

PRES PRESS

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



Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Perhaps you have heard the old story about the man who decided to swim the ocean. About 3/4 of the way across, he got tired and decided to turn around and go back. Well of course that story is fictitious and quite ridiculous. Still, I think there is a good parallel here.

It has been more than a year now that we have been under Covid restrictions. As of the time of this writing, while there are (unfortunately) parts of the world where we are still seeing growing trends in Covid-related deaths, we are seeing positive trends within our country, state, and city. At the same time, more and more people have been vaccinated. It does seem, from our informal surveys, that most of our congregation has chosen to be vaccinated at this point. After approximately the next 3 weeks, our staff should be covered with their immunities. Locally, most school districts have announced that masks will not be required following the end of this academic year, though the details vary between districts.

So, where does this leave us? We are welcoming groups back into the church facilities, as we work to ensure a safe schedule. The Academy is once again full of children and we are working on a safe but full schedule for the summer. In worship, we have moved the available seating closer together in accordance with new current guidelines and pew Bibles have been replaced, to be followed soon by the new hymnals. At our last session meeting, we looked at current trends and we hope to follow the lead of the school districts concerning masks, but will be watching the statistics as our next stated meeting approaches. Slowly, folks are returning to worship in person and this is a good thing.

As I said, we have been at this a long time. Many of us are growing weary. However, when describing times of great difficulty to come Jesus said, "Lift up your heads. Redemption draws near!" That means things are almost over. And I believe that is where we find ourselves right now. In other words, don't swim most of the way across the ocean only to give up within sight of the shore.

I am praying for our church body as we come to an end of this difficult time. I pray for patience, acceptance, and love one for another that transcends our own comfort levels, avoids judging others for the choices they make, and glorifies God by worshiping the Lord with our whole heart, the best we can, wherever we are.

Please stay tuned as things change!

In Christ's Service,
Kevin Boyd, Pastor

Missions of the Month

The Mission of the Month for May is **Mo-Ranch!** We support Mo-Ranch's youth scholarship fund so that all children and youth can enjoy and benefit from a Mo-Ranch experience.

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is located in the heart of the beautiful Hill Country in Hunt, Texas. It is nestled on 500-acres along the spring-fed Guadalupe River with an abundance of land and water recreation, sports activities, hiking trails, and the great outdoors. Mo-Ranch is open to the public for spiritual retreats, conferences, summer and day camps, weddings, reunions, group meetings, corporate retreats, vacation getaways and individual reservations.

But youth programs have been at the heart of Mo-Ranch's ministry since its inception and have drawn tens of thousands of youth to attend the unforgettable Mo-Ranch experience that's filled with new friends, spiritual enrichment, worship, study and recreation. Activities and recreation include everything from taking a challenge on the Mo ropes course, dancing, games, energizers, vespers and popsicle parties, to aquathons, sports, evening movies, swimming in the beautiful Guadalupe, singing God's praises and more!



May 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 May 22nd.



As we begin to start our spring cleaning, the Mission Team and Spring Branch Lions Club would be glad to accept any gently used eyeglasses that you may wish to donate. A green collection box is available in the narthex to receive your donations. We also will be happy to accept your donations in the church office by placing them in Miguel's mailbox. We will be accepting donations throughout the months of May and June.

Church Picnic



Join us after **Pentecost Worship** on May 23 for a picnic lunch.

We will be socially distancing.

You may bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Some will be provided.

Sandwiches, salads, chips, desserts

& drinks will be provided.

You may bring some lawn games if you wish.

If the weather does not cooperate, we will be in the fellowship hall.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start—a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through adulthood. Our congregation is joining the whole church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith.

Ways to Give:

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/donatepentecost
- Text PENTECOST to 91999 to give

A Foundation of Faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

There will be a **Called Congregational Meeting** immediately following Worship on **Sunday, May 9th**. The Purpose of the meeting is to elect the 2021 Nominating Committee. A Zoom link will be published for those attending Worship virtually. The YouTube Live Stream will conclude prior to the meeting beginning.



Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper



May 12 — Kevin's Chicken!

*Last Drive-Thru Dinner
of the school year.*

*Watch for pop-up dinners
throughout the summer!*



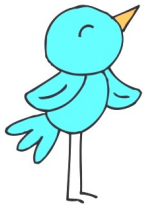
Please enter the parking lot at the light at Bace and Campbell. The dinner line will form in the opposite direction, picking up food at the Fellowship Hall doors, and then exiting back out onto Campbell via the drive underneath the port-cochere. The Academy now closes at 6:00 PM, so please try not to 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.

Presbyterian Women this Month



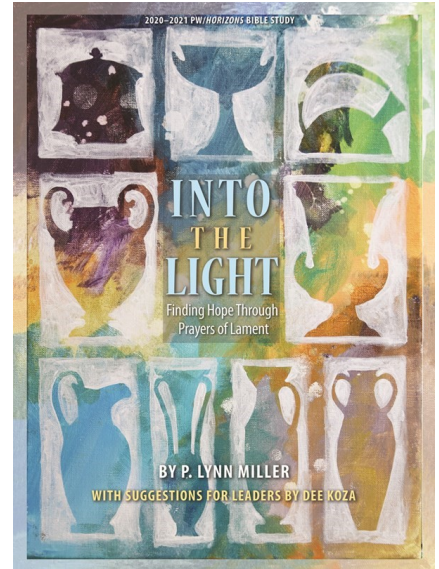
PW at a Glance

PW MODERATORS meet on 5/5 at 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

PW BOARD MEETING meet on 5/5 at 10:15 a.m. (via Zoom)

PW CIRCLE meeting on 5/12 at 9:30 a.m. (Sarah Dikeman's House)

Will meet in person at Sarah Dikeman's 11414 South Chestwood for Bible Study and lunch. There will be (hopefully) zoom meeting of the study at the same time. If you are not comfortable with returning in-person, please let Carol Davis know to send you an invitation. A couple of members have volunteered to bring their laptops to host it on Zoom. For those participating in lunch, salad greens, crackers and dessert will be provided. We ask everyone to bring something to add to the salad. If you are uncomfortable with having salad lunch this way, feel free to bring your own lunch. Weather permitting, we will be outside on the patio.



THE HORIZONS Evening Bible Study will be on Monday, 5/17 at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 9: 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.

HAPPY HANDS will meet on 5/26 at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Place.

There will be no **ZIP TRIP** in May.

Bible Study Using Zoom: May 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 9 of *Into the Light* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Monday, May 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.



Happy Hands in May



The Happy Hands group will meet Wednesday, May 26, 9:30am, in the Gathering Place. Come join the group for stuffing, stitching, and fellowship. Our pillows, blankets, baby hats, etc. are being delivered to area hospitals. The hospitals are so thankful for our faithful provision of these items. For our meeting, we will follow the health and safety protocols that are in place at that time. Hope to see you there.

VBS 2021 Save the Date

The Faith Development ministry team of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church, in conversation with the Academy, is working hard to discern the best way to proceed with VBS 2021 in light of the ever-changing COVID landscape. The theme for the week will be selected from PC(USA)'s *Grace and Gratitude* curriculum. The dates for this year's VBS are Tuesday, July 13th through Friday, July 16th. Each day will begin at 9:00 for the children and end at 11:00. At this time with the metrics and predictions in consideration, VBS will include the Academy students and the children and youth of Spring Branch. Faith Development will continue to reassess as the summer progresses. If you are willing and available to volunteer for VBS 2021, please email Denise Wilborn (dwilborn55@gmail.com) or Miguel Carlin (miguel@springbranchpres.org).



Abraham: Out of One Many Exhibit



Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston (IMGH) is host for the virtual art exhibit *Abraham: Out of One, Many*. There are a number of events and opportunities to engage in during this virtual exhibit. The exhibit shines light on the faith traditions of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism as expressed by three Middle eastern artists. CARAVAN, an international peacebuilding non-profit/NGO, founded the exhibit. And IMGH in the only organization in Texas sharing this event and the first group to do so virtually. While some opportunities have already occurred, there are still plenty of events to virtually participate in. Explore this link <https://www.imgh.org/events/abraham-out-of-one-many/> for event details and to register.

You are Invited By The Synod of the Sun to Learn and Engage

The Network for Dismantling Racism (N4DR), a network within Synod of the Sun, is offering two opportunities this month to explore and learn about current social justice issues. To find out more about N4DR you can go to <https://www.n4dr.org/> for information. The first is a N4DR open house. The second is a virtual discussion on the 100th Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre.



OPEN HOUSE: Synod of the Sun's N4DR would like to invite you to is an Open House on Zoom on Thursday, May 13, at 1 p.m. Learn about who we are and what we are about. Here's the Zoom information:

Go to <https://zoom.us/join> and type in the Meeting ID# which is 84010853802 OR use the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84010853802>
Meeting ID: 840 1085 3802

One tap mobile
+14086380968,,84010853802# US (San Jose)
+16699006833,,84010853802# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 840 1085 3802

TULSA RACE MASSACRE: The second opportunity is a discussion about the virtual 100th Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, led by historian and Tulsa Race Massacre expert, Hannibal Johnson, on May 27 at 7 p.m. on Zoom; and a follow-up Zoom call on June 3 a 7 p.m. to reflect and respond to this

event. Plans are in process to have a presentation by Rev. Lynn Miller, author of the 2020-2021 Presbyterian Women's "Horizons"



Bible study on Lament during this 100th Anniversary. More information on all events and Zoom links will be announced in the SBPC weekly e-mail and Sunday bulletin. Please "Save the Date" for May 27 and June 3 and expect more information on Rev. Miller's presentation. Please contact Carol Davis at caroldavis@entouch.net to receive the Zoom link to these opportunities.

ABOUT N4DR: You are welcome to join this Synod Network for Dismantling Racism and to share its Mission Statement: In light of the centennial commemoration of the Tulsa Race Massacre and God's ongoing call to love and justice, we seek to open our ears, eyes, minds, and hearts to the atrocities of systemic racial injustice and its consequences, to equip and engage for transformation throughout society. Goals include continuing to initiate and facilitate educational events, discussions, and trainings about racial justice by means of book studies, roundtables, speakers, and other special events. Other goals are (1) to identify and reject practices and policies that protect a racist status quo in our churches and communities and (2) to share anti-racism training with congregations in the Synod who desire to engage it. Browse the network's website <https://www.n4dr.org> for more information. If interested in any part of this Network, contact Kristy Rodgers at kristy.rodgers@fpcbok.org.



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=VU1VZVBByeFI1MEwxNmxxR090S0JVQT09>

May 2, 2021; 5th Sunday of Easter; Communion

Text: John 15:1-9

Title: Jesus Is Di-vine!

Focus: We are firmly rooted in Jesus Christ.

May 9, 2021; 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Text: John 15:9-17

Title: Are YOU Having Fun Yet?

Focus: The Christian life is one of joy.

May 18, 2021; 7th Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17

Text: John 16:7-21

Title: The Heart of the Christian

Focus: Truly desiring what Christ values sets us free.

May 23, 2021; Day of Pentecost

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Text: Acts 2:1-21

Title: The Church in the Spirit 1: The Church is Formed

Focus: The outpouring of the Spirit is the very beginning of the church.

May 30, 2021; Trinity Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Text: Romans 8:12-17

Title: The Church in the Spirit 2: Crying Children

Focus: The Spirit produces a very intimate relationship between us and God.

The family of Todd Miller would like to thank all of the church staff, members of the church, and the Congregational Care Committee for all they did to make the service and reception for Yvonne so special. We received so many compliments on how beautiful it was, and it wouldn't have been that way if not for so many people's effort. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Todd and Jennifer Miller



BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH



Would you like to beautify the sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The 2021 Flower Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex. If you are currently worshipping from home, but would still like to sponsor flowers for a Worship Service, you may sign up digitally by using this form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084cabac2ba1fa7-2021>. **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.

Yoga Classes

Mondays and Thursdays at 6 pm in The Gathering Place.
Please bring a mat, towel, water bottle with water, and wear comfortable clothing.

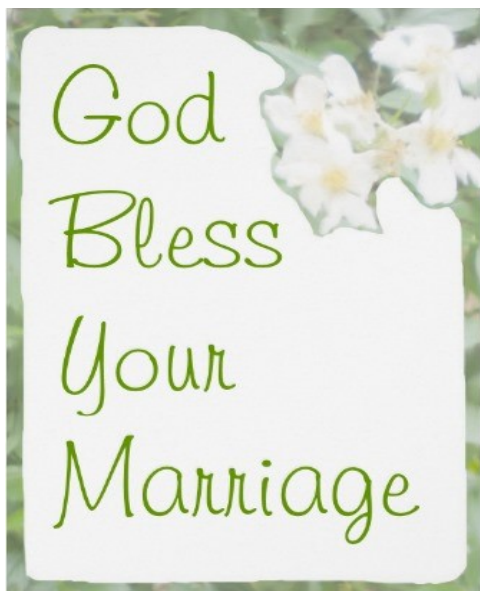


SBPC has resumed in-person Worship and Sunday School. By attending, you are agreeing to follow the guidelines set forth for a safe return, primarily, wearing a mask at all times while indoors. The guidelines for Worship, Sunday School, and Church Events are available at: www.springbranchpres.org/covid-19-guidelines. Every week, the service is being streamed live to the SBPC YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCk-MbvQ1TkJiUmDq1Psswg>.

Happy Birthday



Nick Goodrich III	5/2	Rebeca Rivera-Alegria	5/15
Bryn Fuller	5/4	Curtis Stockton	5/15
Evan Powell	5/9	Emmett Laverty	5/20
Ken Crawford	5/10	Thelma Stockton	5/21
Caroline Bik	5/11	Madelynn Turney	5/21
Dr. Matthew Dikeman	5/11	Kay Kay Haulcy	5/23
John Lazo	5/12	Nikki Childs	5/26
Web Trevathan	5/13	Thomas Daley	5/29
Ellie Cross	5/14		



Happy Anniversary!

Carla and Christopher Pace	5/24
Brice and Dr. Denise Wilborn	5/29
Robert and Sonya Bear	5/31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	6pm - Yoga (GP 1) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	9:15am - Cong. Care Mtg. 10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	9:30am - PW Moderator 10:15am - PW Board	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Yoga (GP 1)		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship 12pm - Called 	5pm - Academy Board 6pm - Yoga (GP 1) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	9:30am - PW Circle 6pm - Drive-Thru WNS	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Yoga (GP 1) 6:30pm - Mission Team		8am - Presbyterian Men
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	6pm - Yoga (GP 1) 7pm - Horizon's Bible Study 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study		PresPress Articles DUE 10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Yoga (GP 1)		11am - Hot Meals
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pentecost Sunday 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship 12pm - Pentecost 	6pm - Yoga (GP 1) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study 7pm - Session	9:30am - Happy Hands (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Yoga (GP 1)		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Trinity Sunday 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	Memorial Day 6pm - Yoga (GP 1) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)					



Sponsored By:

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relationships matter



GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

