



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church
 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kevin Boyd
 Administrator: Jorida Vakiari
 Ministries Coordinator: C. Miguel Carlin
 Administrative Assistant: Ethan Mitchell
 Music Director: Gabriel Perez
 Accompanist: Chip Colvin
 AV Director: Ethan Mitchell
 AV Technician: Ben Dethloff
 Academy Director: Renee Henry

Ministry Teams:

Administration Leader: Web Trevathan
 Congregation Leader: Kay Craig
 Faith Development: Denise Wilborn
 Mission Leader: Steve Blair
 Worship Leader: Megan Hogg
 Treasurer: Neal Dikeman

The Session

Clerk: Elizabeth Powell

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Kevin Boyd

Class of 2022

Steve Blair
 Ethan Mitchell
 Web Trevathan
 Denise Wilborn

Class of 2023

Silvia Argyriou
 Megan Hogg
 Elizabeth Powell
 Lu Taylor

Class of 2024

Charles Fairchild
 Glenn Lanan
 Donald McDaniel
 Jennifer Miller

Academy Board

Anne Johnson
 Denise Wilborn

Neal Dikeman
 Sarah Dikeman

Laurie Mitchell
 Jani Shepard

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Glenn Lanan
Time For Young Disciples: Pastor Kevin
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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December 5, 2021

God's People Connect

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The voice of the Lord declares, "Comfort, O comfort my people."

People: A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Leader: The earth will be transformed; God's glory will be revealed.

People: We expect your arrival in fire and flame. Instead, we follow a star on a cold night.

Leader: You meet us in this place, as we remember your curious way.

People: As we wait, cleanse us. As we wait, mold us.

Leader: Our ears and eyes perceive no other god besides You, and so we worship this day.

People: We are all your people, and we will wait for You.

***HYMN** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" GTG, No. 96

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (Peace) The Nanney Family

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: You see a candle of peace burning. What is your response?

People: Our God created us to long for peace. In peace, we long for fellowship. The peace of God is mediated to us through faith in Jesus Christ. May God fill us with peace as we receive forgiveness for the sins we now confess together:

CONFESSION OF SIN (*unison*)

We give thanks, O God, that you are unchanging, that your concern for righteousness and forgiveness was so strong that you came in human form to share that concern with us in person. We confess that all too often we hesitate to speak or act when we see people being treated unjustly. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have been happy to hear the gospel without truly living it. Forgive us for uncaring attitudes when we base our opinion of another person's worth on what they own, or how they look; on what they say, or how they live, rather than accepting them for who they are - people made in your image. Forgive us when our longing to live simply and with humility is defeated by selfish desires - for pursuing profits before seeking your will. Forgive us for placing our hope in other than the Christ-child born in a poor stable. Our hope lies in the promise of your mercy, O God, extending to those who fear you, from generation to generation. Heal, restore and bless us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

December 5 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:50 am Worship
- 6:00 pm Carols in the Park (Spring Valley)

December 6 — Monday

- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
- 7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom
- 7:30 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut & GP)

December 7 — Tuesday

- 9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting
- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 7:00 pm Session (CR)

December 8 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (CR & FH)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 2)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Cranberry Chicken!
- 6:45 pm Santa Iglesia* (GP 1)

December 9 — Thursday

- 9:00 am Jessie's Bites* (Kitchen)
- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

December 10 — Friday

- 9:00 am Jessie's Bites* (Kitchen)
- 6:00 pm SBPA Staff Christmas Party (FH)
- 6:30 pm Santa Iglesia* (GP 1)

December 11 — Saturday

- 8:30 am Boy Scouts ILST Meeting (GP 1)
- 1:30 pm Special Olympics* (GP)
- 3:00 pm Fairbees Christmas Party* (FH)
- 6:00 pm CENTI Church* (GP)

December 12 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:50 am Lessons & Carols Service

December 13 — Monday

- 5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
- 7:30 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut & GP)

December 14 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 11:00 am Pastors Bible Study (CR)

December 15 — Wednesday

- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 2)
- 5:30 pm Academy Christmas Pageant (S)
- 6:00 pm Reception (Breezeway)
- 6:45 pm Santa Iglesia* (GP 1)

December 16 — Thursday

- 9:00 am Jessie's Bites* (Kitchen)
- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Advent Party (FH)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

December 17 — Friday

- 9:00 am Jessie's Bites* (Kitchen)
- 6:30 pm Santa Iglesia* (GP 1)

December 18 — Saturday

- 8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)
- 1:30 pm Special Olympics* (GP)
- 6:00 pm CENTI Church* (GP)

*Outside SBPC Reservations & Events
(CR) Conference Room
(FH) Fellowship Hall
(GP) Gathering Place
(L) Library
(P) Parlor

Announcements & Events:

Join us tonight at 6:00 PM for *Carols in the Park* in the Spring Valley Village Park! Pastor Kevin and the Spring Branch Middle School, Landrum Middle School, and Memorial High School Choirs will share some of our favorite Christmas carols. We encourage you to bring a blanket or a chair to sit on in the park. We look forward to seeing you there!

Angel Tree is back in person this season! Tags are available starting today, Sunday, December 5th, before and after worship, and also on Wednesday, December 8th at dinner. Be sure to pick up one or two! The deadline for returning gifts is December 15th. In addition to the gifts, each family receives a basket of food. Please pick up some kid friendly, non-perishable food items from the store the next few weeks and we will begin to set it aside for our Angel Tree families.

One of our long-time Missions in December is the **PCHAS Ornament Tree**. During Advent time, we hang ornaments on a Christmas tree. Each of the ornaments has a PCHAS tag attached with a suggested donation amount. You take the ornament home with you and leave the donation in the basket provided. *(If you pay by check, please make checks payable to SBPC and put "PCHAS Ornament Tree" in the memo line.)*

Pastor's Bible Study will not meet this week. Join us when we resume on Tuesday, December 14th at 11:00 AM in the Conference Room and on zoom!

Wednesday Night Supper continues this Wednesday, December 8th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Fitts is making Cranberry Chicken, Rice, Salad, Salad, Green Beans, Rolls, Assorted Pies and Cookies for dessert! Please contact secretary@springbranchpres.org to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 8th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room to discuss Lesson 4 of *What My Grandmother's Taught Me*. A Salad Luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Carol Davis if you'd like to attend the Day Circle via Zoom. **The Evening Bible Study** will meet on Monday, December 6th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Powell at mrspowelltobe@yahoo.com to receive a Zoom invitation for the evening study. The Lesson 4 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/what-my-grandmothers-taught-me.

The Academy Christmas Pageant is Wednesday, December 15, at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend! A cookies and punch reception will immediately follow in the Breezeway.

Please join us for the annual Advent Party on Thursday, December 16th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come for food, fellowship, music, and crafts. We are also having an ornament exchange! Bring a Christmas ornament to the Advent Party and exchange for another! Bring a new ornament wrapped, but without a card or label—you will be given a number. Before the end of the party, we will call your number for you to pick a new ornament to take home! We hope to see you there!

Poinsettias are available for purchase again this year. A sign-up sheet is located in the Church Office & Narthex to place your order until Tuesday, December 21st. Remember to indicate who you are honoring, and/or remembering, with your payment of \$10 to SBPC, which you can drop off in the Church Office, or during Worship in the offering plate.

Please turn in all outstanding receipts for reimbursement to Jorida in the church office no later than Wednesday, December 15th.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:23)*

Leader: May the God of peace cleanse you through and through. The promise is that our whole being - spirit, soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice, then, and give thanks as we receive forgiveness and healing in Christ's name. Amen.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

***GLORIA** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* GTG, No. 113

*Angles we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Kevin

God's People Are Empowered

ANTHEM

"Every Valley"

Choir

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;
And the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;
And the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.
And all flesh shall see it together.

For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

***HYMN** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* GTG, No. 82

SERMON

“Let There Be Light, Part 2: Starting Over”
“The voice of one crying in the wilderness.” -Luke 3:4
 Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Boyd

***HYMN**

“People, Look East”

GTG, No. 105

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Responding to the Word

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(unison)* *(The Apostles’ Creed)*

I Believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

- The Invitation**
- Sharing of Prayer Concerns**
- Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**
- The Words of Institution**
- Prayer of Thanksgiving**
- Breaking of the Bread**
- Serving of the Elements**
- Prayer After Receiving**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us - Emmanuel.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Leader: God of all righteousness, bless these gifts, and all our giving, we pray. Anoint and empower us with your Spirit to reveal your love as clearly as Jesus did, by binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming the good news of justice and peace, and releasing those who are oppressed in any way. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



Welcome Visitors

You are joyfully welcomed as you worship with us today. In the worship bulletin, you will see an asterisk (*) which invites you to stand as you are able throughout today’s service. If you have any questions about Spring Branch Presbyterian Church’s ministries and programs, you are invited to speak with Pastor Boyd, an elder, an usher, or any other member of our church family. Also, the ushers have additional information for you as you leave today. We hope you will come back and that you consider Spring Branch as your church home.

Worship 10:50 am

Worship: Spring Branch Presbyterian Church welcomes families of all ages and sizes. For families with young children, relax! God put the wiggle in all children (and adults), we understand. You are invited to sit closer to the front so your children can hear, see, and experience worship with those around them. Remember, children and youth learn through what they observe. Participate and engage yourselves fully.

Sunday Morning Offerings at 9:30 am

Saints Under Construction: This class uses the Presbyterian Church (USA) curriculum, *The Present Word*, which seeks to help participants understand the Bible in relation to present-day life experiences. Participants are encouraged to join class discussions and activities to benefit from a common Christian experience and knowledge. Saints Under Construction class meets in the Education Building in the Library. Patti Nanney leads the class.

The Explorers: This class meets in the Conference Room in the Education Building. The class studies the Bible, book-by-book, using different translations which help the lively and though-provoking discussions. Linda Crawford leads the class.

Sunday School on Zoom! Taught by Jim Kunkel, hosted by Carol Davis on Zoom, but subjects are in response to suggestions and topics from the members. Recent classes have been about women in the Old Testament, prayer, and immigration. Class is at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Everyone is invited to join at any time for any period of time—just contact Jim or Carol for a zoom invite.

SBPC now offers the option to give a gift to the church using your laptop or any mobile device. Please see the “Giving” card in your pew for details and information on how to support the missions and ministries of SBPC from anywhere at anytime, or visit www.springbranchpres.org/give.