

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
 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: Todd Miller
Children's Moment: Todd Miller
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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***‘Threading the Eye of That
 Needle Ain’t Easy’***
 October 13, 2024

21st Sunday After Pentecost

October 13, 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** *(from Psalm 136:1-3)*

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: O give thanks to the God of gods,

People: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord of lords,

People: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: Let us all worship God!

***HYMN**

"Step By Step"

GTG, No. 743

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Trusting in God's gracious mercy through Jesus Christ, let us confess the sin that separates us from God and our neighbors. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Gracious and merciful God, we often wonder what we must do to be right with you. The gospel tells us what you have done for us in Jesus Christ to make us right with you. We establish rules and try to follow them to win your love. You call us to trust in your grace and promises in Jesus Christ. But we strive for security by piling up the things of this life. Jesus says, "Come, follow me." Lord, forgive our self-centeredness that seeks our well-being while we ignore the needs of others. Forgive our relying on ourselves rather than fully accepting Jesus' call to discipleship. Help us to seek your kingdom and righteousness first in our lives. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

October 13 — 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
2:00 pm Sunday Craft Workshop (FH)
3:00 pm Cub Scouts: Bear (GP 1 & 2)

October 14 — Monday

9:30 am Academy Mission Monday (FH)
5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

October 15 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
10:30 am Staff Meeting (CR)
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (Field)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1)
6:30 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 2)
7:00 pm Faith Development Meeting (Zoom)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

October 16 — Wednesday

9:30 am ZIP Trip: Glenwood Cemetery
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Barbeque Sandwiches!
7:00 pm Handbell Choir (S)

October 17 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Idea Spring: Houston SPCA (FH)
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (Field)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

October 18 — Friday

Session Retreat
5:30 pm Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

October 19 — Saturday

Session Retreat
8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

October 20 — Youth Sunday

PresPress Articles Due
9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Sunday School (GP 3)
9:30 am Confirmation Class (S)
9:45 am Choir Practice (S)
10:50 am Worship
12:15 pm Congregational Care Meeting (CR)

October 21 — Monday

10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)
7:00 pm Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)

October 22 — Tuesday

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

October 23 — Wednesday

9:30 am Happy Hands (CR)
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Tacos!
7:00 pm Handbell Choir (S)

October 24 — Thursday

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

October 25 — Friday

6:00 pm SBM Arc Meeting* (FH)
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

October 26 — Saturday

11:00 am Hot Meals
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 Laurie and Gary Mitchell, to the Glory of God, and are in honor of Emily and Adam Turner's first wedding anniversary.

October Birthday Celebration - Linger after worship today to celebrate those in our congregation who have birthdays in October. This is an opportunity to partake of light refreshments, as well as visit and enjoy each other's company.

Burrito-Style Pillowcase Workshops - We had our first workshop on Sept. 22nd, and we had 11 people to help make 9 pillowcases and 6 more partially finished ones! We will have 2 more workshops in October: TODAY, and again on the 27th, from 2:00-4:00 PM. For more information or to RSVP: Kay Craig at 713-248-4138 or kay@craig-heidt.com. We hope you can join us!

October PW ZIP Trip - On Wednesday, October 16th, we will take a guided walking tour of the historic Glenwood Cemetery. Tours are \$15 per person with a minimum of 10 people. This event is open to both the Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men and Friends. We will have lunch at a convenient spot following the tour. Reservations are required to Marguerite Priest.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, October 16th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jeannie Stockton is making Barbeque Sandwiches. Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

Idea Spring returns this Thursday, October 17th, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The Houston SPCA will be joining us to present "Pet Care & Responsibility." Come learn about the basic care required for a pet to be comfortable and healthy in their home. A free pizza dinner will follow. We hope to see you there!

The Academy is hosting a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat in the parking lot on Friday, October 18th, from 5:30-6:30 PM. Church members are encouraged to attend and sponsor a Trunk or Treat vehicle. Copies of the registration form are available in the Narthex and in the Friday email. Please submit forms to the Academy office by October 16th.

The Gathering Place will meet on Monday, October 21st, at 10:00 AM! The theme for this month is *Oktoberfest!* Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman if you are interested in helping out.

Attention all young adults! You are invited to the Young Adult Breakfast Club with Pastor Savannah Goodman at **Avalon Diner** (8823 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77024) on **Sunday, 10/27, at 9:00 AM**. The Young Adult Breakfast Club will meet monthly for a time of fellowship and connection. Childcare is available at the church. We will meet at the church at **9:00 AM** to carpool. Bring \$5 and the church will cover the rest! We look forward to connecting with you then! Please email **Pastor Savannah Goodman** (savannah@springbranchpres.org) with any questions.

Meet & Greet with Savannah and Jordan Goodman! Join us at one of the following gatherings so you can get to know more about our new Co-Pastor, Rev. Savannah, and her husband, Jordan; and so they can get to know you! **Sunday, October 27th, 4:00-6:00 PM** at Jan & Gerald Fitts' home. **Saturday, November 2nd, 4:00-6:00 PM** at Liz & Stephen Earnest's home. Light refreshments will be served. Please call the hosts to make a reservation at least two days prior; space is limited. We have planned these so that you can attend one near your home if you wish, but you are welcome at any of them.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on 1 Timothy 1:15)*

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Children of God, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: ...May the peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us pass the peace to our sisters and brothers in Christ!

*GLORIA

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

GTG, No. 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Todd Miller

ANTHEM

"Take My Life"

Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Almighty God, the psalmist tells us, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may our hearts be illumined by your Holy Spirit. May our lives and actions reflect the light of your Word so that others may also follow your path. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 10:17-31

Red Pew Bible NT 46

SERMON

"Threading the Eye of That Needle Ain't Easy"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"The Summons"

GTG, No. 726

*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

*DOXOLOGY

GTG, No. 607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Generous and merciful God, we thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus Christ. As we present our offerings today, give us grateful and generous hearts, that we may always follow Jesus in what we say and do. Help us to remember that every generous act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, from You, our heavenly Father. 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

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

GTG, No. 718

*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 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.