

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

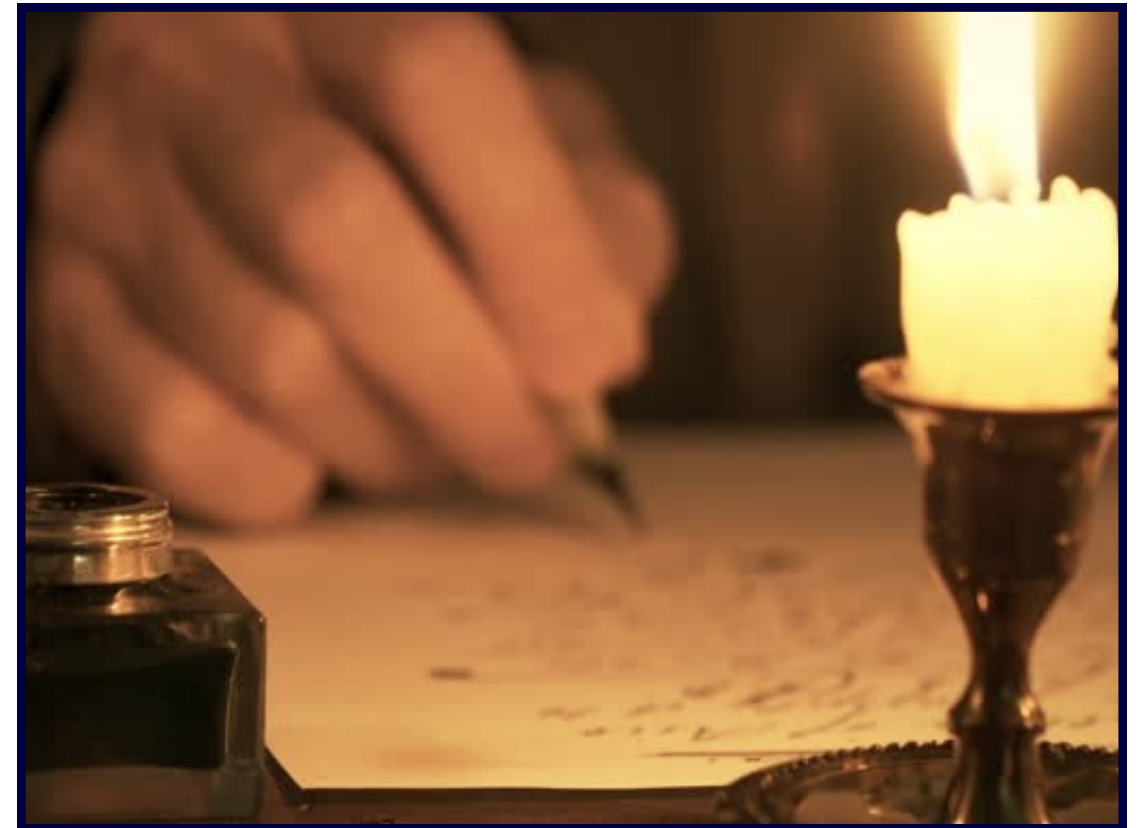
Jim Kunkel
Web Trevathan

Neal Dikeman
Ashley Powell

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Miguel Carlin
Children's Moment: Marguerite Priest
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Megan Hogg

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website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
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*“Voices From Bethlehem:
The Last Magi”
January 7, 2024*

Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 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.)

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done.

People: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done!

People: The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

Leader: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done!!

People: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of His salvation!

ALL: O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!

***HYMN**

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

GTG, No. 150

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: As we begin a new year full of new possibilities, let us look back first and consider all we have done to draw away from our Loving Lord:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Generous in love, God, give me your grace! In your mercy, wipe out my bad record. Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your loving hands. I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down. You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair. I've been out of step with you for a long time. Wash me and I'll come out clean; I'll have a snow-white life. Make a fresh start in me, shape a new Genesis from the chaos of my life. Commute my death sentence, God, and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways. Free my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise. Amen!

SILENT CONFESSION

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

January 7 — 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 Undecorating the Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)

January 8 — Monday

- 7:00 am Meet the Pastor (Foyer)
- 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 (Scout Hut)
- 7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom

January 9 — Tuesday

- 9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting (GP 2)
- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 11:00 am Staff Meeting (P)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1 & 2)
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)

January 10 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (CR)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Baked Chicken!
- 6:45 pm Worship Team Meeting (CR)

January 11 — Thursday

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

January 12 — Friday

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

January 13 — Saturday

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

January 14 — 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 Monthly Birthday Celebration

January 15 — Monday

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

January 16 — 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)

January 17 — Wednesday

- 9:00 am ZIP Trip: George H.W. Bush Library
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Hamburgers!

January 18 — Thursday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 5:00 pm Idea Spring: Frogs & Fairytales! (FH)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

January 19 — Friday

- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (FH)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

January 20 — Saturday

PresPress Articles Due

- 8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)
- 8:00 am Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (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:

Un-Decorating the Sanctuary: The Worship Team is seeking volunteers to help remove the Greens from the Sanctuary immediately after the Worship Service today. As usual, many hands make for light work. Pizza will be provided for volunteers. Please see Donald McDaniel if you have any questions. We hope that you can stick around and lend a hand!

The 2024 Offering Envelope Books are now available in the Narthex. Please sign your name by the number that corresponds to your book number. If you already have a book of offering envelopes, you can continue to use it since it doesn't correspond to specific dates. Thank you for your continued commitment!

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? **The 2024 Flower Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex!** The cost per arrangement is \$65.00. Checks should be written to SBPC and mailed to the Church Office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 10th, 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, January 8th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 5 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, January 10th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Fitts is making Baked Chicken! Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

The January 17, 2024 ZIP Trip is to the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. We will be carpooling from the church. Our estimated time of departure will be 9:00 AM, and we will return after 2:00 PM. The cost will depend on the number of people, however, it will be no more than \$7.00. Please let Marguerite Priest know if you are interested in joining us at mepriest@hotmail.com. This trip is open to Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men!

"HOPPY Holidays!" Our next Idea Spring event is just around the corner — "Frogs & Fairytales", presented by the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center. Join us at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall on January 18th for this free, family friendly program. A dinner will follow. We hope to see you there!

First Birthday Celebration of 2024 — join us in the breezeway, weather permitting, for our first birthday celebration of the new year on Sunday, January 14th. Immediately after worship, we will gather for light snacks as we honor our January birthdays!

Scholarship Applications are now available for interested students. Completed applications are due by May 1st for the year applying, and should be turned in to Sarah Dikeman for the Women's Scholarship and Ken Crawford for the Men's Scholarship.

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 *(from Psalm 32:5)*

Leader: Let us receive our assurance from the testimony of David who said that when he acknowledged his sin to God and did not cover up his iniquity; when he said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," he found that God forgave the guilt of his sin! May his testimony assure you of God's forgiveness to you this day.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***GLORIA** *"Joy to the World"* (v. 3, 4) GTG, No. 134

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Marguerite Priest

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Our Lord and our God, now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit. Soften our hearts that we may see your ways. Fill us with your light. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM *"Coventry Carol"* Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-23 Red Pew Bible NT 2

MEDITATION *"Voices From Bethlehem: The Last Magi"* Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

***HYMN** *"Jesus Entered Egypt"* GTG, No. 154

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant)*

Pastor: Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. In that covenant God gives us new life; we are guarded from evil and nurtured by the love of God and God's people. In embracing that covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ. I ask you, therefore, to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

People: I do.

Pastor: Who is your Lord and your Savior?

People: Jesus Christ is my Lord and my Savior.

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word, and showing his love?

People: I will, with God's help!

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into Heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

Pastor: Spirit of the Living God, hover once more over us as you did at creation, energizing us with your life, that as we remember our baptism in Christ, we may be an open conduit of your Holy Spirit, flooding all of creation with blessings of your abundant, redeemed life. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, the living water, to your glory we pray. 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

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (v. 4)

GTG, No. 143

*All creation, join in praising God the Father,
Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

As the Magi brought their gifts to honor and worship the Christ child, may our gifts also reflect a portion of the honor and worship each of us bring. May our gifts today enable and strengthen this church and its people to continue serving our fellow humans and community. 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

"We Three Kings"

GTG, No. 151

*BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

Portions of today's worship service are taken from calvin.worship.edu.

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.



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.