



# 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:** Jim Kunkel

**Children's Moment:** Pastor Savannah

**Usher Captain:** Donald McDaniel

**PowerPoint:** Patty Blome

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**“No One is Alone”**  
September 28, 2025

## 16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 28, 2025

10:50 AM

*\*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

Leader: Come, you who long for justice and mercy — God hears your cry.

**People: God lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things.**

Leader: In a world of riches and need, God calls us to see one another.

**People: To listen, to learn, to love, and to live with compassion.**

Leader: Let us open our hearts to God's Word and one another.

**People: Come, let us worship the God of truth, mercy, and grace.**

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

#### \*HYMN

*"When We Are Living"*

GTG, No. 822

### Preparing for the Word

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: In the presence of God, we are reminded of the chasm between our intentions and our actions, between God's justice and the ways we live. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together. Let us pray:

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

**God of justice and mercy, we confess that we often fail to see the suffering at our gate. We are quick to protect our own comfort and slow to respond to the needs of others. We ignore the cries of the poor, the sick, and the forgotten. Forgive us. Open our eyes to see as You see, and our hands to serve as Christ serves. Lead us from complacency into compassion, and from guilt into grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: God is rich in mercy and full of compassion. In Christ, the chasm is crossed — grace is given, and new life begins. Believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!

# Calendar of Events

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

#### September 28 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:45 am Choir Practice  
10:50 am Worship  
12:15 pm The Connect Crew (CR)

#### September 29 — Monday

10:00 am TGP Planning Meeting (CR)  
5:30 pm Special Olympics\* (GP)  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

#### September 30 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)  
10:30 am Staff Meeting (P)  
5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce\* (Field)  
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)  
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)

#### October 1 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Moderators (CR)  
10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)  
3:30 pm WOW (S)  
6:00 pm WNS: Chicken Tenders!  
7:00 pm Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)

#### October 2 — Thursday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)  
1:00 pm Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom)  
5:00 pm Messy Church (FH)  
6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance\* (GP)

#### October 3 — Friday

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

#### October 4 — Saturday

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

#### October 5 — World Communion Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Children's Sunday School (GP 3)  
9:30 am Youth Sunday School (YR)  
9:45 am Choir Practice  
10:50 am Worship  
12:15 pm Advent Planning Meeting (CR)



#### October 6 — Monday

6:00 pm PW Unwind: P.F. Chang's!  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

#### October 7 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)  
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)  
7:00 pm Horizon's Bible Study on Zoom  
7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship\* (FH)

#### October 8 — Wednesday

9:30 am PW Circle (CR)  
3:30 pm WOW (S)  
5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)  
6:00 pm WNS: Chicken Pot Pies!

#### October 9 — Thursday

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

#### October 10 — Friday

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

#### October 11 — Saturday

6:00 pm CENTI Church Service\* (GP)

## Announcements & Events:

**The Flowers** for this morning are given by Jorida and Ruden Vakiari, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of their 21st Wedding Anniversary.

**The Gathering Place Program will be holding a planning meeting tomorrow, Monday, September 29th, at 10:00 AM** in the Conference Room. If you are a current volunteer, or if you'd like to volunteer, this meeting might be of interest to you.

**Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday,** October 1st, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Fitts is making Chicken Tenders (choice of breaded or plain [gluten-free]), Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, and Assorted Desserts (Apple Pie, Cookies, Pecan Bars, Chocolate Cake). Please email Kay Craig at [kay@craig-heidt.com](mailto:kay@craig-heidt.com) to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

**Join us for Messy Church this Thursday, October 2nd, for Global Getaways!** Messy Church is an intergenerational interactive worship encounter starting at 5:00 PM, with a free dinner being served around 6:00 PM. Join us for story, music, activities, games, and more! Text @h47378d to 81010 to signup for updates, and follow along with us at: [www.facebook.com/MessyChurchSBPC](http://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchSBPC).

**The Peace & Global Witness Offering** is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday, October 5th. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the Church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace.

**Please join us on Monday, October 6th, at 6:00 PM for Unwind at P.F. Chang's** (11685 Westheimer in Westchase). As usual, please RSVP Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114, only if you plan to attend. We hope you can join us!

**The PW Day Circle** will meet on Wednesday, October 8th, 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, October 7th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 2 video is available at the following link: [www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/resilience-joy-identity](http://www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/resilience-joy-identity).

**The Academy is hosting a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat in the parking lot on Friday, October 17th, from 5:30-6:30 PM.** Church members are encouraged to attend and sponsor a Trunk or Treat vehicle. Copies of the registration form are available in the Narthex and in the Friday email. Please submit forms to the Academy office by October 15th.

**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 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

Pastor Savannah

#### ANTHEM

*"Forever King"*

Choir

#### SERMON INTRO

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 16:19-31

Red Pew Bible NT 79

#### SERMON

*"No One is Alone"*

Rev. Savannah Goodman

### Responding to the Word

#### \*HYMN

*"When the Poor Ones"*

GTG, No. 762

#### \*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**

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

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

**Gracious God, You call us to open our eyes and hearts to those in need. With these gifts, we offer more than resources — we offer our willingness to be agents of Your mercy and justice. May these offerings be used to lift up our neighbors, to feed the hungry, and to bring hope to the forgotten or neglected. Bless and multiply what we give, that Your love might be known in tangible ways. In Jesus’ name we pray. 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**

*“Song of Hope”*

GTG, No. 765

**\*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.

***Traditional Worship Service 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.

***Contemporary Worship Service***

Join us for an exciting new contemporary worship service! Experience uplifting music and heartfelt messages in a welcoming environment. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and deepen your faith. Don't miss the chance to be part of this transformative journey. Bring your friends and family! Our next Contemporary Worship Service will be on **October 15th at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Place**. For more information, please visit: [www.springbranchpres.org/contemporary-worship-service](http://www.springbranchpres.org/contemporary-worship-service).

***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.

**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).*