



# Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

## Who's Who:

Minister: All Members of the Church  
 Co-Pastor: Rev. Mark Plunkett  
 Co-Pastor: Rev. Savannah Goodman  
 Business 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: Jim Kunkel  
    Sarah Powell  
 Mission Leader: Joel Alegria  
 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 2026

Kay Craig  
 Sarah Dikeman  
 Ethan Mitchell

## Class of 2027

Joel Alegria  
 Beth Mizwa  
 Nina Rach

## Class of 2028

Jim Kunkel  
 Betty Magnuson  
 Sarah Powell

## Academy Board

Neal Dikeman  
 Ashley Powell  
 Carla Pace  
 Jorida Vakiari  
 Lee Dudinsky  
 Lauren Tacchi

## Serving today in Worship:

**Liturgist:** Todd Miller  
**Children's Moment:** Pastor Savannah  
**Usher Captain:** Donald McDaniel  
**PowerPoint:** Patty Blome

*e-mail: churchoffice@springbranchpres.org*  
*website: www.springbranchpres.org*  
*www.facebook.com/springbranchpres*  
*Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM*  
*CCLI Streaming License # 20797349*  
*CCLI License # 11266777*  
 1215 Campbell Rd  
 Houston, TX 77055  
 713-464-7659



**“Not Despair But  
Discernment”**  
 August 3, 2025

## 8th Sunday After Pentecost

August 3, 2025

10:50 AM

*\*Those who are able please stand*

### Gathering in God's Name

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

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

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher.

**People: Life's striving can feel empty and fleeting.**

Leader: Yet, God meets us in our questions and our toil.

**People: Wisdom, joy, and rest come not from gain, but from grace.**

Leader: Let us bring our weariness and wonder before the Lord.

**People: Let us worship the God who gives meaning to our days.**

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

#### \*HYMN

*"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"*

GTG, No. 331

### Preparing for the Word

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: "Vanity of vanities," says the Teacher — reminding us how easily we chase after things that do not last. We labor, we strive, and still we come up empty. Yet, God invites us to lay down our burdens and turn toward grace. Let us come with honest hearts, confessing where we have trusted in ourselves more than in God. Let us pray:

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**Eternal God, we confess that we often chase after wind — seeking meaning in our work, our possessions, and our accomplishments. We forget that life is your gift, and purpose comes from your grace. In our striving, we grow anxious, weary, and lost. Forgive us for trusting in what fades and fails. Turn our hearts toward what endures — your love, your justice, and your presence. Renew us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Though our efforts may feel fleeting and our labor in vain, God's mercy is never meaningless. In Jesus Christ, we are given forgiveness and grace that endures. Trust this promise: in Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and called to a life that matters. Thanks be to God! Amen!

## Calendar of Events

[www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar](http://www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar)

#### August 3 — 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  
10:50 am Worship  
12:00 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration



#### August 4 — Monday

6:00 pm PW Unwind: Empire Turkish Grill!  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

#### August 5 — 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)

#### August 6 — Wednesday

3:00 pm WOW (S)

#### August 7 — Thursday

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

#### August 8 — Friday

##### **Academy Closed (Teacher Workday)**

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

#### August 9 — Saturday

8:00 am Cheerful Clown Alley\* (GP)  
10:00 am PW Overview (St. Andrew's PC)  
10:00 am PW Luncheon Setup (FH)  
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)

#### August 10 — Sunday

##### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

9:15 am Church Nursery  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Children's Chime Choir (S)  
9:30 am Youth Discernment Time (Youth Rm)  
9:45 am Choir Practice  
10:50 am Worship  
12:30 pm PW Luncheon (FH)

#### August 11 — Monday

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

#### August 12 — 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)

#### August 13 — Wednesday

3:00 pm WOW (S)  
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)

#### August 14 — Thursday

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

#### August 15 — Friday

7:00 pm CENTI Youth Program\* (YR)

#### August 16 — Saturday

8:00 am Presbyterian Men (CR)  
10:00 am PW Bible Study Overview (Zoom)  
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:

**The Flowers** for this morning are given by Lee Dudinsky, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of Christina Holland's birthday.

**August Birthday Celebration** — Please join family, friends, and congregation members right after our 10:50 worship service today as we celebrate those in our church community born in August. Linger for conversation, fellowship, and light snacks.

**MAM Back-to-School Uniform Voucher Drive** — SBPC is once again collecting funds throughout the month of August for the Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) Back-to-School Uniform Voucher Drive. MAM coordinates with school guidance counselors and local vendors to provide school uniforms for local needy families. Donations can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or mailed to the church office. Online donations can be made here: <https://tinyurl.com/MAM-Back-to-School>.



**The Unwind Group will meet for dinner at Empire Turkish Grill at 6:00 PM this Monday, August 4th.** The restaurant is located at 12448 Memorial Dr. Please RSVP to Jacque Ballesteros at 713-305-1114, only if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

**Join us for the annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 10th, during the Worship Service!** Students of all ages, and their backpacks, will be blessed by the congregation as they begin a new school year!

**Mark your calendar for August 10th and plan to join us for the Presbyterian Women's Welcoming Luncheon after the worship service!** Invite your friends young and old, this tradition is for all ages and stages. Please remember to RSVP to Jan at [jdafitts@gmail.com](mailto:jdafitts@gmail.com). Babysitting will gladly be provided, but you must tell Jan when you RSVP to the luncheon. Kay and Betty will again delight us with tasty treats. You'll be dazzled by our talent and entertained by our follies. You'll get a tiny taste of our new PW Bible Study. We have numerous raffle baskets and prizes offered – if you would like to contribute, please contact Rebecca Alegria. If your talent is picking up chairs and resetting the room, check in with Sarah Powell and Rebecca Alegria. If you would like to be involved, check in with these ladies, or with Luna Lassiter at [lunaanne726@gmail.com](mailto:lunaanne726@gmail.com).

**Idea Spring is kicking back off on Thursday, August 21st, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for the "Built for Survival Bird Show" presented by the Downtown Aquarium!** A pizza dinner will follow. All are welcome to attend! The Idea Spring Speaker Series was originally created as a free program for our community — it's family friendly and fun for all ages! Events have been planned for the entire school year. Questions or want to help coordinate? Email Ethan Mitchell at [ideaspring@springbranchpres.org](mailto:ideaspring@springbranchpres.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

**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](#)!

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

### \*GLORIA

*"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!"*

LUYH, No. 74

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down.  
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down.*

*I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down.  
I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down.*

*Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down.  
Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" Since I laid my burden down.*

### God's People Are Empowered

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Savannah

#### ANTHEM

*"O Day of Peace"*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Red Pew Bible OT 614

#### SERMON

*"Not Despair But Discernment"*

Rev. Savannah Goodman

### Responding to the Word

#### \*HYMN

*"Lord of All Hopefulness"*

GTG, No. 683

#### \*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

**\*DOXOLOGY**

GTG, No. 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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

**Eternal God, you remind us that the work of our hands is fleeting unless it is grounded in you. We offer these gifts — not as a claim to success, but as a sign of trust in your lasting purpose. Use what we bring to bring meaning where there is emptiness, and hope where there is weariness. May our lives, our labor, and our offerings serve your eternal kingdom. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

- The Invitation
- The Words of Institution
- Serving of the Elements
- Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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**

*“Hope of the World”*

GTG, No. 734

**\*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).*