



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:
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

Jacque 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: Todd Miller
Children's Moment: Todd Miller
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*



“Getting What We Deserve”

March 10, 2024

*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: God loves us with a steadfast love.
People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!
Leader: God loves us so much he gave us his Son.
People: Let us believe and have eternal life!
Leader: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.
People: Let us have faith to receive this grace!
ALL: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. Let us worship Him!

*HYMN “O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing” GTG, No. 610

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Christ calls us to live lives of obedience. But our strength and resolve often fails us when times are difficult. Yet our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting that abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
God, we have sinned against you. We have spoken against you and your servant Jesus. We have uttered lies. We have cursed you and others. We have been consumed by doubt. We have been bitten with the venom of hatred in our world. Please, Lord God, forgive us our transgressions, that we may be healed of our sin. Let us look for you instead of looking out only for ourselves. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear now the loving truth of God: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned. Amen!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar



March 10 — 4th Sunday in Lent

Daylight Savings Time Begins

- 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
- 12:00 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration
- 12:15 pm Faith Development Meeting (P)
- 5:00 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)

March 11 — Monday

- 5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
- 6:00 pm New Elder Training (P)
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Basketball* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)
- 7:00 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)

March 12 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 5:30 pm Ambassador Group (Zoom)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)
- 7:00 pm Horizon’s Bible Study on Zoom
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

March 13 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (CR)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)

March 14 — Thursday

Mo-Ranch Retreat

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

March 15 — Friday

Mo-Ranch Retreat

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

March 16 — Saturday

Mo-Ranch Retreat

- 8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)
- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

March 17 — 5th Sunday in Lent

Mo-Ranch Retreat

- 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

March 18 — Monday

- 10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics: Basketball* (GP)
- 6:45 pm Worship Team Meeting (Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

March 19 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting (P)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:00 pm VBS Planning Meeting (CR)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

March 20 — Wednesday

PresPress Articles Due

- 9:30 am ZIP Trip: Sam Houston Heritage Park
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Beef & Noodles!
- 6:00 pm Messy Church Table (FH)

March 21 — Thursday

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

March 22 — Friday

- 5:45 pm Family Movie Night (GP)
- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Blue & Gold (VOE)
- 6:30 pm SBM Arc Meeting* (FH)

March 23 — Saturday

- 11:00 am Hot Meals

*Outside SBPC Reservations & Events
(CR) Conference Room
(FH) Fellowship Hall
(GP) Gathering Place
(L) Library
(P) Parlor
(S) Sanctuary

Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Jacquie Ballesteros, Liz Earnest, and Nicholas Ballesteros, to the Glory of God, and are in memory of father and grandfather, Jay W. Auld on his birthday.

Monthly Birthday Celebration — Join us in the breezeway immediately after Worship today as we gather to celebrate those among us born in the month of March. Sweet treats and snacks will add to the festive spirit of the day.

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 13th, 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 Tuesday, March 12th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 7 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

There will be no Wednesday Night Supper this week in observance of the Spring Break holiday. Please join us when we resume on Wednesday, March 20th, for Beef & Noodles!

Interested in helping restart Messy Church? Check out the article in the March PresPress, or come learn more about Messy Church and what's needed by joining us at the Messy Church table at WNS on March 20th, or by emailing me (Kate Cross) at clayfriar@gmail.com.

Lenten Fish Frys — In addition to St. Jerome, we have three other Catholic Churches in the Spring Branch area that host Friday Night Fish Fry's. **St. Cecilia** at 11720 Joan of Arc (just south of I-10 off of Bunker Hill) serves from 5:30-8:00, and has a standard Fish Fry Plate (\$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$7 for kids under 10. Add shrimp for \$3/plate). **Our Lady of Czestochowa** at 1731 Blalock serves from 5:00-8:30 and has a Fish and Shrimp plate for \$15, with \$3 desserts. **St. John Vianney** at 175 Nottingham Oaks (west of Dairy Ashford off of Memorial) has various prices and meals. Their Shrimp Scampi is \$16 and is offered on March 22nd. You need to make a reservation online and pay online. There are a limited number of tickets at the door for \$20. They serve from 5:30-7:30. Some of the churches don't serve their Fish Fry during Spring Break, March 15th.

The Gathering Place will meet on Monday, March 18th, at 10:00 AM! The theme for this month is *Hoppy Easter!* Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman if you are interested in helping out.

The ZIP Trip for March 20, 2024 is to the Sam Houston Heritage Park for a docent led tour of the Historic Homes. The cost is \$12 per person. The tour will begin at 10:00 AM and last about 60-90 minutes. We will lunch at a nearby restaurant. Please contact Marguerite Priest at mepriest@hotmail.com or 281-435-3941 for a reservation. This trip is open to both the Women of the Church and the Men of the Church.

Happy Hands will meet on Wednesday, March 27th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Join us for Stuffin', Sewin', and great conversation. Hope to see you there!

We will have Easter Lilies again this year! Place your order now through Friday, March 29th. You may order by using the form in the Narthex or Church Office. The cost is \$10 each, and the payment can be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. The names of those being honored or remembered will be shared with the congregation on Easter Sunday morning.

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***GLORIA PATRI** GTG, No. 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Todd Miller

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*
Loving God, as we draw closer to one another and hear your Word read and proclaimed, may our ears and our hearts be gentle and receptive to your message. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Numbers 21:1-9 Red Pew Bible OT 139

ANTHEM "In Christ Alone" Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 3:14-21 Red Pew Bible NT 94

SERMON "Getting What We Deserve" Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

***HYMN** "Give Thanks" GTG, No. 647

***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

*DOXOLOGY

GTG, No. 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. May our offerings today provide for others and be used to further Christ’s ministry and mission always. 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

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

GTG, No. 223

*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.