day, set an alarm to get up and move every hour. Try to replace some of your sitting with standing. Plan short breaks throughout the day to go for a walk, play with your kids or pets, or do an exercise video.

Call or Text Someone



It's important to stay connected with your friends, family, and neighbors even while you keep social distance. Text a funny meme, call your loved ones, mail an encouraging note, or set up a group video chat. These small acts can lift others up and boost your own mood. Research shows social connection helps your self-esteem, lowers your anxiety, and helps keep your emotions even.

Limit News or Social Media

If you feel more anxious after you read a bunch of news stories or scroll through social media, set limits for yourself. Maybe check your most trusted news source once a day for a set amount of time. Choose certain days and times to check in on social media, and delete the apps from your phone the rest of the time. Ask a family member or friend to help you stick to it if you find it hard to step back.



Take Time to Relax



While you take a break from routines that may cause anxiety, add time for things that help you relax. Maybe take a long bath or shower, put your holiday lights back up, or sip tea in the afternoon. Start an evening ritual to help you wind down, like lighting a scented candle and listening to music. Fragrances like lavender, sandalwood, and bergamot may help calm you. If your candle has an open flame, be sure to blow it out before bed.

Give and Receive Help

Don't be afraid to ask for what you need, whether it's groceries or someone to talk to. If you don't know who to turn to, reach out to your community or your neighborhood social media group. In turn, look for ways you can care for others. Donate to a food drive, send a care package to a friend, or ask your older neighbors if they need anything before you head to the store. When you help others, it helps you feel better as well.



Try Something New



If there's a bright side to all the canceled events, maybe it's the newfound time you may have to try out a new hobby at home. There are plenty of online videos and websites that can help you learn anything from art and gardening to astronomy and coding. A new interest can help keep your mind off needless worry, and research shows hobbies are good for your health.



Set Goals

Goals can help you stay focused and give you a clearer purpose during this uncertain time. Don't make them too hard. Set goals that are within reach, and think about what you can do each week or each day to work toward them. If you had set goals at the beginning of this year and they no longer make sense, reshape them or set new ones. Don't beat yourself up if you have to put them on hold for now.



Go Easy on Yourself

This may not be the most productive season of your life, and that's OK. You don't have to cook fancy meals, start new work projects, or come up with creative activities for your kids every day. Give yourself grace, and focus on what's most important, like keeping you and your family healthy.

Start a Journal



Keep a journal to help you process this unusual time. Try to write about both your feelings and the facts of what's going on. A study found that people who did that were able to see the positive side of a stressful event better than those who wrote about only their feelings. You could also keep a diary, to simply record what life looks like right now, or a gratitude journal, which can help lift your mood.

Watch for Unhealthy Patterns

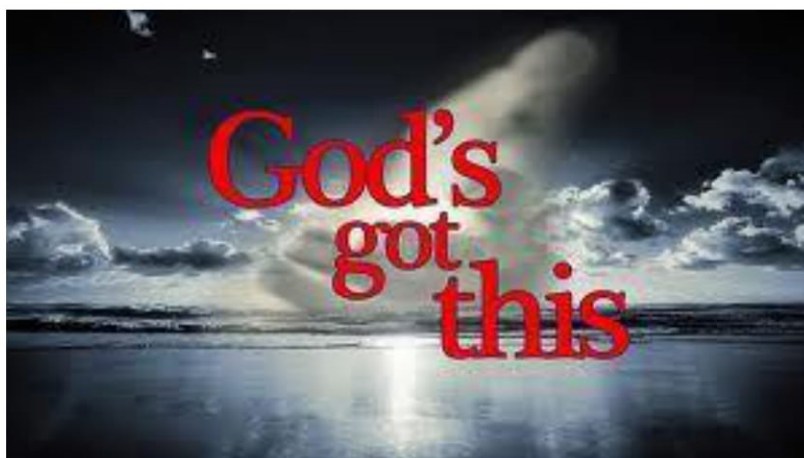
Take a look at any changes to your habits. Are you drinking more? Did you quit smoking years ago and find yourself reaching for a cigarette again? Is your stress showing up in angry outbursts? If you notice any harmful patterns, take steps now to get back on a healthy course. For instance, if you're in recovery, reach back out to your support group. If you saw a therapist before the pandemic, schedule an online appointment.



Think of the Big Picture

Although you may be more distant from others right now, you are not alone. Across the globe, this virus has disrupted people's lives. Keep in mind that your friends, colleagues, and millions of strangers all over the world are going through some of the same things you are. So, try to give them some margin, too, if someone isn't their usual self. We truly are all in this together.

And remember →



"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." -Philippians 4:13

And we are here to help. Kevin can be reached at 281-813-9395.

Or you can contact Kay Craig, Chair of the Congregation Team, to ask about talking to a former Stephen's Minister involved in our We Care Program.

Kay Craig – 713-248-4138 or kay@craig-heidt.com

Build Your Own Holiday Bubble



A letter from James T McDevitt, M.D. (Senior Vice President and Dean of Clinical Affairs, Baylor College of Medicine) about preparing for the holidays during COVID-19.

<https://www.bcm.edu/coronavirus/for-the-baylor-community/from-dr-james-mcdevitt/build-your-own-holiday-bubble>

Virtual Event with the author of *Disunity in Christ*



Activist and Public Theologian Christena Cleveland

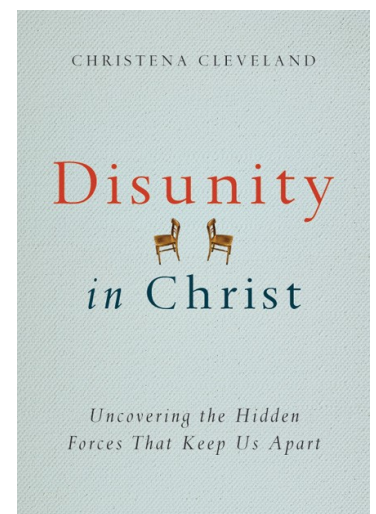
Dr. Christena Cleveland, social psychologist and author of *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces That Keep Us Apart*, will present two 90-minute sessions on Zoom on Saturday, November 14, at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. This is sponsored by the Synod of the Sun's Network for Dismantling Racism. Recordings of both sessions will be made available following the live event. You are asked to register ahead of November 14th. "This book is delightful, witty and deeply insightful! She weaves her own voice and stories with compelling social psychological research to convey an urgent, informed message that church leaders, educators and lay Christians will find profoundly useful." The book is available on Kindle and in paperback from Amazon, but is not required for attending this event.

Session #1 with Christena Cleveland

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9Jz-i02TSUm8UJmOSK4mLQ

Session #2 with Christena Cleveland

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nz5yZq13T_emCjB3jHQsdg



Join us via Zoom from 9am until 12pm

PYCC

YOUTH RALLY

“We are the Church”

NOVEMBER

15

Sunday

Worship, Small Groups, and Fellowship!

RSVP with Aaron Seay

aseay@pbyofnewcovenant.org

to let us know your church will be there!!



Poinsettias!

We will have poinsettias for purchase again this year! You can place your order in the Church Office, online at this [form](https://forms.gle/jRhQFBorzzQ32nW7) (<https://forms.gle/jRhQFBorzzQ32nW7>), or by emailing secretary@springbranchpres.org, today through Monday, December 21st! They are a beautiful way to bring color and brightness to the Church throughout the Advent Season! What a lovely way to honor your loved ones, or to have a beautiful remembrance of those who are no longer with us. Don't forget to bring your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Please remember to indicate who you are honoring, and/or remembering, with your payment of \$10.00 to SBPC. You can mail your payment to the Church Office or place it in the offering box on Sunday mornings. Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy for you and your family this coming Advent Season.



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program through the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color—offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. This offering will be collected on December 20th and 24th.

Ways to Give:

- Through your congregation
- Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

"God is with us." -Matthew 1:23



REIMBURSEMENTS DEADLINE APPROACHING...

Please turn in your personal reimbursements no later than December 15th. Contact Jorida at jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org if you have any questions.



AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



There are a variety of gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. There are a variety of ways to serve, but the same Lord is served. And there are different ways that God works through people, but it is the same God. God works through each one of us in a variety of ways. A gift of the Spirit can be seen in each person, working for the common good.

I Corinthians 12: 4-7

Save The Date

Christmas at the Manse

Virtual Holiday Gathering
Hosted By Ted Wardlaw and Kay Bryant
Thursday, December 10, 2020
6:00 p.m. Central Time
RSVP@austinseminary.edu



*Affirming
Our Gifts*

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
100 E. 27th Street, Austin, Texas 78705

Carol Davis is assisting Rev. Rose Niles (*the SBPC 2021 Women's Retreat Leader*) with recruitment for this event. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carol at caroldavis@entouch.net.

Demand for furniture and home goods are at an all-time high and MAM needs your help!

Get your home holiday-ready by donating the items you no longer need.



HELP MAM STOCK THE STORE!



Pick-up service available. Contact us to schedule a time.

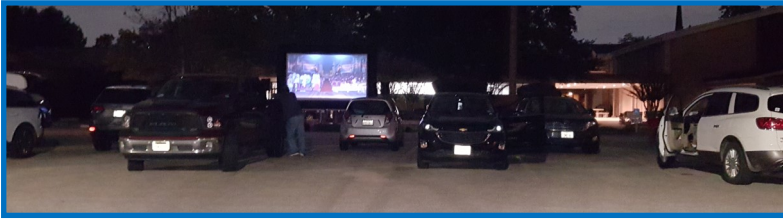
MAM *Resale Store*
& BOUTIQUE

(713) 491-4330 | donations@mamhouston.org

Donations to and purchases from the MAM Resale Store benefit programs to help families improve their lives. Donations should be in good, sellable condition. We cannot accept broken or unusable items.

More information can be found at www.mamhouston.org/resale

Thank you to everyone that helped make our first Drive-In Movie Night a success! We hope to have an Advent themed movie event in the near future!



Dust off Your Halos – It's Time for Our Annual Angel Tree Christmas Program



A Program of Prison Fellowship

SBPC has been participating in the Angel Tree Christmas Prison Ministry program for many years, providing Christmas gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. Every year, our church receives the names of about 20 children who live in the zip codes around our church.

Although this ministry will be virtual this year, we will still be serving local children. Each child will be receiving a \$40 gift card to Walmart. We chose the \$40 gift card option since that amount is comparable to the two gifts that we would typically provide. We encourage SBPC folks to join together with another member or family if the \$40 is out of your individual price range. The children will receive these gift cards in the mail directly from Angel Tree.

Watch for more information on choosing the children and navigating the SBPC Angel Tree website. If you have any questions please reach out to Laurie Mitchell.

BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH

INTERESTED in beautifying the sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The Flowers Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex! **The cost per arrangement is \$65.00. Special arrangements vary and should be requested EARLY!** Checks should be written to SBPC and mailed to the Church Office or placed in the Offering Box on Sunday mornings.



Orange is the new sign your burner needs cleaning.

Natural gas flames should burn **BLUE** except in fireplace logs, which burn orange for a more realistic wood-fire look. Orange or yellow flames indicate a

problem, so don't use the appliance and call a qualified service technician to check it out, clean and adjust, if necessary.

More info at CenterPointEnergy.com/COSafety.



188312



If you are purchasing something for reimbursement by the church, please take a tax exempt form from the Church Office with you. You can keep it in your car, purse, wallet, etc.! Help us save a few dollars the next time you make a purchase for the church.



IMPORTANT PRESPRESS & BULLETIN REMINDER

ALL PRESPRESS articles are DUE no later than the **20th of this month!**

Please email your articles to

secretary@springbranchpres.org no later than the 20th.

BULLETIN information is DUE no later than the Wednesday before the service.

FRIDAY EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

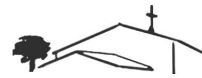
Would you like to receive our weekly announcements via email every Friday? Sign-up by visiting our Church website: www.springbranchpres.org –

CLICK on “sign up for our Mailing List”

Church's Prayer Chain List?

A Prayer Chain Email is sent to our “prayer warriors” when we receive word about someone in need.

Contact the Church Office or Sarah Dikeman if you'd like to be added.



SPRING BRANCH
Presbyterian Church

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.

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

**Support
Spring Branch
Presbyterian Church.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

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! Don't forget that the church expenses continue just the same. If you're not attending in-person Worship, 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!



SBPC'S Store at Lands' End is back up and running!

SBPC Logo shirts are a great way to represent our church in the community.

Now SBPC has its own store: business.landsend.com/store/springbranchpres

From there you can choose from men's and women's polos, shirts, t-shirts, pullovers, jackets, totes, caps, aprons, and much more – all with the church logo!

You can choose from a multitude of colors as well as different thread colors for the logo.



To Order:

1. Go to: business.landsend.com/store/springbranchpres
2. Hover over *My Account* and select *Create Account* when the window pops up.
3. Select a category to start shopping, or use the search tool (Men, Women, Promotional Products).
4. Click on the item you would like to purchase and choose the color and size of the item. **Then select *Apply Logo(s)* to continue.**
5. Select the church logo (Logo 1). It will let you preview it on the left side of your screen.
6. If you would like to change the color of the Logo, select *Change Logo Color(s)* and pick from the provided options. Note: The church logo is made up of 3 separate pieces. To change the color, please make sure that you change the color of all 3 pieces of the Logo. You can see this in realtime in the preview on the left side of your screen.
7. Select the location where you would like the logo, and **click *Apply Logo*.**
8. Push *Add to Bag* and continue shopping or checkout.
9. Once your items are ready, they will ship to the address you provided when you setup your account. If you have not setup an account, please do so now so you do not lose your items.

Contact Ethan Mitchell at ethan@springbranchpres.org if you have any questions.



November




happy birthday

Cyndi Ballesteros	11/1	Carrie Whittlesey	11/12
Renee Henry	11/2	Charles Fairchild	11/14
Marguerite Priest	11/2	Jayden Earnest	11/15
Jacque Ballesteros	11/3	Kate Cross	11/16
Sarah Powell	11/4	Matthew Hogg	11/19
Meg Humphrey-Sides	11/6	Jeff Hogg	11/21
Deona Vakiari	11/7	Melissa Rendon	11/21
Joel Alegria	11/10	Luke Balli	11/23
Elizabeth Powell	11/10	McCaslin Ballesteros	11/25
Nina Rach	11/10	Brice Wilborn	11/26
Jackie Nix	11/11	Rhonda Hill	11/30
Jennifer Miller	11/11		

Happy Anniversary!



Victoria and Joseph Kissinger	11/3
Steve and Fonda Blair	11/4
Megan and Jeff Hogg	11/4
Liz and Stephen Earnest	11/6
Delia and Richard Nix	11/16
Rocco and Lin Sabala	11/27

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	2 7pm - Worship Team	3 9:15am - Cong. Care Mtg. 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	4 9:30am - PW Moderator 10:15am - PW Board	5	6	7
8 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	9 5pm - Academy Board	10 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	11 9:30am - PW Circle 6pm - Drive-Thru WNS	12	13	14
15 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	16 5pm - Faith Development 7pm - Mission Team	17 7pm - Horizon's Bible Study	18 6pm - Drive-Thru WNS	19	20 PresPress Articles DUE	21
22 Christ the King Sunday 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	23	24 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	25	26 Thanksgiving Day 	27 11am - Hot Meals	28
29 1st Sunday in Advent 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship 1:30pm - A Weary World	30	1	2	3	4	5



Sponsored By:

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

relationships matter 

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

Happy 
Thanksgiving

*“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us
make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.”*

~Psalm 95:2