

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: Co-Pastor, Rev. Mark Plunkett
Moderator: Co-Pastor, 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: Elizabeth Powell
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org
website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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***“The Unexpected Songs of
Elizabeth and Mary”***
December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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 AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE (LOVE)**

The Alegria & Mancilla Family

Leader: With the writers of the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - we tell the good news of Jesus Christ!

People: The Son of God is born in Bethlehem!

Leader: This child of Bethlehem has come to save us!

People: He is the King of Glory!

Leader: He will come again to rule in glory!

People: The angels said, "Peace on earth, good will toward all."

Leader: For God so loved the world that He gave us His son!

People: Let us worship the One who comes to save us all!

"The People Who Walked in Darkness" (v. 1)

GTG, No. 86

The people who walked in darkness awaken to feel a great love.

The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright.

His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace.

***HYMN**

"Canticle of the Turning" (v. 1-3)

GTG, No. 100

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Despite our angry or misguided words, God continues to speak of mercy to us. Despite our best efforts to be faithless in our living, God remains faithful in keeping the promise to forgive us and restore us to wholeness. Let us confess our sins to God, so that God's hope and grace might endure in us. Let us confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Forgiving God, in this season of Advent, we welcome the coming of your light in a world filled with darkness. We confess to you the ways in which we have added to that darkness rather than obeyed our call to live as children of the light.

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

December 22 — 4th Sunday of Advent

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 Called Congregational Meeting

December 23 — Monday

6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

December 24 — Tuesday

Church & Academy Closes at 2:30 PM

5:30 pm Refreshments
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service



December 25 — Wednesday

Church & Academy Closed



December 26 — Thursday

Church & Academy Closed

December 27 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

December 28 — Saturday

11:00 am Hot Meals
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

December 29 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:45 am Choir Practice (S)
10:50 am Worship

December 30 — Monday

6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

December 31 — Tuesday

Church & Academy Closes at 2:30 PM

7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

January 1 — Wednesday

Church & Academy Closed



January 2 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
1:00 pm Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom)

January 3 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

January 4 — 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:

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship today.

The purpose of the meeting is to Elect the Nominating Committee. Representing the Session is Jacquie Ballesteros (Chair) and Stephen Earnest. Representing the Congregation: Lauren Tacchi (Administration), Jeannie Stockton (Congregation), Marguerite Priest (Faith Development), Liz Earnest (Mission), and Donald McDaniel (Worship).

The Christmas Joy Offering begins this week. When you give, you are faithfully supporting current and retired church workers through assistance in their time of need, and cultivating racial ethnic education and leadership development. Please use the offering envelopes in your Bulletin this week, and make checks payable to "SBPC" and write "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo line. This offering will be collected today and December 24th.

Poinsettias are available for purchase again this year. A sign-up sheet is located in the Church Office & Narthex to place your order through TODAY, Sunday, December 22nd. 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.

You are invited to join us for the Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service! Hot Chocolate and Cookies will be served at 5:30 PM. The service will begin at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

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.)*

Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge Card and Time & Talent Pledge. You can find blank copies in the Narthex, Church Office, or Parlor. There is a box in the Narthex for submitting cards. Cards can also be mailed to the Church Office, to the attention of Jorida. Thank you for your continued commitment!

Pastor Mark has begun facilitating a Zoom Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke on Thursdays at 1:00 PM. The Zoom information is available in the Friday email if you are interested in giving it a try over your lunch hour. If you wish to receive the Zoom invite every week, please email Mark to get on his list.

Handbells have returned! Do you have hands for a joyful noise rather than a voice? - then handbells wants YOU! The Handbell Choir meets at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights. Please see Megan Hogg if you'd like to join.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! The Choir is looking for some new members to join us! If you are interested in participating, please email musicdirector@springbranchpres.org.

We ask your forgiveness: for times when we forget that we are all children of God, for times when we do not stand up for the helpless among us, and for times we ignore your call to act in love in the world. Help us to turn our hearts back to you. Help us give our whole attention and whole self to you, as Jesus told us to do. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God loves us, and God encourages us. God instills hope in us, and God accepts us. God guides us, and God forgives us. So, know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: ...The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

*GLORIA

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (v. 3)

GTG, No. 132

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Mark

ANTHEM

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"
Rachael Castillo & Sophia Saenz

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

Red Pew Bible NT 57

SERMON

"The Unexpected Songs of Elizabeth and Mary"
Rev. Savannah Goodman

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God" (v. 3-5)

GTG, No. 99

*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

***OUR RESPONSE** *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* (v. 4) GTG, No. 143

*All creation, join in praising God the Father,
Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(unison)*

Gracious God, you have looked with favor upon us and provided us with everything we need. We gratefully return this portion of your gifts to you, celebrating your enduring faithfulness to your promise. We give ourselves in the name of the coming 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** *"Love Has Come"* GTG, No. 110

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**

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.