



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: Donald McDaniel
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Marguerite Priest
PowerPoint: Ethan Mitchell

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website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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“Separate But Equal?”
October 26, 2025

20th Sunday After Pentecost

October 26, 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** *(from Psalm 65)*

Leader: From the east and from the west, we come to praise God!

People: Today we celebrate the ways God is at work in our world.

Leader: From the fields ready for harvest to the majesty of the mountains,

People: From the abundance of gentle rains to the blazing color of fall leaves,

Leader: God crowns the year with good blessings!

ALL: And today we gather to praise God, Creator and Sustainer of life!

***HYMN**

"Gather Us In"

GTG, No. 401

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: The God of mercy waits in compassion and love to show mercy. Together, let us seek God's forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Loving God, too often we hide beneath the veil of religion or trust too much in the good things we do. Smug and safe in our pews, we look down on those not here, thankful we are not like them. Shatter us with the truth that all have sinned — even us. We have failed to live as the people you call us to be. Cleanse us and restore us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love; know that our sins have been forgiven. May we be strengthened in all goodness. Since we have been raised with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

October 26 — Sunday

- 9:15 am Church Nursery
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Called Session Meeting (P)
- 10:50 am Worship
- 12:15 pm Handbells

October 27 — Monday

- 5:30 pm Special Olympics* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

October 28 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (P)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:15 pm Cub Scouts: Wolf (GP 1 & 2)
- 7:00 pm CENTI Bible Study & Worship* (FH)
- 7:00 pm Session (CR)

October 29 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am Happy Hands (CR)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm WNS: PW Taco Soup!

October 30 — Thursday

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

October 31 — Friday

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



November 1 — Saturday

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

November 2 — Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends

- 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 Handbells
- 4:00 pm Cub Scouts: Webelos (GP 1 & 2)



November 3 — Monday

- 5:30 pm Special Olympics* (GP)
- 6:00 pm PW Unwind: Urban American Kitchen!
- 6:00 pm Cub Scouts: Bear (GP 1 & 2)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

November 4 — Tuesday

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

November 5 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Moderators (CR)
- 10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 6:00 pm WNS: Ham & Scalloped Potatoes!
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)
- 7:30 pm Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)

November 6 — 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)

November 7 — Friday

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

November 8 — Saturday

- 9:00 am Cub Scouts Service Day (VOE)
- 10:30 am Youth Group: Dairy Queen & Veteran Flags
- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Gary & Laurie Mitchell, to the Glory of God, and are in Memory of Virginia Miller, and in Honor of Emily & Adam Turner's 2nd Wedding Anniversary.

Happy Hands will meet this Wednesday, October 29th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. We changed the date so our members could go to the Hearts & Hands Market on October 22nd. Join us for stuffing, stitching, other hand work, and/or great conversation. We hope to see you there!

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, October 29th, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The Presbyterian Women are making Taco Soup. All proceeds will benefit the Mission/Scholarship Fund! Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday, November 2nd. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!

The Unwind Group will meet for dinner on Monday, November 3rd, at 6:00 PM at Urban American Kitchen (14800 Memorial Dr). Please RSVP to Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114 or jballesteros1103@gmail.com, only if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 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, November 4th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Powell if you are interested in attending. The Lesson 3 video is available at the following link: www.springbranchpres.org/adult-education/presbyterian-women/resilience-joy-identity.

Messy Church is on Thursday, November 6th, at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please make plans to join us! Our theme this month is the *Gratitude*. Come for games, crafts, music, and activities. A free pizza dinner will follow. We hope to see you there!

Stewardship Season is upon us at SBPC! We will be talking about Stewardship and our contributions to SBPC for 6 weeks leading up to Dedication Sunday on November 9th, at which time we will celebrate with a church-wide lunch after worship service. There will be Cane's chicken tenders provided and we ask that those who wish to join contribute a side dish or a dessert to share. An RSVP list is on the table in the Narthex.

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church is hosting a Thanksgiving Community Concert on Wednesday, November 12th, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The SBPC Chancel Choir will be joined by the Northbrook & Memorial High School Choirs, and the Alief Community Choir. Please make plans to attend!

Save-the-Date for the November Blood Drive — SBPC will have a Blood Drive on Sunday, November 16th, from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Ashley Powell at ashleycrawford161@gmail.com if you would like to donate. Share the gift of life!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

*GLORIA

"Hear the Good News of Salvation"

GTG, No. 441

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

*All the sins I have committed, to my savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

God's People Are Empowered

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Mark

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Red Pew Bible NT 213

ANTHEM

"Amazing Grace"

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 18:9-14

Red Pew Bible NT 81

SERMON

"Separate But Equal?"

Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

GTG, No. 435

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Jacqueline Nix

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Megan & Jeff Hogg

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*OUR RESPONSE

"Give Thanks"

GTG, No. 647

*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.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

God, we want to know, deep down, how we can live into the person you've created each of us to be. Receive the gifts we've offered here: the finances, the time, and the talents of each of our lives, but also the vulnerable recognition of our individual souls. Today, send us from this time of worship eager to be true followers of Jesus, who ate with sinners; crossed racial, social, and gender restrictions; and called ordinary folk to be his disciples. 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

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"

GTG, No. 442

*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 **November 19th at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Place**. For more information, please visit: 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 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.

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.