

relationships matter

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



# Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

## Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church  
 Co-Pastor: Rev. Mark Plunkett  
 Co-Pastor: Rev. Savannah Goodman  
 Administrator: Jorida Vakiari  
 Administrative Assistant: Ethan Mitchell  
 Music Director: Gabriel Perez  
 Accompanist: Jonathan Craft  
 AV Director: Ethan Mitchell  
 AV Technician: Ben Dethloff  
 Academy Director: Renee Henry

## Ministry Teams:

Administration Leader: Ethan Mitchell  
 Congregation Leader: Kay Craig  
 Faith Development Leader: Jacquie Ballesteros  
 Mission Leader: Laurie Mitchell  
 Worship Leader: Donald McDaniel  
 Treasurer: Neal Dikeman

## The Session

Clerk: Elizabeth Powell

Moderator: Rev. Mark Plunkett  
Rev. Savannah Goodman

## Class of 2025

Jacquie Ballesteros  
Stephen Earnest  
Laurie Mitchell

## Class of 2026

Kay Craig  
Sarah Dikeman  
Ethan Mitchell

## Class of 2027

Joel Alegria  
Beth Mizwa  
Nina Rach

## Academy Board

Jan Fitts  
Jim Kunkel

Neal Dikeman  
Ashley Powell

Carla Pace  
Jorida Vakiari

## Serving today in Worship:

**Liturgist:** Donald McDaniel  
**Children's Moment:** Pastor Mark  
**Usher Captain:** Marguerite Priest  
**PowerPoint:** Ethan Mitchell

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*Voices from the Old Testament: Joshua*  
August 25, 2024

**14th Sunday After Pentecost**

**August 25, 2024**

10:50 AM

*\*Those who are able please stand*

**Gathering in God's Name**

**PRELUDE**

**THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

*(Please sign the Friendship Book located in the pew rack next to the center aisle.)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Christ abides in us,

**People: And we abide in him.**

Leader: Christ has the words of eternal life;

**People: We believe and trust that he is the Holy One of God.**

Leader: As we hear the gospel of peace today,

**People: Let us choose again whom we will serve.**

Leader: We will serve the God of liberation and new life;

**People: The God who hears and answers when we call.**

Leader: We bring our praises and our prayers to God;

**People: Trusting God to meet us as we gather.**

**ALL: Let us worship our God together!**

**\*HYMN**

*"Step By Step"*

GTG, No. 743

**Preparing for the Word**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION** *(from Psalm 34:22)*

Leader: The psalmist reminds us: "The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in God will be condemned." Trusting that God is always more ready to forgive than we are to confess, let us turn to God in prayer, seeking forgiveness and new life.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

**Loving God, through Christ You abide in us, and You invite us to abide in You. But so often we are restless and unsatisfied. Instead of resting in the fullness of life Christ offers to us, we chase things of a common life that do not truly satisfy us. Instead of honoring the image of God in all our neighbors, we fail to recognize Your loving face in theirs. Forgive us for forgetting that You call us to a different way of being in the world, to lives grounded in the self-giving love of Christ. Lead us out of self-interest and into communal care for one another and the world You have made. In Christ's name we pray; Amen.**

# Calendar of Events

[www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar](http://www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar)

**August 25 — Sunday**

- 9:15 am Church Nursery
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am Children's Chime Choir (S)
- 9:45 am Choir Practice (S)
- 10:50 am Worship
- 12:15 pm Advent Planning Meeting (CR)
- 5:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

**August 26 — Monday**

- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

**August 27 — Tuesday**

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)
- 7:00 pm Session (CR)

**August 28 — Wednesday**

- 9:30 am Happy Hands (CR)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Hamburgers!

**August 29 — Thursday**

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

**August 30 — Friday**

- 7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

**August 31 — Saturday**

- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)

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

**September 1 — Sunday**

- 9:15 am Church Nursery
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (GP 3)
- 9:45 am Choir Practice (S)
- 10:50 am Worship



**September 2 — Monday  
Church & Academy Closed**



**September 3 — Tuesday**

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (P)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:00 pm PW Unwind
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)

**September 4 — Wednesday**

- 9:30 am PW Moderator (CR)
- 10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
- 5:00 pm Academy Open House
- 6:00 pm WNS: Cane's Chicken Tenders!



**September 5 — Thursday**

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

**September 6 — Friday**

- 7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

**September 7 — Saturday**

- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)

# Announcements & Events:

**The Flowers** for this morning are given by Don and Barbara Tremble, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of Ron Tremble's birthday.

**MAM Back-to-School Uniform Voucher Drive** — SBPC is once again collecting funds throughout the month of August for the Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) Back-to-School Uniform Voucher Drive. MAM coordinates with school guidance counselors and local vendors to provide school uniforms for local needy families. Donations can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or mailed to the church office. Online donations can be made here: <https://tinyurl.com/MAM-Back-to-School>.



**Happy Hands will meet on Wednesday, August 28th, at 9:30 AM** in the Conference Room. Join us as we stuff and close the heart shaped pillows that are so welcomed by our area hospital patients. Lots of good fellowship. We hope to see you there!

**Please join us for our first Wednesday Night Supper of the school year, this Wednesday, August 28th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.** We will be having Hamburgers with all of the trimmings. Please email Kay Craig at [kay@craig-heidt.com](mailto:kay@craig-heidt.com) to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

**Calling all young adults!** All college-aged to mid-thirties, up and coming professionals are welcome! Bring your children, too! You are invited to a touchpoint lunch with Ethan Mitchell and Pastor Savannah Goodman at La Fiesta (9427 Katy Fwy, 77024) on **Sunday, September 8th, at 12:30 PM.** Bring your ideas to the touchpoint lunch and we will discuss them! We look forward to connecting with you! Questions? Please email Pastor Savannah Goodman ([savannah@springbranchpres.org](mailto:savannah@springbranchpres.org)).

**Messy Church is beginning again!** Join us on Thursday, September 12th, for *Built on Solid Ground*. Messy Church is an intergenerational interactive worship encounter starting at 5:00 PM, with a free dinner being served around 6:00 PM. Join us for story, music, activities, games, and more! Text @h47378d to 81010 to signup for updates, and follow along with us at: [www.facebook.com/MessyChurchSBPC](https://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchSBPC).

**The PW Day Circle** will meet on Wednesday, September 11th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Please contact Patti Nanney if you'd like to attend via Zoom. A salad Luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad to share. The **Evening Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, September 10th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Powell if you are interested in attending. The Introduction & Lesson 1 videos are available at the following link: [www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justice-roll-down](https://www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justice-roll-down).

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from John 3:17)*

Leader: John's Gospel tells us: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." Christ forgives us and makes us whole. Christ fills us with life and sets us free for love. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen!

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*GLORIA

*"Great Is the Lord"*

*Great is the Lord, he is holy and just; By his power we trust in his love.  
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true; By his mercy he proves he is love.  
Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory! Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise!  
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:  
Great—is the Lord! Great—is the Lord!*

### God's People Are Empowered

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Mark

### ANTHEM

*"We Exalt Thee/Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

Choir

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

**Eternal God, quiet our hearts and minds amid the clattering chaos of the world and all the voices vying for our attention. May we clearly hear Your Word of life spoken to us today. As we hear, help us to understand; as we understand, move us to respond in love, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ; Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Red Pew Bible OT 215

### SERMON

*"Having the Last Word"*

Rev. Mark Plunkett

### Responding to the Word

### \*HYMN

*"Love the Lord Your God"*

GTG, No. 62

### \*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.**

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

*"Fly To Paradise"* arr. Eric Whitacre  
In Loving Memory of Ray Gonzalez  
9/8/81 - 8/17/24

### \*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.  
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

**Holy God, we thank You that we have heard Your words of eternal life today. As a sign of our gratitude, we offer You these gifts. Take what we have given and multiply it for the good of our faith community, the good of our neighbors, and the good of the world You so love. Shape and mold us so that our whole lives become a loving response to Your goodness. In the name of the one whose life gives life to the world, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

## SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

### Departing to Serve

### \*HYMN

*"Cry of My Heart"* (insert)

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

### \*POSTLUDE

*Portions of today's worship service are taken from pres-outlook.org.*

### *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 Mark, Pastor Savannah, 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.

**Nursery:** Infants six weeks through Pre-K are welcomed in the nursery during worship. Kindergarten and older children will attend worship with their parents. The Church Nursery is available from 9:15 AM through shortly after Worship in the Bears classroom, Room 126, which is in the north hallway of the Education Building.

### *Sunday Morning Offerings at 9:30 am*

**Saints Under Construction:** This class meets in the Sanctuary in the Garden Room. This discussion-oriented class focuses on what each of us can learn from the weekly Bible scriptures to build upon in strengthening our faith. 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 thought-provoking discussions. Linda Crawford leads the class.

**Children's Sunday School Class:** This class meets in the Children's classroom in The Gathering Place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month to learn more about the stories in the Bible by having crafts, stories, games, and other fun activities. The class is designed for elementary-age children, ages 5 to 10, but all are welcomed.

**Children's Chime Choir:** The Chime Choir meets in the Sanctuary on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. This is a chance for elementary aged children to get to ring chimes as part of Worship. We are excited to continue this new adventure! Megan Hogg leads the Chime Choir.

**Other Faith Development Opportunities:** Watch the monthly PresPress, weekly church-wide emails, and the worship bulletin for other opportunities throughout the year. It may be a short-term Special Topic or book discussions on Sunday mornings, a week night book study, or retreat.



*SBPC 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](http://www.springbranchpres.org/give).*