

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:
Congregation Leader: Kay Craig
Faith Development Leader:
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
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: Jan Fitts
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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**“A Troublesome Ending
to the Story”**
April 7, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 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: We have been freed!

People: Fear and death have no claim on us!

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen!

People: Even though we have not touched his wounded hands, yet we believe.

Leader: Even though we have not heard him speak our names, yet we believe.

ALL: Let us celebrate God's love through the life of Jesus Christ. Amen!

***HYMN**

"Here in This Place" (v. 1, 3, 4)

GTG, No. 401

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Almighty Father, you know us completely. You know we can fall away from your tender love so easily. Bring us together in this time of prayer, and help us to restore our full relationship with you, beginning with our confession. Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Patient Lord, you wait for us to understand. You wait for us to remove the blinders of prejudice, fear, unbelief, confusion. You have offered to us the greatest miracle of all time, the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We sang and celebrated last Sunday, but a week has passed, and we have slid back into our old ways of perceiving your presence and love. Shake us up, Lord! Shake us up and cause us to look with new eyes on our Savior, who came that we might have life, abundantly serving all who are in need. Forgive our stubbornness and our complacency. Reach out to us so that we may reach out with healing love to others, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Let the stone of ignorance, stubbornness, and fear be rolled away from your heart. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Know that his love is poured out for you, for your healing. Be at peace and rejoice! Amen!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

April 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)
10:15 am Called Session Meeting (P)
10:50 am Worship
12:15 pm Worship Team Meeting (CR)

April 8 — Monday

7:00 am Coffee with the Pastor (Foyer)
5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)
7:00 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)

April 9 — Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (P)
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Ambassador Group Meeting (P)
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)

April 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: Hamburgers!

April 11 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)
7:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1)

April 12 — Friday

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

April 13 — Saturday

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

April 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
12:00 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration
12:15 pm Faith Development Meeting (P)
12:15 pm PW Tea Planning Meeting (CR)
5:00 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)

April 15 — Monday

10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

April 16 — 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)

April 17 — Wednesday

9:30 am ZIP Trip
9:40 am Undies of Everyone
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Lasagna!

April 18 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
12:00 pm PCHAS Luncheon (Lakeside CC)
5:00 pm Idea Spring: Space Center Houston!
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)
7:00 pm Rainbow's End Meeting* (GP 1)

April 19 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

April 20 — Saturday **PresPress Articles Due**

6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Gary & Laurie Mitchell, to the Glory of God, and are in honor of their children, Ethan Mitchell, Emily Turner, and Adam Turner, and in celebration of Ethan and Emily's birthdays.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, April 10th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Kay and Betty are making Hamburgers. Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

The Mission Team is partnering with Undies for Everyone for our spring intergenerational mission activity. *Undies for Everyone* is committed to helping children that live in poverty or crisis have new underwear throughout the school year. We are hosting an underwear drive from April 2nd-17th. Please check out the display in the Education Building Foyer for additional details. We also are sponsoring a packing event at *Undies for Everyone* on Saturday, April 20th from 9:40 AM-Noon, located at 3610 Willowbend Blvd. Houston, TX 77054. Please sign up with Miguel in the church office by April 15th if you'd like to participate.

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 10th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. The **Evening Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday, April 9th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah or Ashely Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 8 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/sacred-encounters.

There will be a PW Welcoming Tea planning meeting immediately after worship next Sunday, April 14th, in the Conference Room. Anyone who is interested in planning the PW Welcoming Tea held in August is welcome to attend.

Idea Spring returns with Space Center Houston for "Yes, it is Rocket Science!" Join us at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 18th, for this free, family-friendly program. A dinner will follow. We hope to see you there!

One of our church's favorite events is back! **PCHAS** is hosting **The Annual Fundraising Luncheon on Thursday, April 18th**, that will showcase the life-changing work we are doing in our community. Our church will have four Table Hosts – Sarah Dikeman, Marguerite Priest, Jeannie Stockton, and Miguel Carlin. One of these individuals will probably be contacting you to see if you would like to attend the luncheon, but feel free to contact them first. We always have so much fun, great fellowship, good food, and supporting a great charity. We hope that you will join us!

Did you take any pictures on Easter Sunday? There will be a collage of pictures in the May PresPress of the Celebration of the Resurrection. These can be pictures of any of the festivities on Easter weekend at the church, or Easter traditions with your families at home. Please submit pictures to Ethan Mitchell (ethan@springbranchpres.org).

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.

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.

*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

Jan Fitts

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

With our hearts and souls renewed and full of joy and hope, may our minds be enriched as we listen to your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

ANTHEM

"The One"

Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31

Red Pew Bible NT 115

SERMON

"A Troublesome Ending to the Story"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"In Remembrance of Me"

GTG, No. 521

*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** *"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*)

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory forever. As once you ransomed your people from Egypt and led them to freedom in the promised land, so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son. 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** *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"* GTG, No. 526

***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.