

PRES PRESS



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



From the desk of Pastor Mark...

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

At this time of the year, I am always amazed when Christmas is officially over. Another new year begins with a million opportunities to live our lives even better than we did in 2024.

Whenever I begin to plan any new year, I keep two important items close to my heart:

1. I only compete with myself. If I can be a better version of myself – and **ONLY** myself – then I consider that to be an accomplishment. I always know I can improve in many ways, but actually doing that is usually a tough task. Still, I am only competing with the old version of myself...so that is something of a comfort.
2. I always remember the days when I was a kid playing various games in the streets wherever we lived; we all stuck to one basic rule: **do-overs** were always allowed.

A “do-over” was an opportunity for us to temporarily stop the game and then resume it once a car had passed by, or the ball could be retrieved from under a parked car, or a parent could be answered who came calling for one kid who was playing with us.

Do-overs were the fairest way to continue the game if it was interrupted. All we had to do was have one participant in the game see a car coming or watch the ball become stuck under something and a kid would yell, “DO-OVER!” Everyone would stop, wait for the problem to be solved, and then we would reset and start over.

This is a great idea for us today – even if we are not playing a game! Gotta problem with a relative? Had an argument and said things you shouldn’t have said? Call that relative up, and start a do-over by saying, “I’m sorry!” You might be surprised at how things can get reset.

Didn’t get the opportunity you were hoping for? Don’t quit! Try again! Or better yet – try a different opportunity! Perhaps your life is supposed to go in a different direction. Do-over!

You receive feedback from someone indicating that you didn’t do something right? You could get mad, defensive, or even silent. But what will that accomplish? Instead, try a do-over and see how you can improve yourself – and possibly even eliminate that feedback from being true.

It’s a new year, friends...full of all kinds of chances the Lord gives to each of us. So, try comparing yourself today to yourself last year. And try some do-overs! Amen!

Missions of the Month

The Mission of the Month for January is **Comunidades Unidas Pro Salud (CUPS)**. CUPS is a Christian ministry founded in 1989 to assist communities in northeastern Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley to improve health and education, to foster a sense of community, and to provide



volunteers opportunities to serve and be served.

During the month of January, our church will be collecting the following items for CUPS:

- **Items for elderly**
(Such as adult diapers, canes, walkers, crutches, bedside commodes, and wheelchairs)
- **School supplies**
(Such as pencils, pens, crayons, dry erase markers, small scissors, spiral notebooks, construction paper, and story books in Spanish and English)
- **Working Laptops**
(One of their board members reworks them and puts licensed Spanish Microsoft Office products on them.)



Jose Delgado teacher (Juanii Lopez) and primary school in Tamaulipas, Mexico. Thanks, CUPS, for the school supplies in memory of Maria "Luisa" Flippin.

All the above items can be left in the bins outside of the church office.

Nina Rach, a CUPS Board Member, will faithfully pick up these supplies and deliver them to CUPS in McAllen.

January Mission Updates & Opportunities

Messy Church Service Project – each month's Messy Church offers an opportunity for the participants to complete a service project. In December at our "Happy Birthday, Jesus" worship service, 26 complete *Birthday Party in a Bag* kits were packed. Each one had all the ingredients for an iced cake plus candles, napkins, balloons, and some fun extras. Thank you to Mark Plunkett for facilitating that assembly line! The kits were then donated to Fair Haven Food Pantry and given to our Angel Tree families.



Fairbees Square Dance Toy Collection – In December, once again, the Fairbees Square Dance group collected toys for Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM). Patti Nanney and Pastor Mark took over a carload of toys for the MAM toy drive, and Laurie Mitchell dropped off a check from Fairbees to MAM. Thank you, Fairbees Square Dance Group! Don't forget, they welcome all of you to join them for square dancing each Thursday evening at 6:00 PM.



Angel Tree Prison Ministry Follow-up – This year we provided Christmas cheer for 24 children within 9 families. Each child received 2 Christmas gifts from their incarcerated parent, and school supplies, beautiful homemade knitted hats and pillowcases from SBPC, and *Birthday Party in a Bag* kits. In addition, each family also received an overflowing food basket for the entire family to share. Thank you also to all those who made deliveries to all the receiving families!

December 1st Annual Seafarers Packing and Wrapping Party – 158 boxes were filled to the brim and wrapped up in Christmas paper. Mark Plunkett and Savannah Goodman then delivered them to the Seafarer's Center at the Port of Houston. This is truly a church-wide project that cannot happen without the whole congregation. All the filler has to be collected, organized, and then a very large number of us gathered for breakfast (thanks Liz Earnest and fellowship committee), and a huge assembly line of packing and wrapping. It was great to see so many come out to help!



SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends – The 4th Saturday of each month we look for individuals to deliver meals to shut-ins. We have 2 routes with about 14 people on each route, so we usually need a total of 4 volunteers each month. Please contact Lu Taylor if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month.

January 10th Family Movie Night – Come join us in the Gathering Place to watch *The Star*. We will begin with an episode of *Bluey* and a pizza dinner at 5:45. The main feature will begin at 6:15. We hope to see you there!

February 9th Souper Bowl Day of Caring – Just a reminder that we will be collecting dollars and food items on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9th, for the Souper Bowl Day of Caring. All money and food collected will benefit the Fair Haven Food Pantry.

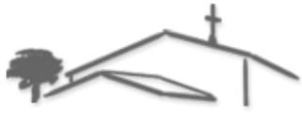
Peace & Global Witness Offering Update – Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday. We are happy to report that we collected a whopping \$5,392, as compared to \$1,125 last year. The funds collected were split evenly between the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

December 1st Blood Drive Update – 6 units of whole blood were collected from 12 participants. We would love to have more units collected at our next blood drive on February 16th. In preparation for the February event, it is important to take consistent iron supplements or enjoy a high iron diet. In addition, high water intake and physical activity 24-48 hours before donating, and a hearty breakfast on the day of can boost your success as a donor! We challenge you to be a first-time donor!

Academy Christmas Pageant – on December 11th, an enthusiastic audience of family and friends experienced a cuteness overload in the sanctuary as our youngest ones took part in the annual Academy pageant. The Academy is our number one mission, and it is thriving!



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



SPRING BRANCH
Presbyterian Church



Spring Branch
Presbyterian Academy



Family
Movie Night



In The Gathering Place

Friday, January 10th

5:45–6:15pm Pizza, Veggies & Fruit Trays & Cookies

5:45pm “Bluey” Movie

6:15pm “The Star”

Juice boxes and water served before and during movie

Bring blankets and camping chairs

Wednesday Night Supper



Jan. 8 — Spaghetti & Meatballs

Nina Rach

Jan. 15 — Hamburgers

Laurie Mitchell

Jan. 22 — King Ranch Casserole

Jan Fitts

Jan. 29 — Menu TBD

Kay Craig & Betty Magnuson

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.

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!

Wednesday Night Supper Meal Tickets

Finding yourself short of cash on Wednesdays? You may now purchase meal tickets and pay by check or credit card. Each meal ticket is good for four meals. There are meal tickets for Adults (\$20/four meals), Children (\$8/four meals) and Families (\$48/four family meals). Purchase the tickets at the cashier each week.





Idea Spring Presents



Thursday, Jan. 16

5:00 PM

1215 Campbell Road
(Dinner at 6:00 PM)

Interesting Crocodile Facts:

- Crocodiles can go through 4,000 teeth over a lifetime.
- A crocodile's jaws can apply 5,000 pounds of pressure per square inch – the strongest bite of any animal in the world.

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

 @SBPC.Idea.Spring
www.springbranchpres.org/ideaspring



SBPC will be participating in the
Annual Souper Bowl of Caring on **Sunday, February 9th** to help tackle hunger in Houston.

Please remember to bring your canned food items or monetary donation on Sunday, February 9th.





Presbyterian Women this Month

PW at a Glance

PW UNWIND will meet on 1/6 at 6:00 PM at Kay Craig's House for a Potluck.

PW DAY CIRCLE meeting on 1/8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. If you would like to join by Zoom, please contact Patti Nanney for an invitation.

THE HORIZONS Evening Bible study using **ZOOM** will be on Tuesday, 1/14 at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 5 Video: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justic-roll-down.

ZIP TRIPs will not meet in January.

HAPPY HANDS will meet on 1/22 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

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: January 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Lesson 5 of *Let Justice Roll Down* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Tuesday, January 14th, 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.



PW Unwind Group

Please join us for Unwind in January on the 6th at 6:00 PM for a Potluck Dinner at Kay Craig's House (1748 Pine Village, Houston, TX 77080).



Please RSVP only if you plan to attend, and send me (Jacquie Ballesteros, jballesteros1103@gmail.com), with an idea of what you plan to bring. Iced tea and water will be provided. Please join us!



Happy Hands will return from our holiday break on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. It'll be great to have a chance to sit and stuff, sew, crochet, knit, and reconnect. If you haven't been to Happy Hands for a while, you might consider a New Year's Resolution to join us to create Heart shaped pillows to give to hospital patients, and the company of others who just need a hug and/or to knit or crochet blankets, hats, etc. Even if you'd just like to come sit and enjoy the company of others, you're welcome to join in. We hope to see you there!

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

You are invited to the Young Adult Breakfast Club with Pastor Savannah Goodman at **7 Taco** (9109 Long Point Road, Houston, TX 77055) on **Sunday, 1/19, 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.



Scholarships

SBPC Scholarship applications are now available for interested students! Completed applications are due May 1 for the year applying, and should be submitted to Sarah Dikeman for the women's scholarship and Ken Crawford for the men's scholarship.

**Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
Women's/ Men's Scholarship Application
2025-2026 Academic Year**

Name: _____ DOB _____

Permanent Address: _____

School Address: _____

Phone cell: _____ home: _____

Are you employed: FT _____ PT _____ Work Study _____ N/A _____

Name of College, University, or Technical School: _____

Level: Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____
Senior _____ Post- Grad _____

Degree Program: _____

Years Attended: _____ FT/ PT student _____

GPA: _____ Honors Program: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

On a separate piece of paper, in paragraph form, please describe:

1. Your goals
2. Extracurricular activities
3. Community service
4. How your faith and belief in God affects your studies
5. Your membership and involvement in Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
6. Use of Scholarship money
7. Any other information you'd like to share
8. Optional Photograph

**Applications are due the 1st of May for the year applying and should be turned in to Sarah Dikeman for the Women's Scholarship and Ken Crawford for the Men's Scholarship. Applicant must be enrolled or accepted at a college, university, technical school, or certification program. Scholarships will be awarded in the summer of the year applying. Recipient must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0/C average. Applicant must be an active member in good standing of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. Reapplication may be made each year beginning January 1.

The Worship Team is seeking volunteers to help remove the Greens from the Sanctuary on January 12, 2025, immediately after the Worship Service. As usual, many hands make for light work. Pizza will be provided for volunteers. So that lunch can be planned, please contact Donald McDaniel at dmcdan77007@sbcglobal.net or 713-294-4005 to sign up.



Ignite the Passion, Spurt the Connection, Kindle the Flame



Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge Card for 2025. You can find one in the Narthex, Church Office, or Parlor.

For a digital copy of the Pledge Card, please visit www.springbranchpres.org/stewardship.

Please mail or email pledge cards to Jorida Vakiari (giving@springbranchpres.org or jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org).

The 2025 Offering Envelope Books are now available in the Narthex. Please sign your name by the number that corresponds to your book number. If you already have a book of offering envelopes, you can continue to use it since it doesn't correspond to specific dates. Thank you for your continued commitment!

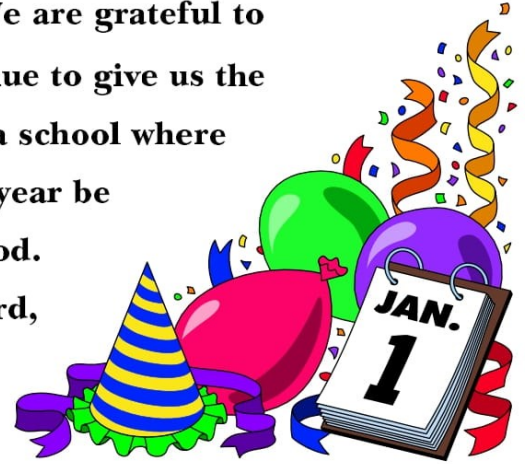


Children's Chime Choir: The Chime Choir meets in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. This is a chance for elementary aged children to get to ring chimes as part of Worship. We are excited to continue this new adventure! Please contact Megan Hogg (megan1661@yahoo.com) for additional details.



Hope all our parents and friends had a Happy New Year. We are grateful to all who continue to support the Academy. May God continue to give us the wisdom and direction this coming year. And help create a school where our children may feel loved, happy and secure. May your year be filled with happiness, peace, prosperity and the love of God.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' ". Jeremiah 29:11



The Academy teachers celebrated their 2024 Christmas party at a bowling center. They all had a fun and joyous time. The winners of the tournament was the "Santa Baby" Team.



GIVE BLOOD.ORG

Spring Branch Presbyterian

Sunday,
February 16th
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
1215 Campbell Rd

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

Sponsor Code: 0324



Camille, blood recipient



Share your
donation story



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

@commitforlife | #commitforlife

BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH



Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The 2025 Flower Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex. If you are currently worshiping 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/30E084CABAC2BA1FA7-54170716-2025>, 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

Did you know that you can help the church by doing your grocery shopping at

Randalls? By giving our Good Neighbor Number (1140) at the checkout line when you shop with your Remarkable Card, a portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the church.



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

Church's Prayer Chain List?

*The email prayer chain is open all who would like to pray for those individuals in need of prayer. If you would like to be included in the email prayer chain as a prayer warrior or if you have a prayer request for an individual, contact swdmmd@dikeman.net. It is requested that prayers be for your **family members, or extended families and friends** who are in need of prayer.*



Happy Birthday


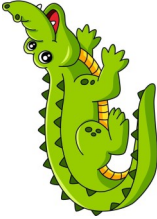


Barbara Tremble	1/9	William Stockton	1/20
Alexandria Balli	1/10	Bunnie Lezon	1/21
Kaitlynn Turney	1/12	Byron Goodrum	1/23
Ramon Ballejo	1/15	Marc Bik	1/25
Dominic Tacchi	1/16	Karina Ballejo	1/27
Nora Wright	1/16	Hazen Ballesteros	1/27
Arthur Qualls	1/19	Ben Dethloff	1/27
Adam Tutt	1/19	Derek Dees	1/29
Lauralai Caldera	1/20	Delia Nix	1/30
Gerald Fitts	1/20	Paul H. Laverty, Jr.	1/31
Clayton Powell	1/20		



First Birthday Celebration of 2025

Join us in the breezeway, weather permitting, for our first birthday celebration of the new year on Sunday, January 12th. Immediately after worship, we will gather for light snacks as we honor our January birthdays!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<p>9:15am - Nursery</p> <p>9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP)</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p>	<p>Epiphany</p> <p>6pm - PW Unwind</p> <p>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</p>	<p>Church & Academy Closed</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Happy New Year</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>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p>	<p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p> <p>5:45pm - Family Movie Night (GP)</p> <p>6pm - SBM Arc Meeting (CR)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p> <p>MOVIE Light</p> 	<p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p> <p>8am - Cub Scout Pinewood Derby</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Baptism of the Lord</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 - Underrating the</p> <p>6pm - Worship Team Meeting (Z)</p>	<p>5:30pm - Academy Board Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</p>	<p>9:30pm - WOW (S)</p> <p>6pm - WNS</p> <p>7pm - Handbell Choir (S)</p> <p>3:30pm - WOW (S)</p> <p>6pm - WNS</p> <p>7pm - Handbell Choir (S)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>5pm - Idea Spring (FH)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> 	<p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p> <p>8am - Cub Scout Pinewood Derby</p> <p>8am - Presbyterian Men (CR)</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>9am - Young Adult Breakfast Club</p> <p>9:15am - Nursery</p> <p>9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP)</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Cong. Care Mtg. (CR)</p>	<p>PresPress Articles DUE</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>9:30am - Happy Hands (CR)</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>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>9:15pm - Pinewood Derby</p>	<p>6pm - Pinewood Derby Car Check-</p> <p>6pm - SBM Arc Meeting (FH)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p>	<p>9am - Cub Scout Pinewood Derby</p> <p>11am - Hot Meals</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>9:15am - Nursery</p> <p>9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP)</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Cong. Care Mtg. (CR)</p>	<p>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</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>9:30pm - WOW (S)</p> <p>6pm - WNS</p> <p>7pm - Handbell Choir (S)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p> <p>9:15pm - Pinewood Derby</p>	<p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p>	<p>8am - Cub Scout Pinewood Derby</p> <p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<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>6pm - Special Olympics: Volleyball</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Basketball (GP)</p> <p>7pm - CENTI Bible Study &</p> <p>7pm - Session (CR)</p>	<p>3:30pm - WOW (S)</p> <p>6pm - WNS</p> <p>7pm - Handbell Choir (S)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees (GP)</p>	<p>7pm - CENTI: Youth Program (YR)</p>	<p>6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)</p>



Sponsored By:

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
1215 Campbell Road
Houston, Texas 77055
(713) 464-7659
www.springbranchpres.org

relationships matter 

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

HAPPY NEW YEAR



*"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD,
'plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future'"*

-Jeremiah 29:11