



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: Todd Miller
Children's Moment: Todd Miller
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patti Nanney

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www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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"I GIVE YOU A NEW
COMMANDMENT:

Love one another.

AND YOU'RE TO LOVE ONE
ANOTHER THE WAY I HAVE
LOVED YOU."

JOHN 13:34

© The Inclusive Bible:
The First Egalitarian Translation



"Rules, Rules, Rules"
May 18, 2025

*Those who are able please stand

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 148)

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!
Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
People: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
People: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
ALL: Praise the Lord, all the earth!

*HYMN “Here in This Place” (v. 1, 2, 4) GTG, No. 401

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: The world often judges by outward appearances, but Jesus reveals to us a deeper reality. When we fail to live in the new way of love he commands, we distance ourselves from the truth and pretend to possess a righteousness that is only ours through Christ. In this new promise, and knowing God’s steadfast love is trustworthy and true, let us confess our shortcomings together, seeking the Spirit’s new workings within us:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, you call us to your merciful, gracious love, freely given without expectation or strings attached, like the unconditional love of a bridegroom. While we are eager to experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, we are quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace conditional for others, holding court in our own hearts. We would rather show mercy to those we judge worthy, forgetting the new commandment to love as you have loved us. We would rather extend grace to those who will show us grace in return, missing the trustworthy and true nature of your boundless forgiveness. Forgive us, Redeeming God, and transform our hearts with your amazing grace and unconditional love so that our relationships and your world are transformed. Amen.

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

May 18 — Sunday

9:00 am Young Adult Breakfast Club!
9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Children’s Sunday School (GP 3)
9:45 am Choir Practice (S)
10:50 am Worship
12:15 pm VBS Meeting (CR)
12:15 pm Handbells
6:00 pm BSA Court of Honor (GP)

May 19 — Monday

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

May 20 — Tuesday

PresPress Articles Due
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)

May 21 — Wednesday

3:30 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm WNS: Smorgasbord Buffet!

May 22 — Thursday

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

May 23 — Friday

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

May 24 — Saturday

11:00 am Hot Meals
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 25 — Sunday

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
12:15 pm Handbells

May 26 — Monday

Church & Academy Closed



May 27 — 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)
7:00 pm Session (CR)

May 28 — Wednesday

9:30 am Happy Hands (CR)
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)

May 29 — Thursday

Ascension of the Lord
10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
1:00 pm Pastor Mark’s Bible Study (Zoom)
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

May 30 — Friday

Academy Closed (Teacher Workday)
7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program* (YR)

May 31 — Saturday

8:00 am Cheerful Clown Alley (GP)
11:00 am Memorial Service: Dick Slover
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)



Announcements & Events:

The Gathering Place will meet tomorrow, Monday, May 19th, at 10:00 AM! The theme for this month is Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman if you are interested in helping out.

Articles for the June 2025 edition of the PresPress are due this Tuesday, May 20th. Please submit articles to Ethan Mitchell at ethan@springbranchpres.org.

Join us for the last Wednesday Night Supper of the school year, this Wednesday, May 21st, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu is a Smorgasbord Buffet! Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

Happy Hands will meet on Wednesday, May 28th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Join us for stuffing, stitching, other hand work, and/or great conversation. Hope to see you there!

Join us on Sunday, June 1st, for the Ordination and Installation of the Ruling Elders for the Class of 2028 (Jim Kunkel, Betty Magnuson, and Sarah Powell)!

Save-the-Date for Magnified Vacation Bible School! VBS will be held June 9th-13th from 9:00 AM-11:30 AM in the Gathering Place. A time of worship, music, crafts, recreation, mission, science, and fellowship is being planned. We welcome any individuals who would like to participate or volunteer to please let Pastor Savannah or Jacquie Ballesteros know. Registration forms can be accessed here: www.springbranchpres.org/vbs.

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 Book of Exodus 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.

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The 2025 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.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Behold: The former things have passed away, and God's grace flows like a river of new life. Friends, hear the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! You are made anew! Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: ...The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

*GLORIA "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" GTG, No. 591

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Todd Miller

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)
Gracious and Loving God, as you once declared, "See, I am making all things new." So now, through your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your transforming Word in Scripture. Grant us a new vision of the height, depth, and breadth of your trustworthy and true love, that we may be inspired to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, reflecting the new creation you have begun in us. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON John 13:31-35 Red Pew Bible NT 108

ANTHEM "The Meditations of My Heart" Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 11:1-18 Red Pew Bible NT 130

SERMON "Rules, Rules, Rules" Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN "Prince of Peace" GTG, No. 705

*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

***OUR RESPONSE**

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.*

GTG, No. 647

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(unison)*
Generous God, receive these gifts that we place before your throne. Do more with them than we can ask or imagine, furthering the holy work of your new kingdom in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who revealed to us the truth of your loving commands. 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**

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

"From the Sun’s Rising"

LUYH, No. 25

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 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.

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 1st and 3rd 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.