

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 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: Miguel Carlin
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell

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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“Playing God’s Lottery”
 May 5th, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

10:50 AM

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** *(inspired by Psalm 98, Acts 10:44-48, John 15:9-17)*

Leader: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

People: Let our joy be complete!

Leader: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

People: Love one another!

Leader: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

People: No longer servants but friends!

Leader: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise!

ALL: Rejoicing in the friendship of God, let us worship our loving God!

*HYMN

"I Come with Joy"

GTG, No. 515

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, our faith and our fear, our triumphs and our failures. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Loving and merciful One, we thank You for the community in which You have placed us, for the sisters and brothers with whom we walk this pilgrim journey. Yet, we confess that we fail to love as You love. We push aside those whom we believe are the least in Your Kingdom. We fail to see Your Kingdom in parables because we fail to see Your Kingdom in each other. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither East nor West, neither South nor North. We pray for the sake of Your Kingdom and for ourselves. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 John 3:19-22)*

Leader: By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask, we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. Amen!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

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
12:15 pm Worship Team Meeting (CR)
3:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)
4:00 pm Cub Scouts Graduation (FH)



May 6 — Monday

7:00 am Coffee with the Pastor (Foyer)
10:00 am Staff Meeting (P)
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)
4:00 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)

May 12 — 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



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 13 — Monday

10:00 am Staff Meeting (P)
5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

May 14 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
5:00 pm Special Olympics* (Field)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
6:00 pm New Elder Training (P)
6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)
7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

May 15 — Wednesday

9:30 am ZIP Trip
3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Hamburgers!

May 16 — Thursday

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

May 17 — Friday

11:30 am Pre-K Graduation (S)
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

May 18 — Saturday

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

Announcements & Events:

Communicants Class Participants: Clara Dikeman, Piper Dikeman, Jayden Earnest, Kaylee Earnest, and Lily Earnest

Please join the Unwind Group tomorrow, 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!

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, May 8th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Fitts is making King Ranch Casserole. Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

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.

Messy Church is coming back in the fall! Sign up for updates by texting @h47378d to 81010. If you're interested in volunteering, you can sign up here: forms.gle/nzPTKBvCprPxdaSk8. **Join us for Doodle Bot Pop-Up** in the Education Building Foyer this Thursday, May 9th, from 4:00-6:00 PM.

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!

The Mission of Yahweh is holding a fundraising luncheon at the Junior League on Wednesday, May 22nd. Anyone is welcome to attend, but we need to know in advance for them to prepare. Please RSVP to Miguel by Monday, May 13th.

Join us for the last Idea Spring event of the school year on Thursday, May 16th, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall! We will be welcoming the Houston Humane Society Wildlife Center for *Reptile Roundup!* The program introduces audiences to the amazing lives of Texas Reptiles. Discover reptile adaptations and life cycles and how they play a key part in Houston's urban system. A free dinner will follow. We hope to see you there!

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.

Portions of today's worship service are taken from umcdiscipleship.org and thepastorsworkshop.com.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*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)*

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

1 John 5:1-6

Red Pew Bible NT 241

ANTHEM

"This is My Commandment"

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:9-17

Red Pew Bible NT 109

SERMON

"Playing God's Lottery"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

GTG, No. 465

*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

First Communion for our Communicants Class

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)*

Loving and merciful God, You love us so much and give us literally everything we own. We return a measure of our time, talent, and treasure in our offering today. Bless it and guide us in its use, that Your Kingdom may be exalted. 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

"Lord, Make Us More Holy"

GTG, No. 313

*BENEDICTION

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

*POSTLUDE

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.