



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, March 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

EASTER

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6

6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7

6:30 PM

ALL WORSHIP
LIVE STREAMED
& IN-PERSON

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 9

6:30

Kimberley Ln
Parking Lot
AM

& 10:45 AM



PINESPC.ORG



the
Sacred
echo



Hearing God's Voice in Every Area of Your Life

margaret feinberg

Churchwide study...It is still not too late to join in on this study for Lent!

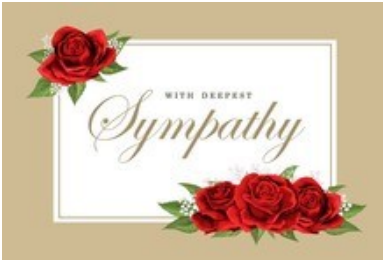
CE is hosting a church wide study called *Sacred Echo* by Margaret Feinberg and there are several opportunities...

Adults can choose a Sunday morning class at 9:15 in the Parlor or an evening class including a light supper on Thursdays beginning at 6 pm (class begins at 6:30) in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up with Kristin Beall or Margaret Schafer.

Children will also be studying prayer in the Sunday school hour during Lent with age appropriate lessons and activities. Youth will explore the mysteries of prayer during Sunday evening youth group. All people of Pines are encouraged to use this season to look for Gods mysterious and wondrous message for us as individuals, as well as the whole congregation of Pines.

Pines Family News & Current Events

The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The office is closed on Fridays. If you need assistance on Friday, please call Cindy at 832-489-5989.



Please hold The Buelow Family; Phil, Annie and Emma, in your prayers with the loss of their wife and mother Liz. Liz had been a member of Pines since 2013. Her smile, kind words, sense of humor and the many things she did for our church and church family have been, and will be missed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! April 1st will be a BIG day! We will have the Youth Car Wash, and the Property Work Day on this date. So bring the family, get your car washed and help out at the church. **THEN**, when you are done at noon, head to the back parking lot for a delicious fundraiser lunch of crawfish cooked and served by Mosaic Church until 3 pm. We look forward to seeing you on this day!

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. If you would prefer to send an email for prayer, you may send it to prayer@pinespc.org. Cindy can also help you sign up to receive our newsletter 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!



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 order a live arrangement. Please email: Melissa Gravett at mgravett0123@gmail.com or Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com to sign up. Or you can also sign up at the front desk on the flower calendar while at church.

Church Seeking Nursery Workers: \$12-15 per hour based on age and experience. Contact kristin@pinespc.org for more information. Do you love playing with babies and young children? Pines is looking for people ages 13 and up who are willing to be trained and cleared for childcare in the nursery. Most hours are on Sunday mornings, but special events are also available.

Do you have any orchestra or band instruments taking up space in your closet? Want to find a safe place to keep them where they will be used and appreciated? Call Laurie or the church office and they will help you with that.



Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: March 24 (for the April 2023 issue)

Second Sunday Lunch

...Please join us for lunch on March 12th right after Worship. We will meet at Café Express. Please come and join in the fellowship!

Pastor's Page

Grace & Peace to you,

As you know you and I are in the midst of the Lenten season. I was one time asked what the word “Lent” meant. I was stumped. I could give the answer of what it meant theologically. It is the forty days before Maundy Thursday when faithful Christians prepare themselves for Easter through prayer, repentance, penance, and self-denial or fasting. It is the time when we take a serious look at our personal faith.

I did some research on the actual meaning of the word “Lent.” It is derived from the Old English word *lencten*, meaning 'spring', the lengthening of days after winter is over. This was a period of spring fasting known in Old English as *Lencten-Fasten*, or in its abbreviated form, as *Lencten* or Lent. The ecclesiastical name for this once mandatory period of fasting is the *Quadragesimal Fast* (Latin), or the fast of the Forty Days, in imitation of the forty days of fasting performed by Jesus in the wilderness.

As we travel though these forty days and forty nights, I have to ask myself... and you, “How are we doing at reflecting on our personal faith... what are you doing to focus on God and the life and ministry of Jesus?” A couple of things I hope you have done, and will do are: I hope you were able to attend the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™; I hope you will be able to attend one of the opportunities to be part of our all church study called “The Sacred Echo”. The readings help us listen for the echo of God’s voice in our prayer and daily life; and I hope you will attend Holy Week services coming up in April.

As the spring days stretch a little longer this Lenten season... try stretching your faith and commitment to Christ. You never know, you may learn to experience Easter every day.

Happy Easter,



Family Ministry Calendar for March

PLEASE HELP!

To keep growing and supporting our small but growing youth group we need help!

March Family Ministries

Children's Small Group Sunday School: Sunday 9:15am-9:30am

Youth Small Group Sunday School: Sunday 9:30-10:30am

Pines Youth Group: Sundays 6-7:45pm in youth rooms

Youth Conclave Retreat March 17-19th—Retreat fees due by March 5th
Youth will once again attend camp Cho-Yeh with the Presbytery to worship, learn and grow in faith at an amazing wood filled retreat center. Cost is \$150. Scholarships available.

Prayer Pal Dinner - Potluck Prayer! Sunday March 26th 6-7:30pm
Save the date and let your partner know if you are unable to attend!

Dates:

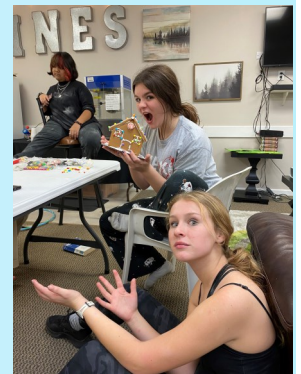
All Sundays Small group: Sunday School 9:15-10:15 for children, 9:30-10:30am for youth

Pines Youth Group: Sundays 6-7:45pm (no youth group on the 19th for youth retreat)

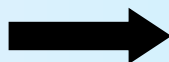
17-19 Youth Retreat Conclave

16 Family Bingo night

26 Prayer Pal Dinner



Coming soon...



PINES YOUTH
Fundraiser CAR WASH

SATURDAY ~ APRIL 1ST
9am - 1pm - Kimberley Parking Lot
 PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH visit: PINESpc.org

Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Pledge income for January was 20% higher than pledge income in January 2022 and non-pledge income was 4 times higher than January 2022, due to two one time unpledged gifts.
2. Overall expenses were significantly lower (65%) than January 2022.
3. Total Income was \$65,911; total expenses were \$40,558; leaving a Net Income of \$25,353 for January, a very good start for the year.
4. A budget for 2023 was adopted at the February 27 Session meeting. Pledges increased by \$36,411 to a total of \$548,651. Total Income is budgeted at \$657,314 with Total Expenses budgeted to be \$662,605, resulting in a projected Net Income of (\$5,291). The Mission portion of the budget is \$66,845 or 10% of overall expenditures. It is anticipated that additional building use income will offset the budgeted negative net income by the end of 2023.
5. The congregation's response to the need for increased pledges was inspiring and made it possible to adopt the budget with a minimal deficit and an opportunity to reverse that deficit before year end 2023. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
6. The Stewardship chart will return in the next newsletter.

Session

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on February 27. Here are some highlights:

- As described in more detail in the Stewardship Notes in this newsletter, Session adopted a budget for 2023. The budget was made possible by members' very generous additional pledges and gifts.
- The Missions Committee portion of the approved budget reflects 10% of Pines' expenditures. Session approved specific benevolences totaling over \$41,000, 70% of the Missions' budget. Missions has also planned for 5% of its budget to support other church committee outreach efforts in the community.
- Session has called an Annual Meeting of the Congregation for March 12 following Worship. The Congregation will be asked to vote on the 2023 Terms of Call for Rev. Gans, to elect a trustee for a 3-year term, and to elect members of the 2023-24 Congregational Nominating Committee. Session approved the Terms of Call recommended by the Staff Committee, to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting.
- Session elected Shirley Bollich, Judy Shamp, Linda Johnson, and Chris Wolfe (as an alternate) as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the Presbytery of New Covenant's meeting on March 18 in Navasota.
- Linda Johnson was elected to be the Vice-Moderator of the Congregational Nominating Committee.
- Session approved Rev. Barbara Retzloff to officiate the worship service and Communion at the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering to be hosted at Pines on April 22. A reserve of \$200 for incidental expenses incurred by Pines for the gathering was also approved.
- Session approved on second reading a full revision to the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Craig Walker, Clerk of Session



Tending to Grief

by Ann Guerra

In Megan Devine's book, *It's OK That You're Not OK*, she talks about tending to our grief. She encourages people to see grief as a natural response to death; grief is not a problem to be solved but an experience to be tended.

The idea of "tending to grief" resonated with me since the first time I read it in 2019. I immediately thought about it like tending a garden. In the beginning, a lot of attention is given to loosen the soil, fertilize, plant and water. After my husband died, all I could do was constantly think about what happened, how I was missing him, what could I have done to stop it, worry about the future and ask the same questions over and over again.

After the garden is set, the gardener walks away and lets nature "happen." Rain, sun, animals, insects, weeds, pollution, etc. all have an effect. Some are positive, others are not. People, places, and things all influence grief. Some are positive, some are not.

The gardener comes back and tends to what has happened. Maybe all is well. (Peace) Maybe weeds have overtaken and suffocated the seedlings. (Fear) Maybe animals have raided the bounty. (Anger) Maybe insects are everywhere but the plants are "fine." (Denial) Maybe the garden is dry. (Sadness) The gardener has so many things to tend to; the griever has so many things to tend to.

When I think about tending to my grief, there are those days I'm really paying attention to it. I really get into tilling the soil, if you will, trying to figure out what life is going to look like or continuing to be in disbelief. The days go on, things continue to grow. The world doesn't stop. It makes me think of the weeds in the cracks in the sidewalk and the roads- they pop up anywhere. They're unruly and messy and out of place. My grief does that- just pops up out of nowhere. It can be unruly. It can be messy and it can certainly come at times when it's out of place.

There are even times when grief pops up and I don't have the energy to deal with it. It's like those weeds in the garden. I know they are there. I don't like that they are there, but I don't want to deal with it. I have learned that if I don't take care of those weeds, my garden becomes overwhelmed, and doesn't thrive. If I don't stop and pay attention when my grief starts to surface again, all sorts of things can happen.

I don't look for grief, but I do believe once we have a significant loss, the grief is never completely gone. We grieve because we have loved. Grief never ends because love never ends.

Megan asks us "...to tend to pain and grief by bearing witness. By neither turning away, or by pushing redemption, but by standing there, right there, inside the obliterated universe. By somehow making a home there...A place that honors the full breadth of grief, which is really the full breadth of love."

The gardener works hard to grow the most exquisite flowers and delicious produce. As I tend to my grief, life will never be as it was, but it can be beautifully different. There are times when the gardener needs help or support because the task of tending to the garden can seem overwhelming. Similarly, in any part of our life journey, we can feel overwhelmed with challenges. At those times, I would encourage you to consider working with a Stephen Minister- someone who will come into your life to support your efforts to move forward. If you want to discuss the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister, contact me or Phil Wetz.

Devine, Megan. *It's OK You're Not OK*. Sounds True, 2017.



Missions

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors! Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team for school year 2023-24, and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. We have the privilege to give fresh breakfast tacos to folks who might have missed breakfast, or who might not have any other food for the day, or are just hungry for a taco and maybe a prayer. Our cheerful team members bring smiles and warm food to our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. We are rewarded with smiles, occasional cash donations, tears of gratitude, and sometimes even songs (from a school bus driver)! Join us! For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a



MARCH * * AGAPE

ITEMS NEEDED

HYGIENE PACKS

DEODORANT, TOOTHBRUSH, TOOTHPASTE, RAZOR BLADES, SHAVING CREAM, SOAP, LOTION, SHAMPOO, FEMININE PRODUCTS, 1-GAL ZIPLOC BAGS
SMALL SIZES FOR SHAMPOO, LOTION AND TOOTHPASTE

HOME CARE PACKS



CLAP, PAPER TOWEL ROLL, ROLL, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, GLASS CLEANER, TRASH BAGS, ANTI-BACTERIAL SOAP, TOTE BAGS
LARGER THAN 32OZ. | INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED

FILL THE PANTRY!



DONATIONS DROP OFF

OUTSIDE FELLOWSHIP HALL



FINANCIAL GIFTS

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

URGENT NEED: DIAPERS (SIZES 5&6)

PINESPC.ORG+



Please join us as we gather for more Bingo in the Fellowship Hall on March 16 at 6:30 PM. There will be food and drinks provided and of course...lot's of fun with BINGO! Don't miss the fun! Contact Linda Aldred or the church office if you plan to attend so we can make sure there is plenty of food for all.



Pines is in partnership with Randalls and Kroger through the Good Neighbor Program. For every dollar you spend at these locations, a small portion goes to Pines and is placed into our Missions budget. If you have not already registered your card with Randalls or Kroger, please do. There is no cost to you, you still get your discount, and Pines benefits too!



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

I just wanted to share a short client success story with y'all and feel free to share with others!

I began working with a new client a few months ago who had just received guardianship of his 7 year old brother. He was removed from a life of living out of motels, no education, never knowing when he was going to eat next, exposed to witnessing drug abuse and so much more. PCHAS services have helped this little family with parenting, stability, guidance and emotional support all while trying to gain resources and services that he desperately needed. At one point the first & only school the boy has attended even asked the family to move the boy to the "correct" zoned school according to his "paperwork" which was no longer current and the family was discouraged and hopeless as so many strides had been made in his therapeutic services. Over and over these new "parents" were told no, turned away and were losing hope. I encouraged persistence, provided guidance and helped with confidence and together we wrote letters to those who were going to make that decision and for the services he desperately needed. Advocating for this boy paid off and today I received this...

I heard someone is able to stay in his school 🙌😊

yessss! 🙌🙌 thank you so much! i was able to stand ground and we got everything worked out we now qualify for free lunches and even has transportation offered to us!

I am so proud and happy to hear!!

absolutely! if you need you can say names we don't mind! love sharing awareness! and let people know it is possible and everything you do helps us tremendously! 🙌

For a young couple who never anticipated being "parents", I am so proud we were able to help them and continue to provide services that will ensure a better life for this sweet boy.

God is great!

Thank y'all for your support and have a great day,

Lacey Rivers, LMSW

Child and Family Specialist

[12751 Kimberly Ln Houston, TX 77024](https://www.pchas.org/12751-Kimberly-Ln-Houston-TX-77024)

[713.490.9570](https://www.pchas.org/713.490.9570) lacey.rivers@pchas.org

WE PROVIDE CHRIST-CENTERED CARE AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED.

We help children heal from trauma so they can build healthy relationships, succeed in education and discover their own world of opportunities and possibilities.

This happens by engaging a child in the context of their family issues. We know that, to end a cycle of abuse or trauma, we must work with children to clarify their thoughts and feelings and get a realistic view of each family member's role in their life.



Pines will be hosting the Presbytery Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering on April 22 (Earth Day) from 9:30 – 2:00. The speakers will be Jean Zophy & Phyllis Koenig from Webster Earth Care Team, Master Gardner Debra Caldwell and The Spa Girls speaking on "Spiritual, Practical & Amusing ways to live a Godly life." Barbara Retzloff will lead the worship service in the afternoon. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Registration fee is **\$18.00 until April 14**. First time attendees can register for \$15.00. After April 14 the fee increases to \$20.00. Contact Connie Sipp for more information.