



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 Technicians: Ben Dethloff,
Trinity Nobles, Madeline Schulman
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

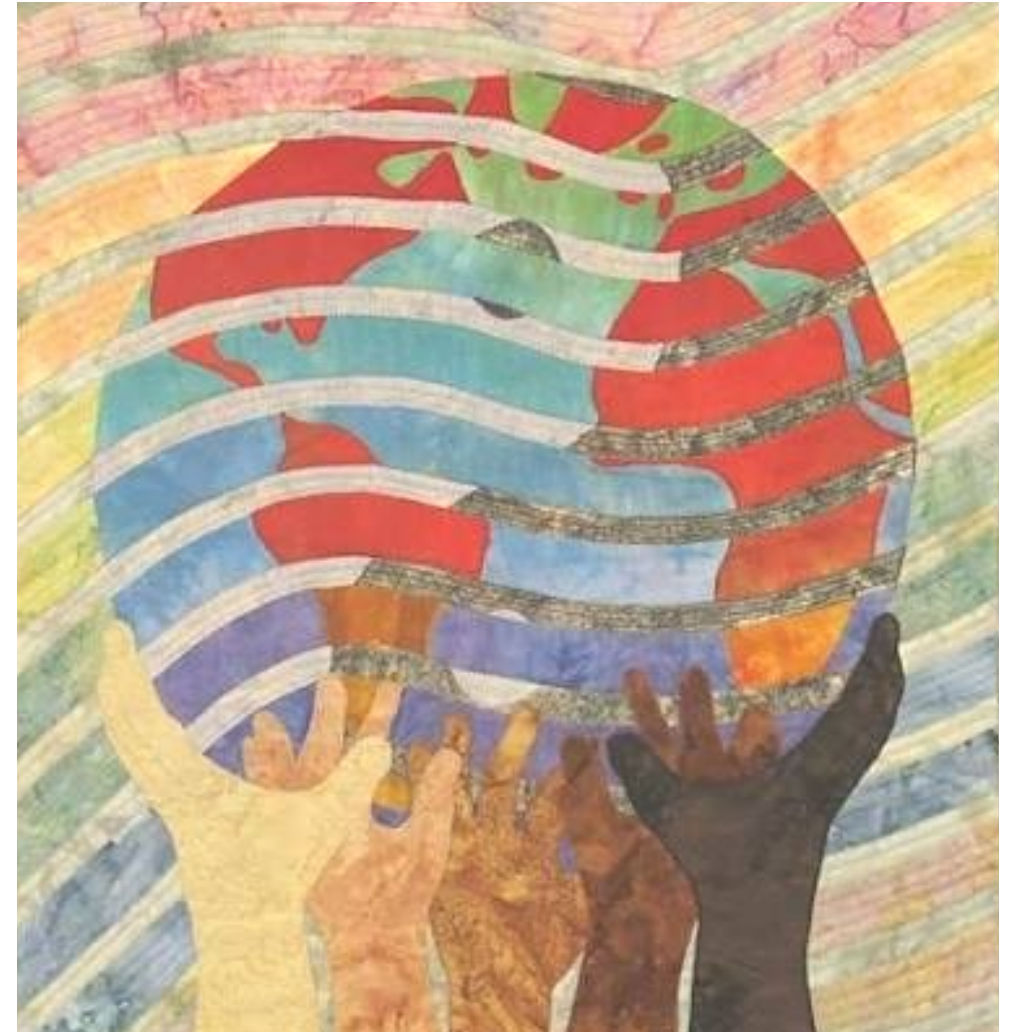
Lee Dudinsky
Lauren Tacchi

Victoria Kissinger
Todd Miller

Serving today in Worship:

Liturgist: Elizabeth Powell
Children's Moment: Pastor Mark
Usher Captain: Donald McDaniel
PowerPoint: Patty Blome

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website: www.springbranchpres.org
www.facebook.com/springbranchpres
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
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Houston, TX 77055
713-464-7659*



“The Slaughter of the Innocents”
October 4, 2026

October 4, 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 (from Luke 13:29)

Leader: People will come from east and west,

People: From north and south,

Leader: and will eat in the Kingdom of God.

People: Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table!

*HYMN

“O Sing to the Lord”

GTG, No. 637

Preparing for the Word

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Sin is our stumbling block. Repentance clears the way to hear and receive God’s truth. Let us confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we are indebted to you and your generosity. But we fail to live as good stewards of all you have given us. We confiscate and consume far more than our fair share. We neglect the poor and look away from those who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. Father God, liberate us from our spiritual and moral bondage. Free our world so that all your nations and all your children may thrive. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: ...The peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Calendar of Events

www.springbranchpres.org/church-calendar

October 4 — 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
- 10:30 am Called Session Meeting (P)
- 10:50 am Worship
- 12:00 pm PM Sports Fellowship (CR)
- 12:30 pm Girl Scout Planning Meeting* (GP)

October 5 — Monday

- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
- 6:00 pm PW Unwind: Original ChopShop!
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

October 6 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (Field)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)

October 7 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Moderators (CR)
- 10:15 am PW Board Meeting (CR)
- 5:45 pm WNS: Spaghetti & Meatballs!
- 6:30 pm Contemporary Worship Service (GP)
- 7:30 pm Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)

October 8 — Thursday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 1:00 pm Pastor Mark’s Bible Study (Zoom)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (Field)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

October 9 — Friday

- 6:00 pm SBM Arc Meeting* (CR)
- 6:00 pm CENTI Church Service* (GP)

October 10 — Saturday

October 11 — Sunday

- 9:15 am Church Nursery
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Choir Practice
- 10:50 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Monthly Birthday Celebration
- 12:30 pm Girl Scout Planning Meeting* (GP)
- 2:00 pm Youth: Top Golf
- 4:00 pm Cub Scouts: AOL (GP & Scout Hut)
- 4:00 pm Cub Scouts: Tiger Cub (GP 1 & 2)

October 12 — Monday

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (P)
- 3:30 pm WOW (S)
- 5:30 pm Academy Board Meeting (CR)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Volleyball* (GP)
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

October 13 — Tuesday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (Field)
- 6:00 pm Basketball (GP)
- 6:15 pm Cub Scouts: Bear (GP 1 & 2)
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Meeting (CR)
- 7:00 pm Horizon’s Bible Study on Zoom

October 14 — Wednesday

- 9:30 am PW Circle (CR)
- 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (GP 1, 2, 3, 4)
- 5:45 pm WNS: Pulled Pork Sandwiches!
- 6:30 pm Contemporary Worship Service (GP)

October 15 — Thursday

- 10:00 am Flexercise (GP)
- 1:00 pm Pastor Mark’s Bible Study (Zoom)
- 5:30 pm Special Olympics: Bocce* (Field)
- 6:00 pm Fairbees Square Dance* (GP)

October 16 — Friday

- 5:30 pm Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)

October 17 — Saturday

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



Announcements & Events:

The Flowers for this morning are given by Caroline Bik, to the Glory of God, and are in honor of Nina Rach and Marc Bik’s 32nd Wedding Anniversary.

The World Communion Sunday Offering will be collected today. A gift to this offering works to ensure all God’s people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. By giving to the World Communion Sunday Offering, we work to share Christ’s peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community, and across boundaries.

We are offering a new opportunity for fellowship and friendship among all the Men of the Church, featuring sports watch parties. Join us for the Texans Game TODAY, Sunday, October 4th, at 12:00 PM! The game will be shown on the TV in the Conference Room. Feel free to bring snacks and nonalcoholic beverages of your choice. It will be come and go, so don’t feel obligated to stay the whole time. We hope to see you there!

The Unwind Group will meet for dinner at the Original ChopShop (10100 Katy Freeway) tomorrow, Monday, October 5th, at 6:00 PM. The restaurant is at the base of the MetroNational office tower near Gessner Road. Please RSVP, only if you plan to attend, to Jacquie Ballesteros at 713-305-1114.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper this Wednesday, October 7th, at 5:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall! Nina Rach is making Spaghetti & Meatballs. Please email Kay Craig at kay@craig-heidt.com to place your dinner order. We hope to see you there!

Cub Scout Pack 552 Christmas Greenery Sale — Get ready for Christmas while supporting Cub Scout Pack 552! Our church-sponsored Cub Scouts are selling beautiful, fresh Christmas greenery that will be delivered in early December — just in time for the holiday season! The fresh greenery smells wonderful and adds a festive Christmas touch to any room. Scouts will be available before and after Worship on **October 4th, 11th, and 25th, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM** to take your order. Thank you for supporting Pack 552. We hope to see you there!

October Birthday Celebration — Linger after Worship on Sunday, October 11th, to celebrate those in our Congregation who have birthdays in October. This is an opportunity to partake of light refreshments, as well as visit and enjoy each other’s company. See you then!

The PW Day Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 14th, 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 13th, 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/united-through-christ-bound-to-each-other.

The Academy is hosting a Spooktacular Trunk or Treat in the parking lot on Friday, October 16th, 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 12th.

*GLORIA “To God Be the Glory” GTG, No. 634

God’s People Are Empowered

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Pastor Mark

ANTHEM “The One” Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison) Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 14:1-31 Red Pew Bible OT 60

SERMON “The Slaughter of the Innocents” Rev. Mark Plunkett

Responding to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM Anna Kelly Casero

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” (v. 1, 3, 5) GTG, No. 523

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles’ Creed) Spoken in different languages.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

GTG, No. 609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(unison)*
Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in liberating the poor, feeding the hungry, and clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ’s mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER
The Invitation
The Words of Institution
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Serving of the Elements
Prayer After Receiving

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** *“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”* GTG, No. 526

*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 7th 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.