



# Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

## Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church  
Co-Pastor: Rev. Mark Plunkett  
Co-Pastor: Rev. Savannah Goodman  
Administrator: Jorida Vakiari  
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: Ethan Mitchell  
Congregation Leader: Kay Craig  
Faith Development Leader: Jacquie Ballesteros  
Mission Leader: Laurie Mitchell  
Worship Leader: Donald McDaniel  
Treasurer: Neal Dikeman

## The Session

Clerk: Jan Fitts

Moderator: Co-Pastor, Rev. Mark Plunkett  
Moderator: Co-Pastor, Rev. Savannah Goodman

## Class of 2025

Jacquie Ballesteros  
Stephen Earnest  
Laurie Mitchell

## Class of 2026

Kay Craig  
Sarah Dikeman  
Ethan Mitchell

## Class of 2027

Joel Alegria  
Beth Mizwa  
Nina Rach

## Academy Board

Jan Fitts  
Jim Kunkel

Neal Dikeman  
Ashley Powell

Carla Pace  
Jorida Vakiari

## Serving today in Worship:

**Liturgist:** Jan Fitts

**Children's Moment:** Pastor Mark

**Usher Captain:** Donald McDaniel

**PowerPoint:** Ethan Mitchell

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*[www.facebook.com/springbranchpres](https://www.facebook.com/springbranchpres)*

*Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM*

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*CCLI License # 11266777*

*1215 Campbell Rd*

*Houston, TX 77055*

*713-464-7659*



***“Fighting Dirty”***  
March 9, 2025

Gathering in God’s Name

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS THE SANCTUARY

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

*(Please sign the Friendship Book located in the pew rack next to the center aisle.)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 91)*

Leader: Where is our home?

**People:** **Our home is in the shelter and shadow of God.**

Leader: How can this be our refuge?

**People:** **Because God’s angels will guard your house and those in it from evil and threat.**

Leader: How can we flourish?

**People:** **Staying close to God’s ways will bring our lives to abundance.**

**ALL:** **Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN** *“All Creatures of Our God and King”* GTG, No. 15

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION *(from Romans 10)*

Leader: Scripture says, “No one who believes in Christ will be put to shame.” Therefore, we do not approach God with shame, but with life-giving expectation grounded in our trust of God. For when we confess with our mouth and trust in our heart, we will find healing for ourselves and for the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**God of wide circles, we too often revert to our fear-filled instinct to cut off those unfamiliar and distant. May we evaluate others based on your heart. In Romans, you remind us when we lean into your kingdom agenda, our worldview is expanded to focus on our common humanity. May we embrace your created diversity and include all in our cherished life’s work. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Everyone... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Having called upon the wide arms of our gracious God, know that you are forgiven. With joy, may we amplify God’s grace into the whole world. Amen!

**March 9 — 1st 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 (S)  
10:50 am Worship  
12:00 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration

**March 10 — Monday**  
5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

**March 11 — Tuesday**  
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)  
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)  
6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)  
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)  
7:00 pm Horizon’s Bible Study on Zoom

**March 12 — Wednesday**  
9:30 am PW Circle (CR)  
3:30 pm WOW (S)  
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)  
7:00 pm Handbell Choir (S)

**March 13 — Thursday**  
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)  
1:00 pm Pastor Mark’s Bible Study (Zoom)  
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

**March 14 — Friday**  
6:00 pm SBM Arc Meeting\* (CR)  
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

**March 15 — Saturday**  
8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)  
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)

**March 16 — 2nd Sunday in Lent**  
9:00 am Young Adult Breakfast Club  
9:15 am Church Nursery  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Children’s Sunday School (S)  
9:45 am Choir Practice (S)  
10:50 am Worship  
12:15 pm Congregational Care Meeting (CR)  
5:00 pm BSA Committee Meeting (GP)

**March 17 — Monday**  
10:00 am The Gathering Place (FH)  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)  
7:00 pm Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)

**March 18 — Tuesday**  
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)  
10:30 am Staff Meeting (P)  
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)  
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)

**March 19 — Wednesday**  
1:00 pm Memorial Service: Patti Walsh  
3:30 pm WOW (S)  
6:00 pm WNS: Tacos!  
6:30 pm Book Exchange (FH)  
7:00 pm Handbell Choir (S)

**March 20 — Thursday**  
***PresPress Articles Due***  
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)  
1:00 pm Pastor Mark’s Bible Study (Zoom)  
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

**March 21 — Friday**  
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

**March 22 — Saturday**  
11:00 am Hot Meals  
2:00 pm Memorial Service: Leo Caesar  
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:

**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 12th, 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 11th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 7 video is available at the following link: [www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justice-roll-down](http://www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/let-justice-roll-down).

**There will be no Wednesday Night Supper this week in observance of Spring Break.** Please join us when we resume on March 19th for Tacos!

**Attention all young adults!** You are invited to the Young Adult Breakfast Club with Pastor Savannah Goodman at **Island Grill** (979 Bunker Hill Rd, 77024) on **Sunday, 3/16, at 9:00 AM**. The Young Adult Breakfast Club meets monthly for a time of fellowship and connection. Childcare is available at the church. We will meet at the church at **9:00 AM** to carpool. Bring \$5 and the church will cover the rest! We look forward to connecting with you then! Please email **Pastor Savannah Goodman** ([savannah@springbranchpres.org](mailto:savannah@springbranchpres.org)) with any questions.

**The Gathering Place will meet on Monday, March 17th, at 10:00 AM!** The theme for this month is *St. Patrick's Day*! Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman if you are interested in helping out.

**The PW ZIP Trip to the Blue Bell Creamery on March 19th has been cancelled.** Our next ZIP Trip will be on April 24th to the Junior League for the annual PCHAS Luncheon.

**The Fellowship Group will have a Book, Audio, and Video Exchange in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, March 19th & 26th.** As you do your spring cleanup, set aside all your books, CD's, movies (DVD or VHS). and magazines to exchange with others. Cookbooks are especially popular! Everything must be appropriate for ALL ages as there will be children and youth choosing books. You may bring your items the first evening and leave them until the next week.

**Articles for the April 2025 edition of the PresPress are due on Thursday, March 20th.** Please submit articles to [ethan@springbranchpres.org](mailto:ethan@springbranchpres.org).

**SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends** – The 4th Saturday of each month we look for individuals to deliver meals to shut-ins. We have 2 routes, so we usually need a total of 4 volunteers each month. Please contact Lu Taylor if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month. You can now sign-up online too at this Sign-Up Genius [LINK](#)!

**Pastor Mark has begun facilitating a Zoom Bible Study** on the Gospel of Luke on Thursdays at 1:00 PM. The Zoom information is available in the Friday email if you are interested in giving it a try over your lunch hour. If you wish to receive the Zoom invite every week, please email Mark to get on his list.

**We will have Easter Lilies again this year!** Place your order now through Friday, April 18th. 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.

<b>*PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		
Leader:	...May the peace of Christ be with you!	
People:	<b>And also with you!</b>	
<b>*GLORIA</b>	<i>"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!"</i>	LUYH, No. 74
	<i>Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down.</i>	
	<i>I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down. I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down.</i>	
	<i>Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down. Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down.</i>	

<b><u>God's People Are Empowered</u></b>		
<b>CHILDREN'S MOMENT</b>		Pastor Mark
<b>PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION</b> <i>(unison)</i> <b>Author and source of our lives and of our redeemer, Jesus Christ, we know what is written can be used for evil or for good. Open our hearts to your Spirit that the words read and proclaimed would go beyond ink, paper, digital images, and sound. Despite the imperfect mediums, may this Scripture be the spiritual imparting of your deepest desires for the world into our hearts. Amen!</b>		
<b>SCRIPTURE LESSON</b>	Luke 4:1-13	Red Pew Bible NT 61
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"</i>	Choir
<b>SERMON</b>	<i>"Fighting Dirty"</i>	Rev. Mark Plunkett
<b><u>Responding to the Word</u></b>		
<b>*HYMN</b>	<i>"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"</i>	GTG, No. 166
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH</b> <i>(unison)</i> <i>(The Apostles' Creed)</i> <b>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.</b>		
<b>INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP</b>		

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

GTG, No. 609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

**Now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me. I bow before you and shall celebrate with anyone and everyone the bounty of all you have given to me and my household. 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

*“It Is Well with My Soul”*

GTG, No. 840

\*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, Pastor Savannah, 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.

**Stories & Songs:** *Stories & Songs* occurs during Worship, with stories from *Growing in God’s Love*, songs, coloring pages, and crafts. Pastor Savannah has chosen the stories to coincide with the Sermons. Children will leave the Sanctuary right after Children’s Moment and be returned to their parents during the last hymn. This program is during the Worship Service for ages 3-6 years old.

*Sunday Morning Offerings at 9:30 am*

**Saints Under Construction:** This class meets in Gathering Place Classroom No. 2. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Calling All Youth:** The Youth meet in the Youth Room for Bible Study, Fellowship, and Mission work with the Pastors. Meetings are at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Other volunteers for the program are Jordan Goodman, Carla Pace, and Riley Fairchild.



*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](http://www.springbranchpres.org/give).*