

PRES PRESS



AUGUST



2026

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
1215 Campbell Rd | Houston, TX 77055

relationships matter
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



From the desk of Pastor Savannah Goodman...

Dear Spring Branch Presbyterian,

Some of us may have mixed feelings about August. Summer begins to wind down. Schedules begin to shift. Vacations come to an end, school supplies appear on store shelves, calendars fill with activities, and families settle back into routines. For the church, this seasonal transition often marks the beginning of a new program year – a time of renewed energy and fresh opportunities.

The rhythm of the church is different from the rhythm of the academic year, yet they often intersect in meaningful ways. Summer invites rest and a change of pace. The fall calls us back to intentional commitments, learning, and community. Both seasons are needed.

God is present in every season of life. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.”* As we move toward the school year and the beginning of many church programs, we are invited into a season of growth and discipleship.

The start of the program year is more than a return to meetings and activities. It is an opportunity ponder these questions: how is God calling us to grow as followers of Jesus Christ? How can we deepen our worship, strengthen our fellowship, and expand our service? For all of us, it is a chance to recommit ourselves to the practices that sustain Christian life: worship, prayer, study, service, and generosity.

As our congregation begins another program year, let us remember that our goal is not simply to fill the calendar. Rather, our calling is to become a community that reflects Christ’s love in the world. Every Sunday school class, Bible study, mission project, meeting, and worship service is an opportunity to encounter God and strengthen the bonds that unite us as the body of Christ. May we enter this new season with hope for the ministry that lies ahead. And may the Holy Spirit guide our congregation as we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

In great excitement and hope,
Pastor Savannah





CHRIST IN ACTION: REFORMED IN HIS IMAGE

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE



August 12th • 6:30 PM



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church



ALL ARE WELCOME

Missions of the Month

The “Mission of the Month” for August is Memorial Assistance Ministries (“MAM”). Since 1982, MAM has been dedicated to helping those in the Spring Branch area by providing resources such as basic needs for those in poverty, employment services assistance, financial empowerment, and disaster relief assistance. Their mission is to build stable families, a dynamic workforce, and vibrant



communities together. MAM has long been one of our church's benevolences that we help support through our annual budget.

MAM has three main Drives throughout the year, including: Back-to-School, Christmas Share, and Home Care Cupboard. Our Mission Team's focus for August is their Back-to-School Uniform Drive. This annual program helps parents shop for new uniforms for their children, because **all children** deserve to have a great back-to-school experience! Starting the year with new clothes helps children feel confident to greet their friends and focus on their studies. MAM takes our monetary donations and distributes more than 3,400 gift cards to local schools for children who need school clothes. Parents are then able to shop with their kids at local retailers. The square-dancing group, FairBees, which regularly uses our facilities, gives us new toys that they collect at their annual Christmas party to take to MAM to support the Christmas Share Drive each year.

August Mission Updates and Opportunities

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 Drive. MAM coordinates with school guidance counselors and local vendors to provide school uniforms for local needy families. We also welcome online donations, which can be given at this link: <https://rb.gy/ml2ysx>.



Mission of Yahweh Healthy Snack Drive – In the month of July, our church collected a variety of healthy snacks to be enjoyed by the Mission's children in their summer program. Thank you to all who donated!

Recap of July 12th Blood Drive – Many thanks to Joel Alegria, who stepped in for Ashley Powell this time to organize and host our recent blood drive. They collected 6 whole blood units as well as a double red. Thank you to all of our faithful donors, who help save the lives of others. If you have never given blood before, please consider giving at our next drive on November 8th!

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 2 pairs of volunteers each month. Please contact Lu Taylor or use the online sign-up if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month.

Recap of July PCHAS School Supply Drive – Thank you to everyone who donated to our annual PCHAS School Supply Drive! Most donations came in the form of gift cards, but we did have a trunk load of school supplies that were delivered to the PCHAS Cypress office! We did not have a backpack stuffing party this year as most of the donations were gift cards.



GIVE THE GIFT OF BELONGING

**YOU CAN HELP PROVIDE OVER 3,000
LOCAL STUDENTS WITH NEW SCHOOL
CLOTHES AND UNIFORMS BY SUPPORTING
MAM'S BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN!**

Everyone wants to fit in – especially on the first day of school. Help ensure every child in our community can start the school year excited, confident and ready to learn!

"Our students felt so special when they were able to wear a new uniform. Thank you for providing a world of difference to our parents and students!"

-RIDGECREST
ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO DONATE!**



TO LEARN MORE VISIT:
MAMHOUSTON.ORG/BACKTOSCHOOL
<https://tinyurl.com/MAM-Back-to-School>

MAM
BACK TO SCHOOL 

Wednesday Night Supper

September 2nd — Hamburgers!

Fall Wednesday Night Suppers will be starting back up on September 2nd, at 6:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall with Hamburgers and all of the trimmings.



Prices for the supper are as follows:

Adults (age 13 & up)	\$5.00
Children (ages 1-12)	\$2.00
Family w/children ages 1-12 (immediate family only please)	\$12.00
To go plates	\$5.00

The Fellowship Committee will also host a dinner on **Wednesday, August 12th**, at 5:45 PM in the Gathering Place before the August Contemporary Worship Service.

A menu will be announced soon!

The Fellowship Committee welcomes anyone who would like to help with a dinner, or volunteer on any Wednesday in the kitchen! If you are interested in helping just once or on an ongoing basis, please contact Laurie Mitchell at galamitchell@comcast.net. The committee is happy to help support you in any way if you would like to take on a supper this fall. We are always looking to try a new menu!



Children's Sunday School Class meets **1st & 3rd Sundays of the month** at 9:30am in the Children's classroom in The Gathering Place.



Presbyterian Women this Month

PW at a Glance

(There will be no Board Meetings, Bible Moderator Meetings, Bible Study, or Zip Trips during the Summer)



There will be a **PW WELCOMING LUNCHEON** on 8/2 at 12:15 p.m.

PW UNWIND will meet on 8/3 at 6:00 p.m. at Korea Garden (9501 Long Point Rd).

HAPPY HANDS will meet on 8/26 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS for 2026-2027 (*United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*) are available in the Church Office. The cost is \$14.



The Unwind Group will meet for dinner on Monday, August 3rd, at 6:00 PM at Korea Garden (9501 Long Point Rd, 77055). It's delicious, and Kay and Betty will be along to help us order.

Don't be anxious! Come and try something new! Please RSVP to Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114, only if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

Happy Hands will meet on Wednesday, August 26th, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. Bring your special projects, or come to stuff and close the heart shaped pillows. We hope to see you there!





**THESE ARE A
FEW OF MY**

Favorite Things

**PW LADIES
LUNCHEON 2026**

Who: Ladies of All Ages, member and nonmember

What: Come to enjoy a delicious lunch and fabulous desserts, a raffle with wonderful prizes, and get to know our fellow PW ladies and our activities a little better.

When: Sunday, August 2, 2026

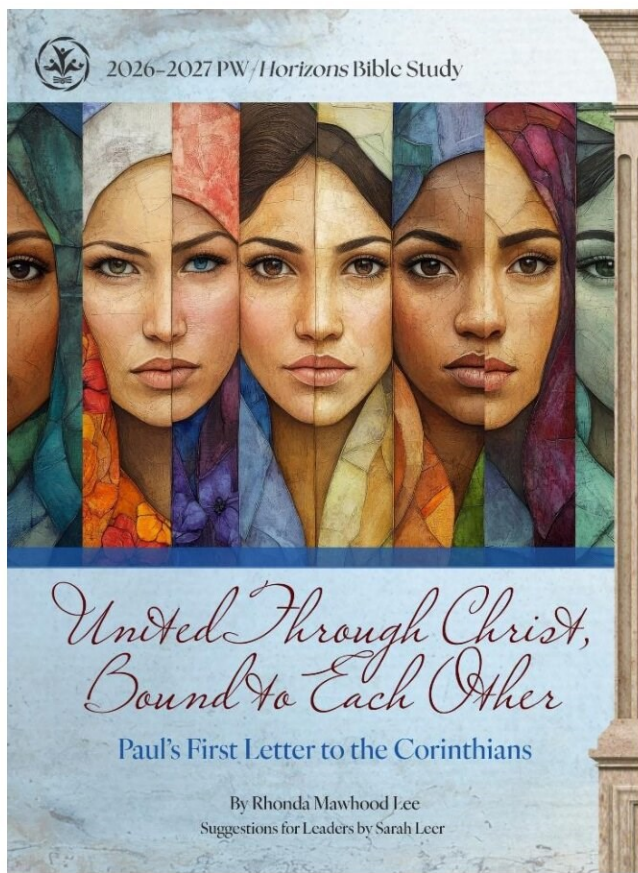
Immediately following worship

Where: Fellowship Hall at SBPC

- ☐ Reservations to Sarah Powell and tell me your favorite dessert!
We will try to provide the top requested desserts!
- ☐ Volunteers are requested to decorate a table with their "Favorite Thing" and share a few words with the ladies about that favorite thing - email Sarah Powell
- ☐ Volunteers are requested to supply baskets for the raffle - email Jennifer Miller
- ☐ There will be worthy causes to donate to, 2026-2027 Bible Study guides to buy, and a Collection of My Favorite Recipes as party favors.



The Gathering Place will meet on Monday, August 17th, at 10:00 AM! The theme for this month is *Lets Go Camping!* Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman if you are interested in helping out.



2026–2027 PW/Horizons Bible Study

United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

***Paul's First Letter to the
Corinthians***

**By Rhonda Mawhood Lee
Suggestions for Leaders by Sarah Leer**

Join Presbyterian Women and learn about Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. This Bible study explores the letter's setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ.

Readers will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today.

**There will be one in-person overview on
Saturday, August 8, at Christ Church Presbyterian Church,
5001 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, TX 77401.**

Registration and refreshments at 9:30am, followed by overview from 10am to 12noon

Register with Janice Schessler at **713-392-5278** (call or text) or email at
janiceschessler4@gmail.com.

If you would rather attend a virtual overview,
there will be an overview via Zoom on **Saturday, August 15**, at 10am to 12noon.
You may email Patti Nanney at pananney@sbcglobal.net, and she will email you the Zoom link.

All overviews will be presented by Patti Nanney, R.E., Spring Branch Presbyterian Church



All overviews are free!

**To assist with planning,
pre-registration is requested one week prior to the event.**

PW ZIP TRIPS For 2026 – 2027

Presbyterian Men invited, also!

September 16 th	Houston Toy Museum – Reservations Required
October 21 st	Hearts and Hands Bazaar
<i>No ZIPS in November, December, or January.</i>	
February 17 th	Brookwood Tour and Lunch – Reservations Required
March 17 th	George H.W. Bush Presidential Library, College Station, TX
April	PCHAS Luncheon – Reservations Required
May	TBA

For more information, please call Marguerite Priest at 281-435-3941 or email at mepriest@hotmail.com



Messy Church is back?
First Thursdays?
5pm
Fellowship Hall
Now where are my acorns?

Sept 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

Messy Church

Mini-Workshops @ Spring Branch Presbyterian Church
Saturday, August 8, 2026, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM



Workshop #1 - Ruling Elder Preaching

9:00 AM-12:00 noon

Workshop #2 - Elder Presiding Over Communion

12:00 noon-1:00 PM

Workshop Leader: Rev. Mark Plunkett, Co-Pastor, Spring Branch

As we all know, there are many churches in our Presbytery that do not currently have pastors to lead worship, preach sermons, and preside over the Communion table.

This workshop will have two sections that will enable elders to feel more confident when preaching in their churches; ordained elders may also receive specific training in how to properly preside over the Communion table, pending approval by Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

You may attend either workshop or both.

Complimentary light refreshments will be available during breaks.

If you are interested, please email Pastor Mark at: mark@springbranchpres.org to reserve your spot in the workshop. Registration is strongly encouraged so we may anticipate how many participants will be attending.

All elders whose churches could benefit from these trainings are welcome, invited, and encouraged to attend! Questions? Please reach out to Pastor Mark!



AUGUST

SPRING BRANCH PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY

2026

Summer is coming to an end on Thursday, Aug. 6th, and we will be closed on Friday, Aug. 7th for Teacher workday. The Academy has planned an exciting, fun and great!...

End of Camp/Back to School Party!



The Academy will promote the children to their new classrooms on Monday, August 10th. Mark your calendar!



OPEN HOUSE
Friday
August 21st
5-5:30 PM



Vacation Bible School in June was a fun and blessed week for our kids. Thanks to the church and the volunteers who helped to make it happen.



Let us pray to God to keep our children protected and happy during school time and also to and from their school. And to guide our teachers to give our children lots of tender loving care. Amen.



Please join family, friends, and congregation members on Sunday, August 9th, right after our 10:50 worship service as we celebrate those in our church community born in August. Linger for conversation, fellowship, and light snacks.

Summer Vacation Season is here! Please remember to snag those extra hotel toiletries while you are traveling. It's also a good time to watch sales and stock up on items at dollar stores, and on grocery trips. And finally, be on the lookout for women's sized shoe boxes. Seafarers' Donations can be brought to the Church Office anytime of the year! Below is the list of requested items from the Seafarers' Center:



Hairbrush / Comb	Kleenex	Lip Balm
Magnets	Gold Bond Powder	Gold Bond Cream
T-shirts (new)	Needle & Thread	Shaving Cream
Nail Clippers	Toothpaste	Gum & Hard Candy
Q-Tips	Mechanical Pencils	Flashlight w/ batteries
Popcorn	Socks	Word Search/ Sudoku/ Fill-in books
Earbuds / Headphones	USB Flash Drives	2027 Calendar
Band-Aids (fabric)	Baseball Caps (new)	Disposable Razors
Dental floss	Deodorant	Lotion
Hot Chocolate	Key Chains	Texas Souvenirs
Shampoo	Playing Cards	Toothbrushes
Conditioner	Body Wash	Pocket sized notebooks & pens



Is coming back in the fall...

Sign up for updates!



**Text @h47378d
to 81010**



SCAN ME

BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH



Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The 2026 Flower Sign-Up Calendar is located in the Narthex. If you are currently worshiping from home, but would still like to sponsor flowers for a Worship Service, you may signup digitally by using this form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084CABAC2BA1FA7-60848516-2026>, or email jorida.vakiari@springbranchpres.org. **The cost per arrangement**

is \$65.00. Special arrangements vary and should be requested EARLY! Checks should be written to SBPC and mailed to the Church Office (Attn: Jorida) or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.



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. Or go to this [LINK](#) to sign-up online!

FRIDAY EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to receive our weekly announcements via email every Friday? Sign-up by visiting our Church website, www.springbranchpres.org.

sign up for our
Mailing List

Church's Prayer Chain List?

The email prayer chain is open all who would like to pray for those individuals in need of prayer. If you would like to be included in the email prayer chain as a prayer warrior or if you have a prayer request for an individual, contact swdmmd@dikeman.net. It is requested that prayers be for your family members, or extended families and friends who are in need of prayer.



DANA JOHNSON & TEAM
invite you to join us for our

FIRST TIME
HOMEBUYER
WORKSHOP

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 10TH
AT 6:30 PM

The Original Carrabba's
1399 S Voss Rd,
Houston, TX 77057

For details or to RSVP, please reach out to Victoria Kissinger at **713-419-9390**.

This relaxed, informative evening will walk you through what the home-buying process really looks like. Whether you're hoping to purchase soon or simply want to feel more prepared. No pressure, just clear guidance and honest conversation.

Bring your questions, invite a friend, and enjoy an evening designed to help you feel confident and informed when the time comes to buy your first home.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



The International District would like to remind everyone that Hurricane Season is upon us. We all need to be smart and plan ahead for all kinds of disasters: natural, man-made, technological and terrorist related. In Southeast Texas, however, the most likely disaster scenario is a Hurricane.

BEFORE THE HURRICANE

- Monitor local TV or AM 740 KTRH
- Check supplies; especially water
- Fuel Vehicles & Generators
- Cover Windows with Plywood
- Bring in all objects that could become missiles
- Take pictures of property & contents for insurance purposes

DON'T FORGET THE PETS!

Pet disaster kits should include: medications, first aid kits, sturdy leashes and collars, carriers to transport pets safely, current photos with owner or family members, food, potable water, litter/pan, muzzle, can opener, and toys.

**5 GALLONS
OF WATER,
PER PERSON,
PER DAY.**

STOCK EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

>> *at least 72 hours worth* <<

- First Aid Kit
- NOAA Radio & Batteries
- Flashlight & Batteries
- Extra Eye Glasses
- Bottled Water & Non-perishable Food
- Clothing & Bedding
- Toilet Paper & Personal Hygiene Items
- Medications & Prescription copies
- Cash & Credit Cards
- Photo ID & Important Documents
- Baby & Elderly Necessities

Make a check list of necessary pre-hurricane preparations and review with your family.

Review it again when there is a storm in the Gulf. Discuss evacuation plans with your family.

Check Radio 740 and local television media for updates on zones being evacuated.

Make sure your home insurance policy is current and remember that standard policies may not cover flood/ wind damage.

For more information,
visit the Harris County Office of Emergency Management website at:
hcoem.org



www.SBMD.org

CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRAVEL SERVICES LIMITED

Footsteps of Faith Through Scotland and the Reformation

11 Days: September 1-11, 2026

Visiting

Edinburgh • Stirling • Inverness • Loch Ness • Oban
Isle of Skye • Iona • Glencoe • Loch Lomond • Pitlochry

Hosted By:

Rev. Andy Gans

\$5,585 from Houston

- 1st class hotels
- All tours, transfers and transportation according to the itinerary
- All tips, taxes, airfare included





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Christina Holland	8/3	Betty Harris	8/15
Lee Dillard	8/4	Ali Nix	8/15
Rocco Sabala	8/6	Lee Dudinsky	8/19
Joseph Kissinger	8/8	Lane Rouse	8/20
Cameron Blome	8/9	Dr. Rebecca Turney	8/20
Rachael Castillo	8/9	Jennifer Chehade	8/23
Lu Taylor	8/9	Jim Kunkel	8/23
James Humphrey	8/10	Jennifer Fuller	8/27
Betty Magnuson	8/10	Ron Tremble	8/28
Charlie Powell	8/12	Stephen Lezon	8/29
Kim Tangney	8/12	Jack Carr	8/30
Brenda Lanan	8/13	Steve Nanney	8/31

Happy Anniversary!



Jennifer and Todd Miller	8/3
Kate and Jeremy Cross	8/14
Meredith and James Qualls	8/15
Lana and Randy Ruiz	8/16
Dr. Matt and Sarah Dikeman	8/17
Glenn and Barbara Lanan	8/17
Dr. Mark and Dr. Rebecca Turney	8/21

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP 3) 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Youth Sunday School (YR) 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship 12:15pm - PW Luncheon (FH)	10:30am - Staff Meeting (P) 3pm - WOW (S) 6pm - PW Unwind 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP)	7:30pm - Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	Academy Closed 	9am - Presbytery Preaching Conference 10am - PW Bible Study Overview 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Blessing of the Backpacks 9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship 12pm - Monthly Birthday Celebration	5:30pm - Academy Board Meeting (CR) 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 6:30pm - Fellowship Meeting (CR)	5pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4) 5:45pm - Congregational Dinner 6:30pm - Contemporary Service (GP) 	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	6pm - SBM Arc Meeting (CR) 10am - Girl Scout Meeting (GP) 10am - PW Bible Study Overview (Zoom) 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @	8am - Presbyterian Men (CR) 10am - Girl Scout Meeting (GP) 10am - PW Bible Study Overview (Zoom) 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Children's SS Class (GP 3) 9:30am - Sunday School 9:30am - Youth Sunday School (YR) 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship 12:15pm - Cong. Care Mtg. (CR)	10am - The Gathering Place (FH) 10:30am - Staff Meeting (P) 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 7pm - Faith Development Meeting (Zoom)	Firstpress Articles DUE 10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	Firstpress Articles DUE 10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	5pm - Academy Open House 	11am - Hot Meals 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship	7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 7pm - Session (CR)	9:30am - Happy Hands (CR) 5pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	6pm - SBM Arc Meeting (FH)	6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - Choir Practice 10:50am - Worship	10:30am - Staff Meeting (P) 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)					



Sponsored By:

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1215 Campbell Road
Houston, Texas 77055
(713) 464-7659
www.springbranchpres.org

relationships matter 

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 9th

Worship Begins at 10:50 AM

Don't forget to bring your Backpack!

