



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



Greetings, members and friends of SBPC.

This Advent, we are making some amazing resources available to our members. First, we want everyone to be able to concentrate weekly on the prayer offered as each Advent candle is lit. So, we are including them here.

First Sunday of Advent O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible, you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds, and that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent Eternal God, we thank you that throughout all the ages you have given peace to your people. In this Advent season, help us to have your peace in our lives, and to show your love to others, that they too might have your peace. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent O Lord, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for many this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives. Help us to have the joy that does not depend upon earthly happiness but upon you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless world. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person, babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all persons. Amen.

Next, I want to call your attention to a new resource we will be trying this year. It is called "*Advent Conspiracy*." I have personally found the material to be very meaningful and timely. You will hear more about it in worship on Sundays, but for the time being, you can find a link to the daily devotionals here: <u>www.springbranchpres.org/advent-conspiracy-devotional</u>. Paper copies are also available for pickup from the Church Office, Narthex, and Parlor.

Please join me in celebrating the wonderful news of Christ and preparing for Christ's coming this year.

Juin R. Beyl

In Christ's Service, Kevin Boyd, Pastor



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church Celebrate Advent and Christmas with Us!

Wake Up Call





Sunday, November 27, 10:50 am 1st Sunday of Advent Worship

Sunday, December 4, 10:50 am 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship



Wednesday, December 7, 6:00 pm Advent Party in the Fellowship Hall Come for food, fellowship, an ornament exchange, music, and crafts!

> **Sunday, December 11, 10:50 am** 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 pm Academy Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary Reception to follow

Sunday, December 18, 10:50 am 4th Sunday of Advent Worship "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem" Choir Program



Saturday, December 24, 6:30 pm Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service Cookies & Hot Chocolate in the Breezeway at 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am Christmas PJ Party and Carol Sing, Sanctuary Light Refreshments at 9:30 AM in the Parlor



What a Wonderful 70th Celebration!

Our thanks to all that organized, helped, participated and enjoyed. A few pictures to reflect upon the excitement of the two days. More pictures will be available on our church's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres/. (Pictures submitted by Liz Earnest, Sarah Dikeman, and Stephanie Saldivar www.selisedesign.myportfolio.com)



Over 40 activities were enjoyed by about 300 people at the Jubilee Festival on November 5.

































"O Love"

Current and Former Members of the SBPC Chance, Choir

Anthem

About 170 people at the Worship Service on November 6 enjoyed the singing of choir members from now and then...









... and the pastoral leadership of Kevin Boyd, Lynn Hargrove, Laurey Murphy Harrell, and Kristi Blankman.





















Led by emcees Jenny Fuller and Neal Dikeman, everyone enjoyed the slideshow and barbecue dinner.





Because December is such a wonderful time of giving, we have two "Missions of the Month" for December – The Angel Tree Program and the Presbyterian Children Homes and Services (PCHAS) Ornament Tree.

For 2.7 million children in the U.S. their lives may be filled with the abandonment, loneliness, and shame that come from having a mom or dad in prison. For many,



it may also include following their parents down the same destructive road to incarceration. Angel Tree[®], a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of prisoners and their families with the love of Christ. This unique program gives us an opportunity to share God's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners at Christmas time.

Every year, our church receives the names of about 20 children who live in the zip codes around our church. Through contact with each of the families, we determine items that the children need or want. In addition to two gifts designated from the parent, each child receives a gift from SBPC. Each family also receives a generous food basket. We will be collecting nonperishable foods for these baskets, so watch for collection bins outside the church office. Tags will be available starting Wednesday, December 7th at dinner, and also on Sunday, December 11th, before and after worship. Be sure to pick up one or two! Here's what you do: select an angel tag (or two). Purchase the gift *(in the \$20 price range).* Wrap the gift, sticking the tag to the front of the package. Return the gift to the church office no later than Sunday, December 18th.



Our other "Mission of the Month" is the PCHAS Ornament Tree. Instead of buying toys for the needy children at Christmas time, we opt to give monetary donations. These generous gifts allow PCHAS to serve approximately 5000 children and families each year.

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. We will donate the entire amount to PCHAS at the end of the month. (If you pay by check, please make checks payable to SBPC and put "PCHAS Ornament Tree" in the memo line.)

November Mission Updates & Opportunities

Seafarer's Boxes Updates and Thanks – Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual packing and wrapping Seafarer's Boxes on Sunday, November 27th. We had a total 132 of boxes that were delivered to the Houston International Seafarer's Center. A special thanks to Laurie Mitchell who coordinates this mission initiative.

SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends – The 4th Saturday of each month we look for individuals to deliver meals to shut-ins. We have 36 active recipients between 2 routes, 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.

Children's Thanksgiving Day Poems Outreach – This year, the children of both the church and the academy created 60+ colorful and creative turkeys with a poem wishing our CarePartners of The Gathering Place, and our recipients for Hot Meals on Weekends, a Happy Thanksgiving. This was an effort to spread joy and love from the children in our congregation and academy to our community at a time when some do not have the ability to travel and be with their families. While these children do not know the recipient, and the recipient has no relation to the child, may the cards remind them that they are thought of on Thanksgiving, not only by their family, but by our church and our community.

MAM Back-to-School Drive Update – A special thank you to everyone who donated to our annual MAM Back-to-School Uniform Voucher Drive! This year, SBPC collected \$1,670.00 for Memorial Assistance Ministries! The collected funds were distributed as vouchers to students to purchase new school uniforms.



Special Offerings Update – Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We are happy to announce that \$235.00 was collected this year.

Mission of Yahweh Thanksgiving Outreach Program – Spring Branch Presbyterian had the opportunity to partner with our friends at the Mission of Yahweh again for their 2022 Thanksgiving



Outreach Program on November 19th. The congregation, through your mission giving, was able to provide 100 reusable grocery bags, which were used to hand out Thanksgiving meals and food to our neighbors. The Thanksgiving Outreach program helped provide 330 families with food, and a total of 1,636 individuals were helped during the event. The Mission of Yahweh wishes to send along their heartfelt thanks to the members and friends of SBPC for your support. If you would like to help or volunteer during the Christmas season at the Mission of Yahweh, please see Miguel in the Church Office.



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program through the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color—offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. This offering will be collected on December 18th and 24th.

Ways to Give:

- Through your congregation
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to learn more or donate
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." -John 1:14

Advent Party & Supper December 7th at 6:00 PM

Come For Food, Fellowship, Music, an Ornament Exchange, and Crafts.



Jan Fitts is making Cranberry Chicken over Rice, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Pies and Cookies for Dessert.



ADVENT PARTY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Bringing back an old tradition in a new way – Either purchase an ornament (less than \$10) and wrap it, or purchase an ornament from the PCHAS Ornament Tree and play the *Right Family Christmas Ornament Exchange Game* at the SBPC Advent party! Gift bags will be provided for those who purchase an ornament at the party. The more that play, the more fun! All ages, all types of ornaments! Call or email Marguerite Priest for additional details.

281-435-3941 - mepriest@hotmail.com.

Academy Christmas Pageant



Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 PM The highlight of the season is watching the children of the Academy sing carols. Join us for this beautiful celebration! A cookies and punch reception will immediately follow.

Poinsettias!



We will have poinsettias for purchase again this year! You can place your order in the Church Office, online at this <u>form (https://forms.gle/jRrhQFBorzzQ32nW7</u>), or by emailing <u>ethan@springbranchpres.org</u>, today through Wednesday, December 21st! 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.

FOR SALE



FRIENDSHIP COOKBOOKS (#3/#6) & LIL'S RECIPES FOR SALE THESE MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR SALE \$5.00 STOP BY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO BUY ONE

ANGEL DECORATED CANS ARE AVAILABLE TO FILL WITH GOODIES FOR FOOD BASKETS, OR PURCHASE FOR \$5.00 FOR GIFT "BAGS."



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church will not be offering Nursery/Childcare services on Saturday, December 24th, or Sunday, December 25th, so that our nursery workers



can spend the Christmas holiday with their families. We will have a Nursery on New Years' Day. Please direct questions to Kat Dethloff at <u>kathryndethloff@yahoo.com</u>.

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



Angel Tree is back in person this season! Angel Tree Prison Ministries is a program to support the children of incarcerated parents during the holiday season. Spring Branch Presbyterian receives the names of 20 children in November, and our church works to find out their needs from the custodial parent. Then, on December 7th 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 December 18.

We are collecting food for **Angel Tree Food Baskets**, to be shared with families this Christmas. Here are some suggestions:

- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned fruits, vegetables, soups
- Canned evaporated milk
- Any kid friendly, easy to prepare foods
- Cereal
- Spaghetti, Pasta Sauce
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Chili or Ravioli

So, watch the ads, or just pick up one extra item the next time you go to the store. Your gifts will be much appreciated.

Please direct gift questions to Laurie Mitchell and food questions to Linda Crawford.





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

Presbyterian Women this Month

PW at a Glance

PW UNWIND on <u>12/5</u> at 6:00 p.m. at North China Mandarin Cuisine (14525 Katy Freeway)



PW MODERATORS on <u>12/7</u> at 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)

PW BOARD MEETING on 12/7 at 10:15 a.m. (Conference Room)



THE HORIZONS Evening Bible study using ZOOM will be on Monday, <u>12/12</u> at 7:00 p.m.

PW DAY CIRCLE meeting on <u>12/14</u> at 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room). We will have a salad luncheon in the Fellowship Hall afterwards. Please bring a salad to share.

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

Lesson 4 Video: <u>www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/celebrating-</u> <u>sabbath</u>

HAPPY HANDS and ZIP TRIPs will not meet in December



The Unwind Group will meet our last time in 2022 at North China Mandarin Cuisine at 6:00 PM on Monday, December 5th. The restaurant is located at 14525 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079. Please RSVP to Jacquie Ballesteros (only if you plan to attend) at <u>jballesteros1103@gmail.com</u>.

Kay Craig has volunteered to drive from Spring Branch. If you would like to take advantage of being chauffeured in

style, contact Kay at kay@craig-heidt.com.

Celebrate the holidays with us! See you there!

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

Lesson 4 of *Celebrating Sabbath* will be discussed by the group of women using Zoom on Monday, December 12th, at 7 p.m. All SBPC women are welcomed in this Bible study group through videoconference! Contact Sarah Powell at <u>mrspowelltobe@yahoo.com</u> to receive the Zoom invitation to join the meeting.





January Presbyterian Women ZIP trip Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

Join us as we visit a local winery—details after Christmas!

Spring Branch hosted our dear friends from the CUPS Board on November 16th, 2022. The CUPS Board met at the church for their fall quarterly meeting and Nina Rach, our board representative, prepared a delicious lunch. During the meeting, several updates were shared by the board on the projects that they have funded this year. Some examples of projects that CUPS has completed with your donations include:



- Helping to repair the roof at the Arcos Iris Kinder School
- Helping to repair the fire damage to the offices of the USAER 95 Special Education School
- Two playgrounds were funded at the Mono de Leon Kinder and Las Higuerrillas Schools

CUPS continues to collect gently used durable medical equipment and computers that are repurposed in Mexico. SBPC will be sponsoring a coat drive from January 1st-16th to benefit CUPS, our Mission of the Month for January. Watch for more info soon! We invite you to learn more about CUPS by visiting their website at <u>www.cupsmission.org.</u>

On November 13th, Spring Branch Presbyterian Church had the privilege to host the 2022 Winter Court of Honor for Boy Scout Troop 478. We were delighted to join the Scouts and their families in celebrating their most recent merit badges and advancement Rank recognitions. Congratulations to all! We look forward to celebrating our next Eagle Scouts in a special ceremony on December 17th at the church.



The Scouts meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM at the Scout Hut. Feel free to stop by and learn more about Troop 478!



You are invited to attend Pastor's Bible Study with Kevin! The group gathers at 11:00 AM on Tuesday mornings. The Bible Study is now being offered both in-person and virtually. You may either join in-person at 11:00 AM in the Conference Room, or by Zoom using the information below. We hope to see you there!

Meeting ID: 897 7951 2452 | Password: 754888 | Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89779512452?pwd=VU1VZVByeFI1MEwxNmxrR090S0JVQT09

December 4, 2022; 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 Text: Matthew 3:1-12 Title: Wake Up Call 2: Company's Coming Focus: It is time to wake up and prepare for the presence of Christ.

December 11, 2022; 3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 Text: James 5:7-10 Title: Wake Up Call 3: Rude Awakenings Focus: At this time of year we need to love irritating people.

December 18, 2022; 4th Sunday of Advent; Choir Program "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem"

December 25, 2022; Christmas Day Christmas PJ Party and Carol Sing

First Reading: John 1:1-14 Second Reading: Luke 2:1-20





Don't forget to select SBPC as your charity when you shop for Christmas presents on Amazon this season!

Support SBPC by using AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com, or directly at our Charity Link: <u>smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486</u>

Support Spring Branch Presbyterian Church.

When you shop at **smile.amazon.com,** Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

amazonsmile

Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

- 1. Visit smile.amazon.com
- 2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
- 3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations (<u>smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6017486</u>)
- 4. Select your charity
- 5. Start shopping!
- 6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start shopping at AmazonSmile

Boots on the Ground! Stewardship Campaign



Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge Card for 2023. You can find one in the Narthex, Church Office, or Parlor. For a digital copy of the Pledge Card, please visit <u>www.springbranchpres.org/stewardship</u>.

You can download this card, type directly into it, and email it to <u>giving@springbranchpres.org</u> or jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org.

REIMBURSEMENTS DEADLINE APPROACHING...

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





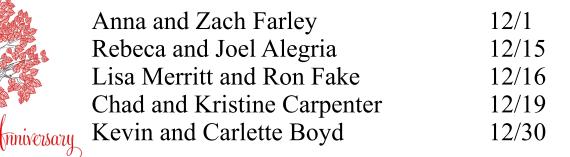
Happy



Lin Sabala	12/3	Maurice Fayard II	12/14
Meredith Qualls	12/4	Janis Inbody	12/14
Robert Bear	12/5	Laurie Mitchell	12/14
Kay Nichols	12/5	Bryan Evenson	12/15
Jeremy Cross	12/11	Kristine Carpenter	12/18
Christian Keller	12/11	Glenn Lanan	12/20
Christopher Powell	12/11	Jerry Bigelow	12/26
Kathryn Dethloff	12/12	Scott Lassiter	12/29
Sonya Bear	12/14	Anna Farley	12/30



Happy Anniversary!



Dec 2022 (Central Time - Chicago) Sat	Sal	2 am - Cub Scout Service Project 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)	9 10	an) 3pm - Fairbees Christmas Party	6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)					16 17	an) 8am - Presbyterian Men (CR)	10am - Eagle Scout Ceremony (S	4pm - Arc Christmas Party (FH)	6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP)		23 24		Ī	60		•	Constant Christmas Euc	30 31	e (S) @			
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Ē	nui	1 9am - Jessie's Bites (Kitchen) 10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	8	9am - Jessie's Bites (Kitchen)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 5:30pm - Academy Board Meeting	6pm - Cub Scout Pack 552: Bear	6pm - Fairbees (GP)			15	9am - Jessie's Bites (Kitchen)	10am - Flexercise (GP)	6pm - Fairbees (GP)			22	Com locatele Bitoo (Mitoboo)	10am - Flavernise (GD)	Com Cub Court Book EEO. Book				59	10am - Flexercise (GP)			
Weet		30	2	9:30am - PW Moderator (CR)	10:15am - PW Board Meeting (CR) 6pm - Advent Party				Advent	14	9:30am - PW Circle	5pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)	6pm - Academy Christmas	7pm - Arc of SB/M Board Meeting	7pm - Choir Practice	21							28	5pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)			
ait		29	9	9:15am - Cong. Care Mtg.	10am - Flexercise (GP) 10am - Staff Meeting	11am - Pastor's Bible Study (CR)	6pm - Basketball (GP)	6pm - Cub Scout Pack 552:	/pm - Session (CH)	13	10am - Flexercise (GP)	10am - Staff Meeting	11am - Pastor's Bible Study (CR)	6pm - Basketball (GP)	6:30pm - Fellowship Meeting (FH)	20		10am - Flavarcisa (GD)	down Charles Mandiana	11am - Pastor's Bible Study (CR)	6pm - Basketball (GP)	6pm - Cub Scout Pack 552:	27	10am - Flexercise (GP)	10am - Staff Meeting	11am - Pastor's Bible Study (CR)	6pm - Basketball (GP)
tions		28	2	5:30pm - Special Olympics:	6pm - Cub Scout Pack 552: Wolf 6pm - PW Unwind	6pm - Yoga (CR)	6:30pm - Troop 478 Parent	7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	/pm - worship team Meeung	12	5:30pm - Special Olympics:	6pm - Yoga (CR)	6:30pm - Cub Scout Pack 552:	7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	7pm - Horizon's Bible Study on	19	The Orthonian Blace (EU)	10am - me damering riace (rm) 5-30nm - Faith Develonment		6pm - Cub Scout Pack 552: Wolf	6pm - Yoga (CR)	7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	26	Church & Academy Closed	6pm - Yoga (CR)	6:30pm - Cub Scout Pack 552:	7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)
Church Calendar, Outside SBPC Reservations		27	4	2nd Sunday of Advent	9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP	9:30am - Sunday School	9:45am - Choir Practice	10:50am - Worship	zpm - Graft Workshop (rH) 4pm - Cub Scout Pack 552: Tiger	£	3rd Sunday of Advent	9:15am - Nursery	9:30am - Sunday School	10:50am - Worship	12pm - Monthly Birthday	6	Ath Curston of Advisort	4.15am - Mirserv	Contraction of Contraction	9:30am - Sunday School	10:50am - Worship	12:15pm - Choir Practice 4pm - Cub Scout Pack 552: Tiger	25	Christmas Day	9:30am - Refreshments (P)	10am - Christmas Day Worship	E. Meru



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relationships matter

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." ~Philippians 4:4~5