

PRES PRESS



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

July 
2026

relationships matter
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD 

From the desk of Pastor Mark...

As our nation's 250th birthday party grows closer, I love to stop and think about how blessed our country has been.

Throughout our turbulent history, we have tried repeatedly to be “one of the good guys” that other countries can count turn to for help and friendship. Look no further than how we respond when natural disasters occur anywhere in the world, or how we treat our enemies after we have come through war.

After the American Revolution, our various leaders immediately reached out to Great Britain hoping to establish trade and friendship. At times, those attempts were met with silence or indifference, but today – we can say Great Britain is one of our staunchest allies and friends.

After the terrible carnage of World War II, we used American taxpayer dollars to rebuild Germany, much of Europe, and Japan. Without those funds and our efforts, millions of people could have starved, and the world might be a much tougher place today. Instead, again we can look back with satisfaction at Germany and Japan as strong allies and friends.

I am always struck by the way we wage peace **after** we wage war. We are certainly not perfect, but we do our best to follow the words of the Old Testament prophets, Isaiah and Micah, who wrote that nations “will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” Our current enemies might despise us for their own reasons, but they would do well to study our overall history to see what might be accomplished in both our futures.

In the world, there are more than 250 countries to choose from, and yet – even with all the criticisms leveled at us – people still choose us to come to have a chance at a better life. That speaks well of our country, our culture, and our spirit.

So, I proudly say, “Happy 250th Birthday, USA” and may we remain strong, free, and especially blessed. Amen!



SPRING BRANCH
Presbyterian Church

CHRIST IN ACTION: THE ROADS LESS TRAVELED

Contemporary Worship Service

July 8th | 6:30 PM

SPRING BRANCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1215 CAMPBELL RD | HOUSTON, TX 77055
WWW.SPRINGBRANCHPRES.ORG/CONTEMPORARY-WORSHIP-SERVICE



Missions of the Month

The “Mission of the Month” for July is The Mission of Yahweh, which is a faith-based, non-denominational emergency & transitional shelter that provides homeless women and children with food, clothing, shelter, and services.

The Mission is one of only a few shelters for homeless women and their children, and has served Northwest Houston since 1961. SBPC has been committed to supporting the Mission of Yahweh for many years through our financial benevolences.

In addition, our congregation supports the Mission throughout the year by conducting various donation drives. This month we are collecting healthy snacks for their summer program for 32 children. See the separate article in the PresPress for even more details and the specific needs so you can go shopping! Please bring your donations to the Church Office anytime this month. We also have many members and friends that donate items to the resale store.



July Mission Updates and Opportunities

PCHAS Annual School Supply Drive – We are collecting school supplies for the children of PCHAS. All basic supplies are needed for children of all ages, as well as things like tissues, backpacks, and lunch boxes and water bottles. Please drop off all donations by July 12th. If you are interested in helping to pack backpacks at their Cypress location on July 22nd, please let Laurie Mitchell know.

Mission of Yahweh Healthy Snack Drive – This month we are collecting the following types of items for their children for the summer months: boxes of breakfast cereal, granola bars, fruit cups, Go-Gurts, Lunchables, and Sunny D.

Save-the-Date for our July Blood Drive – SBPC will have a Blood Drive on Sunday, July 12th. Please contact Joel Alegria at joelalegria1984@yahoo.com if you would like to sign up to donate. Share the gift of life!

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 signup if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals for one month.

GIVE BLOOD.ORG

Spring Branch Presbyterian

**Sunday,
July 12th
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
1215 Campbell Rd**

To schedule an appointment,
contact Joel Alegria
(832) 496-2261
joelalegria1984@yahoo.com

Sponsor Code: 0324



*Nolan,
blood recipient*



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

**Share your
donation story**



@commitforlife | #commitforlife

During July **we're collecting** **Healthy Snacks**

to benefit



Summer Program for 32 kids

Items needed are:

- **Boxes of Breakfast Cereal**
- **Granola Bars**
- **Fruit Cups**
- **Go-Gurt**
- **Lunchables**
- **Sunny D**

These types of snacks help ensure the children are consistently fed and energized during the day.

Happy 250th Birthday USA!



God Bless America Party

Wednesday, July 8, 6:00 PM

Fellowship Hall



Pizza, Spaghetti, and more!

**Wear your red, white & blue and come join
the party!**



The July Contemporary
Worship Service will follow at
6:30 PM in the Gathering Place!



News you can Use

Celebrate July Birthdays!

Join us in the breezeway, weather permitting, for our next Birthday Celebration on Sunday, July 12th. Immediately after worship, we will gather for light snacks as we honor our July birthdays!



The Gathering Place will meet on Monday, July 20th, at 10:00 AM! The theme for this month is *Summer Beach!* Please see Jacquie Ballesteros or Sarah Dikeman if you are interested in helping out.

The Children's Sunday School Class will be taking the month of July off for summer vacation.

Join us when we resume on Sunday, August 2nd!

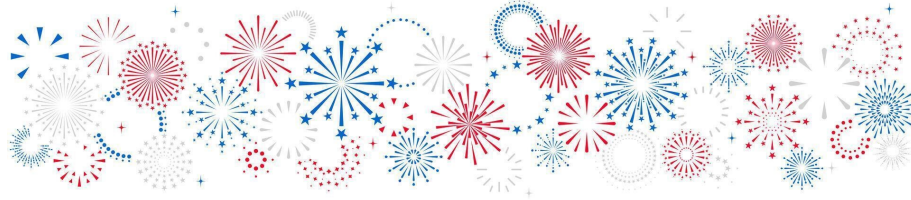




Presbyterian Women this Month

PW at a Glance

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



PW UNWIND will meet on 7/6 at 6:00 p.m. at Ember & Greens (9403 Katy Freeway).

HAPPY HANDS will meet on 7/22 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

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

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



EMBER & GREENS

RESTAURANT AND BAR
HOUSTON

The Unwind Group will meet for dinner on Monday, July 6th, at 6:00 PM at Ember & Greens (9403 Katy Freeway, 77024). 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, July 22nd, at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room. All stuffers and stitchers are welcome to join us. If you'd rather knit, crochet, or just visit, that's good, too. All are welcome. We continue to meet during the summer months. We hope you will join us!





**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.



Laurie Mitchell would love to have your favorite dessert recipe or two for a special project for this year's annual ladies luncheon. You may give them to her in-person or via email at laurieannemitchell@gmail.com.

Please note the different email address! She is now retired and is using this one for this project. The deadline for submissions is July 15th.

It's time to start thinking about what "theme" of basket you might want to put together for the PW Luncheon! This year, the theme is "My Favorite Things", and will be held on Sunday, August 2nd. We are currently accepting donations of baskets for our raffle, with all proceeds benefiting the Presbyterian Women's Scholarship/Mission Fund.

Some basket themes we already have donated are: Picnic, Cozy Afternoon, Stationary, and Re-Loved American Girl Doll! The ideas are endless! – here are some: Halloween or Fall, Gardening, Spa, Back to School, Wine, Movie Night, High Tea, Tailgate, and Mexican Fiesta.



Do one yourself or get together with a friend a put together a few of your FAVORITE THINGS! Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you there! For questions regarding baskets, please contact Jennifer Miller at 713-562-5897 or jennmill60@gmail.com.

A sports-themed graphic with a yellow background. It features a football, a yellow helmet with red facemask, a yellow baseball bat, a white baseball with red stitching, a red basketball, and two yellow sunburst shapes with red centers.

PM SPORTS FELLOWSHIP

**Astros Game
Tuesday 7/7/26 at 5:45
Conference Room
Feel free to bring snacks and
nonalcoholic beverages**



Thank you!

Caroline Bik

Presbyterian Women of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church –

Thank you for the generosity, love, and support you have shared with me during my educational endeavors. I am thankful to receive the \$500 scholarship for the 2026-2027 school year. I will do my best to continue performing well in my courses and giving time back to the community. It has been lovely to see everyone at SBPC a little more frequently during my time back in Houston. Thank you for all that you do.

-Caroline Bik

Deona Vakiari

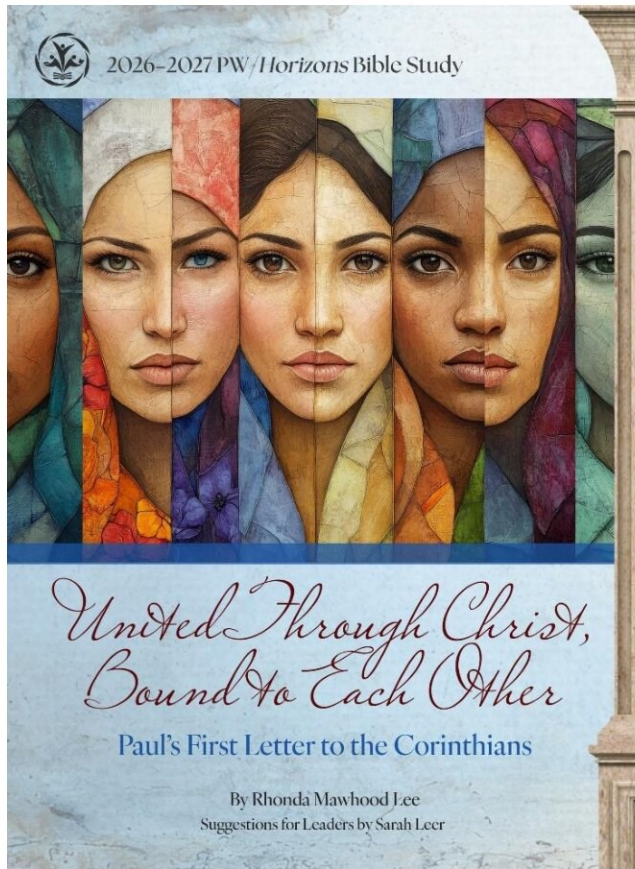
Dear Presbyterian Women of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. I am truly grateful for your generosity, support, and prayers as I continue my education. Your kindness and investment in my future will help me pursue my academic and career goals while easing the financial burden of college. It is encouraging to know that my church family believes in me and is willing to support my educational journey.

I am especially thankful for your prayers and for the love and encouragement SBPC has shown me throughout the years. I will continue to carry the values and faith that I have learned at SBPC with me wherever I go.

Thank you again for this blessing and for making a difference in my life. I am honored to receive this scholarship and deeply appreciate your support.

In Christ's love,
Deona Vakiari



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.**

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!

Stewarding Our Church Resources Well

As part of our SBPC family, we all share in the responsibility of caring for the resources God has provided. Every dollar given is a sacrifice from someone, and I truly want us to use those funds as wisely as possible.

If you're purchasing items for the church, please try to carry and use our tax-exempt form so we don't pay unnecessary sales tax. Those savings really do add up. If you don't have a copy, just reach out to me and I'll gladly get one to you.

Thank you for your help and cooperation. If you ever have questions about purchases or reimbursements, I'm always happy to help.

Blessings,
Jorida
SBPC Business Administrator



Summer Vacation Season has arrived! 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**



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 worshipping from home, but would still like to sponsor flowers for a Worship Service, you may sign up 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.

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

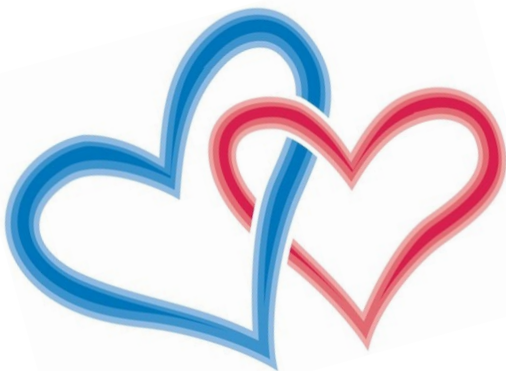


HAPPY BIRTHDAY







Luke Fuller	7/6	Alex Lopez	7/18
Tad Mizwa	7/6	Lisa Schultz	7/18
Maggie Wright	7/7	Lauren Tacchi	7/18
Don Tremble	7/10	Dr. Mark Turney	7/19
Miriam Vyles	7/10	Riley Fairchild	7/22
Kyle Eveler	7/11	Sandy Chehade	7/26
Jeannie Stockton	7/11	Luna Lassiter	7/26
Connor Fake	7/13	Gabe Perez	7/27
Liz Earnest	7/16	Bethany Balli-Caldera	7/29
William Lassiter	7/16	Margo Smith	7/29

Happy Anniversary!



Daniel and Sarah Powell	7/13
Mark and Jeanne Plunkett	7/30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Sunday School 10:50am - Worship	10:30am - Staff Meeting (P) 3pm - WOW (S) 6pm - PW Unwind 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 5:45pm - PM Sports Fellowship (CR) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 	7:30pm - Mission Team Meeting (Zoom) 9pm - Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4) 6pm - July 4th Dinner (FH) 6:30pm - Contemporary Service (GP) 	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	Church & Academy Closed	Independence Day 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @ 
8:30am - Blood Drive (FH) 9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Sunday School 10:50am - Worship 12pm - Monthly Birthday Celebration 	3pm - WOW (S) 5:30pm - Academy Board Meeting (CF) 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 6:30pm - Fellowship Meeting (CR)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 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 (CR)	8am - Presbyterian Men (CR) 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Sunday School 10:50am - Worship 12:15pm - Cong. Care Mtg. (CF)	PRESHNESS ARTICLES DUE 10am - The Gathering Place (FH) 10:30am - Staff Meeting (P) 3pm - WOW (S) 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP) 7pm - Faith Development Meeting (Zoom)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 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)	11am - Hot Meals 6pm - CENTI Church Service (GP) @
9:15am - Nursery 9:30am - Sunday School 10:50am - Worship	3pm - WOW (S) 7pm - Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 6pm - Basketball (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP)	10am - Flexercise (GP) 1pm - Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm - Fairbees (GP)	6pm - SBM Arc Meeting (CR)	1



Sponsored By:

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

relationships matter 

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



God bless
★ *America*