



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: Elizabeth Powell
Children's Moment: Marguerite Priest
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell

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website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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 Houston, TX 77055
 713-464-7659



“The Widow’s Mite”

November 5, 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.)

A MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Linda Crawford

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 146)*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Let all who draw breath praise the Lord.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is from God;

People: The One who made heaven and earth;

Leader: The One who created the seas and all that is in them.

People: Happy are those whose hope is in God;

Leader: The One who keeps faith forever,

People: The One who feeds the hungry and defends the oppressed.

Leader: God will reign forever, for all generations.

ALL: Let all who draw breath praise the Lord!

***HYMN**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

GTG, No. 366

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Sisters and brothers, Jesus noticed the woman who was giving from her need rather than from her excess. The attitude and actions of the scribes revealed the lack of generosity in their hearts. Although we often speak of how we should act, we know our hearts are the true window into who we are. As we come before the Lord this day, let our hearts be open to Him who sees and knows all:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Merciful God, you know how we love miracles. We love your healing, life-giving presence. We confess that poverty and oppression are less appealing topics. Yet, we find you among the poor, the downtrodden, the widow, the orphan. In their midst we find you, your prophets, and your miracles. Dwell with us, as we make the struggles of the oppressed our own struggles. Join us at your table, as we join the effort to feed and clothe those who live in want. Grant us your compassion, we pray, that we may truly be your people. Amen.

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

November 5 — Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends

- 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 6 — Monday

Book Fair Week

- 7:00 am Meet the Pastor (Foyer)
- 6:00 pm PW Unwind: Juarez!
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting (P)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

November 7 — Tuesday

Book Fair Week

- 9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting (GP 2)
- 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 8 — Wednesday

Book Fair Week

- 9:30 am PW Circle (CR)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Cranberry Chicken!
- 6:45 pm Stewardship Presentation (CR)

November 9 — Thursday

Book Fair Week

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

November 10 — Friday

Book Fair Week

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

November 11 — Saturday

Girl Scouts Campout

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

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

- 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)



Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Marguerite Priest, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of November family birthdays.

The Unwind Group is meeting for dinner tomorrow, Monday, November 6th, at 6:00 PM at Juarez Mexican Restaurant (4145 Gessner Rd). They have moved locations! Please RSVP only if you plan to attend to Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114.

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 8th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Please contact Patti Nanney if you'd like to attend via Zoom. The **Evening Bible Study** will meet on 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 8th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Fitts is making Cranberry Chicken over Rice, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Apple Pie with Ice Cream, and Cookies! Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

Please join us at 6:45 PM after Wednesday Night Supper in the Conference Room for a Stewardship Presentation. Join Sarah Powell for Stewardship of the Body. Sarah, a Neurological Physician's Assistant with Memorial Hermann, will perform a private wellness check and give out an informational handout: *Know Your Numbers*. Nursery care will be provided. We hope that you will join us!

Our *What Shall We Bring?* Stewardship Campaign is well underway! Letters with Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Pledges have been mailed to the Congregation. Dedication Sunday is November 12th, when everyone will be invited to turn in your Pledge Card and participate in a lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Our Birthday Celebration this month will take place in the Fellowship Hall as part of our Dedication Sunday Luncheon.

A full-scale AV crash course will be held on 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.

Did you enjoy our Mr. Magic Idea Spring Event? Well you're in luck, the next one is just around the corner! **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.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: Those who seek will find help and hope in God. In Jesus we are raised to newness of life.

People: **Thanks be to God. 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

Marguerite Priest

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 Ruth 3:1-18 Red Pew Bible OT 243

ANTHEM *"The Gift of Love"* Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 12:38-44 Red Pew Bible NT 49

SERMON *"The Widow's Mite"* Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN *"Take My Life"* GTG, No. 697

*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

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)*

As crowds spread the word of Jesus' power, O God, so may we spread the word of your grace, as we share these gifts and our very lives with those in need. May these offerings be instruments of your healing, your justice, and your good news, in this community and around the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Departing to Serve

*HYMN

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

GTG, No. 738

*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.