

PRES PRESS



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

relationships matter
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



Dear Members and Friends,

In Philippians, Paul looked over his church and prayed with love and appreciation in his heart. He said:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now ..." (Philippians 1:3-5, NIV)

A couple of weeks ago, you surprised me on Pastor's Appreciation Day. I want you to know from the bottom of my heart that I feel as Paul did back then. We are a small but amazing family in the faith. You are truly a joy to serve. And so, I give thanks to God, and say thank you to you! The gift card you gave me is helping me to meet a significant need, which was not known when you gave it. It is truly the Lord's provision.

There is so much uncertainty in our world today, and yet, God has brought us together and has kept us together. I cannot ask for a better family with whom to weather this pandemic.

So, I close with the same grateful heart with which Moses and Aaron blessed the children of Israel:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

In Christ's Service,

Kevin Boyd, Pastor



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 28th. 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, plastic grocery bags, 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 was converted into a drive-thru pickup, servicing hundreds of people each day.
3. This year, we are hoping to continue our initiative of **calling seniors in our community on Thanksgiving** to share the love of Christ with one another. The program is sponsored through *Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston*. Watch for more information from Miguel.

November Mission Updates & Opportunities

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!

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 \$1,590.00 for Memorial Assistance Ministries! The collected funds were distributed as vouchers to students to purchase new school uniforms.



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 27th.

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.

The 36th Annual Houston Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



The 36th Annual Houston Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, to be held Thursday, Nov, 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., will take place at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe, in the Galleria District of Houston. The theme for this year's service is "The Gift of Life." Representatives from nine religious faiths, including Bahai, Buddhism, Christian, Hinduism, Islam, Jain, Judaism, Sikhism, and Zoroastrian, will read a passage from their sacred text and then share a brief interpretation of the text, as it relates to the theme of the service.



*Photo from the Annual Houston Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service – 2014*

The first Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was a response from the Ecumenism Commission of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, when a mosque was firebombed in Houston 39 years ago. The purpose of this event is for faith communities to come together at a special time of thanks, to see how various faiths express themselves in worship.

For those who plan to attend, Covid protocols for wearing masks and social distancing will be observed. The service will be live-streamed and recorded. Registration for attending in person and for live-streaming is here <http://www.saintphilip.net/Interfaith.html>.



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
**Celebrate Advent and
 Christmas with Us!**

“Let There Be Light”

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

On Sunday, 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

GIVE BLOOD.ORG

Spring Branch Presbyterian

Sunday, November 28
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Gathering Place
1215 Campbell Rd

To schedule an appointment,
contact Ashley Powell
(979) 571-2499
ashleycrawford161@gmail.com
Sponsor code: 0324



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.



**THE BEST WAY
TO FIND A
BLOOD DRIVE
AND SCHEDULE
YOUR
DONATION!**



it's a girl!

CELEBRATING MOM-TO-BE

ASHLEY POWELL

November 14th

2:00 PM - | SPRING BRANCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | HOUSTON, TEXAS

Hosted by: Jennifer Miller, Lin Sabala, Victoria Kissinger, Sarah Dikeman, Delia Nix, & Barbara Tremble

RSVP

to: jennmill60@gmail.com

ASHLEY IS REGISTERED AT AMAZON & BABYLIST

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 signup 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.

Wednesday Night Supper

Nov. 3 — Red Beans & Rice
with Sausage

Jan Fitts

Nov. 10 — Hamburgers

Don & Barbara Tremble

Veterans eat free!

Nov. 17 — Quesadillas

Kay Craig & Betty Magnuson



Taking reservations during the pandemic has helped us to reduce food waste in the kitchen and improved our meal planning. We plan to continue the reservation process, but will also take walk-ins as long as we have extra food to serve. If you would like to continue to take your meal home, please park and have someone come inside to the line to get your dinners to-go. Watch your email for placing orders!



Fellowship Meal

Prices for the supper are as follows:

Adults (age 13 & up) \$5.00

Children (ages 1-12) \$2.00

Family w/children ages 1-12 \$12.00

(immediate family only please)

To go plates \$5.00

We will continue to accept donations for the Fair Haven Food Pantry at WNS (non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, paper products, and plastic grocery bags). Donations for the Seafarers' Christmas Boxes will also be accepted. A list of requested items from the Port of Houston is available at this link: www.springbranchpres.org/seafarers-boxes.

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 year. We are always looking to try a new menu!

Presbyterian Women this Month



PW at a Glance

PW MODERATORS on 11/3 at 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)

PW BOARD MEETING on 11/3 at 10:15 a.m. (Conference Room)

THE HORIZONS Evening Bible study using **ZOOM** will be on Monday, 11/8 at 7:00 p.m.

PW DAY CIRCLE meeting on 11/10 at 9:30 a.m. (Jan Fitts' House)

If you would like to join the Day Circle by Zoom, please contact Carol Davis.

Lesson 3: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/what-my-grandmothers-taught-me

HAPPY HANDS and **ZIP TRIPS** will not meet in November.

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.

Bible Study Using Zoom: November 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 3 of *What My Grandmother's Taught Me* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Monday, November 8th, at 7 p.m. Contact Sarah Powell at mrspowelltobe@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom invitation to join the meeting.



The October ZIP trip was a visit to the Houston Arboretum and Discovery Room. In addition to learning about native trees and plants, birds and reptiles, we also enjoyed a walk along the newly reopened and renovated Nature trails and saw many beautiful butterflies! Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch and fellowship at the Black Walnut Cafe.

While there are no ZIP trips or unZIP trips planned for November and December, we hope you will mark your 2022 calendars for January 19th when we will visit Brookwood nursery and gift shop and eat at the Cafe!





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>

November 7, 2021; 24th Sunday after Pentecost; Communion

Text: Mark 12:38-44

Title: Excellence in Faith 1: Giving

Focus: Love is measured, not by what we give, but by what we have left.

November 14, 2021; 25th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

Text: Hebrews 10:11-25

Title: Excellence in Faith 2: Worship

Focus: Attending our assemblies is vital for our spiritual health.

November 21, 2021; 26th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Text: John 18:33-37

Title: Excellence in Faith 3: Knowledge

Focus: Knowing who we are produces an assurance in life.

November 28, 2021; First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Luke 21:24-36

Text: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Title: Let There Be Light 1: All People Will See

Focus: The time is coming when all people will see God's salvation.

YOUTH RALLY

Masks required

November 14th 9am-12pm

19426 Atasca Oaks Dr, Atascocita, TX 77346

Mission project supplies needed

- wire coat hangers
- shatter proof Christmas balls
- large bows
- boxes

Theme-Rebuilding

Micah 7:11 "Your cities, people of God, will be rebuilt, much larger and more prosperous than before."



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



A Program of Prison Fellowship

Angel Tree is back in person this season! Angel Tree Prison Ministries is a program to support the children of incarcerated parents during the holiday season. Spring Branch Presbyterian will receive the names of 20 children in November, and our church works to find out their needs from the custodial parent. Then, on December 5th and 8th, you will have opportunities to select a child or children to purchase a gift for. The gift should be in the \$20 range. It should be wrapped and returned to the office with the sticker attached to the wrap. The deadline for returning the gifts is December 15.

In addition to the gifts, each family receives a basket of food. Please pick up some kid friendly non-perishable food from the store over the next few weeks and we will begin to set it aside for our Angel Tree families. Direct gift questions to Laurie Mitchell and food questions to Linda Crawford.

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.*



Poinsettias!

We will have poinsettias for purchase again this year! You can place your order in the Church Office, online at this [form \(https://forms.gle/jRrhQFBorzzQ32nW7\)](https://forms.gle/jRrhQFBorzzQ32nW7), or by emailing secretary@springbranchpres.org, today through Tuesday, 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 19th and 24th.

Ways to Give:

- Through your congregation
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 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.

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
Jacquie Ballesteros	11/3	Kate Cross	11/16
Sarah Powell	11/4	Matthew Hogg	11/19
Meg Sides	11/6	Kolson Walters	11/20
Deona Vakiari	11/7	Jeff Hogg	11/21
Joel Alegria	11/10	Melissa Rendon	11/21
Elizabeth Powell	11/10	Luke Balli	11/23
Nina Rach	11/10	McCaslin Ballesteros	11/25
Jennifer Miller	11/11	Brice Wilborn	11/26
Jackie Nix	11/11	Rhonda Hill	11/30

Happy Anniversary!



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6pm - Basketball (GP) 6pm - Yoga (CR) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP) 7:30pm - Worship Team	9:15am - Cong. Care Mtg. 10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	9:30am - PW Moderator 10:15am - PW Board 6pm - WNS	9am - Jessie's Bites 10am - Flexercise (GP) 4:45pm - Special Olympics: 6pm - Fairbees (GP) 6pm - Yoga (CR)	9am - Jessie's Bites	2pm - Arc of Spring 6pm - CENTI Church
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship 	5:30pm - Academy Board 6pm - Basketball (GP) 6pm - Yoga (CR) 7pm - Boy Scout 7pm - Horizon's Bible Study 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study 7pm - Mission Team	9:30am - PW Circle 6pm - WNS 6:30pm - Santa Iglesia Self-	9am - Jessie's Bites 10am - Flexercise (GP) 4:45pm - Special Olympics: 6pm - Fairbees (GP) 	9am - Jessie's Bites 6:30pm - Santa Iglesia Self-	8am - Presbyterian Men 1:30pm - Special Olympics: 6pm - CENTI Church
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship 2pm - Baby Shower: Ashley	10am - The Gathering Place 6pm - Basketball (GP) 6pm - Yoga (CR) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	6pm - WNS 6:30pm - Santa Iglesia Self-	9am - Jessie's Bites 10am - Flexercise (GP) 4:45pm - Special Olympics: 6pm - Fairbees (GP) 6pm - Yoga (CR)	9am - Jessie's Bites 6:30pm - Santa Iglesia Self-	PresPress Articles DUE 1:30pm - Special Olympics: 6pm - CENTI Church
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Christ the King Sunday 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	1pm - Hanging of the 6pm - Basketball (GP) 6pm - Yoga (CR) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study	6:30pm - Santa Iglesia Self-	Church & Academy Closed Thanksgiving Day 7am - CENTI Thanksgiving 	Church & Academy Closed 9am - Jessie's Bites 6:30pm - Santa Iglesia Self-	11am - Hot Meals 1:30pm - Special Olympics: 6pm - CENTI Church
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
1st Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Blood Drive (GP) 9:30am - Seafarers' Boxes 9:30am - Sunday school 10:50am - Worship	6pm - Basketball (GP) 6pm - Yoga (CR) 7:30pm - Boy Scouts (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 11am - Pastor's Bible Study				



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