

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:

Liturgist: Jacquie Ballesteros
Children's Moment: Jacquie Ballesteros
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell

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“Choose Today”
 November 12, 2023

Stewardship Sunday

November 12, 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.)

A MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Matt Dikeman

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We are pulled in many directions.

People: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.

Leader: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

People: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.

Leader: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

ALL: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Here I Am, Lord" (v. 1, 3)

GTG, No. 69

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Through the week of stress and demands, we come to you this day, O Lord. Awaken us again to your comforting and loving presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which you have called us and sustained us. Make us ready to be of service to you as we stand before you, with our church family, and confess our sins:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all that is demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. We would like you to come to us at a planned time so that we can fit you into our busy lives. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. You are the eternal God who has always loved us and been ready to receive us. Help us to learn that, with you as our foundation, we can handle anything that comes our way. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us look at the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to you. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

November 12 — Stewardship 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 Stewardship Luncheon (FH)
6:00 pm AV Training (S)
6:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

November 13 — Monday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (P)
4:30 pm Faith Development Meeting (P)
5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
6:00 pm PNC Meeting
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
6:30 pm Ambassadors Group (Zoom)
6:30 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos II (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

November 14 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1 & 2)
6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

November 15 — Wednesday

3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Tacos!
6:15 pm Team Leader Budget Meeting (CR)

November 16 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Idea Spring: Mad Science!
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

November 17 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

November 18 — Saturday

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

November 19 — 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)

November 20 — Monday

PresPress Articles Due

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

November 21 — Tuesday

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

November 22 — Wednesday

Academy Closes @ 2:30 PM

November 23 — Thursday

Church & Academy Closed

7:00 am CENTI Thanksgiving Breakfast



November 24 — Friday

Church & Academy Closed

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

November 25 — Saturday

11:00 am Hot Meals
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:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Jorida and Ruden Vakiari, to the Glory of God, and are in honor of their daughter Deona's 19th birthday.

Today is Stewardship Sunday! *What Shall We Bring?* Everyone is invited to turn in your Pledge Card and Time and Talent Pledge today and participate in a lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the service. On the menu is Homemade Chicken & Rice Soup and Baked Potato Soup. We'll also have Cornbread, Sandwiches, and Desserts. Our Birthday Celebration this month will take place in the Fellowship Hall as part of our Stewardship Sunday Luncheon. The Mission Team is collaborating with the Stewardship Committee to assemble Blessing Bags at the luncheon. Members can take these Blessing Bags and give them to neighbors that are struggling with homelessness.

A full-scale AV crash course will be held tonight, Sunday, November 12th, at 6:00 PM. This in-depth class will cover the Sanctuary AV system, and the infrastructure for streaming the Worship Services. We employ several part-time AV Technicians, but if they are unavailable, it's always good to have a backup. Anyone is welcome to attend! Please RSVP to Ethan Mitchell if you'd like to attend.

The **Evening PW Bible Study** will meet tomorrow, Monday, November 13th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashley Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 3 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, November 15th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The Trembles are making Tacos! Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there! There will be no Wednesday Night Supper next week, November 22nd, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Did you enjoy our Mr. Magic Idea Spring Event? Well you're in luck, the next one is this week! **Join us for Mad Science on November 16th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.** A free dinner will follow. We look forward to seeing you there!

Hanging of the Greens — Everyone is invited to help prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent Season immediately after Worship on Sunday, November 26th. The Fellowship Hall will be decorated on November 29th at Wednesday Night Supper. We are hoping to have many hands help this year, so please come join us! A pizza lunch will be provided when we finish. Please see Donald McDaniel if you have any questions, or if you can attend.

We are looking for Acolytes to help with the lighting of the candles on Sunday mornings. Please let Marguerite Priest know if there are certain Sundays that your kids can serve. We are especially hopeful that we can have Acolytes for every Sunday in Advent.

Poinsettias are available for purchase again this year. A sign-up sheet is located in the Church Office & Narthex to place your order until Thursday, December 21st. Remember to indicate who you are honoring, and/or remembering, with your payment of \$10 to SBPC, which you can drop off in the Church Office, or during Worship in the offering plate.

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!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In the deepest darkness, in the times when all seems lost, we are never lost to God. God calls us to be ready for God's new kingdom. In all this, God is with us. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***GLORIA** "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" GTG, No. 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jacque Ballesteros

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Dear Lord, as we read and hear the words from your ancient Scriptures, may we be drawn ever closer to you. Amen!

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Red Pew Bible OT 215

ANTHEM "Hand in Hand" Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Amos 5:18-24 Red Pew Bible OT 854

SERMON "**Choose Today**" Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

***HYMN** "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" (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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

GTG, No. 609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from your great bounty. Now we return these gifts to you. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent, and cause them to work for you in this world, which you have loaned to us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESPECT FOR ALL VETERANS

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

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" (v. 1, 4)

GTG, No. 757

*BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE



Portions of today's worship service are taken 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 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 Bears classroom, Room 126, which is in the north hallway of the Education Building.

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.