

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: Jan Fitts
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org
website: www.springbranchpres.org
 www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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"...Like a Thief in the Night"
 November 19, 2023

25th Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 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 95:1-7)*

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

ALL: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

***HYMN**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

GTG, No. 643

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: When the Lord comes, He will bring light to the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of justice and mercy, we come before you tonight in humility. We consider the first Thanksgiving meal, a time of celebration and unity, yet our country is filled with division. All too often, we do not do the difficult work of building bridges and seeking unity. Please forgive us for the times we've made false assumptions, for the times we've been complacent with injustice, and for the ways we focus on ourselves rather than seeking you. Lord, please help us to see your presence in all of the church. Please help us to find new ways to partner together in service of you and the world as we silently confess our sins to you now...

SILENT CONFESSION

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

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

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



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)

November 26 — Christ the King Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Packing Seafarer's Boxes (FH)
9:30 am Children's Chime Choir (S)
9:45 am Choir Practice (Choir Room)
10:50 am Worship
12:15 pm Hanging of the Greens

November 27 — Monday

9:30 am Staff Meeting (P)
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
6:30 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos II (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

November 28 — 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)

November 29 — Wednesday

3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Baked Potatoes!
6:45 pm Worship Team Meeting (CR)

November 30 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

December 1 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

December 2 — Saturday

8:00 am Cub Scout Service Project (FH)
4:00 pm Fairbees Christmas Party* (FH)
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:

Articles for the December edition of the PresPress are due tomorrow, Monday, November 20th. Please submit articles to ethan@springbranchpres.org.

There will be no Wednesday Night Supper this week, November 22nd, in observance of Thanksgiving. Please join us when we resume on Wednesday, November 29th, for Baked Potatoes!

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week in observance of Thanksgiving. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." -1 Chronicles 16:34

Seafarers' Boxes packing and wrapping is going to take place next Sunday, November 26th, at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a light breakfast, fun and fellowship, as we work together. Our goal is to fill 150 boxes. We are still collecting shoeboxes, gift wrap, and filler for our seafarers' boxes. Please drop items off at the church office this week. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM, with the packing/wrapping of boxes at 9:30 AM. We hope to see you there!

Hanging of the Greens — Everyone is invited to help prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent Season immediately after Worship next 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.

Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge Card, and Time & Talent Pledge. You can find blank copies in the Narthex, Church Office, or Parlor. There is a box in the Narthex for submitting cards. Thank you for your continued commitment!

There will be no ZIP Trips or Happy Hands in the months of November and December. We look forward to seeing you when we resume!

Spring Branch Presbyterian is joining with our friends at CarePartners and the Women's Resource to host an AARP Digital Skills Workshop to help all of us learn how to protect our identity online, and to pull our credit reports safely from the web. **This workshop is free and will be held on December 9th from 8:30 AM-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.** A continental breakfast will be provided. RSVPs are encouraged - you can sign up with Miguel in the church office.

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: Jesus is the Holy One of God who forgives our sins and pardons our iniquities. He pursues us with words of eternal life, and in him we are forgiven, fed, and freed to live again. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GLORIA

"Know That God Is Good"

GTG, No. 659

*Know that God is good. Know that God is good.
Know that God is good; God is good; God is good.*

*Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Mark

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Red Pew Bible OT 874

ANTHEM

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Red Pew Bible NT 205

SERMON

"...Like a Thief in the Night"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" (v. 1, 3)

GTG, No. 645

*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

"Panis Angelicus"
Joan Belk, Piano
Jonathan Craft, Organ

*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)*

As we dedicate this offering, we offer ourselves too, for these gifts of money are but tokens of ourselves. Take and use us, that our hands may reach out in service, our feet may walk the difficult path of reconciliation, and that our words may be words of peace. For this we pray in the name of Jesus. 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

"Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries" (v. 1, 6) GTG, No. 653

*BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

*Portions of today's worship service are taken from worshipresourceblog.com,
pastorsworkshop.com, and bettergatherings.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.