

PRES PRESS



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

1215 Campbell Rd | Houston, TX 77055

Dear friends and members,

It has been almost two years now that we have been dealing with a pandemic. In this past month, many of us have faced struggles which have been tremendous. Sometimes they have been almost too great to bear. On top of disease, names such as Ida and Nicholas will not soon be forgotten. Some of us were without power for days. Here, and especially to points to our east, others have had damaged homes. On my recent trip to Louisiana, I observed many who suffered from wind damage, falling trees, and a shortage of basic supplies. I visited with a colleague in Louisiana who told me that the people there were just emotionally spent. Indeed, many around us are fatigued beyond words, overwhelmed, emotionally, physically, and spiritually exhausted. I have heard the words, "Where is God in this?" The good news is that God is indeed nearer than we dare believe.

Psalm 46:1 tells us that *"God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. Therefore, will not we fear."* Often, we use these words at funeral services, and that is certainly appropriate. But I believe they are even more powerful for those of us facing the struggles of everyday storms. When we are totally at the end of our resources, God is there. When we need a shelter from life, God is there. When we are afraid and feel alone, God is there. What is more, God is not only present, but very present. What an amazing affirmation! It is as if God knows we would sometimes need an extra bit of assurance.

I receive this assurance whenever you attend worship, either in-person or online. I receive this assurance with each and every meal lovingly made on Wednesday nights. I receive this assurance when I hear of how we helped each other after the storm. I observed the importance of it when I was able to visit with folks whose worlds were devastated, counsel and pray with them, and leave them a gift card from you.

Are you getting the picture? This is a time when God is teaching us to stand together, to be Christ for each other, to be strength for one another. In essence, God is teaching us the awesome power of being the church.

My hope and prayer for our church is that when we look back at this very stressful time, we will not forget the lessons God has brought us in the midst of the storm. Friends, God is very present indeed!

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin R. Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Boyd



Missions of the Month

The "Mission of the Month" for October is the Fair Haven 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.



Help Fill Fair Haven
Food Pantry

The Fair Haven Food Pantry has served over 85,000 families and over 470,000 people with more than 3 million pounds of food in partnership with the Houston Food Bank just since March 2020!

The COVID-19 virus has changed the way that the Fair Haven Food Pantry works. With the wonderful assistance of Chapelwood, the food pantry was converted into 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. We are continuing to accept donations weekly (non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, paper products, and plastic grocery bags).

October Mission Updates & Opportunities



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday, October 3rd. 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 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 October 23rd.

Hurricane Ida Relief – We want to thank the members and friends of Spring Branch Presbyterian who have donated to help our neighbors who were impacted by Hurricane Ida. Thank you for stepping up by contributing to one or more of these efforts: Presbytery of New Covenant Donation Drive, Family Support Gift Cards, and donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). As of Sunday, September 19th, a total of \$2,595 was collected in gift cards. If you would like to contribute to PDA and have not had the opportunity to do so, there's still time! Please make your checks payable to Spring Branch Presbyterian Church and write "Hurricane Ida Relief" in the memo line. Donations to PDA can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office (Attn: Jorida).



Save-the-Date for the November Blood Drive – SBPC will have a Blood Drive on Sunday, November 28th from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM in the Gathering Place. Please contact Ashley Powell at ashleycrawford161@gmail.com if you would like to donate. Share the gift of life!

Drive-Thru Wednesday Night Supper

Oct. 13 — Chicken Tarragon

Oct. 27 — Lasagna



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 vehicles, just roll down the window or unlock the passenger side door. Kevin will also be offering prayers to all who wish. Please try to arrive between 6:00-6:20 PM.

Watch your email for placing orders!

The Academy closes at 6:00 PM, so please do not block the front doors of the education building, and watch for crossing pedestrians.

If we are experiencing rain, the drive-thru lane will be used by the academy parents for pickup. Please monitor the rain forecast, and if needed, park in a space until after the parent pickup has concluded.

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).

The Fellowship Committee welcomes anyone who would like to help with a dinner or volunteer any Wednesday in the kitchen! If you are interested in helping just once or on an ongoing basis,

please contact Laurie Mitchell at galamitchell@comcast.net.

The committee is happy to help support you in any way if you would like to take on a supper this fall. We are always looking to try a new menu!

We are hopeful that we will be able to begin in-person Wednesday Night Suppers in November.

Presbyterian Women this Month



PW at a Glance

PW MODERATORS on 10/6 at 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)

PW BOARD MEETING on 10/6 at 10:15 a.m. (Conference Room)

THE HORIZONS Evening Bible study using **ZOOM** will be on Monday, 10/11 at 7:00 p.m.

PW DAY CIRCLE meeting on 10/13 at 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)

If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Carol Davis for an invitation.

Lesson 2: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/what-my-grandmothers-taught-me

ZIP TRIP to Memorial Park Arboretum on 10/20

HAPPY HANDS will meet on 10/27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Place.

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS for 2021-2022 (*What My Grandmother's Taught Me*) 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.

Bible Study Using Zoom: October 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 2 of *What My Grandmother's Taught Me* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Monday, October 11th, at 7 p.m. All SBPC women are welcomed in this Bible study group through videoconference! Contact Sarah Powell at mrspowelltobe@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom invitation to join the meeting.



Happy Hands will meet for the last time this year on **Wednesday, October 27, at 9:30 am.** November and December are holiday months for us. Join us as we finish the year stuffing and sewing pillows for hospitalized patients.

A TRIP BACK IN TIME...



On September 15th, eleven from the Presbyterian Women at Spring Branch Presbyterian went to revisit Newman's Castle in Bellville. It was a delightful trip with fun, interesting company. Here are a few pictures and an invitation to join us for our next adventure, October 20th, when we will visit the Memorial Park Arboretum and have a meal at place to be determined!



Spring Branch Presbyterian is excited to announce the date of our 2021 Men's Retreat! The retreat will be held on Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 12:30-5:00 PM at SBPC. Lunch will be provided and we encourage you to invite a friend!! To sign up to attend and for more information, please contact Donald McDaniel.



Pastors Bible Study



You are invited to attend Pastor's Bible Study with Kevin! The group gathers at 11:00 AM on Tuesday mornings. The Bible Study is now being offered both in-person and virtually. You may either join in-person at 11:00 AM in the Conference Room, or by Zoom using the information below. We hope to see you there!

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

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

October 3, 2021; 19th Sunday after Pentecost; World Communion

Text: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Title: True Christianity 5: The Taste of Grace

Focus: True Christianity is all about what God does, not about what we can do.

October 10, 2021; 20th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15

Text: Hebrews 4:12-16

Title: True Christianity 6: The Right Priest

Focus: True Christianity means we have the true mediator between us and the Father.

October 17, 2021; 21st Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

Text: Mark 10:35-45

Title: True Christianity 7: The Right Order

Focus: Calling Christ Lord means that He is first in our lives.

October 24, 2021; 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

Text: Mark 10:35-45

Title: True Christianity 8: The Right Healer

Focus: True Christianity means total reliance upon Christ.

October 31, 2021; 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Mark 12: 28-34

Text: Ruth 1:1-18

Title: True Christianity 9: The Right Chase

Focus: True Christianity means being pursued by God.

It's time to prepare to pack Seafarer's Boxes on November 28th!

On November 28th, we will be packing and wrapping shoe boxes at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall, full of goodies to send to the Seafarer's Center at the Port of Houston. We need lots of boxes, so get out there and go shoe shopping! Our goal is to collect over 100 boxes to pack. Ladies' sized boxes are the best, but we can also accept the plastic shoe boxes with lids that you can buy at the dollar store, at Walmart, or other stores.



If your family enjoys selecting, packing and wrapping, consider filling a box (or several) on your own. This was quite successful last year, and we would like to continue to offer this option. Please bring any fully wrapped boxes to the church by Sunday, November 21st. Laurie would like to guarantee 100+ boxes total, so it would be helpful to know how many we will be packing and wrapping together on the 28th.

Below is the list of requested items from the Port of Houston. The Seafarers prefer full sized items over small travel sized items. We are also in need of wrapping paper.

If you would like to help deliver, please let Laurie know.

Hairbrush / Comb	Kleenex	Lip Balm
Magnets	Gold Bond Powder	Gold Bond Cream
T-shirts (new)	Needle & Thread	Shaving Cream
Nail Clippers	Toothpaste	Gum & Hard Candy
Q-Tips	Mechanical Pencils	Flashlight w/ batteries
Popcorn	Socks	Word Search/ Sudoku/ Fill-in books
Earbuds / Headphones	USB Flash Drives	2022 Calendar
Band-Aids (fabric)	Baseball Caps (new)	Disposable Razors
Dental floss	Deodorant	Lotion
Hot Chocolate	Key Chains	Texas Souvenirs
Shampoo	Playing Cards	Toothbrushes
Conditioner	Body Wash	Pocket sized notebooks & pens

If you are interested in learning more about Boy Scout Troop 478, please join the Troop on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30 PM at the Scout Hut. The Troop is always looking for new scouts to join!



BSA TROOP 478
Houston, Texas

Sponsored by Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

Join us for Sunday School and Worship every Sunday at 9:30am and 10:50am, respectively! By attending, you are agreeing to follow the guidelines set forth for a safe return. 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>.

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> or to jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org. **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 (Attn: Jorida) or placed in the Offering Box on Sunday mornings.

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.

sign up for our
Mailing List

Church's Prayer Chain List?

*The email prayer chain is open all who would like to pray for those individuals in need of prayer. If you would like to be included in the email prayer chain as a prayer warrior or if you have a prayer request for an individual, contact swdmmd@dikeman.net. It is requested that prayers be for your **family members, or extended families and friends** who are in need of prayer.*

2021 HURRICANE SEASON

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

GET READY

Checklists and local info on preparing for hurricanes

Ready.gov: Hurricanes [ready.gov/hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

Texas Ready [txready.org](https://www.txready.org)

Ready Harris [readyharris.org](https://www.readyharris.org)

Ready Houston [readyhouston.tx.gov](https://www.readyhouston.tx.gov)

STAY UPDATED

Harris County Flood Warning System

[harriscountyfws.org](https://www.harriscountyfws.org)

Twitter: [@HCFCD](https://twitter.com/HCFCD)

AlertHouston

[houstonemergency.org/alerts](https://www.houstonemergency.org/alerts)

Twitter: [@AlertHouston](https://twitter.com/AlertHouston)

Houston TranStar

[houstontranstar.org](https://www.houstontranstar.org)

Twitter: [@Hou_RoadWeather](https://twitter.com/Hou_RoadWeather)

National Weather Service

[weather.gov/hgx](https://www.weather.gov/hgx)

Twitter: [@NWSHouston](https://twitter.com/NWSHouston)

FLOOD INSURANCE

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides affordable insurance to property owners, renters, and businesses to help mitigate the effects of flooding on homes, businesses, and properties.

For those applying for the NFIP, most policies take 30 days to take effect. And for those who already have a policy, please note that it does not renew automatically. It is important to start the process soon.

National Flood Insurance Program

[FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov)

BUILD A KIT

FOOD & WATER

- 7-day supply of non-perishable food
- Hand-operated can opener
- Plastic plates, cups, and utensils
- 7-day supply of 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day

FIRST AID

- [American Red Cross approved first aid kit](#)
- Prescriptions and essential medications

PERSONAL HYGIENE

- Hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes
- Toilet paper, paper towels, and garbage bags
- Dental care and vision products
- Change of clothes, pair of shoes and blanket per person

BABY ITEMS

- Baby formula and bottles
- Diapers

COMMUNICATION

- Portable, battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries for flashlights, lanterns, and radio
- Extra cell phone battery or car charger

PET NEEDS

- 7-day supply of non-perishable pet food
- Cage or pet carrier and leash
- Pet medications and pet first aid kit

This list is not exhaustive. Please visit the Ready Harris **Emergency Essentials Kit Checklist** at bit.ly/EmergencyEssentialsKit for more.



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	Caroline Humphrey	10/19
Stephanie Premer	10/4	Megan Hogg	10/21
Nick Ballesteros	10/5	Mary Powell	10/21
Catherine Daley	10/6	Blair Ballard	10/25
Jan Fitts	10/6	Carlette Boyd	10/28
Ravisee Massamba	10/6	Zach Farley	10/29
Miguel Carlin	10/7	Jorida Vakiari	10/29
Todd Miller	10/9	Regan Walters	10/29
Amena Chehade	10/12	Kelly Lezon	10/31
Tristan Lepera	10/12	Margaret Rouse	10/31
Ludovic Massamba	10/12		
Robert Deutsch	10/13		



Happy Anniversary!

Ruden and Jorida Vakiari	10/1
Nina Rach and Marc Bik	10/2
Jay and Kim Tangney	10/9
Regan and Nick Walters	10/10

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday school</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>6:30pm - Eagle Scout Court</p> 	<p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p> <p>7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)</p> <p>5:15pm - Special Olympics:</p>	<p>9:15am - Cong. Care Mtg.</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>5:15pm - Special Olympics:</p>	<p>9:30am - PW Moderator</p> <p>10:15am - PW Board</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p>	<p>1:30pm - Special Olympics:</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>9:30am - Sunday school</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>6:30pm - Eagle Scout Court</p>	<p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p> <p>7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)</p> <p>5:15pm - Special Olympics:</p>	<p>9:15am - Cong. Care Mtg.</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>5:15pm - Special Olympics:</p>	<p>9:30am - PW Moderator</p> <p>10:15am - PW Board</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p>	<p>7:45am - Soccer Shots</p> <p>8am - Presbyterian Men</p> <p>1:30pm - Special Olympics:</p> <p>4pm - SummerHouse</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>9:30am - Sunday school</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p>	<p>5:30pm - Academy Board</p> <p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p> <p>7pm - Horizon's Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>5:15pm - Special Olympics:</p>	<p>9:30am - PW Circle (CR)</p> <p>6pm - Drive-Thru WNS</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p>	<p>7:45am - Soccer Shots</p> <p>1:30pm - Special Olympics:</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Children's Sabbath</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday school</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:30pm - Men's Retreat</p>	<p>10am - The Gathering Place</p> <p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p> <p>7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>5:15pm - Special Olympics:</p>	<p>PresPress Articles DUE</p> <p>9:30am - Zip Trip</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p> <p>10:30am - NACBA</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p>	<p>10am - TXPWA Support</p> <p>11am - Hot Meals</p> <p>1:30pm - Special Olympics:</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>9:30am - Sunday school</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p>	<p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p> <p>7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>11am - Pastor's Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Session</p>	<p>9:30am - Happy Hands (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Drive-Thru WNS</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>9am - Jessie's Bites</p>	<p>1:30pm - Special Olympics:</p> <p>4pm - Eagle Scout Court of</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church</p>
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Reformation Sunday</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday school</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> 						



Sponsored By:

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
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www.springbranchpres.org

relationships matter



GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 3rd at 10:50 AM

Peace and Global Witness Offering