



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
 Moderator: 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: Marguerite Priest
Children's Moment: Marguerite Priest
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org
website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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**“Sacred Cows Make
 Great Hamburgers”**
 September 1, 2024

15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 1, 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: God has given us this day for praise!

People: Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

Leader: God has given His Son to us that we might learn ways of peace and mercy.

People: Let the words of God's own Son, Jesus, enter our hearts and transform our lives!

Leader: Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

ALL: Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts reflect God's healing and restoring love. Amen!

***HYMN**

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

GTG, No. 451

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting; God's grace never changes. Therefore, we come together to confess our sin, trusting that in Christ, we have already been forgiven:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. We sing praise to your name, but we often pass others on the street who need our help. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out whatever it is that hardens our hearts, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your Word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

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)
- 10:30 am Called Session Meeting (P)
- 10:50 am Worship



September 8 — 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
- 12:00 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration
- 12:30 pm Young Adult Touchpoint (La Fiesta)

September 2 — Monday
Church & Academy Closed



September 3 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 10:15 am Staff Meeting (P)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:00 pm PW Unwind: Ciro's!
- 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!
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (GP)



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)

September 9 — Monday

- 5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

September 10 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)
- 7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

September 11 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (CR & FH)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Pork Tenderloin!
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (GP)

September 12 — Thursday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 5:00 pm Messy Church (FH)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

September 13 — Friday

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

September 14 — 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

Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Ethan, Emily, and Adam, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of Gary & Laurie Mitchell's 35th Wedding Anniversary.

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>.



The Church Office and Academy will be closed tomorrow, Monday, September 2nd, in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

The Unwind Group will meet for dinner at Ciro's at 6:00 PM on September 3rd. Please note that this is a Tuesday, not a Monday, due to the Labor Day Holiday. Ciro's is located at 9755 Katy Freeway, near Bunker Hill, on the south side. As usual, please RSVP only if you plan to attend to jballesteros1103@gmail.com or 713-305-1114.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, September 4th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. On the Menu is Cane's Chicken Tenders. It's also the Academy Open House, beginning at 5:00 PM. Come learn more about our primary mission of the Church! Please email Kay Craig at 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).

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 sign up for updates, and follow along with us at: 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even if you have transgressed and done what you know to be wrong, remember that God will heal and forgive you; sending you on your way to become a person of peace, hope, love, and justice. Be at peace. God is always with you. Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*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. Amen.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Marguerite Priest

ANTHEM

"The One"

Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Gracious God, we see as in a mirror dimly. Your Spirit offers clarity, wisdom, and understanding. Open our eyes, that these many words of Scripture may bear witness to your true Word: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 7:1-23

Red Pew Bible NT 42

SERMON

"Sacred Cows Make Great Hamburgers"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"Lord of the Dance"

GTG, No. 157

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Cameron Michelle Carpenter

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation
The Words of Institution
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Serving of the Elements
Prayer After Receiving

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE** *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"* GTG, No. 620

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Generous God, we return to You these gifts, not only of our resources, but also of our lives. Sanctify us and use us to work out Your purposes in the world. 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** *"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"* GTG, No. 729

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**

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

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 1st and 3rd 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 2nd and 4th 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.