



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: Kathryn Dethloff
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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“A Disciple at the Temple”
December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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**

Leader: Can you hear it? Can you feel it? Christ is coming!

People: We place our hope in the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the infant lowly.

Leader: Can you see it? Can you smell it? Christ is coming!

People: We place our hope in a Middle Eastern child born in poverty.

Leader: Can you taste it? Can you sense it? Christ is coming!

People: We place our hope in an infant born in the margins of society.

Leader: Come, friends, the season of Advent begins.

ALL: We gather to worship Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

***HYMN**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

GTG, No. 82

Preparing for the Word

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Daniel, Sarah, Clayton, and Charlie Powell

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v. 1)

GTG, No. 85

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation - preparing to welcome Emmanuel to our midst. Part of that preparation is the honest practice of confessing our sins before God and one another. Together, let us confess our need for forgiveness.

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

December 3 — 1st Sunday of Advent

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
12:15 pm Worship Team Meeting (CR)
1:00 pm Sunday Craft Workshop (FH)
4:00 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)
6:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

December 4 — Monday

7:00 am Meet the Pastor (Foyer)
6:00 pm PW Unwind: Fratelli's!
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

December 5 — Tuesday

9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting (GP)
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm Session (CR)

December 6 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Moderator (CR)
10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Cheese Enchiladas & Tacos!

December 7 — Thursday

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

December 8 — Friday

6:00 pm SBM Arc Meeting* (CR)
6:30 pm Drive-In Movie Night (Parking Lot)
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

December 9 — Saturday

8:30 am Digital Skills Workshop (FH)
6:00 pm SBM Arc Christmas Party* (FH)
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

December 10 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

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 Monthly Birthday Celebration
6:00 pm Advent Party (FH)

December 11 — Monday

5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
6:30 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos II (GP 1 & 2)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts Court of Honor (FH)

December 12 — 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)

December 13 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Circle (CR)
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
5:30 pm Academy Christmas Pageant (S)
6:00 pm WNS

December 14 — Thursday

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

December 15 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

December 16 — Saturday

8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)
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:

Copies our Advent Devotional for this year, *"The Light of Grace: Welcoming God's Amazing Gift of Christ"* are available for pickup from the Narthex, Parlor, and Church Office. In honor of the 250th anniversary of the hymn "Amazing Grace," these devotions enlighten the heart, mind, and soul with the good news that the Light of the World graces us with his presence every day of our lives.

Please join us for a fun Sunday Craft Workshop in the Fellowship Hall today from 1:00-3:00 PM. Join the fun and learn how to put a charcuterie board together - choosing cheeses, meats, nuts, jams, crackers/breads, etc. We will divide into several groups and make a charcuterie board, then have it for lunch!

The Unwind Dinner Group is meeting for the last time in 2023 at Fratelli's (1333 Wirt Rd, 77055), at 6:00 PM this Monday, December 4th. Please RSVP to Jacque Ballesteros at 713-305-1114, only if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, December 6th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Kay & Betty are making Cheese Enchiladas, Crispy Beef Tacos, Charro Beans, and Guacamole! Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

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. Cards can also be mailed to the Church Office, to the attention of Jorida. Thank you for your continued commitment!

Please join us for the annual Advent Party on Sunday, December 10th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be singing, games, crafts, great food, and more! We are also expecting a special guest from the North Pole! Please bring party food to share for dinner: appetizers, small sandwiches, pizza, chicken nuggets, dessert, etc. Please bring enough for your family. Drinks will be provided. Wear your Christmas best—we will have lots of photo opportunities! Bring an ornament for the ornament exchange, and a can of food for Fair Haven or our Angel Tree Families. We hope to see you there!

Dust off your halos—It's Angel Tree time again! Tags will be available on December 10th and 13th. Be sure to pick up one or two! The deadline for returning gifts is December 17th. In addition to the gifts, each family receives a basket of food. Please pick up some kid friendly, non-perishable food items from the store the next few weeks and we will begin to set it aside for our Angel Tree families.

One of our long-time Missions in December is the PCHAS Ornament Tree. During Advent time, we hang ornaments on a Christmas tree. Each of the ornaments has a PCHAS tag attached with a suggested donation amount. You take the ornament home with you and leave the donation in the basket provided. (If you pay by check, please make checks payable to SBPC and put "PCHAS Ornament Tree" in the memo line.)

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.

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 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, December 18th at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 4 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

The Academy Christmas Pageant is Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend! A light cookie and punch reception will immediately follow in the Breezeway.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Loving and Merciful God, today we light the candle of hope, a beacon of light that shines in the darkness, a hope that burns brightly within all believers as we consider your return someday. Today, we confess the ways we have caused others to feel hopeless. Some feel the hopelessness of hunger because of our greed. Others feel the hopelessness of violence because of our apathy. Still others feel the hopelessness of racism because of our ignorance. Forgive us, gracious God. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, all the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and righteousness. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus, that our sins are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GLORIA

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (v. 1)

GTG, No. 113

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kathryn Dethloff

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Blessed Spirit, come to this place and make us increase and abound in love for one another by the reading and hearing of your Word. Amen.

ANTHEM

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:1-4, 24-37

Red Pew Bible NT 50

MEDITATION ***"Voices From Bethlehem: A Disciple at the Temple"***

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us" (v. 1, 2)

GTG, No. 349

***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
- The Words of Institution
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Breaking of the Bread
- Serving of the Elements
- Prayer After Receiving

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE** *"God's Love Made Visible"*

LUYH, No. 140

*God's love made visible! Incomprehensible! He is invincible! His love shall reign!
From love so bountiful, blessings uncountable, make death surmountable! His love shall reign!
Joyfully pray for peace and good will. All of our yearning he will fulfill.
Live in a loving way. Praise him for ev'ry day. Open your hearts and pray. His love shall reign!*

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

God of promise, you cause the branch of hope to bud and flower; we offer you the fruit of our labor. May what we do bring reassurance to those seeking evidence of your goodness. Use our gifts as signs of what deliverance can mean. We join with the Christ in the struggle for justice; we commit ourselves to the quest for peace. 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**

"People, Look East"

GTG, No. 105

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**



Portions of today's worship service are taken from stephenmfearing.com and gatheredprayers.wordpress.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.



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.