

relationships matter

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church
 Pastor: Rev. Mark Plunkett
 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. Mark Plunkett

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:

Liturgist: Elizabeth Powell
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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



“Living the Word”
 September 17, 2023

September 17, 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: When the tides of fear seem to overwhelm us, we cry out....

People: Lord, come to us and lead us to paths of safety!

Leader: When we feel lost and alone and we wonder if anyone cares about us, we cry out....

People: Lord, come and heal our wounded spirits!

Leader: When turbulence within and without seem to threaten us, we cry out....

ALL: Lord, bring us peace. AMEN.

*HYMN

"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"

GTG, No. 722

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Lord, we confess that we don't always turn to you in our troubles. Sometimes we are paralyzed by fear and anxiety. We cannot see "the light at the end of the tunnel." For us, there is only the ongoing darkness and hopelessness. Clear our sight, O Lord. Bind up our wounded spirits!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Fill us with your mercy and love, O Giver of Peace and Grace. Forgive us when we stray, when we fear, or when we falter. Pick us up and place us on pathways of peace and hope, for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: No matter what befalls us, the Lord walks with us on the path, bringing us courage and hope. No matter what, we belong to the Lord, now and forever. AMEN.

September 17 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Sunday School (GP 3)
9:45 am Choir Practice (Choir Room)
10:30 am Called Session Meeting (CR)
10:50 am Worship
12:00 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration (Breezeway)

September 18 — Monday

10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)
6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

September 19 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

September 20 — Wednesday

PresPress Articles Due
10:00 am PW ZIP Trip: Bible Museum at HCU!
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Lemon Pepper Chicken!
6:00 pm FD Dinner & Discussions! (L)
6:45 pm Worship Team Meeting (CR)

September 21 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)
6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
6:00 pm Cub Scout Kick-off Meeting (FH)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

September 22 — Friday

6:30 pm SBM Arc Meeting* (FH)
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

September 23 — Saturday

11:00 am Hot Meals
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

September 24 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Children's Chime Choir (S)
9:45 am Choir Practice (Choir Room)
10:50 am Worship
12:15 pm FD Coffee & Conversations (CR)
2:00 pm Sunday Craft Workshop (FH)

September 25 — Monday

6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
6:30 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos II (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

September 26 — Tuesday

Academy Picture Day (Parlor)
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
10:00 am Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm Session (CR)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

September 27 — Wednesday

Academy Picture Day (Parlor)
9:30 am Happy Hands (CR)
3:30 pm WOW (S)
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
6:00 pm WNS: Pork Tenderloin!

September 28 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Bear (GP 1)
6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)
6:00 pm Summerhouse Parent Meeting* (FH)

September 29 — Friday

Families with Young Children Retreat
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

September 30 — Saturday

Families with Young Children Retreat
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

Announcements & Events:

This morning we officially welcome Rev. Mark Plunkett home to our Pulpit at SBPC! We are excited and grateful for this new opportunity that God has given to each and every one of us, and the look forward to continuing our journey of faith with the Plunkett family. **Please join family, friends, and congregation members in the Breezeway right after Worship as we celebrate both the Call of Mark Plunkett, and those in our church community born in September.** Linger for conversation, fellowship, and light snacks.

The Flowers for this morning are given by Lee Dudinsky, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of Harrison Dudinky's birthday on September 14th.

The Gathering Place will meet tomorrow, Monday, September 18th, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The theme for this month is *Lawrence Welk!* Please see Sarah Dikeman or Jacquie Ballesteros if you'd like to help out.

Please join us for our first ZIP Trip of the year! We will be taking a guided tour of the Bible Museum at Houston Christian University (formerly HBU) on Wednesday, September 20th at 10:00 AM. There are also self-guided tours of the other two museums for \$5 for both, the American Architecture and Design Museum, and the Museum of Southern History. We can also make reservations at the cafeteria for the buffet, which costs \$8.04. Please contact Marguerite Priest at 281-435-3941 or mepriest@hotmail.com for more information, or to RSVP.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, September 20th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Laurie Mitchell is making Lemon Pepper Chicken. Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

The Faith Development Team will be hosting two listening sessions for our SBPC family to share your thoughts and ideas on the types of programs you would like to see our team develop over the next year. *Dinner & Discussions* will be on Wednesday, September 20th, from 6:00-7:00 PM. We invite you to grab your dinner from the Fellowship Hall and join us in the Library. *Coffee & Conversations* will be held immediately after Worship in the Conference Room on Sunday, September 24th. We ask for you to please RSVP to Miguel in the Church Office if you plan to come to either of these.

Articles for the October 2023 edition of the PresPress are due this Wednesday, September 20th. Please submit articles to ethan@springbranchpres.org.

The Fair Haven Food Pantry is in desperate need of re-usable plastic grocery bags. Donations may be brought to the Church Office any day of the week, or to the Fellowship Hall at Wednesday Night Suppers. The pantry has started to purchase bags to meet their current needs. Any donations will be greatly appreciated!

Sunday Craft Workshop — Our next fun Craft Workshop is on September 24th from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be making fall-themed décor. One is a centerpiece for a table, and the other three hang on a wall or door. Please email or call Kay Craig to reserve your spot. You will need to pay in advance as we have to purchase the supplies ahead of time. The deadline for registration is today, September 17th.

Happy Hands will meet on Wednesday, September 27th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. As we get closer to fall, we know that there will be a need for winter hats and scarves. We are certain that hats for elementary kids will be in demand. If you'd like to make some hats and scarves and need yarn, please let Doris Wright know. She can get some for you. We hope to see you at Happy Hands! It's always a great time for visiting and making something special for others.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GLORIA

"God's Love Made Visible"

LUYH, No. 140

*God's love made visible! Incomprehensible!
He is invincible! His love shall reign!
From love so bountiful, blessings uncountable,
make death surmountable! His love shall reign!
Joyfully pray for peace and good will.
All of our yearning he will fulfill.
Live in a loving way. Praise him for ev'ry day.
Open your hearts and pray. His love shall reign!*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Mark

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

Red Pew Bible NT 163

ANTHEM

"Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace"

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

Red Pew Bible NT 20

SERMON

"Living the Word"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

GTG, No. 444

*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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Lauren and Mario Tacchi

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME *(unison)*

We welcome you as new friends in the faith. We welcome you as members of the Body of Christ. We offer ourselves to you in the hope that you will find in this congregation warm fellowship and encouragement to your faith. We join hands with you, in order that we may share gladly with you, discipleship. Welcome to our life together in Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***OUR RESPONSE** *"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"* (v. 3) GTG, No. 35

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. In gratitude for all these blessings and in confidence that our gifts will be used for ministries of peace and hope, we offer our talents, tithes, and treasures today. 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** *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"* GTG, No. 353

*BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE



Portions of today's worship service are from ministrymatters.com.

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.

Children's Chime Choir: The Chime Choir meets in the Sanctuary 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! Megan Hogg leads the Chime Choir.

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.