



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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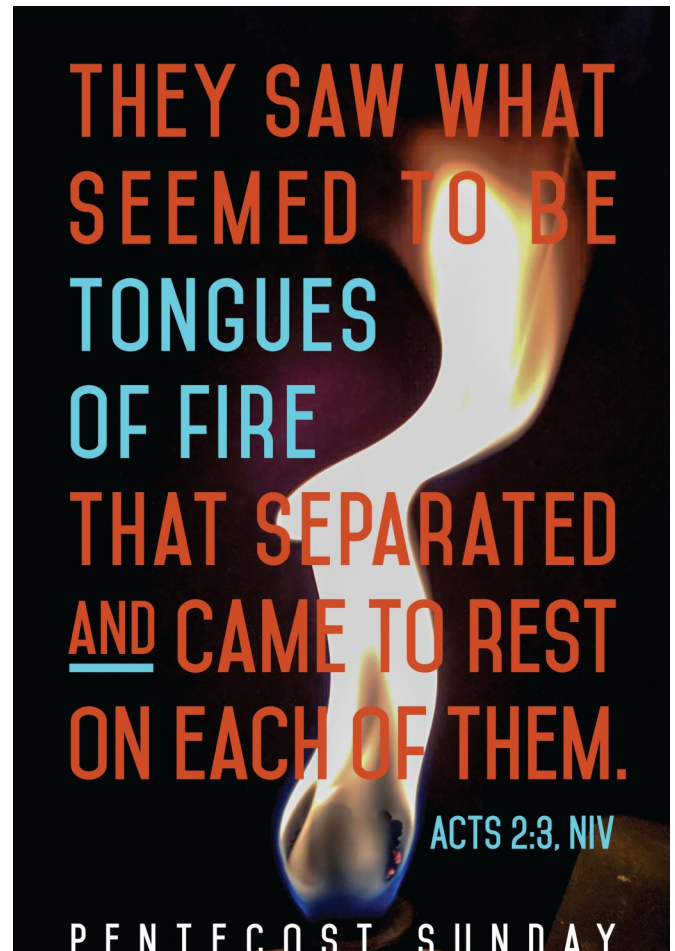
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**Join us for
Pentecost
Sunday
on May
24th at
10:45 am!**



What does Pentecost mean to us?

Biblical and Spiritual Significance

Pentecost, celebrated 50 days after Easter, commemorates the event described in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers in Jerusalem, appearing as tongues of fire and enabling them to speak in different languages, allowing the gospel to be heard by people from diverse nations (Acts 2:1-4). This event fulfilled Jesus' promise that the Spirit would guide, teach, and comfort His disciples (John 14:16, 26; Luke 24:49). It represents the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in believers, empowering them to live faithfully and boldly proclaim God's message.

Pines Family News & Current Events



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 Aldred to sign up.

Corny jokes of the month...

Why do people who live in Greece hate waking up at dawn?

Because Dawn's tough on grease!



What did Cinderella say when her photo copier broke?

Some day my prints will come! Ha! Ha! Ha!



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 May 14th. If you would be interested, please email or call Suzy.



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 on Fridays, call Cindy at 832-489-5989.



BINGO...

May 21, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Come join us for 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!

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!

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 about our Preschool: Connie Pike at connie@pinespc.org

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

Contact Us

Pastor's Page

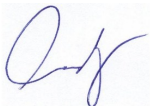
Grace & Peace to my Pines Family,

Have you noticed the excitement taking place all around church lately? As always, the Spirit is at work in and around us here at Pines. You could definitely feel the Spirit during the wonderful Easter and Holy Week services and activities last month that filled our hearts with unending joy. This month the Spirit will be on fire, so to speak, as we celebrate Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to be our constant companion, guiding us, renewing us and enlivening us as we journey through life and faith in Him. It is this Spirit that reminds us of the joy and confidence we all have been given to boldly, and courageously, live out God's desires for our lives.

When the Spirit was given to those gathered on Pentecost, they not only could understand the languages of others gathered; but they praised God and had good will for all people. And day by day they added to their numbers. I feel this is exactly where Pines is right now. We are at a Pentecost moment welcoming the Spirit's movement and guidance as we enter into the hard work of The Isaiah Project. All of us, and soon the community, will be invited to small group listening sessions that will allow us to hear and share with each other our thoughts about what God is doing at Pines, and what God and the Holy Spirit might be calling us to do and be in the future. The Isaiah Project team will soon be reaching out via emails, newsletters and bulletins to help you get signed up. The Team will offer many opportunities for you to take part, including sessions with committees, small groups, classes and open groups. Your voice is important so please make sure you participate in one of these listening groups.

I'm eager to hear what we learn from these sessions and the survey we sent out this past month. I believe it will be through these discussions that we will hear where and what God is calling Pines to be and do for the coming decades. I'm sure those gathered at Pentecost centuries ago were a little worried about what was happening, and I'm sure there will be some who might be a little anxious about what the Spirit is doing with us. But I am confident that just as at Pentecost centuries ago, the Spirit will enliven us, guide us, and give us the power and energy to do amazing things. Amazing things that will cause people to want to know more about the love our Lord has for them and the world, so that Pines is known as that church that's filled with God's love and Spirit!

May we all be Spirit filled!



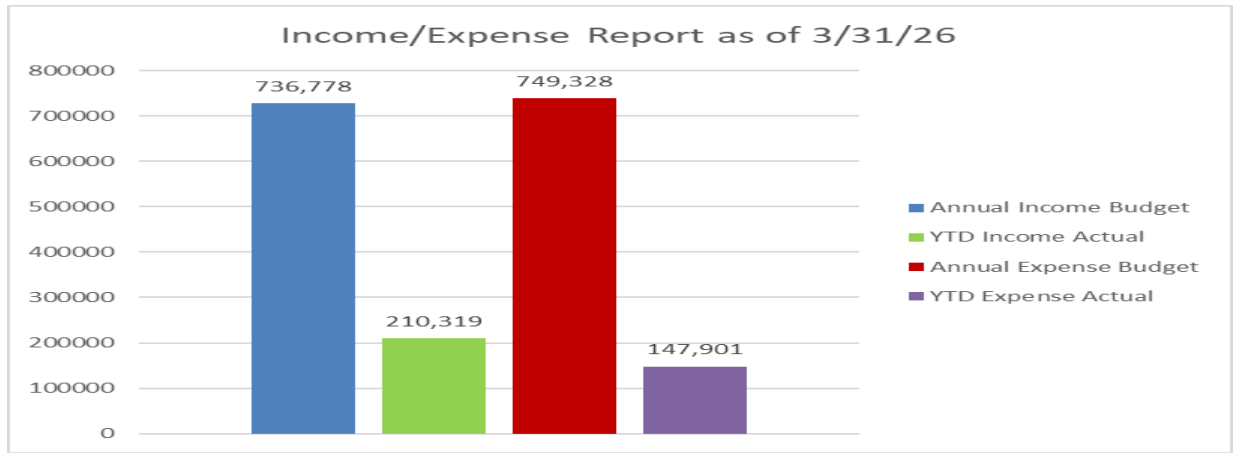
Andy



The church office will be closed on May 25th for the Memorial Day holiday.

This Memorial Day, we remember with deep gratitude the brave men and women who gave their lives so that we might enjoy freedom and liberty.

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total income received through March 31 was \$210,319 (29% of budget.) Pledge income was \$180,786, ahead of expected budget, and unpledged income was \$18,882, slightly below expected budget. Interest income was \$4,201, also ahead of budget.
2. Overall expenses were at \$147,901 (20% of target) which is slightly below expectation. CE, Mission, Worship, Property, and Staff committees were all underspent through March. Property expenses are favorable due to higher property income from the Preschool.
3. Net income through February was a positive \$62,418.

DID YOU KNOW?

For those who are age 72 and older, Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts can be directed, in part or in full, as qualified charitable distributions to support the church or meet your pledge commitment, potentially reducing taxable income while fulfilling the required obligation to take distributions from your retirement account. If you have questions, speak to your financial advisor or retirement account manager.

Session

Here are some highlights from the Session this month:

- Elders prayed for the church and its missions, and gave thanks for the recent Easter worship and fellowship events.
- Received Ron Cowell and Jane Moomaw, Tyler (Ty) and Andrew (Drew) Doyle, Dr. Bill Franklin, Chibuzo (Chi) Olumba, Nancy Ridgway, Blair Robinson and John Robinson as members. These new members will be presented to the congregation during worship on May 10.
- Approved the baptism of Drew Doyle on May 10 during worship.
- Approved Rev. Shawn Kang to lead worship and preach on May 31, 2026.
- Heard a positive report from the Stewardship Committee.
- Received an update on current and upcoming activities from The Isaiah Project.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer, Clerk



make kindness the norm.♥

randomactsofkindness.org

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION™



Make kindness the norm. What an incredible idea! What an incredible message!

A friend started sending me the daily message from the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation and that is their motto. I look forward to it every morning. I smile as I share screenshots with friends. Imagine if we all just sprinkled smiles around?

Mr. Rogers always asked, “Won’t you be my neighbor?” That was another thing that always made me smile. Why not be a “Good Neighbor?” State Farm has the right idea! (🎵 Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there!! 🎵)

Spread kindness! Share a smile! You never know who needs it. We never know what the other person is going through.

If you need someone to help you get your smile back, Stephen Ministers are here for you. Reach out to Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz.

**EXPRESSING LOVE
REDUCES STRESS
AND ELEVATES
OUR MOODS.**



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION™
randomactsofkindness.org



Join Us for
Graduation
on
May 5th!

RUF needs help at their upcoming May 5th graduation luncheon and would welcome your helping hands! Please use the contact information below for the different areas and times where they need your assistance at this event. As always, they so appreciate you!

If you can help, please contact:

kate@raiseupfamilies.org

Or go to
<https://app.giveeffect.com/campaigns/37388-volunteer-for-raiseup-families-fy25graduation-celebration>

**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
Sherwood Elementary	Reading Buddies (½ hr. once per week)	2026-27 school year	Sherwood	Dave Coles
Sherwood Elementary	Bulletin Board Team (seasonal)	Jan 2027	Sherwood	Cindy Coles
Sherwood Elementary	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

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 May 8th!
For more information contact Margaret Schafer or the church office.



May Agape Offering

Donate New or Gently Used Children's Books Infant - 5th Grade

NO BOOKS? Scan to use the Amazon Wish List. Note "PINES" and your name in the memo line.

Questions? Ask Ann Guerra or email ann@booksbetweenkids.org



Books Between Kids serves Houston's at-risk children by providing them with books to build their own home libraries.

DROP OFF
IN THE MISSIONS BIN

OR
PLACE A CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE, BRING IT TO THE OFFICE OR GIVE ONLINE ON ZELLE OR AT PINESPC.ORG
(NOTE: "BOOKS BETWEEN KIDS")

PINESPC.ORG | 12751 Kimberley Ln | 713-467-2234

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!

A Message from the Isaiah Project team...

Dear Pines family of faith,

Last month, we updated you about The Isaiah Project, led by an eight-person team that has begun to work toward helping Pines discern God's call for our future.

This is an effort that includes all of us, not only the Pines membership but also Pines Preschool and immediate stakeholders, the west Houston community and many others that Pines touches. The next stage begins now, with a short survey that we ask all respondents to think and pray deeply about so it can serve as an important initial tool.

The survey asks for some standard demographic information before plunging into important outward-focused questions about Pines, both its present and God's plan for its future. All answers to the survey will be confidential to team members unless respondents choose otherwise.

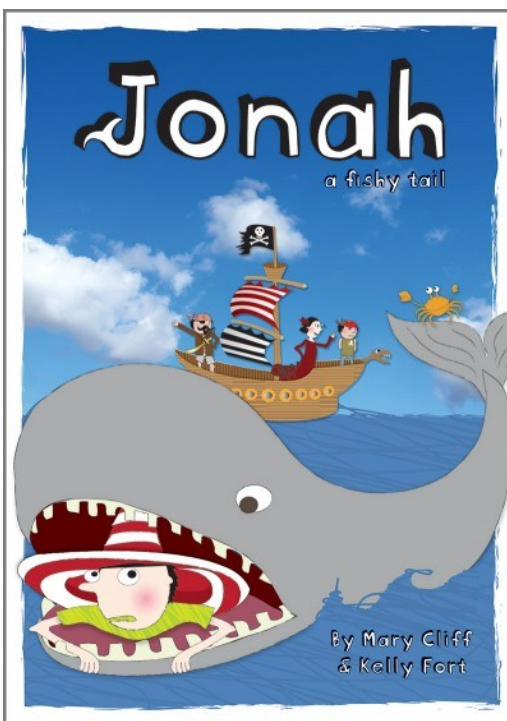
We strongly encourage you to participate in the survey. To access the survey, please go to the website at www.pinespc.org/survey and follow the prompts. We ask that everyone in your household complete the survey by May 3rd. There are also paper copies in the narthex.

For the next step, we will hold small congregational listening sessions to hear your hopes and dreams for the next chapter of life at Pines. Those will start in May, and we want everyone to have an opportunity to attend one over the course of the next several weeks.

Information about small group sign-ups will be communicated through the bulletin, *This Week at Pines* and in a direct email to all of our members. Please keep an eye out to learn how you can sign up for one of these very important listening sessions.

With prayer and thanksgiving,
The Isaiah Project team

Mark Babineck, Terrie Cardwell, Andy Gans, Linda Johnson, Mike Lade, Beth Patterson, Dan Schafer, and Phil Wetz



Music Theater Camp registration is open! "Jonah: A Fishy Tail" will take place at Pines from July 13-July 17, 8:30am-12:30 pm, with the final play on Sunday, July 19, during 10:45am worship. Children must have completed first grade to register. Use the QR code below to access the registration page. It's a whale of a tale and will be a swimmingly good time for all!





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.

Have a few hours to volunteer? There are plenty of things that are needed in the church office. We need help keeping copies made, the office supply room organized, our keys for the building need help, and a variety of other things need action. If you have a few extra hours any day Monday through Thursday 9am to 4pm, please feel free to pop in. Cindy will walk you through where help is needed!

Have you ever thought of volunteering to teach Sunday School? There is always a need to teach, substitute, or give the regular teachers a break in the summer. If interested, talk to Shirley Bollich. **Do you bake?** Get on Shirley's list to bake cookies for various events; memorials services, luncheons, the homebound, or perhaps just someone who needs a lift. **Ever thought of ushering at church on Sunday morning?** It is easy to learn and Chris Wolfe will be glad to walk you through how. Just find him at church on Sunday morning.

The Isaiah Project Wants to Talk With You!

Following the church-wide survey, the next phase of the Isaiah Project is listening sessions, where small groups meet for an hour with a project team member to discuss our hopes and dreams for the next chapter of Pines. We want everyone to have an opportunity to attend over the course of the next several weeks. Use the QR code to register for a session, or sign up at church on Sunday!



ENVELOPE FUND RAISER FOR YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT 2026 MISSION TRIP TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Please help support Pines youth and young adults as they “go forth” on their mission trip to serve God on construction projects and with homeless ministries this summer in Memphis. We are asking for your prayers and financial support for our trip. Beginning on May 17th, there will be 100 donation envelopes attached to a divider in the Pines Narthex which will be available for making donations for the trip.

The envelopes will be numbered 1 through 100. To make a donation, put the number of dollars noted on the envelope into the envelope and place the envelope in the offering plate or turn it in at the front office by June 1st. For example, if you take an envelope labeled with the number 50, you'd place \$50 or a check for \$50 into the envelope. For tax purposes, please also include your contact information in the envelope if you are donating with cash.

If all 100 envelopes can be claimed by our congregation and returned, we will raise \$5050 for youth/young adult missions! It is awesome to allow children to make their own donations and if you have the means, it will be greatly appreciated if you could donate with more than one envelope! If you have any questions please contact Ron Langston.

Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: May 22 (for the June 2026 issue)