

relationships matter

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church
Administrator: Jorida Vakiari
Ministries Coordinator: C. Miguel Carlin
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: Jacquie Ballesteros
Congregation Leader: Kay Craig
Faith Development Leader: Kathryn Dethloff
Mission Leader: Liz Earnest
Worship Leader: Donald McDaniel
Treasurer: Neal Dikeman

The Session

Clerk: Elizabeth Powell

Moderator: Rev. Andy Gans (Pines PC)

Class of 2024

Charles Fairchild
Glenn Lanan
Donald McDaniel
Jennifer Miller

Class of 2025

Jacquie Ballesteros
Kathryn Dethloff
Stephen Earnest

Class of 2026

Kay Craig
Sarah Dikeman
Ethan Mitchell

Academy Board

Laurie Mitchell
Jani Shepard

Jim Kunkel
Web Trevathan

Neal Dikeman
Ashley Powell

Serving today in Worship:

Guest Pastor: Rev. Gregory Han

Liturgist: Jan Fitts

Children's Moment: Jan Fitts

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-4:30 PM

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MY SOUL WAITS,
AND IN HIS WORD
I HOPE.

Psalm 130:5, NRSV

“Our Stories, God’s Story”

August 20, 2023

August 20, 2023

10:50 AM

**Those who are able please stand*

God's People Connect

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign the Friendship Book located in the pew rack next to the center aisle.)

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Lord, educate us for a higher life, and let that life be begun here.

People: May we be always in the school, always disciples, and when we are out in the world, may we put into practice what we have learned at Jesus' feet.

Leader: What he tells us in darkness, may we proclaim in the light,

People: What he whispers in our ear in the closets, may we sound forth upon the housetops.

***HYMN**

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

GTG, No. 263

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: The Apostle Paul writes that "to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." You are invited to unburden your soul today by confession of sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

O God, you give us the gift of your presence, yet we ignore it;

You give us your word, yet we distort it;

You give us your commandments, yet we disregard them.

Jesus did not come to abolish the law;

instead, we abolish it in our own hearts.

We know that forgiveness is found through you, and so we become complacent.

"Thou shalt not" seems peculiar and quaint in our culture of indulgence.

Forgive us, O God, for our halfhearted discipleship.

Let your commandments thunder in our hearts.

Give us the joy to follow you in word and deed;

Make us new, and prepare us to be servants of you, the living God, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

August 20 — Sunday

PresPress Articles Due

9:15 am Church Nursery

9:30 am Sunday School

9:45 am Choir Practice

10:50 am Worship

12:30 pm Choir Luncheon

August 21 — Monday

10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

August 22 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)

6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

7:00 pm Session (CR)

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

August 23 — Wednesday

9:30 am Happy Hands (CR)

5:00 pm Cribbage (CR)

5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)

August 24 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)

6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

August 25 — Friday

6:30 pm SBM Arc Meeting* (FH)

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

August 26 — Saturday

8:00 am Academy Training (FH)

11:00 am Hot Meals

6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

August 27 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery

9:30 am Sunday School

9:45 am Choir Practice

10:50 am Worship

12:15 pm Ambassador Group (CR)

August 28 — Monday

6:00 pm Yoga (CR)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

August 29 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

10:00 am Staff Meeting (P)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)

6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

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

August 30 — Wednesday

5:00 pm Academy Open House

6:00 pm WNS: Hamburgers!

August 31 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)

5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)

6:00 pm Yoga (CR)

6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

September 1 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

September 2 — 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:

Returning as our Guest Pastor this morning is Rev. Gregory Han! The Rev. Gregory Han is a doctoral student in the Department of Religion at Rice University, and also teaches part-time at the Post Oak High School. Greg earned a B.A. in American Studies from Georgetown University and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. Ordained in 2000, he first worked as a hospital chaplain before serving two congregations in the Houston area. He is well-versed in interreligious dialogue, directing the interfaith initiatives for Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston for over seven years. His teaching experience includes six years at St. John's School, a year in the Honors College at the University of Houston, and he has taught as an Adjunct Professor in Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Christian-Jewish Relations Certificate program.

The Flowers for this morning are given by Barbara and Don Tremble, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of Ron's birthday.

MAM Back to School Uniform Voucher Drive – During the month of August, SBPC will be collecting funds for the Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) Back to School Uniform Voucher Drive. MAM coordinates with school guidance counselors and local vendors to provide school uniforms for local needy families. MAM's 2023 goal is to provide \$50 uniform vouchers to 3,000 children. Donations can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or mailed to the church office. We also welcome online donations, which can be given here: givebutter.com/mambacktoschool/springbranchpresbyterianchurch1.

The Gathering Place will meet tomorrow at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The theme for this month is *Sock Hop!* Please see Sarah Dikeman or Jacquie Ballesteros if you'd like to help out.

Happy Hands will meet on Wednesday, August 23rd, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Join us for stuffing and stitching and great conversation. We hope you can join us!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Handbells are making a return! If you are interested in participating, please email musicdirector@springbranchpres.org. The Choir has resumed meeting and we are looking for some new members to join us! If you are interested in participating, please email musicdirector@springbranchpres.org.

Save-the-Date for Wednesday Night Suppers to resume on August 30th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be having Hamburgers with all of the trimmings and mac and cheese. The Academy Open House will be beforehand at 5:00 PM. Come learn more about our primary mission! We hope to see you there!

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? **The 2023 Flowers 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our Lord said to those who would listen, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." Friends, receive the life-giving truth of God's forgiveness, and prepare yourselves for life according to God's kingdom.

People: We accept God's gift of new life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***GLORIA** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (v. 1, 5) GTG, No. 610

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!*

*To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jan Fitts

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Refresh us with your Word, O God. Baptize us with the power of the gospel, as we hear it read and proclaimed this day. As you did in the beginning, send your Spirit to hover over the chaos — the chaos of our own frenzied and disordered souls — that we would hear your truth ringing forth in a clear and unambiguous voice: Good News, for ourselves and for this entire world. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 15:10-28 Red Pew Bible NT 17

ANTHEM "Make Me A Channel of Thy Peace" Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 45:1-15 Red Pew Bible OT 42

SERMON "***Our Stories, God's Story***" Rev. Gregory Han

Responding to the Word

***HYMN** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" GTG, No. 39

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** *"Now Thank We All Our God"* (v. 3) GTG, No. 643

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Accept these gifts we offer, gracious God. We dedicate this offering to you, the giver of all good gifts, and pray that it would be a scattering of seeds in good and fertile soil. Use both the work of our hands and the giving of our resources, so that the gospel may bloom and its roots grow deep, both in this place, and throughout the world. 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** *"Help Us Accept Each Other"* GTG, No. 754

*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 the Pastor, 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 Ducks classroom, Room 121, past the Church Offices.

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.

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.