



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



FMSC | AT A GLANCE

Feeding kids. Feeding spirits. Empowering communities.

WHO WE ARE

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian nonprofit with a mission to see every child and person around the world healthy, nourished and whole — in body and in spirit.

Since 1987, FMSC has packed and shipped **more than 4 billion meals to over 100 countries.**

We work through trusted partner organizations who stay with communities for the long haul, helping them to move from relief to self-reliance.

See page 4 on how to sign up to help!

We will be putting together auction baskets and need your help filling them. All funds raised go towards our MobilePack event.

Look for the display in the Fellowship Hallway, see if you can contribute any items that would fit in the baskets below, take a tag, and drop it back by the church.

We will be putting together the following baskets:

- Houston Teams Basket
- Dog Basket
- Barista Basket
- Movie Night Basket
- Easter Basket
- FMSC Basket
- “Repair Something Honey” Handy Man Basket
- Media “Techie” Basket
- Charcuterie Basket
- Readers Basket
- Artist Basket
- Texas Foodie Basket
- Baby Basket
- Sweet Treat Gift Basket
- Spa Basket

Gift certificates and Baskets are also needed to use in the collections.

Be sure to take a tag off the display for any items you can contribute.

Drop your items at the display in the Fellowship Hallway or the church office by Feb 16th...and THANK YOU in advance !!!!

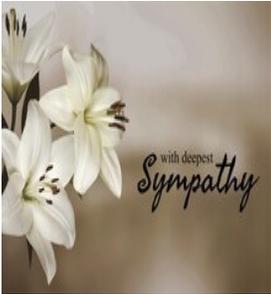
Pines Family News & Current Events

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.

NO Second Sunday Lunch Bunch in February...

No meetings until March.

Please be sure to mark your calendars to come have lunch with the group in March after church!!



Prayers for the family and friends of Pines member **Eunice Einkauf**. Eunice passed away on January 2, 2026. She was 100 years old and had been a member of Pines since 2013. Eunice was laid to rest at a location outside of Houston.

Prayers for the family and friends of **Delores Waldren**. Delores was a member of Pines for a long time prior to moving north of Houston. Two of her children were married here at Pines under Walter Crofton. Delores sang with the choir during her time at Pines. A columbarium and memorial service was held at Pines on January 31st.



Congratulations to new great grandparents Sam and Priscilla Singer!

Baby, Vanessa Vargas, was born 40 seconds after midnight on January 1, 2026 and is the baby of Madison Singer and Kevin Vargas. She was born in Killeen Texas weighing 6pounds, 11 ounces. Welcome Vanessa!

Brown Bag Book Club

Questions linger about Theo, a pleasant but mysterious stranger, after his arrival in Golden, Georgia. Who is he and why is he here? **Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 5, 2026 (12:00 noon) in room C3**, as we discuss the book, Theo of Golden, by Allen Levi. This is a story of a generous and humble man who brings joy to a community through selfless acts and gifts of anonymous kindness. Questions? Contact Shirley Bollich.



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, near the receptionist desk each month at 7pm. The next night is January 8th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.



Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace to you in Christs' name,

The lectionary texts for the first Sunday in February include two of my favorite scriptures and set the tone for all we'll experience in the month of February. Micah 6:8 reminds us, "what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"; and Matthew 5:1-12, The Beatitudes. I really appreciate these scriptures because I believe they could be considered a roadmap to our faith. These two scriptures, along with Matthew 25:31-45, "When you do this to the least of these you do it to me," are the directions to how we are to live out our faith among God's people. I love how Micah reminds us of what the Lord requires of each of us if we are to be faithful and follow God's will for us. We are to "... do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God." The Beatitudes tell us who the blessed are in God's world, the ones who are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, hunger and thirst for righteousness and those who are humble and submit to God. The Matthew scripture reminds us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, house the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned.

Every day we have the opportunity do these things, especially during the month of February. On February 20th and 21st Pines will host its 6th annual Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. This incredible outreach opportunity gives each Pines family member, and the community, to live out our scriptures. By attempting our goal of packing over 125,000 meals for starving children around the world, each one of us will have the opportunity to live out these scriptures and live into God's path for us. By labeling bags, or scooping soy and rice, or sealing bags and boxing them up for shipment, or making a financial contribution, you are doing justice, loving kindness, walking humbly with God. You will be blessed in God's kingdom because it will be your pure heart that will encourage you to participate in feeding the hungry. You will be blessed as you humbly show mercy as you give of your time or finances to help others. You will be blessed as you stand side by side with others who thirst to do God's will and seek to follow the road map God has given us all.

The month of February also gives us the beginning of the season of Lent. Our Lenten journey to the cross of Easter begins on Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30pm with our Ash Wednesday service. Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent give us the opportunity to reflect on how we're doing with following this path of faith God has laid out for each of us. I pray you'll take this time to consider how you are living out Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:1-12 and Matthew 25:3-45, for when you do I promise you, you will be blessed.

Your brother in Christ,



Andy

Missed signing up for Friends Night Out?

Contact Linda Aldred, Patsy Jackson, or Chris Wolfe by February 1st to get on the list!

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...

Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was *outstanding* in his field.



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!

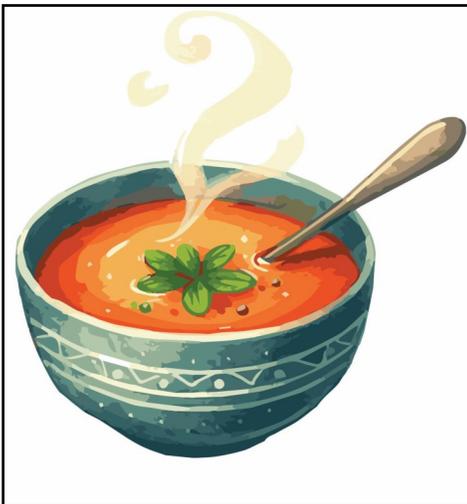


MobilePack registration to volunteer is open.
Go to pinespc.org/FMSC (use code PPC26).
Register TODAY!!!



The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Monday through Thursday. 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. If you can help, please give Cindy a call at 713-467-2234 x110.



Souper Bowl Lunch!

Join your church family in Fellowship Hall for soup, grilled cheese, and make-your-own sundae following worship on February 8th.

There will be a love donation collected for the Houston Food Bank.

Hope to see you there!



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.

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



Christ caring for people through people

SPECIAL GIFTS

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Pastor Andy's Christmas Eve service was entitled "The Gift". Of course, he spent much of the sermon talking about the greatest gift any of us could ever receive which is God's gift of unconditional love and grace as embodied by His Only Son, Jesus Christ. Although we have to actively accept this gift to fully enjoy God's unconditional love, **IT IS A GIFT WHICH WILL NEVER BE WITHDRAWN**

NOR TAKEN FROM US. God's love is an **ETERNAL** gift for us to enjoy.

However, there are other special gifts in life which we can lose or can be taken from us. Examples include: the physical death of a loved one; a broken or estranged relationship; the loss of good health due to a medical challenge; unexpected financial troubles; or challenging life events which lead to depression and the loss of hope.

During such times, one of the options available to people is to request the opportunity to work with a Stephen Minister. While Stephen Ministers do not have a list of "solutions" for all of life's challenges, they are trained and committed to working and praying with people to jointly discern God's will for how they should continue to live.

Those of us who have been Stephen Ministers for awhile have been blessed to observe how working with a Stephen Minister can become an unexpected **SPECIAL GIFT** that is truly life changing. Stephen Ministers know that God is the **CUREGIVER** and Stephen Ministers are **CAREGIVERS** who commit to working with people to discover God's "cure" which is often a life changing gift.

If you have lost a treasured gift in your life and would like to have a **confidential** discussion on possibly working with a Stephen Minister, please contact Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz.

Phil Wetz

**PINES
YOUTH**



bake
sale



Sunday February 15 | 10:00am

Mark

Your

Support our mission trip to Memphis!
Want to donate goodies for the sale?

**Contact Ron Langston or
call the church office.**

Calendar!

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 lb. bags)	Fall/Spring	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles:
	Reading Buddies and Mentors	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy & Dave Coles, Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy Coles:
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	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
Mission of Yahweh	Assist with leading Sunday evening Children's Church (2-11 yrs old)	Sundays 6:30-8:30 (seeking 1 Sunday/mo. commitment)	Mission of Yahweh	Janet Gay Janetolson@missionofyahweh

Upcoming CanCare Volunteer Training

Pines was recently awarded the 2025 Congregational Partner of the Year Award by CanCare! CanCare is one of our mission partners that provides support to those facing a cancer diagnosis and their caregivers. In addition to our agape offering for CanCare in the summer, another way to support this amazing nonprofit yourself is to become a CanCare volunteer. CanCare volunteers do hospital visits and also are matched one on one with cancer survivors or their caregivers to walk alongside them as they face cancer. Volunteers must undergo a 1 day training through CanCare. The next training is scheduled for Saturday, February 21st from 9-5. To sign up, go to www.cancare.org and click on "Volunteer".

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.



Prayer Pal Dinner

SUN **15** MARCH
5:00PM-6:30PM

Enjoy delicious food, fun activities and quality time with your Prayer Pal in the Fellowship Hall.



Innova

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ACADEMY

Ready to take your business to the next level?

Unleash your potential with Innova, MAM's new entrepreneurship program to help community small business owners succeed!



Sign up for a **FREE** information session

To learn more, visit:
www.MAMHouston.org/innova

Information Sessions
(all held from 6-7pm):

- Jan 15, 2026
- Jan 29, 2026
- Jan 22, 2026
- Feb 3, 2026

Questions?
Contact innova@mamhouston.org



CLASSES START February 17 2026



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

RODEO FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

THE BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY™

NEW SECOND SEATING!

The Brookwood Café
Thurs. Feb. 12
2:00pm - 4:00pm



OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2026/2027 PINES PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE. YOU WILL HEAR AN OVERVIEW OF OUR SCHOOL, MEET OUR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION.

OPEN HOUSE DATES

2-YEAR OLD CLASSES

BEEES & BUTTERFLIES:
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

3- & 4-YEAR OLD CLASSES

**FROGS, RAINBOW FISH,
TEDDY BEARS & TURTLES:**
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

BRIDGE & KINDERGARTEN CLASSES | LADYBUGS & OWLS:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026
1:00 - 2:00 PM

WE WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING **PAPER APPLICATIONS** (CASH OR CHECK ONLY) FROM NEW FAMILIES AT 10:00 AM ON JANUARY 26.

OUR **ONLINE APPLICATION** WILL OPEN AT 2:00 PM ON JANUARY 28. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS.

**2026/2027
PRIORITY REGISTRATION:**

more info | **register:** admissions@pinespc.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 February 6th! For more information contact Margaret Schafer or the church office.



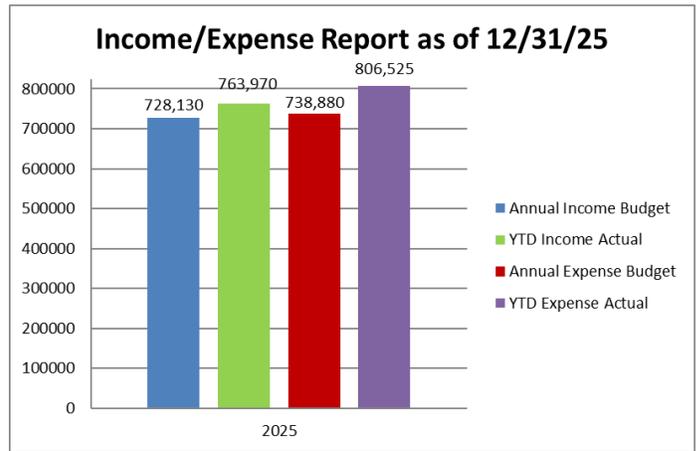
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Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total Income exceeded the budget by \$35,840. Pledge income was \$540,194, and exceeded budget by \$3,194. Non-pledge income was \$145,870, exceeding budget by \$30,870. Interest income (\$19,776) also exceeded budget by \$1,776. Generous giving by all throughout 2025 made these important results possible.



2. On the expense side, every committee did an incredible job managing their expenses throughout 2025. Every committee, except Property, either underspent their budget or was right on target for expenses. Of note, Staff committee was under budget by \$27,259 due to Kristin's departure in the fall. Both Christian Education and Worship committees were underspent by \$3,000 and \$2,400 respectively. The Property committee responsibly managed multiple air conditioning issues all year and a bathroom remodel, which in total required over budget expenditures right at \$100,000. These costs were partially mitigated by insurance proceeds and additional unbudgeted building use income.

3. Pines ended the year with a Net Loss of \$42,555. While the Session budgeted a \$10,750 Net Loss for 2025, this still exceeded that amount by \$31,805. Given our exceptional property expenses all year, we are very grateful for the strong giving by members to help reduce this loss at year end. The Session determined that it is necessary to fund the deficit using \$10,000 from our Property Reserve funds and \$31,500 from the covid era Employee Retention funds rebate received from the IRS early in 2025.

Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on January 26, 2026. Here are some highlights:

- Prayed for the church, its members, and our community.
- Welcomed the elders-elect of the Class of 2029 to the meeting as observers.
- Approved at first reading a new Facility Use Agreement for the church.
- Approved a maintenance agreement for the church's HVAC systems to provide better care for this asset.
- Heard a report that both pledge and non-pledge income exceeded the budget for 2025.
- Approved funding for the 2025 budget shortfall, caused primarily by HVAC repair expenses.

Prayerfully,
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

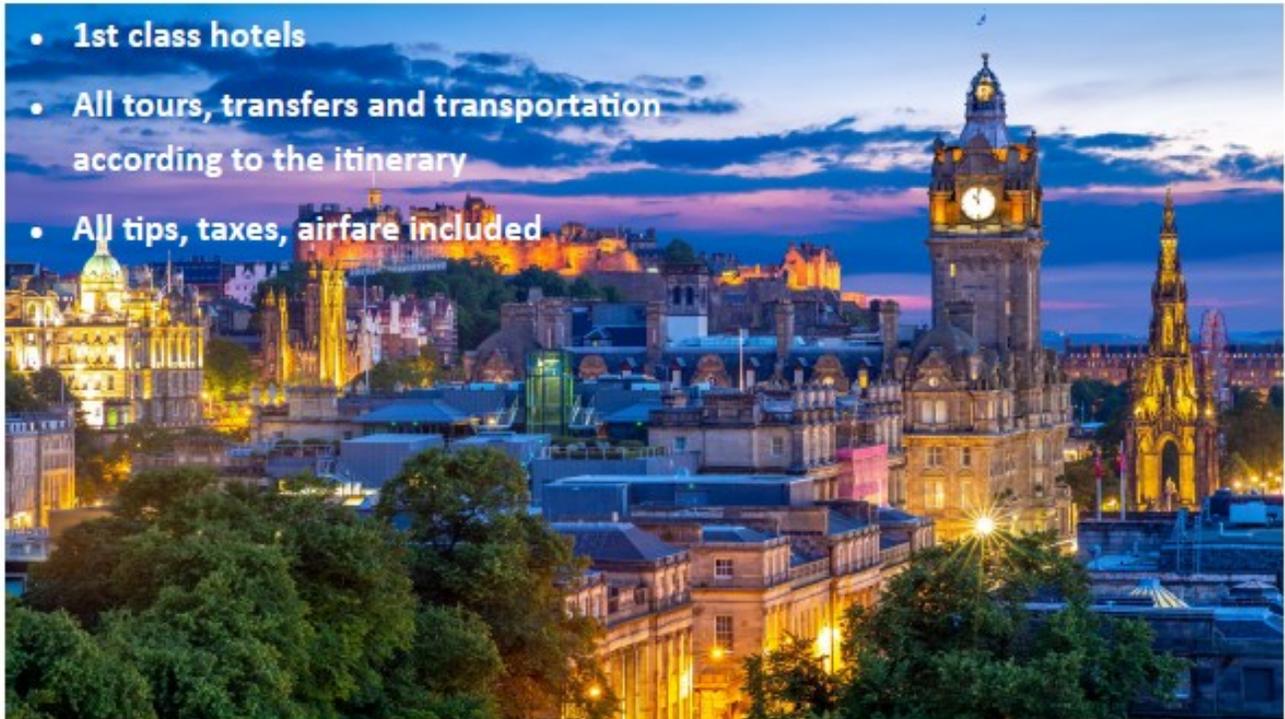
Visiting

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: February 20th (for the March 2026 issue)

Looking for *Things To Do...*



Candlelight Music Series Concerts in Houston

Whether searching for wonderfully distinct **classical music performance or an ambiance imbued with romance**, this Candlelight is tailor-made for you. You don't have to be an expert in all things Tchaikovsky to revel in the evening; just relax and immerse yourself in the captivating atmosphere and enchanting pieces that will fill the air.

Step into one of **the city's most opulent venues** this February in Houston, where the walls will be gently aglow with candlelight, crafting a truly magical setting. Get ready to be transported to celestial heights with cherished wintertime classics from the likes of Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi, and other revered composers!

Upcoming Celebrations or Holidays:

Valentine's Day February 14
President's Day February 16
Ash Wednesday February 18
Daylight Saving's Time March 8
School Spring Break March 9 through 13
St. Patrick's Day March 17