



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press March 2026 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org

Table of Contents

Family News and
Current Events:
pages 2 and 4

Pastor's Page
Page 3

Volunteers Needed
Page 5

Stephen Ministry
Page 6

Missions
Page 7, 8, and 9

Stewardship and
Session
Page 10

Trip to Scotland
Information page
Page 11

Things to Do
Page 12

Easter at Pines

Palm Sunday and Cantata—
March 29 at 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday—
April 2 at 6:30 pm

Good Friday—
April 3 at 6:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt—
April 4 at 10 am in Bendwood Park
See page 2 for more details

Easter Sunday—April 5
Sunrise Worship Service
6:30 am in Bendwood Park
Worship Service 10:45 am
in Pines Sanctuary



Pines Family News & Current Events

The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. On Fridays, the office staff work from home. If you need assistance Fridays, call Cindy at 832-489-5989.

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch in March...

Please be sure to mark your calendars to come have lunch at Café Express with the group after church!!

Calling all Families to join us!

+Easter in the Park Egg Hunt

Easter Eggs, Crafts, & Ice Pops

Saturday, April 4th
10:00 A.M.
Bendwood Park



Wondering how to order flowers for the Sanctuary or Narthex?

Cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We offer the option to give to a benevolence or to order a live arrangement.

Please email: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldredto sign up.



BINGO...

March 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us to celebrate the New Year with dinner and a fun game of Bingo. Bring your friends and family. Be sure to let Linda Aldred know you are coming so she can have plenty of food ready!

Want to learn to play Mahjong, or are you already a seasoned player? Suzy Wolfe has begun a Mahjong group in the café, the 2nd Thursday of each month, near the receptionist desk at 7pm. The next night is March 12th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.



Pastor's Page

Greetings in Jesus' name,

This Lenten season we have been reflecting on our faith in Jesus the Christ, and what the cross of Easter means in our lives. As we enter March, we draw ever closer to Holy Week, a week that calls us to a time of intensive reflection on the meaning and impact of the cross. Holy Week is a very interesting time in the life of the church, and the faithful. We start the week with the excitement of Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our excitement is quickly dashed as we enter the somberness of the Last Supper and His arrest on Maundy Thursday. We then experience the defeat of Good Friday and the crucifixion. Our defeat is then lifted as we celebrate the empty tomb and the freedom Easter offers us all.

Holy Week carries with it a lot of emotion, and/or passion. In fact, Jesus' suffering is also known as Christ's Passion, or the Passion of the Christ. Many say his suffering was his passion for us, "that he died for us." Author Robin Myers, in his book *Saving Jesus from the Church*, gives us a different insight to what Jesus' passion really may have been. Myers says, "We are accustomed to hearing the death of Jesus and events leading up to it as his "passion," and we assume this refers only to suffering. But it is more accurate to say that his passion had to do with the revelation of God that consumed him. Justice was his passion. Healing was his passion. Gathering up the last, the least, and the lost and helping them stand up straight in a world that kept them permanently bent over was his passion."

After reading this I thought, "if this was Jesus' passion then shouldn't it be mine?!" How and where can I be more passionate? In these final four weeks of Lent, I invite you to join me in personally examining how I/you/we/us can be more passionate about our faith in Christ and in turn more passionate about God's people. What does being more passionate about our faith and God's people look like for us? I think it will be different for each person, because I think God speaks differently to each one of us. The key will be listening for God's voice and the Holy Spirits movement to show us how and where we can be more passionate. As we journey to the cross of Easter, and the gift that represents, let's reflect on our faith and remember to be faithful to Jesus' passion and think about what our passion will be in the light of Jesus' life and the eternal gift of Easter.

Let's be passionate,



Andy

In the event that the doors are not open for your group, please leave a note on the door to ask group members to call your cell phone for entry. Every group leader should have an entry card to come into the building. If you do not, please contact Cindy in the church office to assist with getting one for you. Propping the doors open not only wastes electricity but also is a danger to those in the building in case of intruders. Please treat your church as your home.
And please, NEVER prop open the doors at any time! Thank you, your Property Committee

Corny joke of the month...

What do you call dental x-rays? *Toothpics!*



If you haven't already, be sure to list Pines on your **Randalls or Kroger cards**. There is no cost to you and they donate a percentage of the sale to the church. What an easy way to give back to Pines. Thank you!

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 x110 to get on the list. If you would prefer to send an email for prayer, you may send it to Bethel at prayer@pinespc.org. Cindy can also help you sign up to receive our monthly newsletter "The Pines Press" or our weekly publication "This Week at Pines". So give us a call, we would love to get you connected to what is happening at Pines!



The Congregational Fellowship Committee has planned two fun fellowship opportunities for March and April. We hope you can join us --come with your family or invite a friend to join you. See you at these two important Holy Week Events!

#1: **Sunday March 29th:** Palm Sunday Potluck Lunch---Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall right after the morning worship service. Sign-up sheet will be in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

#2: **Sunday, April 5th:** Easter Sunday Coffee Fellowship in the Narthex ---fruit, mini-muffins, cookies, juice, and coffee available right after the Sunrise Service and before our regular Easter Sunday Worship.




Don't forget to spring forward on March 8th. The time changes that day and you do not want to miss church!



The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We have a couple of volunteers currently, but we **need** more and we also want to create a list of substitutes. No experience necessary. We will train you. Bring a book or something to work on while sitting at the front desk. Hours are 9 to 2. If you can help, please give Cindy a call at 713-467-2234 x110.

Do you have a high school or college student graduating this year? If so, please contact the office so we can recognize your graduate in May! We will need a short bio on your student and a picture. Questions, call Cindy in the church office 713-467-2234 x110

Contact Us

Sanctuary flowers: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred

Make a donation: Alexis Graham at alexis@pinespc.org or donate on our website at pinespc.org

Add a name to the prayer list: Bethel Strawser at prayer@pinespc.org

Request a bulletin announcement: Laurie Conner at laurie@pinespc.org

Request a newsletter announcement: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Request an announcement for This Week at Pines: Dan Schafer at communication@pinespc.org

Update contact info in our database: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Plan a wedding: Linda Aldred

Add something to our calendar: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Question about our kitchen: Ann Guerra

Question on the Preschool: Connie Pike at connie@pinespc.org

Anything else? Just give the office a call at 713-467-2234 x110



Stephen Ministry 50 Years Strong

The Stephen Ministries 50th Anniversary Celebration was held at St. John the Divine in January. (Pines Stephen Ministry is 30 years strong.)

One session focused on the leaders of the conference **encouraging the use of Stephen Minister training materials with other church members to Build a More Caring World.** They have a vision of using the church to spread the tenets of Stephen Ministry. Why use the church?

Because: Churches are **everywhere**; Caring for others involves the **whole of the inner person**; The Church has a **rich history of solving significant social problems**; Caring for others **fits with the Church's strengths and aligns with the Church's mission.**

Among the many steps they presented to achieve this goal, they expressed focusing on **"Life Skills:"**

Active listening empathy assertiveness anger management
affirmation and gratitude conflict resolution handling social pressure
maintaining boundaries emotional regulation resilience

Life Skills can be taught and learned by any group. They cited examples of Stephen Ministers sharing these Life Skills in a wide range of settings from corporate workplaces to prisons. The benefits of teaching life skills: more **caring people**, more **authentic relationships**, **spiritually fed people**, **improved lives.**

As we are led to do our part to answer the call to join the **movement to Build a More Caring World**, let us know if you would like to join us in our discernment as we gather people to enhance their abilities to care for others in need. Our goal is *not* to train new Stephen Minister but to share some of the basic teachings involved in Stephen Ministry with others to better equip people to effectively care for others.

If you are interested in learning more about this effort or have an interest in individual support via working with a Stephen Minister, please reach out to Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz.

**Palm Sunday
Potluck!**

**Come for food, fun and
fellowship after worship
on Palm Sunday - March 29**

**Sign Up
To Bring
A Dish!**

**Fellowship
Hall**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST
PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!**

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact (for phone numbers contact Church Office)
The Restoration Team	Assist with storm recovery efforts and other community assistance	Ongoing	TBD	www.therestorationteam.org
Taco and A Prayer	Make tacos/share prayers with neighbors	1 st Fridays-(anytime between 6:30-7:30am)	Pines	Margaret Schafer:
Sherwood Elementary	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20-30 lb. bags)	Fall/Spring	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles:
	Reading Buddies (½ hr once per week)	2026-27 school year	Sherwood	Dave Coles, Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team (seasonal)	Jan 2027	Sherwood	Cindy Coles:
	Sherwood Christmas (assistance with organizing event)	November 2026	Pines	Beth Patterson:
Montrose Street Reach	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening	Pines to Montrose location	Kathy Ropshaw
Church Office	Answer phones; office help	1 day/week	Pines	Cindy Houlihan: cindy@pinespc.org
Youth Hand on Hand Apartment Outreach	Assist with preparing food and other activities	Monthly	Pines/nearby apt. complex	Ron Langston

Pines Monthly Agape Offering

What is the AGAPE Offering? *The Greek word Agape (ag-ah-pay) is used in the New Testament to refer to a kind of love that is not necessarily a feeling but a motivation for action, a sacrificial love that voluntarily gives without expecting anything in return. We are called to Agape love through Christ's example.*

To bring greater awareness of and participation in Pines' "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Offering** of small, tangible goods or financial donations are scheduled each month. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting items to donate and bring to the donation bin. Watch the monthly fliers in the bulletin, newsletter, and This Week at Pines email for more information.

Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ!

Thank you! Your Pines Missions Committee



MARCH AGAPE

ITEMS NEEDED

Small Dish Soap (24oz max)

Single Roll Paper Towels

Toilet Paper 4-Roll Packs

**Laundry Detergent Pods
(60 pod bag max)**

Large Tote Bags

Bar Soap

Household Cleaner Spray (32oz max)

Tall Kitchen Trash Bags (20 bag max)

Small Box Tissues



DONATIONS

DROP OFF

OUTSIDE FELLOWSHIP HALL



FINANCIAL GIFTS

PLACE CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE,
BRING IT TO THE OFFICE,
OR DONATE ONLINE OR ZELLE
(NOTE "MAM AGAPE" IN SUBJECT LINE)

URGENT NEED: DIAPERS (SIZES 4&6)

PINESPC.ORG 



Our Impact

The Restoration Team has been on the grounds engaging with our church partners in repairing families homes and lives since 2017. We have big goals moving forward. There are still thousands of families displaced and living in unsafe living conditions. Since our inception we have placed thousands of volunteers across Houston to help with the solution, impacted hundreds of our neighbors. www.therestorationteam.org

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. [Join us for our next TAAP on March 6th!](#)
For more information contact Margaret Schafer or the church office.

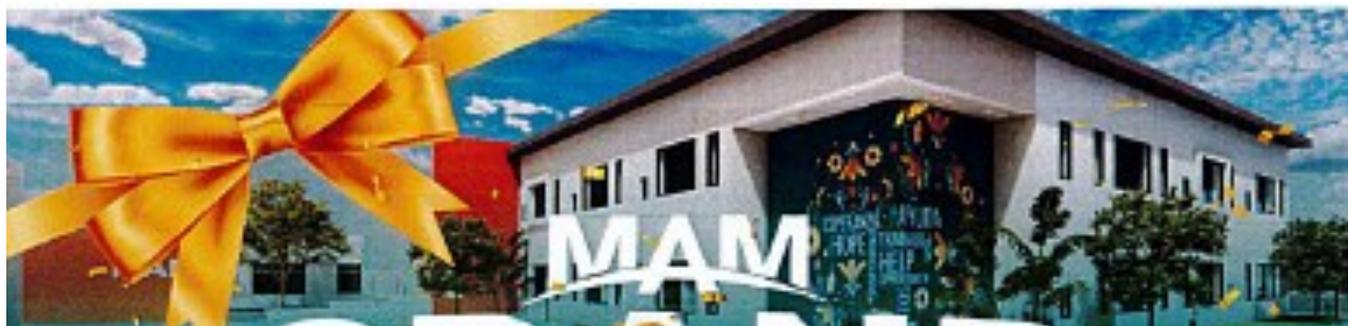


and a



Movin' to Memphis!

All Pines youth and college age young adults are invited to participate in our mission trip to Memphis, Tennessee this summer. We leave on June 27th and return on July 3rd, 2026. The mission trip will be with Praying Pelican Missions. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ron Langston or the church office.



MAM
**GRAND
OPENING**

HAMILL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER

★ Join Us for **THREE DAYS** of ★

Celebration, Connection & Community

March 18-20

PRIZES!

MUSIC!

— *What's Happening:* —

Resources & Job Fair Health & Wellness Services
Workshops & Activities Vendors & Pop-Up Shops

FOOD!

GIVEAWAYS!

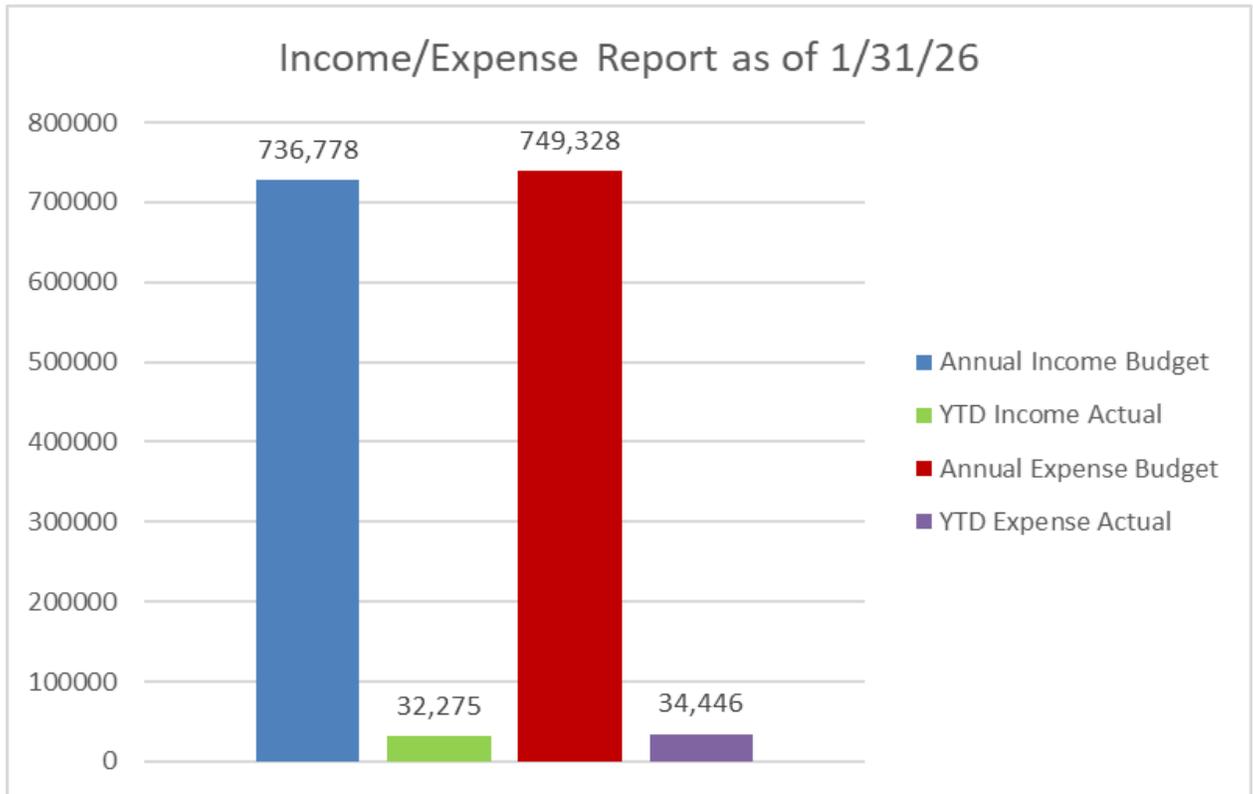
FUN!

Scan for Updates
& Daily Schedules



More info at MAMHouston.org/go-hamill

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Pledge receipts were \$23,751, non-pledge receipts were \$3,651, both contributing to a Total Income for January of \$32,275 which is 4% of the Total Income budget for the 2026 year.
2. Total expenses were \$34,446, 5% of the Total Expense budget for the 2026 year. Property expenses are net of an \$11,240 additional contribution from the Preschool to support 2025's air conditioning repair costs.
3. Net Income for January, 2026 was a deficit of \$2,171.
4. The 2026 budget was adopted by the Session on February 5 and reported to the congregation at the annual meeting on February 22.

Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on February 23, 2026. Here are some highlights:

- Reflected on a passage from Genesis 12 and prayed for the congregation and its ministries.
- Discussed the upcoming Session and Staff Retreat, which will focus on the work of the Discernment Team.
- Approved on second and final reading a new Facilities Use agreement and fee schedule for outside groups.
- Heard a report from the Trustees on amendments to the Bylaws of the Corporation.
- Approved development of a grant proposal for funds to improve security measures for the campus.
- Elected Commissioners to the meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant on March 28, 2026.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer - Clerk of Session

CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRAVEL SERVICES LIMITED

Footsteps of Faith Through Scotland and the Reformation

11 Days: September 1-11, 2026

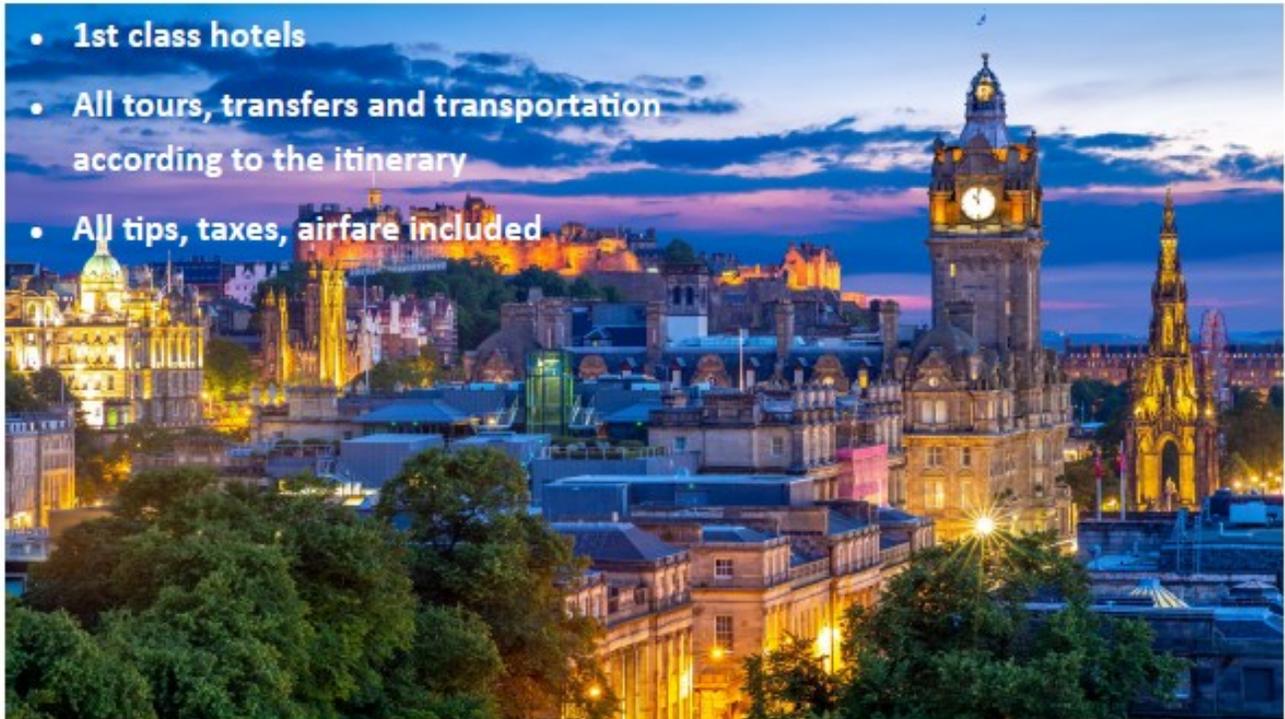
Visiting

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



Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: March 20th (for the April 2026 issue)

Looking for *Things To Do...*

Have you ever been to the

The Menil Museum?

Set within a residential neighborhood, the Menil Collection invites visitors to explore its art buildings and green spaces. Admission is always free.

The Menil Collection, a public art museum located in the heart of Houston, welcomes visitors to explore a campus of art buildings and green spaces set within a residential neighborhood.

Guided by founders John and Dominique de Menil's belief that art is essential to the human experience, the museum is always free and open to all. In the Menil's intimately scaled, naturally lit galleries, visitors are invited to unplug and engage with the works on view.

MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesday–Sunday

11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Always free.



Upcoming Celebrations or Holidays:

Daylight Saving's Time March 8
School Spring Break March 9 through 13
St. Patrick's Day March 17