



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
Director of Operations & Technology: Ethan Mitchell
Director of Music: Gabriel Perez
Accompanist: Jonathan Craft
AV Technician: Ben Dethloff
Academy Director: Renee Henry
Academy Assistant Director: Nikki Childs

Ministry Teams:

Administration Leader: Ethan Mitchell
Congregation Leader: Kay Craig
Faith Development Leaders: Theresa Dunlap
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 2027

Joel Alegria
Beth Mizwa
Nina Rach

Class of 2028

Jim Kunkel
Betty Magnuson
Sarah Powell

Class of 2029

Neal Dikeman
Theresa Dunlap
Donald McDaniel

Academy Board

Carla Pace
Jorida Vakiari

Lee Dudinsky
Lauren Tacchi

Victoria Kissinger
Todd Miller

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Theresa Dunlap
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
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“Tales of the Unexpected...”
July 26, 2026

July 26, 2026

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: The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,
People: The unfolding of God’s Word gives light and understanding.
Leader: Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.
People: Make your face shine upon your servants.
ALL: We come together to worship the living God!

*HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (v. 1, 4) GTG, No. 12

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: You’ve heard it said before: If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. We admit that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So we come to the Lord seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers, let us confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*
God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of this world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world. Transform our lives and our world by your grace. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to God! Amen!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

July 26 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
10:50 am Worship
12:15 pm Faith Development Cleanup Day

July 27 — Monday

3:00 pm WOW (S)
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

July 28 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

July 29 — Wednesday

July 30 — Thursday

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

July 31 — Friday

August 1 — Saturday

PW Luncheon Setup (FH)
6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

August 2 — Sunday

9:15 am Church Nursery
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Children’s Sunday School (GP 3)
930 am Youth Sunday School (YR)
10:50 am Worship
12:15 pm PW Luncheon (FH)

August 3 — Monday

10:30 am Staff Meeting (P)
3:00 pm WOW (S)
6:00 pm PW Unwind: Korea Garden!
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

August 4 — Tuesday

10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

August 5 — Wednesday

August 6 — Thursday

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

August 7 — Friday

Academy Closed (Teacher Workday)

August 8 — Saturday

9:00 am Presbytery Preaching Conference
10:00 am PW Bible Study Overview
(ChristChurch, Bellaire)
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
(YR) Youth Room

Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Mark and Jeanne Plunkett, to the Glory of God, and are in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.

During the month of July, we’re collecting Healthy Snacks to benefit the Mission of Yahweh summer program for 32 kids. Items needed are: boxes of breakfast cereal, granola bars, fruit cups, Go-Gurt, Lunchables, and Sunny D. These types of snacks help ensure the children are consistently fed and energized during the day.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 2nd, and plan to join us for the Presbyterian Women’s Welcoming Luncheon after the Worship Service! The theme for this year is *“My Favorite Things.”* Come 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 bit better. Reservations are requested to Sarah Powell. Volunteers are requested to decorate a table with their “Favorite Thing” and share a few words with the ladies about that favorite thing. Volunteers are requested to supply baskets for the raffle — email Jennifer Miller. We hope to see you there!

The Children & Youth Sunday School Classes are taking the month of July off for summer vacation. Join us when we resume on Sunday, August 2nd!

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 you will join us!

Pastor Mark is facilitating a Zoom Bible Study called “Judges, Kings, and Prophets” 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 2026 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.

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.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**
Leader: ...The peace of the Lord be with you!
People: And also with you!

***GLORIA** “God’s Love Made Visible” (v. 1) LUYH, No. 140

*God’s love made visible! Incomprehensible!
He is invincible! His love shall reign!
From love so bountiful, blessings uncountable,
make death surmountable! His love shall reign!
Joyfully pray for peace and good will.
All of our yearning he will fulfill.
Live in a loving way. Praise him for every day.
Open your hearts and pray. His love shall reign!*

God’s People Are Empowered

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Pastor Mark

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*
Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love, and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 29:15-28 Red Pew Bible OT 26

ANTHEM “Jesus, Priceless Treasure” Gabe Perez

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50 Red Pew Bible NT 14

SERMON “Tales of the Unexpected...” Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

***HYMN** “For the Beauty of the Earth” (v. 1, 4, 5) GTG, No. 14

***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” LUYH, No. 114

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong."
Let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)
We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. As from even the smallest of seeds, your kingdom grows. Bless our tithes, gifts, and offerings, and bless us that we might be ever more faithful in your work of reconciliation, love and joy. In Christ’s 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 “Seek Ye First” GTG, No. 175

*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 **August 12th 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.