

PRES PRESS

November
2024



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

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GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



From the desk of Pastor Mark...

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

With the month of November comes several great things:

- The end of hurricane season (praise Jesus!)
- The middle of football season when the games tend to get *REALLY* interesting
- Cooler evenings (not always cool days, but cooler evenings)
- Thanksgiving Day!

When these wonderful things arrive, I am always a happy guy. The rest of the year is full of various things I also love, but November has a special place in my heart.

Thanksgiving has been a very special holiday in our family since I was a little kid. When we gathered for Thanksgiving dinner, we always added all the leaves to the dining room table so we could fit everyone. The kids were in charge of bringing in extra chairs from all over the house, setting the table, and the seating arrangements. We took it all very seriously!

Then the time for the big meal would arrive. We always had a traditional Thanksgiving meal (or at least traditional for us) with the various main dishes, side dishes, interesting types of homemade bread (YUM!), salad, gravy, and at least three types of pies (YUM AGAIN!). It was a sight to behold (and I enjoyed beholding it!).

The other thing I loved about Thanksgiving was the different folks who joined us. We never ate the meal without distant relatives, single neighbors, or a dear friend joining us. Including them made the meal extra special, and the kids always took special pride in recommending certain dishes to the “newcomers” – we knew all about the various dishes, so we could give expert advice on each one.

Before we could sit down to eat, we had to name out loud something we were thankful for. Adults and each child were expected to say something. Those Thanksgiving comments always made everyone smile and nod their heads. Each of us was saying to our Thanksgiving community what we were thanking the Lord for...always a great thing. My grandfather would follow up with an old-fashioned prayer of thanks, and it was time to eat.

So, in the upcoming Thanksgiving dinner that I hope you are sharing with your own family or community, I hope you take a minute to say what you are thankful for – and make sure you not only say it to the people gathered at your table, but also to the Lord who loves us all. Amen!

Missions of the Month

The “Mission of the Month” for November is one of our favorite ministries at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church – 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, as Christmas approaches. This is 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. This last Christmas, approximately 8,600 Christmas boxes were provided to our visiting Seafarers on over 380 vessels from all around the world. This year, we are hoping to get them back up to their usual 10,000 boxes delivered.

Our goal this year is to provide 150+ decorated shoeboxes filled with many useful items to the Seafarers Center. Join us on Sunday, December 1st, beginning with breakfast at 9am, and then packing and wrapping from 9:30 to 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

November Mission Updates & Opportunities

Fair Haven Food Pantry – We are continuing to accept donations for the Fair Haven Food Pantry throughout the fall season (non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, plastic grocery bags, paper bags, and paper products). They also take new and gently used children’s books for the youngest visitors to choose when they go to Fair Haven with their families.

Save-the-Date for the December Blood Drive – SBPC will have a Blood Drive on Sunday, December 1st, 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!

SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends – The 4th Saturday of each month we look for individuals to deliver meals to shut-ins. A hot lunch of chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans are delivered via 2 routes with about 14 people on each route, so we usually need a total of 4 volunteers each month. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month, please contact Lu Taylor, lu@lutaylor.com, cell 832-571-8779.

Academy Teacher/Staff Treats – The mission team has begun blessing our Academy faculty with a group treat once a month. So far, we’ve had a cute basket of items following the theme “Our teachers are worth a mint!” and a big Halloween themed bucket of pretzel bags. If you are interested in taking a month to do this good deed, please let Laurie Mitchell know. We are currently looking to fill in January, March, April, and May. It works well to put the item(s) in their teacher’s lounge on a Sunday after church so they are pleasantly surprised on Monday morning.

Seafarers Gift Wrap – Do you have extra Christmas gift wrap you would like to donate to our December 1st packing and wrapping party? If so, please drop it off at the church with your other seafarers’ donations anytime this month.

It's time to prepare to pack Seafarer's Boxes on December 1st!

On Sunday, December 1st, we will be packing and wrapping shoe boxes at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall, full of goodies to send to the Seafarers' 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 150 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 has been quite successful, so we will continue to offer this option. Please bring any fully wrapped boxes to the church by Sunday, November 24th. Laurie would like to guarantee 150+ boxes total, so it would be helpful to know how many we will be packing and wrapping together on the 1st



Below is the list of requested items from the Seafarers' Center. 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.

Stress ball	NESCAFE instant coffee	Deodorant
Toothbrush, Toothpaste	Hot chocolate/drink mix-ins	Multivitamins
Fish Oil	Razors	Shaving Cream
Hairbrush	Comb	Mini first aid kit
Insulated tumbler	Fabric bandaids	Lip balm
Nail grooming kit	Q Tips	White athletic socks
Small Bibles RSV, NIV	Baseball cap	T-Shirts (M, L, XL)
Small whistle	Light weight work gloves (M, L, XL)	Small notebooks
Cold weather caps	Pens/mechanical pencils	Puzzle books
3-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner/Body wash	Wireless Earbuds	Small flashlight with batteries
Popcorn/snacks	Gum	Hard candy
Sewing kit	2025 calendar	USB flash drive
Christmas ornaments	Playing cards	Texas Magnets
Mouthwash	Cough drops	Mini games
Gold Bond powder/lotion	Dental floss	Texas souvenirs and keychains

BLOOD DRIVE

Spring Branch Presbyterian

**Sunday,
December 1st
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Gathering Place
1215 Campbell Rd**

**To schedule an appointment,
contact Ashley Powell
(972) 571-2499
ashleycrawford161@gmail.com**

Sponsor Code: 0324



Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome.



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

*Save lives on
the go with*



Complete your Health History Interview before you come in for your donation.

Go to <https://cflexpress.giveblood.org/> and complete the same day as your appointment.



Thursday Nov. 7 @ 5pm
Games, Crafts, God
Stay for Dinner!



HOUSTON
ARBORETUM &
NATURE CENTER



Thursday, Nov. 21

5:00 PM

1215 Campbell Road
(Dinner at 6:00 PM)

"Avian Antics"

**The bird world is
full of fascinating
species! Come
learn about our
feathered friends!**

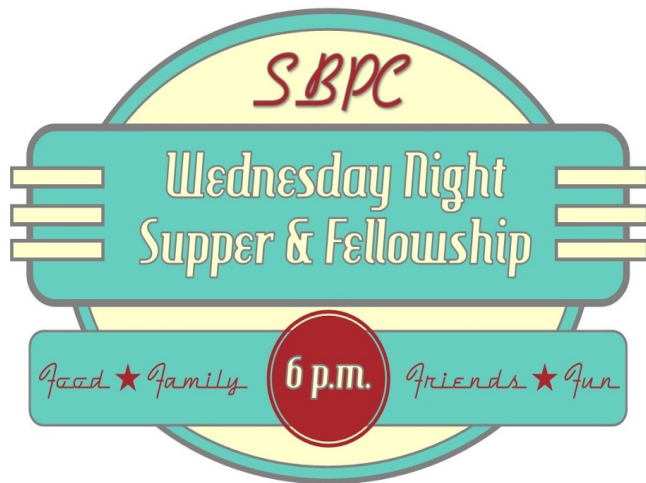


Questions? Contact Ethan Mitchell at
ideaspring@springbranchpres.org.

 [@SBPC.Idea.Spring](https://www.facebook.com/SBPC.Idea.Spring)
www.springbranchpres.org/ideaspring



Wednesday Night Supper



Taking reservations during the pandemic 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. Kay Craig has taken over the reservation process, so, if you'd like to attend, please email Kay at kay@craig-heidt.com.

Nov. 6 — Chicken Spaghetti Casserole

Jan Fitts

Nov. 13 — Menu TBD

Church Staff

Nov. 20 — Potatoes with Meat Toppings

Presbyterian Women

All proceeds benefit the Mission/Scholarship Fund!

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)

We are now accepting credit card payments at Wednesday Night Supper!



Children's Sunday School Class meets **1st & 3rd Sundays of the month** at 9:30am in the Children's classroom in The Gathering Place.



Ken & Linda Crawford are hard at work updating the paper edition of the Church Directory! Please submit any corrections, changes, additions to names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails, etc. to the church office, or to Ken and Linda. The hope is that the new directory will be available before Thanksgiving.

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church is hosting a Thanksgiving Community Concert on Thursday, November 21st, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

GOSPEL MASS

by ROBERT RAY

Have you enjoyed the Anthems the last several weeks? Well, this has been a preview of this upcoming concert! The Chancel Choir will be joined by former members, and the Northbrook High School Choir, in presenting *The Gospel Mass*. Over 50 vocalists will be joining us. The concert will also be streamed live to both Facebook & YouTube (www.facebook.com/springbranchpres and www.youtube.com/@springbranchpres). A reception will follow in the Breezeway. Please make plans to attend!

Our Stewardship Campaign, Ignite the Passion, Spark the Connection, Kindle the Flame, is underway! As we enter this season of stewardship, we invite you to reflect on our shared mission and the unique calling we have as a community of faith. This year, our theme reminds us of the vital role each of us plays in nurturing our church and extending God's love into the world. **Dedication Sunday is November 24th**, when you will be invited to turn in both your Pledge Card and Time and Talent Pledge. Thank you for your continued commitment!



**Ignite the Passion,
Spark the
Connection, Kindle
the Flame**



Confirmation Sunday

Please join us on Sunday,
November 17th, as we celebrate
the Confirmation of Cali Alegria,
Piper Dikeman, Jayden Earnest,
Dylan Mancilla, and Emma Pace.
A reception will be held in the
Breezeway immediately
following worship.

**Attention all young adults!
All college-aged to mid-thirties,
up and coming professionals are welcome!**

You are invited to mini golf night with Pastor Savannah Goodman at **Puttery** (1818 Washington Ave. Ste. 180, Houston, TX 77007) on **Thursday, 11/14, at 6:00 PM**. The church will cover the price of admission and for unlimited courses for each person. Bring money for food and drinks. **If you need childcare, please email Pastor Savannah Goodman (savannah@springbranchpres.org) by Thursday, 10/31, at 5:00 PM, so she can make the necessary childcare arrangements with The Academy.** Also, please email **Pastor Savannah Goodman (savannah@springbranchpres.org)** to RSVP (so she can get an accurate head count) and/or if you any questions. We look forward to connecting with you then!

puttery

You are invited to the Young Adult Breakfast Club with Pastor Savannah Goodman at **Corner Bakery Café** (89311 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77024) on **Sunday, 11/24, 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





Presbyterian Women this Month



PW at a Glance



PW UNWIND will meet on 11/4 at 6:00 PM at Latin Bites Kitchen (5709 Woodway).

PW MODERATORS on 11/6 at 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)

PW BOARD MEETING on 11/6 at 10:15 a.m. (Conference Room)

THE HORIZONS Evening Bible study using **ZOOM** will be on Tuesday, 11/12 at 7:00 p.m.

PW DAY CIRCLE meeting on 11/13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Patti Nanney for an invitation.

Lesson 3 Video: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justic-roll-down.

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

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS for 2024-2025 (*Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*) are available in the Church Office. The cost is \$10.

PW DIRECTORIES are available in the Church Office and Narthex.

Bible Study Using Zoom: November 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 3 of *Let Justice Roll Down* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Tuesday, November 12th, at 7 p.m. All SBPC women are welcomed in this Bible study group through videoconference! Contact Sarah Powell at mrspowelltobe@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom invitation to join the meeting.



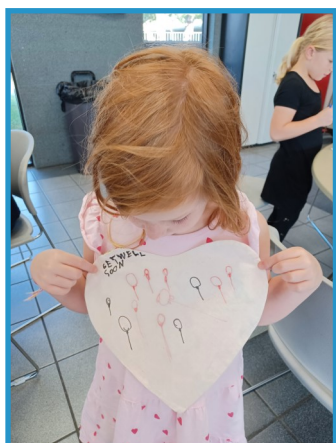
The Unwind Group will meet for dinner at Latin Bites Kitchen (5709 Woodway) on Monday, November 4th, at 6:00 PM. The restaurant has their Happy Hour Menu available all day on Mondays. We hope you can join us!

As usual, please RSVP only if you plan to attend to jballesteros1103@gmail.com or 713-305-1114.

Happy Hands won't be meeting in November or December because of the holidays. Those who have knitting or crocheting projects being done at home can bring them to the church office and Doris Wright will make sure they are distributed. We will resume Happy Hands meetings in January. Enjoy the holidays!



On Monday, October 14th, our **Happy Hands** group provided a **Mission Monday** project for the **Academy**. The school aged children made heart shaped pillow for hospitalized children. Pillowcases made with juvenile fabric on one side and plain white on the other were provided through our collaboration with The Common Threads (MDUM). The children used fabric markers to make colorful pictures and encouraging messages on the pillows and then they stuffed the pillows. In the coming weeks, our Happy Hands group will sew the pillows closed and then they will be distributed to area hospital.



It was amazing how much the children got into making something to be given to another child. Lots of enthusiasm and several of the children finished 2, 3, and even 6 pillows for the cause! It was a great morning, and special thanks to Sarah Dikeman, Patti Nanney, Betty Magnuson, Silvia Argyriou, Jan Fitts, and Doris Wright for helping and encouraging the children!



Children's Chime Choir: The Chime Choir meets in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM 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! Please contact Megan Hogg (megan1661@yahoo.com) for additional details.

Everyone is invited to help prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent Season immediately after Worship on Sunday, November 24th. The Fellowship Hall will be decorated on December 4th at Wednesday Night Supper. We are hoping to have many hands helping this year, so please come join us! A pizza lunch will be provided when we finish. Please see Donald McDaniel if you have any questions, or if you can attend.



BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH



Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The 2024 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 sign up digitally by using this form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084CABAC2BA1FA7-46865119-2024>, or email 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 plate on Sunday mornings.

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

October @ Spring Branch Pres





Poinsettias!

We will have poinsettias for purchase again this year! You can place your order in the Church Office, online at this [form](#), or by emailing ethan@springbranchpres.org, today through Sunday, December 22nd! 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 plate on Sunday mornings. Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy for you and your family this coming Advent Season.

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



ANGEL TREE

A Program of Prison Fellowship

The 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 about 20 children in November, and our church works to find out their needs from the custodial parent. Then, on December 8th and 11th, 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 Sunday, December 15th.

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 month and we will begin to set it aside for our Angel Tree families. Please direct gift questions to Laurie Mitchell and food questions to Linda Crawford.



REIMBURSEMENTS DEADLINE APPROACHING...

Please turn in your personal reimbursements no later than December 15th.
Contact Jorida at jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org



Cyndi Ballesteros	11/1	Jackie Nix	11/11
Renee Henry	11/2	Carrie Whittlesey	11/12
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
Chloe Carpenter	11/10	Luke Balli	11/23
Elizabeth Powell	11/10	McCaslin Ballesteros	11/25
Nina Rach	11/10	Rhonda Hill	11/30
Jennifer Miller	11/11		



Happy Anniversary!

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Ends</p> <p>9:15am - Nursery</p> <p>9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP)</p> <p>9:30am - Confirmation Class (GP)</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Stewardship Luncheon</p> <p>5pm - BSA Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6pm - PW Unwind</p> <p>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Academy Ornaments Mission</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI Bible Study &</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am - PW Moderators (CR)</p> <p>10:15am - PW Board Meeting (CR)</p> <p>3:30pm - WOW (S)</p> <p>6pm - WNS</p> <p>6:30pm - Finance Meeting (CR)</p> <p>7pm - Handbell Choir (S)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>5pm - Messy Church (FH)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>7am - Meet the Pastor (Foyer)</p> <p>6pm - SBM Arc Meeting (CR)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Confirmation Mission Project</p> <p>4pm - Eagle Scout Ceremony (FH)</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:15am - Nursery</p> <p>9:30am - Chime Choir</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12pm - Monthly Birthday</p> <p>12:15pm - Called Session Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm - Academy Board Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting (P)</p> <p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub</p> <p>6:30pm - Fellowship Meeting (CR)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI Bible Study &</p> <p>7pm - Horizon's Bible Study on</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am - PW Circle</p> <p>3:30pm - WOW (S)</p> <p>5pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)</p> <p>6pm - WNS</p> <p>7pm - Handbell Choir (S)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Young Adult Mini Golf Night</p> <p>6:30pm - Cub Scouts: Arrow of</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8am - Presbyterian Men (CR)</p> <p>9:30am - Baby Shower (GP)</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Confirmation Sunday</p> <p>9:15am - Nursery</p> <p>9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP)</p> <p>9:30am - Confirmation Class (GP)</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12pm - Confirmation Reception</p> <p>12:15pm - Cong. Care Mtg. (CR)</p> <p>3pm - Cub Scout: Bear (GP 1 & 2)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - The Gathering Place (FH)</p> <p>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</p> <p>7pm - Mission Team Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI Bible Study &</p> <p>7pm - Faith Development Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PresPress Articles DUE</p> <p>3:30pm - WOW (S)</p> <p>6pm - WNS</p> <p>7pm - Handbell Choir (S)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>5pm - Idea Spring: Houston</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>7pm - Community Thanksgiving</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>6pm - SBM Arc Meeting (FH)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11am - Hot Meals</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Christ the King Sunday</p> <p>Dedication Sunday</p> <p>9am - Young Adult Breakfast Club</p> <p>9:15am - Nursery</p> <p>9:30am - Chime Choir</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting (P)</p> <p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI Bible Study &</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Academy Closes @ 2:30pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Church & Academy Closed</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>Church & Academy Closed</p> <p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>



Sponsored By:

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(713) 464-7659
www.springbranchpres.org

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