

*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. G. Todd Williams

**Liturgist:** Jan Fitts

**Children's Moment:** Jan Fitts

**Usher Captain:** Donald McDaniel

**PowerPoint:** Patty Blome

*e-mail:* [churchoffice@springbranchpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@springbranchpres.org)

*website:* [www.springbranchpres.org](http://www.springbranchpres.org)

[www.facebook.com/springbranchpres](https://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres)

*Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM*

*CCLI Streaming License # 20797349*

*CCLI License # 11266777*

*1215 Campbell Rd*

*Houston, TX 77055*

*713-464-7659*



***“Learning to Take a Look  
From a New Perspective”***  
September 3, 2023

*\*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: Give thanks to God and tell of God's gifts.

**People: We will sing praises for all that God has done.**

Leader: Let your hearts be joyful!

**People: We will seek God's presence continually.**

Leader: Call to mind God's wonderful works.

**ALL: We will always remember the blessings of God and glorify God forever!**

#### \*HYMN

*"I Will Call upon the Lord"*

(insert)

### Preparing for the Word

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Holy, Mysterious, Eternal and Ever-loving God, in You we live and move and have our being. You are the beginning and end of all things. In Your depth, we find mystery. In Your breadth, we know Your tender embrace. We can only wonder at Your love for us, so small a part of Your whole creation are we. Yet in Jesus Christ we meet Your generous grace. In the Holy Spirit, You move with us to inspire our action and fill us with hope. Our thoughts cannot exhaust Your wisdom, nor can our hearts fathom Your mercy. And so we worship You in humble praise, Holy God, ever Three and ever One, now and always.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**Faithful and forgiving God, we confess we do not live out Your love and mercy. We cling to old hurts and familiar habits. We nurse anger and envy. We are often so self-absorbed that we turn our backs on those in need. Forgive what we have been, amend who we are, and guide us toward who we may become according to Your generous grace. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's embracing grace.

#### September 3 — 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)
- 10:50 am Worship

#### September 4 — Monday *Church & Academy Closed*



#### September 5 — Tuesday

- 9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting (GP)
- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball\* (Field)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:00 pm PW Unwind Group: Low Tide!
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)

#### September 6 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Moderator (CR)
- 10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Taco Casserole!

#### September 7 — 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)
- 7:00 pm Square Dance Fun Night (GP)

#### September 8 — Friday

- 5:45 pm Family Movie Night (GP)
- 6:00 pm SBM Arc Meeting\* (CR)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

#### September 9 — Saturday

- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)

#### September 10 — 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
- 6:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

#### September 11 — Monday *Rev. Mark Plunkett's 1st Day!*

- 5:00 pm Faith Development Meeting (P)
- 6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball\* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)
- 7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom

#### September 12 — Tuesday

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

#### September 13 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (CR & FH)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Chopped Steak!
- 6:00 pm Budget Meeting (CR)

#### September 14 — Thursday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (P)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball\* (Field)
- 6:00 pm Yoga (CR)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

#### September 15 — Friday

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

#### September 16 — Saturday

- 8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)
- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)



## Announcements & Events:

**Our Guest Pastor this morning is Rev. G. Todd Williams!** G. Todd Williams attended Indiana University, Bloomington, received his Masters of Divinity Degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education at M D Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, and later, worked as a chaplain in the Heart and Vascular Center with the Memorial Hermann hospital system. Prior to becoming a Hospice Chaplain at Essential Hospice, Webster, TX, he was a Chaplain with Houston Hospice, Houston, TX. Most recently, he served as the Stated Supply at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Galveston, TX. He is the author of the book, "Remember Me When" (Chalice Press, 2021) and contributor to the book "Let Us Pray, Reformed Prayers for Christian Worship" (John Knox, 2000). He was awarded the Todd Brackovitch Peace Fellowship Award by the Christian Church (DOC) Peace Fellowship in 2005, for the work he was doing with the homeless teens in Montrose and later brought to the attention of the nomadic habits of homeless teens along the I-10 highway route. He is married to Quincy, and they have two grown children, as well as three grandchildren.

**The Flowers** for this morning are given by Floyd Christopher and Gabriel Perez, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of their 7th wedding anniversary.

**The Church Office and Academy are closed tomorrow**, Monday, September 4th, in observance of Labor Day.

**The Unwind Group will be meeting for dinner on September 5th, at 6:00 PM at the Low Tide Kitchen & Bar** (2030A Bingle Road, Houston, TX, 77055). Please note that this a Tuesday as the first Monday is the Labor Day holiday. As usual, please RSVP to Jacquie Ballesteros, only if you plan to attend. Low Tide has been voted Best New Restaurant! We hope to see you there.

**Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday**, September 6th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Fitts is making Taco Casserole, Chips, Salsa, Guacamole, Tossed Salad, Fresh Fruit, Brownies, and Ice Cream Bars. Please email Kay Craig at [kay@craig-heidt.com](mailto:kay@craig-heidt.com) to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

**The FairBees Square Dance Club is hosting a free Square Dance Fun Night on Thursday, September 7th from 7:30-9:30 PM in the Gathering Place.** This is a chance to come see what square dancing is all about and try a little, with no obligation or cost! Come experience how much fun it can be. Weekly lessons begin on September 14th from 7:00-8:00 PM in the Gathering Place.

**The PW Day Circle** will meet on Wednesday, September 13th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Please contact Patti Nanney if you'd like to attend via Zoom. A salad Luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad to share. The **Evening Bible Study** will meet on Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashley Powell if you are interested in attending. The Introduction & Lesson 1 videos are available at the following link: [www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters](http://www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters).

**Please join us for our first ZIP Trip of the year!** We will touring the Buffalo Bayou Cistern on Wednesday, September 20th at 10:00 AM. The cost is \$8.00 per person. We will discuss lunch and transportation options at our first meeting on September 13th. Please contact Marguerite Priest at 281-435-3941 or [mepriest@hotmail.com](mailto:mepriest@hotmail.com) for more information.

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*GLORIA

*"Praise You"*

*Praise you, praise you; let my life praise you.  
Praise you, praise you; let my life, O Lord, praise you.  
Praise you, praise you; let my life praise you.  
Praise you, praise you; let my life, O Lord, praise you.  
Let my life, O Lord, praise you.*

### God's People Are Empowered

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jan Fitts

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

**God of wisdom, you teach us with love, you touch us with mercy, and you challenge us with truth. Send your Holy Spirit to help us grasp your love, mercy, and truth in the Scriptures as we encounter your living Word today. Amen.**

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Red Pew Bible OT 717

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 26:1-8

Red Pew Bible OT 503

### ANTHEM

*"In Remembrance of Me"*

Choir

### THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

New International Version

### SERMON

***"Learning to Take a Look From a New Perspective"***

Rev. G. Todd Williams

### Responding to the Word

### \*HYMN

*"In the Singing"*

(insert)

### \*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

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### The Invitation

### Sharing of Prayer Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

### The Words of Institution

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Breaking of the Bread

### Serving of the Elements

### Prayer After Receiving *(unison)*

**God of abundance, You have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; You have united us with Christ and one another; and You have made us one with all Your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of Your Spirit, that we may proclaim Your redeeming love to the world, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Leader: The Apostle Paul encourages us to let our love be genuine as we contribute to those in need in the world around us. Know that God will use our gifts for good things, both those we undertake in Jesus' name and in ways we cannot yet imagine.

## OFFERTORY

### \*OUR RESPONSE

*"O God Beyond All Praising"*

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

**O God, we offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving. Use them to transform the world you love with the mercy and compassion we celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### Departing to Serve

### \*HYMN

*"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

(insert)

### \*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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.springbranchpres.org/give).