

# PRES PRESS

March  
2021



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

*relationships matter*  
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

These have been historically difficult times for many of us. With COVID-19, financial strains, and now the big winter storm, many of us have had our lives and our routines drastically upset. We have had our emotional, spiritual, and physical resources strained farther than we would have ever imagined.

As I was thinking about this, a random YouTube video popped up, which said it would explain how to upset steel. I had no idea how a piece of metal could get upset, so I was intrigued. What I found out is that “upsetting” is a term used by blacksmiths. While most of the time a smith is drawing out metal to thin and shape it, there are times when it is struck on the end in such a way that the opposite occurs. As a result of being “upset,” metal gains strength, thickness, and mass.

I wonder if we can take a lesson from the blacksmiths of old. David was upset that his plans to build a temple were rejected by God. As a result, his son Solomon built a more magnificent one. Mary and Martha were upset that Jesus did not follow their requested schedule and their brother, Lazarus, died. As a result, we see one of the most powerful and inspirational miracles in all of scripture. When Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi they sang and prayed and the prison gates miraculously opened. The guard was so upset that he almost killed himself. As a result, he asked about salvation and it was a pivotal point in the founding of the church. Later, the apostle Paul was upset that some of his church members were not setting a godly example because they could not get along. As a result, we see the book of Philippians which has inspired Christians for thousands of years. As we have seen in our sermons, the disciples were upset with Jesus when they found out that their routine of following him was about to be upset and Jesus was going to be crucified. But in the end, Christ accomplished our salvation.

Seeing a pattern here? We have all been upset with what life has thrown us. Could it be that God is working us like a piece of iron, making us stronger and more useful? Could it be that upsetting our normal, while not ever pleasant, is a sign of something amazing God is doing in us and through us? God certainly seems to work that way!

This season of Lent, my prayer is that each of us would have our “normal” upset, and that God would be glorified!

In Christ's Service,  
Kevin Boyd, Pastor



Information about our Holy Week services will be shared with the Congregation as it becomes available. Be on the lookout for emails about how we will worship as a community as we continue through this Lenten season. The videos and SBPC website links will be released on the day of that Holy Week Service.

## **PALM SUNDAY** – March 28th

*Drive-In Worship Service at 10:00 AM*

**Streaming on Facebook Live**

[www.facebook.com/springbranchpres](http://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres)



## **MAUNDY THURSDAY** – April 1st

*Drive-Thru Dinner at 6:00 PM (Menu TBA)*

*More details to follow*

[www.springbranchpres.org/Maundy-Thursday-2021](http://www.springbranchpres.org/Maundy-Thursday-2021)

## **GOOD FRIDAY** – April 2nd

*Good Friday Video Devotional*

*More details to follow*

[www.springbranchpres.org/Good-Friday-2021](http://www.springbranchpres.org/Good-Friday-2021)



## **PRAYER VIGIL ON HOLY SATURDAY** – April 3rd

*The purpose of this vigil is to surround our church with prayer as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Do you miss being in our beautiful sanctuary? Well here is the perfect opportunity for you to come safely and comfortably use it! The church sanctuary will be reserved solely for the Prayer Vigil on this day. Coming soon, a digital and paper and sign-up sheet will be available for selecting individual 1-hour time slots. You may participate both in the Sanctuary or from your home. Watch for more information, and a request for prayer concerns to be included in the Prayer Vigil aids and materials.*

## **EASTER** – April 4th

*Drive-In Worship Service at 10:00 AM*

*Celebrate our Risen Lord from the comfort of your car in the church parking lot.*

*Tune your radio to FM 89.5!*

**Streaming on Facebook Live**

[www.facebook.com/springbranchpres](http://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres)



# Missions of the Month

The "Mission of the Month" for March is BakerRipley. BakerRipley provides outreach services to underserved communities in the Greater Houston area and surrounding communities. In addition to community centers where clients receive ESL classes, immigration services, GED assistance, etc., they also provide Disaster Recovery support services, community Head Start schools, job and career development services, senior support services, and tax and financial support

services.

Every day, BakerRipley is connecting hardworking families to opportunities to support their educational, financial, and civic aspirations. This belief extends from birth to older adults. BakerRipley Senior Services works directly with neighbors to create opportunities that honor their purpose and well-being. The Dementia Day Center provides a supportive environment where individuals with dementia can participate in purpose-filled, strength-based activities. Caregivers of older adults have the opportunity to access accurate information, education, and connect to others.



- ❖ Through BakerRipley's Workforce Solutions Initiatives Department, neighbors have had access to job coaching, training, and resources. 32% of customers that called the Workforce Solutions Department received a 20% higher paying job.
- ❖ 89% of neighbors who were employed obtained a 30% increase or higher in wages after participating in the program.
- ❖ In 2019, BakerRipley served 1,792 Adult Education Participants and 82% who tested made progress in learning English and other oral tests that were given.
- ❖ In 2019, BakerRipley helped complete 35,000 tax returns for our neighbors, which resulted in 55 million in tax refunds for low income families across the Houston Region.
- ❖ Through BakerRipley helping neighbors complete their tax returns, 3.8 million in legal fees were saved.



## March Mission Updates & Opportunities

**Souper Bowl of Caring Update** – Thank you to everyone that participated in our Souper Bowl of Caring effort this year! We collected a total of 143lbs of food and \$307 in monetary donations. All donations were taken to the Fair Haven Food Pantry.

**SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends** – The current COVID-19 restrictions have made this service opportunity possibly more important than ever. 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. Please contact Lu Taylor if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month. The Saturday for this month will be March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Don't forget to spring forward!**

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.



## Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper

**March 3 — Hamburgers**

**March 17 — Menu TBA**

**April 1 — Baked Ziti**

*Maundy Thursday*



**The direction of the drive-thru lane has changed!** Please enter the parking lot at the light at Bace and Campbell. The dinner line will form in the opposite direction, picking up food at the Fellowship Hall doors, and then exiting back out onto Campbell via the drive underneath the port-cochere. **The Academy now closes at 6:00 PM, so please try not to arrive early.** If you do, you may park in a parking space until after the parent pickup has concluded, then enter the line.

You do not have to get out of your vehicle, just roll down the window or unlock the 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, plastic grocery bags, 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.



*We hope the Lent in a Sack has helped in the observance of Lent and to prepare for Holy Week, and of course Easter. A packet for Holy Week will be available starting March 17th.*



# Presbyterian Women this Month



## PW at a Glance

**PW MODERATORS** meet on 3/3 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

**PW BOARD MEETING** meet on 3/3 at 10:15 a.m. (via Zoom)

**PW CIRCLE** meeting on 3/10 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

**THE HORIZONS** Evening Bible Study will be on Wednesday, 3/24 at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 7: [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 for both the Day Circle and the Evening Bible Study.

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

**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: March 24th at 7:00 p.m.*

Lesson 7 of *Into the Light* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Wednesday, March 24, 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.



**SBPC Scholarship applications are now available for interested students!** Completed applications are due May 1 for the year applying and should be turned in to Sarah Dikeman for the women's scholarship and Ken Crawford for the men's scholarship.

**Spring Branch Presbyterian Church  
Women's/ Men's Scholarship Application  
2021-2022 Academic Year**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone cell: \_\_\_\_\_ home: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you employed: FT \_\_\_\_\_ PT \_\_\_\_\_ Work Study \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College, University, or Technical School: \_\_\_\_\_

Level: Freshman \_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Post- Grad \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Years Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ FT/ PT student \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Honors Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate piece of paper, in paragraph form, please describe:

1. Your goals
2. Extracurricular activities
3. Community service
4. How your faith and belief in God affects your studies
5. Your membership and involvement in Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
6. Use of Scholarship money
7. Any other information you'd like to share
8. Optional Photograph

\*\*Applications are due the 1<sup>st</sup> of May for the year applying and should be turned in to Sarah Dikeman for the Women's Scholarship and Ken Crawford for the Men's Scholarship. Applicant must be enrolled or accepted at a college, university, technical school, or certification program. Scholarships will be awarded in the summer of the year applying. Recipient must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0/C average. Applicant must be an active member in good standing of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. Reapplication may be made each year beginning January 1.

## *The Gathering Place What Have We Done Lately?*



*Our face-to-face Gathering Places have been cancelled until further notice, but we are delivering monthly packages in an effort to lift spirits and make contact with our usual guests.*

*Our theme in January was Snow. If we had known about the FREEZE, we would have changed that to February, but hindsight is 20/20! We delivered bags full of yummy donut snowmen and a clever craft.*

*Our theme in February was Mardi Gras, and we missed it because of the FREEZE. We were due to deliver on that Monday. We delivered a week late with a Lenten Soup mix, a cute tambourine craft from Sarah Dikeman, and lemon muffins from Lisa Schultz. The church also contributed the Lenten Devotional and other materials such as coloring sheets, puzzles and games. Thank you so much to Marguerite and the Worship and Faith Development Teams for organizing that.*

*All of our participants were happy and well this month. Family and good neighbors helped keep them warm and dry. Thank God for community!*

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

Welcome to this very unusual time of Lent, 2021. Although this is a difficult time, it can also be a time of significant spiritual growth. Therefore, your church is providing you with several resources to maximize this time. You are free to use any or all of what may speak to your heart.



First, there is a Lenten Devotional focusing on praying with the scriptures. It is designed to use scripture as a guide to help us to pray effectively, bring scripture and hymns to life, and to learn the art of journaling.

Second, for those feeling a call to delve deeper into social justice issues, you will see our Synod's program. This course asks difficult and relevant questions, and includes practical suggestions on how to implement social justice.

Copies of both of these materials are available in the Church Office, in the Narthex, and online at [www.springbranchpres.org/2021-lenten-devotionals](http://www.springbranchpres.org/2021-lenten-devotionals).

Finally, there will be some concrete suggestions based on the week's sermon. If you were able to be in worship you have seen the first example. These will be emailed each week following the sermon.

I pray that these resources will help you on your journey. Please stay safe and walk humbly with our Lord this Lent!

In Christ's Service,  
Kevin Boyd,  
Pastor



Although the **Explorers Sunday School Class** is meeting in-person on Sunday mornings, you can still join virtually via *Zoom*! The group gathers at 9:30 AM, both virtually and in-person. If you would like to participate via Zoom, please contact Linda Crawford.



# 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>

## **March 7, 2021; 3rd Sunday in Lent; Communion**

First Reading: Exodus 10:1-17

Text: John 2:13-22

Title: Purple Daze 3: Objects of Hypocrisy

Focus: Purple can symbolize pain, suffering, mourning and penitence. It is also the blending of red and blue. How do we respond when hypocrisy and is pointed out in our church and in our lives?

## **March 14, 2021; 4th Sunday in Lent**

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Text: John 3:14-21

Title: Purple Daze 4: Looking Up

Focus: Purple is the color of majesty and royalty. Following Christ means we recognize the supremacy of Christ and receive his help.

## **March 21, 2021; 5th Sunday in Lent**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Text: John 12:20-33

Title: Purple Daze 5: Opening Our Eyes to See Jesus

Focus: Purple has been shown to help us imagine and dream. Like the Greek men, we need to see Jesus and our world with new eyes.

We will have **Easter Lilies** again this year! Place your order now through Friday, April 2nd. You can order by using the form in the Narthex or Church Office, contacting Ethan Mitchell at [ethan@springbranchpres.org](mailto:ethan@springbranchpres.org), calling the Church and leaving a voicemail (713-464-7659), or using this [Google Form](https://forms.gle/2snyd16ggw35rAB99) (<https://forms.gle/2snyd16ggw35rAB99>).

The cost is \$10 each, and the payment can be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering box on Sunday mornings. The names of those being honored or remembered will be shared with the congregation on Easter Sunday morning.



Join us for a virtual luncheon event  
benefiting the children of PCHAS



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services<sup>SM</sup>

Thursday  
April 15, 2021

Event Starts at:  
12:00 pm (Central Time)

Zoom and additional log-in  
information will be provided  
through email when you RSVP.

One of our **table hosts**  
will be contacting you or  
you can contact one of them:

**Sarah Dikeman, Patti Nanney  
or Marguerite Priest**

[pchas.org](http://pchas.org)





## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

February 17-April 24, 2021

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

### **Ways to Give:**

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at [presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs](http://presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs)
- Text OGHS to 91999 to give

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Our gifts help to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People.



Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge Card. For a digital copy, please visit the following link: <http://www.springbranchpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Pledge-Card.pdf>. You can download this card, type directly into it, and email it to [giving@springbranchpres.org](mailto:giving@springbranchpres.org) or [jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org](mailto:jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org).

**SBPC has resumed in-person Worship and Sunday School.** If you would like to attend Worship and/or Sunday School, you will need to register each week. By registering, 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](http://www.springbranchpres.org/worship-registration).



You can register for Worship and Sunday School each week by completing the online form at [www.springbranchpres.org/worship-registration](http://www.springbranchpres.org/worship-registration). You may also register via email to [secretary@springbranchpres.org](mailto:secretary@springbranchpres.org). If you register via email, please include if/which in-person Sunday School Class you will attend.

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



## **RODEO JOHN KNOX**

### **Saturday, March 6, 2021**

John Knox Presbyterian Church  
2525 N. Gessner Rd  
Houston, TX 77080

On Saturday, March 6, 2021, John Knox Presbyterian will host our annual Rodeo Dinner and Auction. This year's dinner will be offered "to-go" so that you and your family may enjoy a meal at home together or you may want to order a few to-go boxes and have a socially distanced meal with friends!

You could offer to pick up meals for your neighbors who aren't getting out these days as well. Any way you choose to do it, we'll provide a delicious meal that we know you'll enjoy!

#### On the menu this year is:

Choice of pulled pork or chicken. All plates will include sausage, cheesy ranch roasted potatoes, charro beans, Mexican street corn, bread, onions/pickles/jalapenos and peach cobbler!

#### Below are details:

Date: March 6, 2021

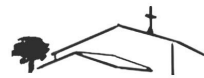
Time: Pick up times will vary in the afternoon according to your ticket number so that we don't have too many people picking up at one time. We will also deliver curbside on Brigade Street if you prefer not to come in the building.

Cost: \$20 per plate

Where: John Knox Presbyterian Church, 2525 N. Gessner Rd., Houston, TX 77080

The deadline to get your ticket and sign up for your meal in advance is Wednesday March 3, 2021. To purchase your tickets, please call our office at 713-462-5448. Extra meals may be available on Saturday March 6, 2021 and you are invited to call between 2 to 3 PM on Saturday to see what is available.

Funds raised will benefit three local charities in our community. We combine a portion of the profits from this fundraiser with the profits from our annual fall Charity Bazaar to split between the three chosen organizations. Those organizations will be announced soon.



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Amazon donates.

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2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations ([smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486))
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

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! 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](https://www.springbranchpres.org/give)).

Thank you for your continued commitment!





# Happy Birthday





Noah Fake	3/1
Andrew Blair	3/2
Patti Walsh	3/3
Beverly Cook	3/6
David Fuller	3/6
Amy Cross	3/7
Gary Mitchell	3/7
Yolanda Martinez	3/8
C. Richard Nix	3/9
Sam Wright	3/9
Gwendolyn Dikeman	3/14

James Qualls	3/14
Linda Crawford	3/15
Austin Smith	3/15
Patty Blome	3/17
Edda Chirwa	3/17
Patti Nanney	3/18
Matthew Lassiter	3/20
Amber Murphy	3/22
Barbara Lanan	3/28
Ethan Mitchell	3/29

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Cyndi and Nick Ballesteros	3/27
Patti and Steve Nanney	3/30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7pm - Worship Team	11am - Pastor's Bible Study 1:30pm - Cong. Care Mtg. 7pm - Fellowship Meeting	9:30am - PW Moderator 10:15am - PW Board 6pm - Drive-Thru WNS			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	5pm - Academy Board	11am - Pastor's Bible Study	9:30am - PW Circle			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4th Sunday in Lent 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	5:30pm - Faith	11am - Pastor's Bible Study	6pm - Drive-Thru WNS 			PresPress Articles DUE
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5th Sunday in Lent 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship		11am - Pastor's Bible Study 7pm - Session	7pm - Horizon's Bible Study			11am - Hot Meals
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Palm Sunday 10am - Drive-In Worship 		11am - Pastor's Bible Study				



Sponsored By:

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