



# PINES

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2020

*Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward...*

## Looking for a place to join in???

### **Sunday:**

**10:45 AM Worship**-join us in person or online at our website or Facebook page!

**Hop on Zoom Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM for Adult Sunday School** where we are currently watching and discussing Nooma videos. These videos feature Rob Bell exploring how our spiritual life and daily life intersect.

**Wine and the Word...Virtually:** Join us for Wine and the Word from the comforts of your own home this Sunday from 5 PM to 6:30 PM via Zoom video conferencing. We will share stories, reconnect and share some thought around a single word that impacts our faith journey. To join the conversation, click this link <https://zoom.us/j/274164273> and follow the prompts to join the video conference. We look forward to seeing you!

**Monday: Are you on the Pines Prayer List?** Give Genny a call in the church office to join your friends from Pines as we all pray together for our church, our church family, our community and the world. What a great way to begin your week!

**Tuesday: Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study:** This is the best Bible study ever because you can take part in your p.j.'s, you can still be in bed, you can even be at your own kitchen table. The men's morning study will be gathering by Zoom video conference each Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM to discuss the upcoming Sunday's scripture. To take part in this lively and informative study please click the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89529207518> or call 346-248-7799 and enter 895-2920-7518 when prompted for a meeting ID. You will enter a "waiting room" as you await joining the meeting. Please make sure you enter your full name so it appears on the screen.

**Wednesday: Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** Join us on Zoom each Wednesday from 11:00 A.M. to 12 noon as we dig into and discuss this week's lectionary text. See page 4 for more details.

**Thursday: Time for Evening Prayer:** Join fellow Pines family members as we gather for an evening Vespers Service each Thursday from 5:00-5:30 P.M. via Zoom. See page 4 for more details.

**Friday: If you missed it on Wednesday,** grab your family and begin a new tradition as you tune in to hear Tim Holder bring you songs of encouragement on our Facebook or Website pages.

**Saturday: a great day to relax** with your family, play games, pray together or volunteer somewhere together! Call your church friends and stay in touch. Or visit those seniors that are quarantined at home. You can sing to them from afar or make signs to cheer them up!

**Any day of the week you can be a part of your Pines Ministry...  
JOIN IN!**

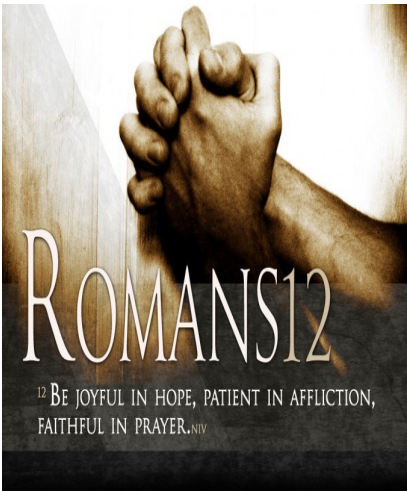
# Pines Family News

If the church staff can help you in any way, please call the office at 713-467-2234. Even though we are not gathering in our normal way for Worship at the moment, we are still at work in the office and here for you!



## The Priemer Babies are Home!

Dustin and I are excited to announce that after 112 days Mary Alice and Daniel finally came home from the hospital on Monday, June 8! We are a little tired but beyond thrilled to have everyone home and together.



Thank you Pines family for your love encouragement and prayers for me and my family during this time. Your love has comforted and carried us. We are grateful.

Sincerely,  
Robin, Jim, Moorea and Gillian Brady

Please keep the family of Jo Frazee in your prayers. Jo passed away on June 19th. She joined Pines in 1993. No service has been planned at this time, but we will keep you updated when plans have been made.

**REMINDER:** Please, if you move to a new address, change your phone number or your email address, please call or email the church office so that we can update our files. Thank you!

Please mark your calendars with  
the **NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:**  
July 24 (for August 2020 issue)

# Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you,

I find it hard to believe that it has been three months since the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus shut everything down. I feel in some ways it was just yesterday that we stopped in person gatherings, but in many more ways it feels like an eternity ago. As we celebrate our country's independence this month, I think about how this virus has taken much of our independence away. I am extremely saddened when I speak with our members who are on lockdown isolation in their senior living facilities. I hear stories of loneliness and boredom, and the deep desire just to see people. I worry about members who are separated because of health issues. I can't imagine not being able to see or be with my ailing family member during their greatest time of need. There are so many stories of families and dear friends not being able to see or touch each other that it breaks my heart, and I wonder where is God?

I know this is probably not the first time many of us have wondered where God is in the midst of difficult times, but this time seems different. This virus has caused so much stress, strife and death for so long that we just can't fathom that it could go on for another six months.

As I sat and prayed about the virus, our family of faith and our world, God kept placing on my heart the wilderness time of the Israelites. The Israelites wondered in the desert for forty years! I pray COVID-19 won't last that long!! I'm sure they, like us, wondered how long their wilderness time would last. As we have read the story of the Israelites wondering time in the desert, we can look back at it and say their forty years was a journey where they learned and experienced God along the way. Can we say the same thing? Can we say these past months have been a journey to new learning or new relationships?

As we live into what is hopefully a temporary "new normal", how can we see this as a time of learning? Early on in the COVID crisis I read a devotional that has helped me endure this journey. Prior to reading the devotional I was wondering why God wouldn't stop the virus, and why won't God help us. After reading the devotional I learned I needed to shift my focus and change my request. I learned my prayer should be, "Lord, show me where you are active in this challenging time." Instead of wondering why God wasn't here, I began looking for God's activity... God's movement in the world. By reframing my thoughts, I began to see the manna in the desert. I began to see God at work in the midst of these challenges. I have seen 1000 masks made by extremely dedicated members. I have seen 60 Sherwood Elementary families, who wouldn't have normally had many groceries this summer, receive groceries three times this summer because of the love of this church. I have seen families from Raise Up Families get a loving Pines dinner and send off for their children as they were leaving for a week of summer camp. I have seen our amazing Shepherds continually make extra calls to their "flock" to make sure they stayed connected to their church family. My list of how I have seen God's activity can go on and on.

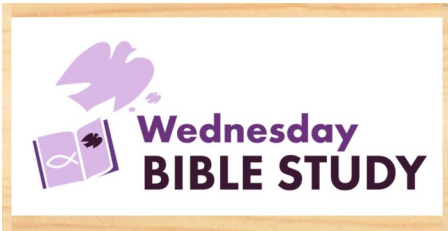
As we celebrate the birth of our nation this month, let's also celebrate the re-birth of our faith in God who is always active and always provides. Just as our ever-present God provided water for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert, and a ram for Abraham and Isaac, our God also provided a Savior for you and me to remind us that God is always with us and that God always provides... even in the midst of a pandemic.

Your brother in Christ,





# Current Events



**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** Join us on Zoom each Wednesday from 11:00 A.M. to 12 noon as we dig into and discuss this week's lectionary text. This is a great opportunity to get a jumpstart on understanding and learning about the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. To join us via Zoom please click this link <https://zoom.us/j/97547275569> or call 346-248-7799 and

enter 975 4727 5569 when prompted for a meeting ID. You will enter a "waiting room" as you enter the study.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW!** We have several members in need of meals for various reasons. Some of our members are ill, some are injured, and some are recovering. If you can bake a small meal and bring it to the church, please call Shirley Bollich. Shirley could really use some help with this ministry. Pines has always had a caring heart and assisted their church family. Let's all pull behind Shirley and help her provide these meals to our members. If you need Shirley's phone number, please call the church office. Thank you!!



**Time for Evening Prayer:** Join fellow Pines family members as we gather for an evening Vespers Service each Thursday from 5:00-5:30 P.M. via Zoom. This is a wonderful opportunity for community prayer and reflection as we seek God's wisdom and peace during these unsettling days. Remember, prayer changes things! To join the service, click on the following Zoom video link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93550776312> or call 346-248-7799 and enter 935 5077 6312 when prompted for a meeting ID. You will enter a "waiting room" as you enter the service.



**We need you!** Loving grownups to watch over our little ones from birth to 4 years old on Sunday mornings from 9 to 12 once we return to church. If you could commit to once per month, it would be much appreciated. Or you could substitute, all are welcome. You will need a background check and will need to take a Protect My Child test online. Talk to Rev. Cindy for more details. No worries, you do not need experience. We will have a lead teacher in the nursery with you. You will get plenty of hugs and laughter from our little ones!



# Youth Happenings

## Youth Mission Week with The Restoration Team!

The Pines Youth are invited to join our local mission trip from **July 20th - 24th**. We'll be partnering with The Restoration Team in their continued efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Harvey.

We'll meet at Pines every morning, work during the day, and students will be dismissed back to their homes during the evening.

For questions, and to register, contact Jesse at [jesse@pinespc.org](mailto:jesse@pinespc.org) or by calling the church office!



## Children at Pines

**Prayer Pals are underway!**  
**Adults and children have been paired.**  
**Enjoy building a relationship across generations and learning from one another. Missed the sign up?**  
**Email: [revcindy@pines.org](mailto:revcindy@pines.org)**



Coming back to worship in-person? Make sure to grab a worship bag from the Narthex. There will be activities for your child to do during the service and take home! Please note the nursery remains closed, but your family is welcome in the sanctuary! Need to get out some extra wiggles? The playground is open, but is not regularly sanitized. Parent or caregiver must accompany child at all times for safety purposes. Pastor Cindy looks forward to meeting your children!

Families, are you getting Pastor Cindy's weekly emails? She offers questions, lessons and a story every week for you to live a life of faith at home as a family!  
Sign up online, today!

# The Music Department

## Greetings from the Music Department!

This month we celebrate our freedom on the Fourth of July! Let's take a look at one of our most familiar patriotic songs, "God Bless America."

This song was written as a prayer in 1938 for Armistice Day by Irving Berlin, a Jewish immigrant from Russia who came to the United States at the age of five. It was first broadcast by Kate Smith on her radio show. What Miss Smith included, which we seldom hear are the words to the verse:

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea  
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free.  
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,  
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

So this Fourth of July holiday, let's remember this tune as it was written, as we prayerfully sing:

God bless America, Land that I love.  
Stand beside her, and guide her,  
Through the night, with the Light from above.  
From the mountains, to the prairie,  
To the oceans, white with foam!  
God bless America, my home sweet home!  
God bless America, my home sweet home!

Keep a song, and a prayer for America, in your hearts!  
Tim



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## Dear Prayer Partners,

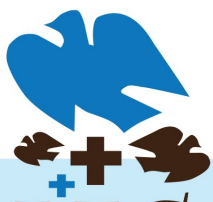
Many of you are faithful to pray the weekly prayer list. That is one of the underlying strengths of Pines Presbyterian Church. Prayer ranks among the most important things any of us do. You are appreciated! Something special is added when we pray together in person, sharing that bond of prayer and caring, that peaceful and refreshing time. Would you like to join us for the praying of the weekly list, plus any other concerns or praises mentioned? The in-person weekly prayer team currently meets at 9:00 am on Tuesdays in room C-10, although during this time, in-person meetings have been postponed. It also coincides with the start time for Pines Preschool, for anyone who brings a child to the school. The exact day and time could be negotiable if that would enable someone to participate.

Contact Bethel Strawser by email [BethelStrawser5@earthlink.net](mailto:BethelStrawser5@earthlink.net) for further discussion.

Bethel Strawser

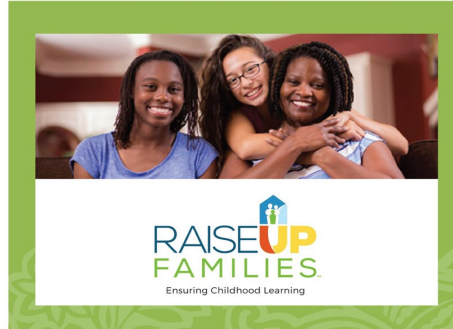
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PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# MISSION OUTREACH



Mission of Yahweh



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services  
of Texas and Louisiana



For many non-profits, spring is fundraising season with breakfasts, luncheons and galas scheduled as major efforts to raise money to meet budgets. These organizations are now adapting to online fundraising. For the Pines mission partners whose fundraisers that have been cancelled, we encourage you to consider giving to your favorite non-profit and also support the Pines partners in our community.

**Arrow-Freedom Place:** Jim McIngvale, of Gallery Furniture, was scheduled to speak at the Houston Philanthropy Circle Symposium. In reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic, he created a video that challenges us to become “infectious” in positive ways. Arrow is proud to be named one of the 24 charities selected by the Houston Philanthropy Circle. See more information on giving by visiting: [arrow.org](http://arrow.org)

**Faith in Practice:** The Women's luncheon, Hearts Made Whole, has a new date: Friday, May 7, 2021. For more details, visit: [faithinpractice.org](http://faithinpractice.org).

**Mission of Yahweh:** We will be having a LIVE EVENT on Social Media (You Tube and Facebook) on May 28, 2020 with our originally planned speakers, John and Joyce Smith and Pastor Jason Noble. Join us live and hear the miraculous story behind the movie BREAKTHROUGH. We will be posting on Facebook and Instagram on how to join by visiting: [missionofyahweh.org](http://missionofyahweh.org).

**Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services:** Normally, these events raise \$320,000 for the care and support of 4,500 PCHAS children and families. Now more than ever, children whose lives have been affected by poverty, stress, abuse and neglect need us to shelter and protect them. Please help us build better futures for children and families in need by making a donation today, by visiting: [pchas.org](http://pchas.org).

**RaiseUp Families:** After careful consideration RaiseUp Families decided to take our “In Full Bloom” Spring Luncheon Virtual. This was done live with the help of The Story Hive. We couldn't have done it without them. We had over 200 people watch it live and many more have tuned in to our YouTube channel, watching it on their own time. We appreciate all of the support as we are close to reaching 40% of our goal. Donate now by visiting: [raiseupfamilies.org](http://raiseupfamilies.org).

# Ways you can SERVE

## Pines Missions Committee July and August Agape Offering Back to School Drive

The 2020/2021 school year is quickly approaching. This time of year, Pines has a long history of stepping up to support Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM), Sherwood Elementary and the Mission of Yahweh. Your generous donations are used to purchase necessary clothes and supplies needed to start the new school year. The smiles you have helped place on the faces of these students and parents are heart-warming. Please help our neighbors by donating to "Pines Back to School Drive". Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the church office. Please indicate "Back to School" on your check.

*Thank you Pines. You are amazing!*

### MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES (MAM)

#### *Back to School Clothing Drive*

MAM, working with local schools, provide parents of at-risk students with vouchers for back to school shopping. The parents along with their children can shop together from an approved list. MAM's back to school needs are year-round.

### SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pines members contribute to Sherwood Elementary in a variety of ways including mentoring, meals, reading events and a workday. Because many Sherwood families face personal financial struggles, donations from Pines, are especially important and truly appreciated.

### THE MISSION OF YAHWEH *Mission School Blessing*

Mission School Blessing is a year-round need. Weekly the MOY receives children that need school clothing and supplies to attend school while living at the mission. The MOY uses funds from the blessing to purchase needed clothing, shoes, and supplies.



For additional information contact: Kari Work at [kwork@mgcinc.net](mailto:kwork@mgcinc.net) or 713-818-1140





**Staying Connected:** --- You can now find upcoming opportunities to connect by visiting our website: [pinespc.org](http://pinespc.org). Join in on the next scheduled meeting, class or event by signing up for your free Zoom account: [zoom.us/signup](https://zoom.us/signup). View our archived videos anytime and also join in "live"!



**Live Worship Services:** --- Pines Worship Services on Sundays are now live streaming! 10:45 am worship services can be viewed by visiting our website: [pinespc.org](http://pinespc.org). You can also catch us on facebook for the same live streaming worship services.



**Online Giving:** ---As always, we thank you for your generous sharing of treasures in the spirit and practice of stewardship. Please visit our website for online giving: [pinespc.org](http://pinespc.org)



### IN THE MEANTIME

So what have you been doing in the meantime? **After** *Before-Covid*, but **before** *After-Covid*, that is. Social distancing, perhaps? Now obviously, it was a totally different situation, but it has occurred to me that Jesus was the complete antithesis of a social distancer – he was the ultimate people-person!

The New Testament gives us dozens of little vignettes of Jesus **doing** things. He preached. He taught. He prayed and walked and fed people and healed and encouraged and rebuked and promised and offered them hope. But what was he doing in all the meantime's? Well, more of the same, I imagine. Sometimes he solved their problems. But even more - he **listened** to them, I'm sure. Because he loved them and was happy to share the joys and burdens of their lives. He was here on the ground **because** of the people. He cared. And how do I know this? The gospels don't **say** he listened! I know this because anything else would be totally out of character – impossible to even imagine! Jesus wasn't about photo-ops or sound-bites or impressing the media! He was about the people. And therefore I know **he listened!!**

So what does that have to do with Stephen Ministry? Just this – Stephen Ministry is an exact follow-on to the character of Jesus himself. It's about that same love for people – because he did! It's about listening because that's what he did. It's about walking alongside – because he did. It is **not**, however, about fixing your problem – because he was Jesus and still is, and Stephen Ministers are not. They are committed, though, to sharing Christ's love by being there with you during hard times, by listening and sharing your struggles, and by praying for you and with you. If you'd like to talk about a Stephen Minister for yourself, call me! Bill Willis. (318)548-4414.

A graphic for a brochure titled "HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS & EVACUATION INFORMATION". It features a collage of images: a flooded road with a car, a large wave crashing, and a satellite view of a hurricane. A yellow banner across the middle says "VIEW & Save" with a right-pointing arrow, followed by "BROCHURE" in bold. At the bottom, a blue banner says "visit PinesPC.org" with a right-pointing arrow.

**HURRICANE  
PREPAREDNESS  
& EVACUATION INFORMATION**

**VIEW & Save** **BROCHURE**

*visit* **PinesPC.org**

Hurricane season has arrived. Please visit our website for a handy (and downloadable) preparation list and additional resources: [pinespc.org](http://pinespc.org)

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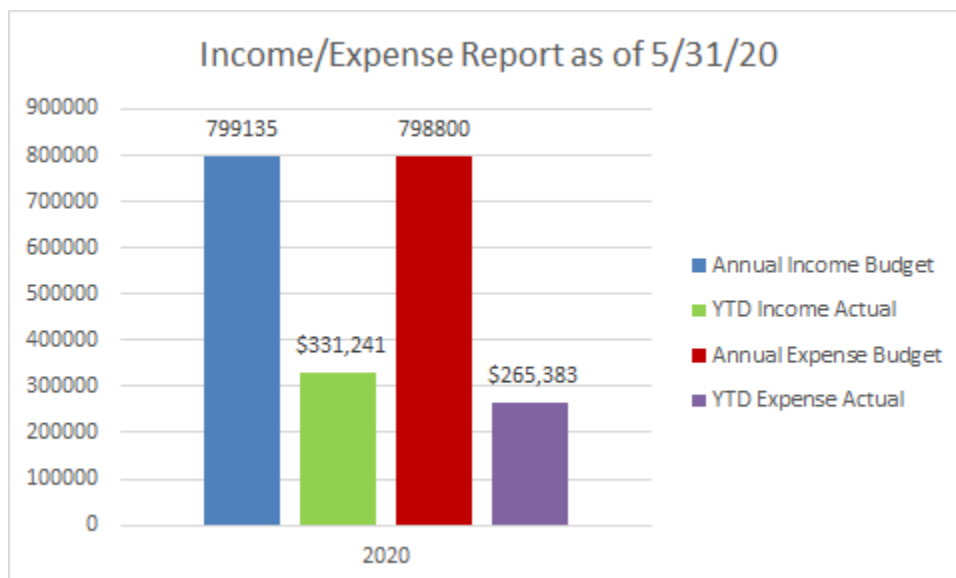
27-Feb-2020 to 26-May-2020

**THANK YOU  
to the 23**

**Households who helped raise**

**\$ 80.23**

# Stewardship



## Stewardship Notes:

1. Pledge income is above target for 5 months operations-- at the end of first five months of the year, 44% of pledge income is received. Non-pledge income is below budget with only 23% of non-pledge income received at the end of the first 5 months. Total Income continues to be right on target.
2. Overall, expenses are well below budget expectations. Mission expenditures reflect payment of 50% benevolence payments in May. Remaining benevolence funds will be paid in November.
3. YTD Total Income is \$331,241; YTD total expenses are \$265,383; with Net Income thru May at \$65,858.



## Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on June 22. Here are some highlights:

- Tentatively approved resuming in-person Sunday School on July 19, pending a final decision in early July. The question of re-opening to outside groups also will be considered at that time.
- Heard that the mask makers are on the verge of hitting the goal of making 1,000 masks.
- Heard that the church has received grants from the presbytery to support the Sherwood meals program and the Feed My Starving Children event.
- Heard that pledge income continues to be strong and that non-pledge income continues to lag.

Dan Schafer, scribe



# Ways you can SERVE



Every Monday and Tuesday for weeks, a group of masked women have shown up to the church to help fulfill the need for masks in our community. Below is a note from those ladies. What a beautiful gift of your time and talents ladies! Thank you!!!

“The masked ladies of Pines have done it...we’ve surpassed our goal of making 1000 masks for non-profits in our community. Pines joined the Masks-4-All initiative of Houston Responds in their effort to have local congregations make 1million masks. Our goal was 1000, and today, we did it!!”