



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:
 Mission Leaders: Jacquie Ballesteros & Laurie Mitchell
 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
 Stephen Earnest
 Laurie Mitchell

Class of 2026

Kay Craig
 Sarah Dikeman
 Ethan Mitchell

Academy Board

Laurie Mitchell
 Jani Shepard

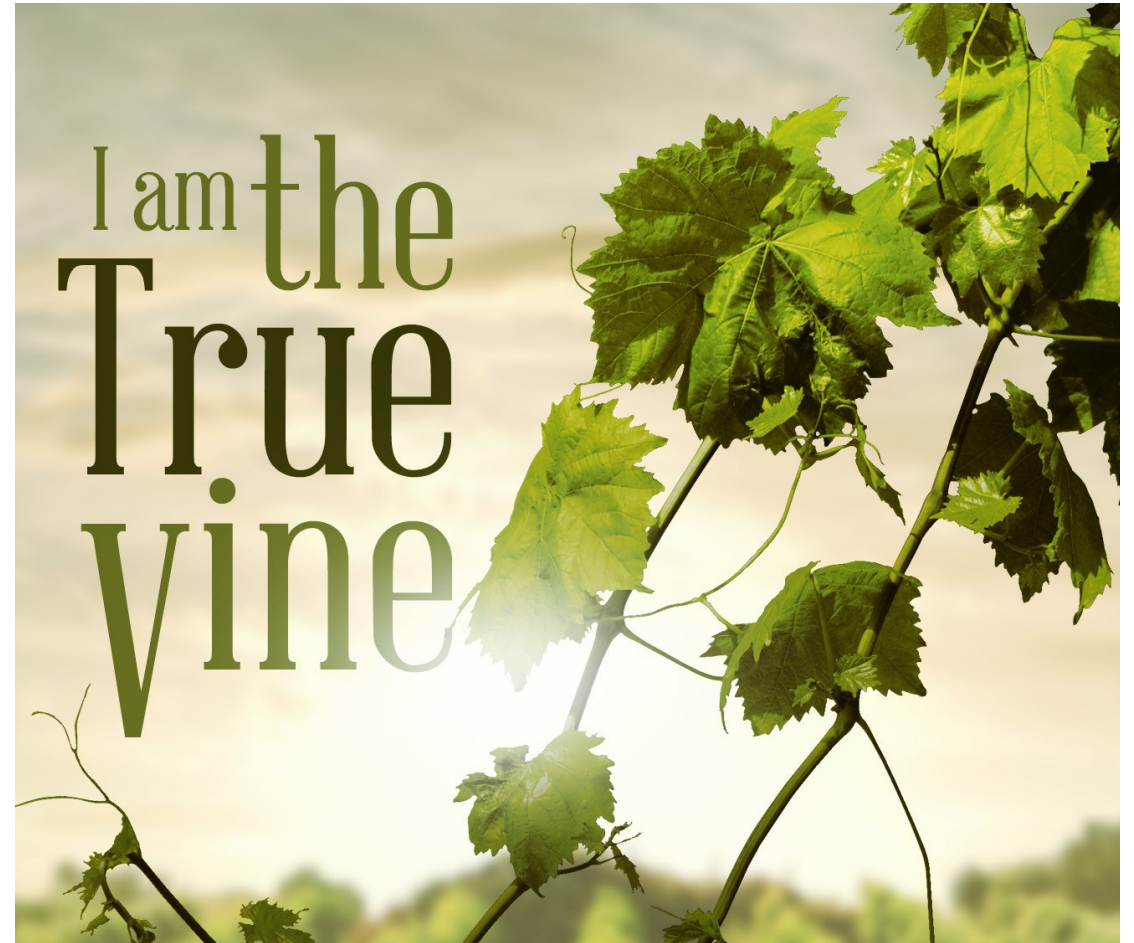
Jim Kunkel
 Web Trevathan

Neal Dikeman
 Ashley Powell

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Donald McDaniel
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Marguerite Priest
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org
website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
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***“Nowhere to Run,
 Nowhere to Hide”***
 April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

April 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.)

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We are called into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

People: To be God's servants in the service of all,

Leader: To share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,

People: To join Christ in his passion and victory.

Leader: "Beloved let us love one another, for love comes from God."

People: All who love are born of God and know God.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

GTG, No. 485

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: To open our hearts to God is to risk vulnerability, judgment, and condemnation. But throughout the scriptures, we learn that God is merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. Let us then risk our confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

O God who will not let us go, we confess that we have been so wrapped up in ourselves that we have not loved You with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. By Your grace and through Your transforming love, open our hearts wide to You; forgive what we have been, help us change what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from John 15)*

Leader: Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name, and it will be granted. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven! Amen!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

April 28 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:15 am Communicants Class
9:30 am Sunday School
9:45 am Choir Practice (Choir Room)
10:50 am Worship
5:00 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)

April 29 — Monday

7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

April 30 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

May 1 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Moderator (CR)
10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Quesadillas!
6:45 pm Property Meeting (CR)

May 2 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

May 3 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

May 4 — 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

May 5 — 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
3:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)
4:00 pm Cub Scouts Graduation



May 6 — Monday

7:00 am Coffee with the Pastor (Foyer)
6:00 pm PW Unwind: Longhorn Steakhouse!
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

May 7 — Tuesday

9:15 am Congregational Care Meeting (GP 2)
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

May 8 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Circle (CR & FH)
3:30 pm WOW (S)
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3)
6:00 pm WNS: King Ranch Casserole!

May 9 — Thursday

Ascension of the Lord
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Pop-Up Messy Church (Foyer)
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

May 10 — Friday

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

May 11 — 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 celebration of Kylie Marie Alderson's 18th birthday! Praising God and giving thanks!

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.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, May 1st, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Kay Craig & Betty Magnuson are making Quesadillas. Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

Please join the Unwind Group on May 6th, at Longhorn Steakhouse, at 6:00 PM. The restaurant is located at 9401 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77024. Please come for a good meal and great fellowship! Please let me know via email (jballesteros1103@gmail.com) or phone/text only if you plan to join (713-305-1114). Also, let me know of others you would like me to invite. We don't want anyone to be left out of the fun!

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 8th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. A salad luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a salad to share. The **Evening Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, May 14th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 9 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! The Choir is looking for some new members to join us! If you are interested in participating, please email musicdirector@springbranchpres.org.

Task Force Needed - In our 2024 budget, under Mission, we placed a new category called "Seminary Student" in the amount of \$3000. There have now been over 120 applicants to date. We want to form a task force of 3-5 members to do the following: Create parameters for the scholarship(s), Review the applicants, and Choose from them for Fall acceptance. This is a short-term task force of a few months. If you would be interested in volunteering for this worthy job, please let Pastor Mark know. No experience necessary! We will guide you.

Another Task Force Needed! - The Academy Board has set aside \$250,000 to remodel the hallways, classrooms, and bathrooms in the Education Building. We would like to form a task force as we begin to plan for what work we might have done to our facilities. If you are interested in joining this task force, please contact Ethan Mitchell (ethan@springbranchpres.org). We are especially interested in having any members join that have served on the Academy Board, are currently or have been an Academy parent, or have worked in early childhood education before. But of course, anyone is welcome to join!

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.

Save-the-Date for Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School! VBS will be held June 11th-14th from 9:00 AM-11:30 AM in the Gathering Place. A time of music, worship, crafts, recreation, and fellowship is being planned. We welcome any individuals that would like to participate or volunteer to please let Miguel know in the church office. Registration forms can be accessed here: www.springbranchpres.org/vbs.

*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

Pastor Mark

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

May the light of Scripture open our eyes, may the words of Scripture stir in our hearts, and may the truth of Scripture fill our lives. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 8:26-40 Red Pew Bible NT 127

ANTHEM "A Vineyard Grows" Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:1-8 Red Pew Bible NT 109

SERMON "**Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide**" Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

***HYMN** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" GTG, No. 729

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**

"Our God Is an Awesome God"

GTG, No. 616

*Our God is an awesome God
who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love;
our God is an awesome God!*

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

Generous God, may the gifts we return to You cause Your name to be celebrated among the nations. May the lives that we live cause Your name to be celebrated in all generations. May our offerings be signs of our praise to You, forever and ever. 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 in Our Music God Is Glorified"

GTG, No. 641

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**



Portions of today's worship service are taken from thepastorsworkshop.com, ministrymatters.com, and the United Reformed Church of Scotland.

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.