

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: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patti Nanney
AV Technician: Riley Fairchild

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www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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“Stumbling Blocks”
January 28, 2024

4th Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 2024

10:50 AM

**Those who are able please stand*

Gathering in God's Name

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign the Friendship Book located in the pew rack next to the center aisle.)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Comunidades Unidas Pro Salud (CUPS)

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 111)*

Leader: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

People: Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who delight in them.

Leader: Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

People: You cause your wonders to be remembered for all time.

ALL: You are gracious and full of compassion, and we come to worship you.

***HYMN**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

GTG, No. 65

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)*

Merciful God, in Jesus, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace, that day-by-day we might move closer to the people you would us be. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Relentlessly God seeks us out with abundant grace and boundless mercy. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

January 28 — 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
- 5:00 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)
- 6:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

January 29 — Monday

- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

January 30 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

January 31 — Wednesday

- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm WNS: BBQ!

February 1 — Thursday

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

February 2 — Friday

- 7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

February 3 — Saturday

- 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

February 4 — 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
- 12:15 pm Annual Congregational Meeting

February 5 — Monday

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

February 6 — Tuesday

- 9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting (GP 2)
- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

February 7 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Moderator (CR)
- 10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm WNS

February 8 — Thursday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1)

February 9 — Friday

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

February 10 — Saturday

- 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 loving memory of Robert J. Priest and Joy Stennis Purfurst, and in celebration of granddaughter Rosailee Greeley's 13th birthday.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, January 31st, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The Presbyterian Women are cooking this week, with the help of Vincent Boisabuin (Southern Standard Catering)! On the menu is Brisket, Sausage, Coleslaw, Potatoes, Bread, Pickles, Onions, Sauce, and Bread. All proceeds will benefit the mission/scholarship fund. Reservations are needed. We will be serving up to 60 people this week. Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following Worship on Sunday, February 4th. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2024 Budget, as approved by Session, and to receive a State of the Church from the five Ministry Teams. Pending the work of the Nominating Committee, there may be an Election of Officers.

Unwind will meet for dinner at Joyce's Seafood (6415 San Felipe) on February 5th, at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP to Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114 only if you plan to attend. We hope you can join us!

Save-the-Date for our February Blood Drive — SBPC will have a Blood Drive on Sunday, February 11th, from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Ashley Powell at 972-571-2499 or ashleycrawford161@gmail.com if you would like to donate. Share the gift of life!

Spring Branch Presbyterian is participating in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring, which culminates on February 11th. All funds and cans collected will benefit the Fair Haven Food Pantry. Each dollar given=2 cans of food. So... let's see how many cans we can donate by Souper Bowl Sunday, February 11th!

Scout Sunday: Save-the-date for our Annual Scout Sunday Service on Sunday, February 11th. Scouts and their families will attend and help lead our worship service that morning. If you are a current or former Scout or Leader, we encourage you to wear your uniform that Sunday.

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 14th, 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, February 12th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 6 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Services on February 14th. There are five service opportunities as we begin our Lenten Season together. There will be four brief services in the Sanctuary (7:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 12:30 PM) for those who are unable to attend in the evening. We will have Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM, and then our evening Ash Wednesday Service will be at 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Save-the-Date for our next Idea Spring event on Friday, February 16th, from 5:00-7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a Family Game Night! Bring your favorite board games and puzzles and join in the fun. A pizza dinner will be provided. We hope to see you there!

***GLORIA**

"My Life Is in You, Lord"

*My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
My hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.
My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
My hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.*

*I will praise you with all of my life,
I will praise you with all of my strength;
With all of my life, with all of my strength.
All of my hope is in you.*

*My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
My hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.
My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
My hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you, in you.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Mark

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.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Red Pew Bible OT 174

ANTHEM

"Bless the Lord"

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:21-28

Red Pew Bible NT 35

SERMON

"Stumbling Blocks"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

***HYMN**

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

GTG, No. 667

***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

*RESPONSE *"Great Is the Lord"*

*Great is the Lord, he is holy and just; By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true; By his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory! Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise!
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great-is the Lord! Great-is the Lord!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, 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 *"What a Mighty God We Serve"* (insert)

*BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE



Portions of today's worship service are taken from presbyterianoutlook.org.

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.