

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:
 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:

Guest Pastor: Rev. Tamika Nelson
Liturgist: Jacquie Ballesteros
Children's Moment: Patti Nanney
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patti Nanney
Guest Accompanist: Robert Lewis

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www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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“The Art of Negotiation”
 October 15, 2023

20th Sunday After Pentecost

October 15, 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** *(from Psalm 23)*

Leader: The Lord leads us like a shepherd.

People: God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.

Leader: The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

ALL: God's goodness and mercy are always close.

***HYMN**

"Give Thanks"

GTG, No. 647

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

October 15 — 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
4:00 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)
6:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

October 16 — Monday

10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)
4:30 pm Faith Development Meeting (P)
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)
7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom

October 17 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
1:00 pm Finance Meeting (CR)
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

October 18 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW ZIP Trip: Hearts & Hands Market
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Hungarian Goulash!

October 19 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Idea Spring: Mr. Magic!
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce Ball* (Field)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

October 20 — Friday

PresPress Articles Due
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

October 21 — Saturday

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

October 22 — 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

October 23 — Monday

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

October 24 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

October 25 — Wednesday

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 Chops & Dressing!

October 26 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Bear (GP 1)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

October 27 — Friday

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

October 28 — Saturday

Girl Scouts Campout
7:30 am Soccer Shots* (Field)
11:00 am Hot Meals
1:00 pm JP Morgan Chase* (Parking Lot)
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. Tamika Nelson! Rev. Tamika Nelson serves as the Executive Director of the United Campus Ministry of Greater Houston. She is an ordained minister within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination. Tamika served as the Family Minister of Cypress Creek Christian Church for nearly eight years. Before Cypress Creek, she served as the Executive Lay Minister of Covenant Glen United Methodist Church, where she was responsible for training clergy and laity, and strategic planning for all interior ministries and 3500 members plus congregation. Before ministry, Tamika was a quality assurance and training professional within the corporate sector. She holds a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary, and Bachelor of Science in Sociology from the University of Houston-Downtown, and an Associate of Science from Lon Morris College. Her most important ministry is her family as the wife to Aaron Nelson Jr, and the mother of high schoolers Simone Marie and Aaron III.

The Flowers for this morning are given by Bill Bryant, to God's Glory, and are in memory of Emma Bryant.

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

The **Evening PW Bible Study** will meet tomorrow, Monday, October 16th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashley Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 2 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

On October 18th, the Presbyterian Women will ZIP to the Hearts and Hands Holiday Market at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. Come enjoy shopping at booths from over 70 vendors. We will eat lunch at the market. The cost for lunch is \$5. We will meet at the church at 9:30 AM, and leave by 10:00 AM. Please contact Marguerite Priest at 281-435-3941 or mepriest@hotmail.com to RSVP.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, October 18th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Silvia Argyriou is making Hungarian Goulash! Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

Idea Spring is kicking back off this Thursday, October 19th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we are wowed by Mr. Magic himself, Scott Hollingsworth! A pizza dinner will follow. All are welcome to attend! The Idea Spring Speaker Series was originally created as a free program for our community—it's family friendly and fun for all ages! Events have been planned for the entire school year. We look forward to seeing you there!

During the month of October we're having a Diaper Drive to benefit the Mission of Yahweh. They are in need of Newborn to 5 Toddler diapers for boys and girls. Donations may be brought to the church throughout the month of October.

The Academy is hosting a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat in the parking lot on Tuesday, October 31st from 5:30-6:30 PM. Church members are encouraged to attend and sponsor a Trunk or Treat vehicle. Copies of the registration form are available in the Narthex and in the Friday email. Please submit forms to the Academy office by [October 27th](http://www.springbranchpres.org). Please email questions to academy@springbranchpres.org.

We have a church-wide retreat in the works for March 14th-17th at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX! This is spring break week, so we're hopeful that we can have a big group go - including our families! This retreat will be Thursday-Sunday, with the option to stay with a small group into Monday. There will be lots of time for spiritual development, fellowship, recreation, worship, and good food! The total cost per person is \$185 for adults and \$120 for kids, for 3 nights, including all meals. We are asking those who would like to attend to please complete the registration form, reserve your room to secure the space you'd like, and pay \$75/person to the church. Copies of the registration form are available in the Narthex and in the Friday email. Please see Ethan Mitchell for any questions. We hope that you will join us!

***GLORIA PATRI**

GTG, No. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Patti Nanney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit, that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

ANTHEM

"Softly and Tenderly"

Rebecca Castillo

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 32:1-14

Red Pew Bible OT 78

SERMON

"The Art of Negotiation"

Rev. Tamika Nelson

Responding to the Word

***HYMN**

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

GTG, No. 415

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*unison*)

(*from a Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Leader: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY

"All Good Gifts"

Kyle Eveler

***DOXOLOGY**

GTG, No. 607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(unison)*

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. 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**

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

GTG, No. 187

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD**

***POSTLUDE**



Portions of today's service are taken from the Liturgies of John Wurster, Presbyterian Outlook.

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, 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.