



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church
 Co-Pastor: Rev. Mark Plunkett
 Co-Pastor: Rev. Savannah Goodman
 Business 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: Jim Kunkel
 Sarah Powell
 Mission Leader: Joel Alegria
 Worship Leader: Donald McDaniel
 Treasurer: Neal Dikeman

The Session

Clerk: Jan Fitts

Moderator: Co-Pastor, Rev. Mark Plunkett
 Moderator: Co-Pastor, Rev. Savannah Goodman

Class of 2026

Kay Craig
 Sarah Dikeman
 Ethan Mitchell

Class of 2027

Joel Alegria
 Beth Mizwa
 Nina Rach

Class of 2028

Jim Kunkel
 Betty Magnuson
 Sarah Powell

Academy Board

Neal Dikeman
 Ashley Powell

Carla Pace
 Jorida Vakiari

Lee Dudinsky
 Lauren Tacchi

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Jan Fitts
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell
Acolytes: Lily & Kaylee Earnest

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org
website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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**“Christ in Action:
 The Baptist Sends
 Messengers”**
 December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

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 THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)**

Faith Development Ministry Team

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who brings joy to the seeking heart.

People: In a world weighed down by worry and weariness, God draws near.

Leader: Like Mary, we are invited to rejoice in God's surprising grace.

People: Joy is coming — joy that casts out fear and lifts our spirits.

Leader: Emmanuel — God with us — sings gladness into our waiting and hope into our living.

People: Come, let us worship the God of joy.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

***HYMN**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

GTG, No. 347

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION *(from Romans 3:23-24)*

Leader: There are two great equalizers among us. One is that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The other is that we are all now justified by God's grace through the gift of Christ Jesus. Confident of both, let us admit where we have fallen short and receive grace without limit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news, and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing, and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

December 14 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am Church Nursery
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Choir Practice
- 10:50 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Called Congregational Meeting
- 12:15 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration
- 12:15 pm Congregational Care Meeting (CR)
- 12:15 pm Handbells (S)
- 3:00 pm Youth Christmas Party (GP)
- 6:00 pm BSA Court of Honor (FH)

December 15 — Monday

- 10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics* (GP)
- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Bear (GP 1 & 2)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

December 16 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:15 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

December 17 — Wednesday

- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm Advent Party: Ham, Mac & Cheese!
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)

December 18 — Thursday

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

December 19 — Friday

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

December 20 — Saturday

- PresPress Articles Due**
- 8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)
- 1:00 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor (S & FH)
- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

December 21 — 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am Church Nursery
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (GP 3)
- 9:30 am Youth Sunday School (YR)
- 9:45 am Choir Practice
- 10:50 am Worship
- 12:15 pm Handbells (S)

December 22 — Monday

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (P)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

December 23 — Tuesday

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

December 24 — Wednesday

- Academy Closes @ 2:30 PM**
- 5:30 pm Refreshments (Breezeway)
- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship



December 25 — Thursday

Church & Academy Closed

Merry Christmas

December 26 — Friday

Church & Academy Closed
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

December 27 — Saturday

6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Marguerite Priest, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of Bryan's birthday.

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship today. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the 2026 Nominating Committee. Nominees are: Kay Craig and Sarah Dikeman (from Session); Ben Dethloff from Administration Team; Lu Taylor from Congregation Team; Theresa Dunlap from Faith Development Team; Patti Nanney from Mission Team; Donald McDaniel from Worship Team. The Nominating Committee will have 7 members. Further nominations may be presented from the floor at the meeting.

December Birthday Celebration — Join friends and congregation members on Sunday, December 14th, right after worship to celebrate our December birthdays. We will have light snacks and birthday treats.

Dust off your halos—It's Angel Tree time again! The deadline for returning gifts is today, Sunday, December 14th. In addition to the gifts, each family receives a basket of food. Please pick up some kid friendly, non-perishable food items from the store this week and we will begin to set it aside for our Angel Tree families. **We also are in need of people to deliver the gifts and food baskets!**

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.)*

The Gathering Place will meet tomorrow, Monday, December 15th, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The theme for this month is *Christmas*. Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman if you're interested in helping out.

Please join us for the annual Advent Party this Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be singing, games, crafts, great food, and more! On the menu is a Ham and Mac and Cheese. Wear your Christmas best — we will have lots of photo opportunities! Bring a can of food for Fair Haven or our Angel Tree Families. We hope to see you there!

Advent in a Bag — This Advent, we prepare for Christ's coming not only by waiting and watching, but by living out Christ's love in action. This year, the Faith Development Team decided to make Advent in a Bag kits for families with children and/or youth to really explore Christ's love in action and prepare for Christmas together as a family. Each week includes a short story from Scripture, a hands-on activity, and a simple mission project that helps us follow Christ's example of hope, peace, joy, and love as we journey through Christmas together. These bags are available for pick up in the Narthex (one per family please). Questions? Please email Pastor Savannah (savannah@springbranchpres.org).

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.

Poinsettias are available for purchase again this year. A sign-up sheet is located in the Church Office & Narthex to place your order until Monday, 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Mathew 1:21)*

Leader: The angel told Joseph, "You are to name the baby Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Believe the words of the angel — and the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you!

*GLORIA

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (v. 1)

GTG, No. 113

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Mark

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Come Holy Spirit! Through the reading and hearing of the Word today, may a deep and complete joy be born in each of us. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 5:7-10

Red Pew Bible NT 231

ANTHEM

"Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)"

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

Red Pew Bible NT 11

SERMON

"Christ in Action: The Baptist Sends Messengers"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"Canticle of the Turning"

GTG, No. 100

*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

"Love Has Come" (v. 1, 3)

GTG, No. 110

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We thank you God, for all the ways you work and heal and bless and free us. Accept these gifts given in great gratitude and in anticipation of Christ's return. Multiply them for your glory and for the good of all people. 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

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

GTG, No. 96

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.

Traditional Worship Service 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.

Stories & Songs: *Stories & Songs* occurs during Worship, with stories from *Growing in God's Love*, songs, coloring pages, and crafts. Pastor Savannah has chosen the stories to coincide with the Sermons. Children will leave the Sanctuary right after Children's Moment and be returned to their parents during the last hymn. This program is during the Worship Service for ages 3-6 years old.

Contemporary Worship Service

Join us for an exciting new contemporary worship service! Experience uplifting music and heartfelt messages in a welcoming environment. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and deepen your faith. Don't miss the chance to be part of this transformative journey. Bring your friends and family! Our next Contemporary Worship Service will be on **January 14th at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Place**. For more information, please visit: www.springbranchpres.org/contemporary-worship-service.

Sunday Morning Offerings at 9:30 am

Saints Under Construction: This class meets in Gathering Place Classroom No. 2. 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.

Calling All Youth: The Youth meet in the Youth Room for Bible Study, Fellowship, and Mission work with the Pastors. Meetings are at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Other volunteers for the program are Jordan Goodman, Carla Pace, and Riley Fairchild.



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.