



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: Elizabeth Powell
Children's Moment: Pastor Savannah
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org
website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
CCLI Streaming License # 20797349
CCLI License # 11266777
 1215 Campbell Rd
 Houston, TX 77055
 713-464-7659



**“Christ in Action:
When Love Stays”**
December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE (LOVE)**

Congregation Ministry Team

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of steadfast love.

People: In a world filled with chaos and uncertainty, God draws near.

Leader: Like Joseph, we are invited to trust and obey.

People: Love is coming — love that bears our name and walks in our shoes.

Leader: Emmanuel — God with us — brings peace to our waiting hearts.

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

ALL: Let us worship God together!

***HYMN**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 1, 6, 7)

GTG, No. 88

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: In the quiet of Advent, we pause to reflect. God's love draws near, not because we are perfect, but because we are beloved. Let us confess our sin and open our hearts to the One who saves. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of love and promise, You enter into our world with mercy and grace, but we confess we often close our hearts. We resist Your call to trust and turn away from Your presence. We let fear silence our faith and doubt overshadow hope. Forgive us, O God. Help us, like Joseph, to listen, to trust, and to follow where You lead. Come, Emmanuel, and make Your home in us. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: God's love is not distant or delayed. In Jesus Christ, God is with us — offering mercy, hope, and peace. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

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)
- 12:15 pm Nominating Committee (CR)

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)

December 28 — Sunday

- 9:15 am Church Nursery
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Choir Practice
- 10:50 am Worship
- 12:15 pm Handbells (S)

December 29 — Monday

- 5:30 pm Special Olympics* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

December 30 — Tuesday

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

December 31 — Wednesday

Academy Closes @ 2:30 PM

January 1 — Thursday

Church & Academy Closed



January 2 — Friday

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

January 3 — 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:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Elizabeth Powell, to honor the December 24th birthdays of two remarkable souls — Harold Miller and Cliff Powell. Though they are no longer with us, their spirit, love, and legacy continue to bloom in our hearts. These flowers are a symbol of remembrance, gratitude, and the enduring impact they've had on all who knew them.

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. This offering will be collected today, Sunday, December 21st, and again on 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 until TOMORROW, 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.

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.)*

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.

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).

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!

The 2026 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!

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? **The 2026 Flower Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex!** The cost per arrangement is \$65.00. Checks should be written to SBPC and mailed to the Church Office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

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 Savannah

ANTHEM

"Won't You Be My Love"

SERMON INTRO

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Red Pew Bible NT 1

SERMON

"Christ in Action: When Love Stays"

Rev. Savannah Goodman

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (v. 1 & 3)

GTG, No. 121

*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)*

Loving God, we bring these gifts with hearts full of gratitude. Use them — and use us — to share Your love with a waiting world. May our giving bring comfort, hope, and light to those who long to know You are near. In the name of Emmanuel — God with us — we pray. 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**

"He Came Down"

GTG, No. 137

***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.