



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press November 2025 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

November 8th is the Pines Property Work Day!

This is an event that involves the whole family. There is work for everyone of any skill set. Please join us [beginning at 9AM](#). We will work until noon. Many hands make light work! There will be yard work, closet cleaning, general sprucing-up of the building, all in preparation for the coming holidays.

We need your help! Join us as we work together, form new friendships, and rekindle old ones. Call the church office if you need more details, or speak to Property Committee members Brad Hofstetter or Steve Ballard.

**Bring your friends,
bring your family!**

Advent @PINES

November 30:
Family Advent Night | 5:00pm

November 30-December 21: Christmas Joy Gift Collection

December 9:
"Blue Christmas"
A Service of Wholeness and Healing | 12:30pm
Followed by Fellowship Lunch

December 14:
Christmas Cantata | "Born a Savior, Born a King" | 10:45am
Followed by Christmas Luncheon | 12:00noon

December 21:
Children's Christmas Play | "Why Christmas?" | 10:45am

December 24:
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship | 5:00 & 7:00pm
Holy Communion at Both Services

December 25:
Worship on Christmas Day | 10:45am

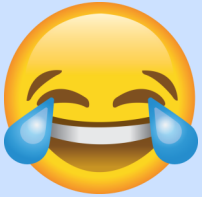
Pines Family News & Current Events



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Well, almost. It's time for our annual sign-ups for **Poinsettias** that we will be ordering from Brookwood Community to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. The cost is \$12.00. You can either sign up in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall before the service on Sunday mornings November 16 through December 7th OR you can email or call Linda or Melissa with your information. Please designate whether the **Poinsettias** are "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" when you make your selection and you may order as many as you like. The **Poinsettias** may be taken home after the last service on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Linda Aldred or Melissa Gravett.

Corny jokes for the month...



Why did the turkey join a band?

Because it had the drumsticks!

What's the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie?

Your teeth!

Check back next month for more "Corny" jokes! See ya soon, Raccoon!



Dear Pines family,

I can't thank you enough for the love that you shared with me on Pastor's Appreciation Sunday, and the love you share with me every day! I am so thankful for the many ways you all share your love and care for me and my family. It is truly a gift to be your pastor and your friend.

Your brother in Christ,
Andy

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...

November and December *2nd Sunday Lunches* have been cancelled due to the All Church Luncheons we have scheduled. Please be sure to mark your calendars to come have lunch on those days after church!!

SAVE THE DATE!

Plan to attend our Pines annual Christmas Cantata with Christmas luncheon following the service on Sunday, December 15th! Invite family and friends!

Thankfulness
LUNCH

Join us!

Sunday November 9th
After church in Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited for **homemade soups**
& to meet our **MISSION PARTNERS.**

Together@PINES+

Pastor's Page

Grace, Peace and Thanksgiving to you,

As I sit and write this article, the temperatures outside are still hitting, or coming close to, 90 degrees. It's hard to believe that we are in the midst of fall, but change is coming soon. On November 2nd our time will change, and we'll fall back one hour, and my hope is the temperatures will change around the same time, if not sooner.

Change is happening with our staff as we look for a Director of Faith Formation (DoFF). This position is a little different than the position Kristin held. This redesigned position will work with all areas of Christian Education with an emphasis on children and youth. In an effort to strengthen our relationship with the preschool, our new hire will become Chaplain to the school and work with preschool director Connie Pike, to develop a Christian education program to be delivered to each classroom. The new DoFF will also work with Mrs. Pike in developing and sharing chapel messages with the children. We pray this new connection will not only strengthen the children's faith but also strengthen our connection to our amazing preschool children, parents and staff. Please keep our search committee of Susan Babineck, Ron Langston, Ann Guerra and Angela Bullock in your prayers as they seek our new Director of Faith Formation. Please share the job opening info that's found on our website with anyone whom you think might be interested.

Change can be difficult. We don't like changing from daylight savings time to standard time. We struggle with changes in our lives, and we struggle with changes in our church. Change, whatever it is, causes a disruption in what we've known; in what we've been comfortable with, in the way that we've always done things. We are all dealing with the change of Kristin moving on, and we will have to deal with the change of a new person joining our family of faith. But change is not always a bad thing. Look at the change we went through when we hired Kristin, that was a GREAT change! And who knows, our new hire might be a great change as well. Like any season of change we have to trust God, knowing that God has our best interests in mind. Our job, our calling, as faithful believers, is to listen to, pray, and trust God's will to be done.

I'm sure over the coming years there will be other changes that will happen in each of our lives, and our church. Changes that will be easy and changes that might be difficult. Whatever the change, the important thing for all of us to remember is to seek God's wisdom and comfort during these times.

Yours in Christ,



Andy

Advent Devotional –

Believe it or not Advent is around the corner, which means we will soon be producing our own Advent Devotional guide. This year's theme is *Gifts*, and we need your story and your reflection on a verse of scripture to make this devotional come to life.



If you'd like to write a brief devotional to be included

in this year's guide, please let Pastor Andy know, and he will help guide you to a scripture if needed.

The deadline for submission is **November 10th.**



THANK YOU Pines Presbyterian! Because you are willing to host a book collection bin, you are one of the top book donors to Books Between Kids for the school year 2024-25! 7,500 books have come through the collection bin and we are so GRATEFUL! Thank you for sponsoring us in your Missions and Outreach Program.



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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our long-time Mission partner, Montrose Street Reach is looking for 3-4 folks to help serve their homeless friends a Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 26 at 5:45pm – 7pm. The dinner will be served at 1206 Lovett Blvd, the same location they hold their weekly worship service and dinner. You would be asked to wait the tables of the homeless. If you're interested, please contact Kathy Ropshaw by **November 12**. To find out more about how Montrose Street Reach serves homeless street kids and older adults, go to their website at montrocestreetreach.com

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me” Matthew 25:45

Family Ministry Calendar for November

PLEASE HELP!

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

November Calendar:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 2 | Youth fellowship - paint tiles - Melissa Sandstrom remembrance |
| Nov 9 | PYCC youth rally day at Huntsville 1 st Presbyterian Church (PYCC staff arrives on Saturday Nov 8 and has a lock-in at 1 st Huntsville on Saturday and leads rally day on Sunday Nov 9th) |
| Nov 16 | Hand On Hand at Upland Townhomes - volunteers are welcome!! |
| Nov 23 | Youth fellowship |
| Nov 30 | Family advent night and youth help |

Each week Sunday School kids 9:15-10:15am; Youth 9:30-10:30am

Questions on any youth activities? Contact Ron Langston or Shirley Bollich



Amazing Place West Tour

Join the Stephen Ministry Team on Tuesday, November 18 to tour the NEW Amazing Place West Campus.

Amazing Place mission: We empower families facing the challenges of dementia and Alzheimer's and advance brain health for all.

The tour will begin at 4:00. *If you are interested in carpooling, please meet in the back parking lot. The carpool will depart at 3:15.* The tour will last 45 minutes followed by a presentation entitled "Untangling Dementia" presented by Mehrnaz Gill and Sally Davis. We are planning to go to dinner following the tour.

Please RSVP to Ann Guerra if you are planning to attend. Your Stephen Ministers are here for you.

If you would like to talk to someone about having a Stephen Minister, please reach out to Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

PINES ADVENT NIGHT

November 30 2025, 5:00 PM

Join us for crafts, caroling, chili dinner, cookies, and Christmas tree lighting!

The events will start in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

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 for and 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	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy & Dave Coles
	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 apartment complex	Contact Shirley Bollich for details
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 (Mission of Yahweh volunteer) Janetolson.gay@missionofyahweh.com

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 November 7th! For more information contact Margaret Schafer or the church office.



and a



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Pines is collecting non-perishable food items for the Mission of Yahweh. Your contributions can be brought to the church and placed under the Communion Table in the Sanctuary or in the box in the Narthex.



"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

James 1:17 stresses that every gift - *every gift* - comes from God, regardless of how they manifest on Earth.

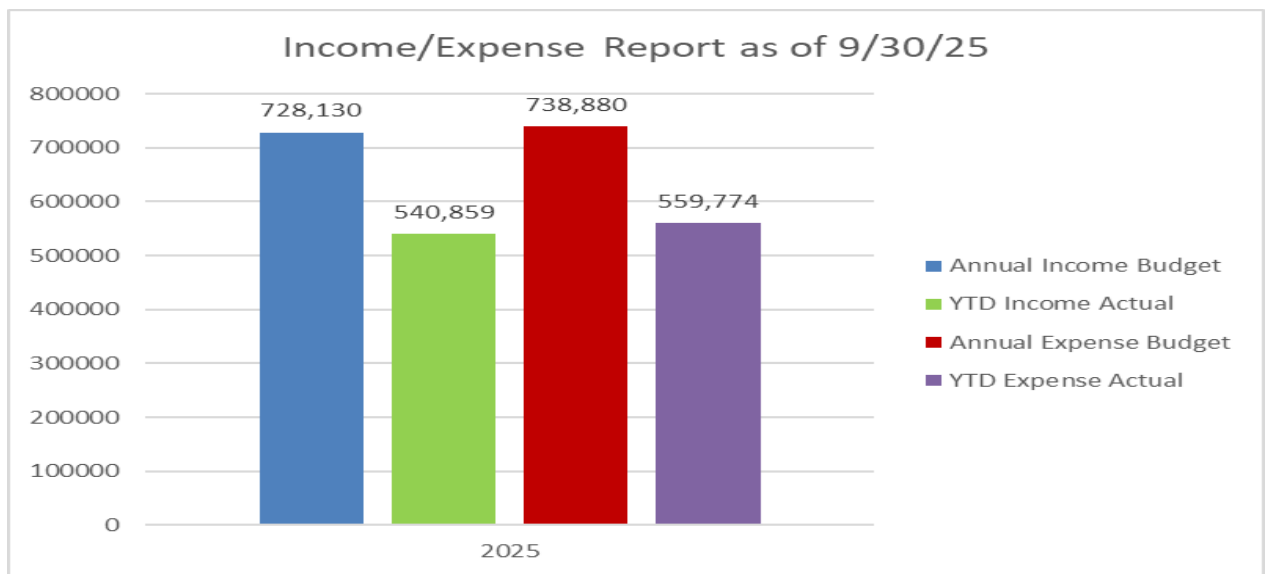
And that leads us to our continuing 2026 Stewardship Campaign at Pines, "They'll Know We Our Christians By Our Love." Your generosity, your gifts - God's gifts - allow us to do everything from keeping the lights on and air conditioner functioning, to working in the community ourselves while also supporting our mission partners.

Pines' support thus far in the campaign exemplifies the hymn, which calls us to be "one in the Spirit", to "walk with each other" and "work with each other". But we can do even more!

If you haven't filled out a pledge card yet, you can find one in the pew racks across the Sanctuary, or look for one to arrive at home in November. The sooner you pledge the better, as it allows Pines and its various committees to budget for 2026 with more confidence.

Echoing James, our central hymn closes with this: "All praise to the Father, from whom all things come."

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

The September 30, 2025 financial statements (attached) can be summarized as follows:

1. Total income received through September 30 was \$540,859 (74% of budget, 1pp behind target.) Pledge income was \$428,499 (5pp ahead) and unpledged income was \$49,638 (18pp behind). Interest income was \$14,752 (8pp ahead).
2. Overall expenses were at \$559,774 (1pp over).
3. Net income through August was (-\$18,915).
4. Current assets on September 30 stood at \$377,470, primarily in the Raymond James Money Market fund. Texas Presbyterian Fund Account assets, updated for the quarter, stood at a record high of \$1,391,641.
5. As of October 20, the 2026 Stewardship Campaign has resulted in pledges of \$562,492, the highest level at this point in a campaign since 2019. Pledges are still being encouraged and accepted by turning in your pledge card to the offering plate or to Alexis Graham, accounting manager. A big thank you to those that have already made their pledge!

Sherwood Christmas.

TWO WAYS TO GIVE:



Take an angel from the Christmas Tree.
(Fellowship Hallway) Then start shopping!



Make a donation. [Place in the offering plate, drop off at church, visit pinespc.org/giving, or use Zelle] Please note "Sherwood Christmas".

Return unwrapped gifts (with angel) or donations by Sunday, November 16th.

questions: **JOHN WORK** more info: **PINESPC.org**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AGAPE
Mission @PINES⁺



BINGO...

November 20, 6:30 pm
SAVE THE DATE!

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!



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 November 13th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.

A NOTE FROM KRISTIN BEALL: Thank you church family for the loving and generous love offering gift! We definitely will use it to make our move smooth and even get some much needed new flooring in the home we are returning to. Thank you! Also thanks for the heartfelt send off and all the wonderful memories made these past four years. I will not forget my time with you and carry you in my heart everywhere I go. Keep on shining for the Lord! I love you- Kristin

12 STEPS to Building Resilience

1. Practice Gratitude Remember a time you felt grateful for your faith community. What details resonate with you as you bring this memory to mind? 	2. Identify Your Gifts List 5 gifts you and/or your congregation have to offer a neighbor today. Think of gifts both physical and intangible. 	3. Make a New Connection Attend worship with a neighboring faith community. Invite someone you've met there to worship with you in the weeks ahead. 
4. Gain Insight Remember a past hardship you and/or your congregation faced. Retell the story of that time and include the lessons learned. 	5. Align Your Values Select an organization connected with your church or find a potential new partner. How does their mission align with your values? Can you get more involved? 	6. Listen for God's Promise Take 5 minutes to read some of today's news stories. Read Psalm 121 or your favorite psalm. What do you hear from God? 
7. Make Time to Laugh & Play Engage in an activity or spend time with someone (or a pet) that brings you laughter and joy! 	8. Rely on Coping Skills Regularly incorporate a moment for deep breathing into your day and/or worship service. Breathe in. Breathe out. Repeat. 	9. Become an Advocate Connect with a local leader and listen to their goals for strengthening the community. Which goals spark your passion? How can you join this work? 
10. Engage in Self-Compassion Practice speaking to yourself with kindness and grace today. Write down 5 qualities you appreciate in yourself. 	11. Overcome a Fear Pick an obstacle standing in your (or your congregation's) way. What steps can you take to face these fears? Take them. 	12. Stand Firmly in Hope Name a hope you hold for yourself, your church, and for the next generation. Imagine standing firmly in the future where those hopes are realized. 

Resource created by the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery: www.synodsun.org/spdr



Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on October 27, 2025. Here are some highlights:

- Received positive updates on the bathroom remodeling and air conditioner repairs. Out-of-pocket costs for the bathrooms were lower than expected.
- Received positive updates on year-to-date 2025 financials and the 2026 pledge campaign.
- Elected commissioners for the November 15, 2025 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- Discussed projects for the Fall Property Workday on November 8.
- Received an update on the Thankfulness Luncheon featuring our mission partners on November 9.
- Received an update from the Congregational Nominating Committee.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: November 21 (for the December 2025 issue)

Looking for *Things To Do...*

Houston Botanic Garden

Furthermore the holiday light experience will feature a life-sized Chinese palace, **illuminated interactive swings**, seesaws, floral tunnels, as well as an immersive, **walk-in kaleidoscope**, on top of 50 Instagram-ready photo-ops.

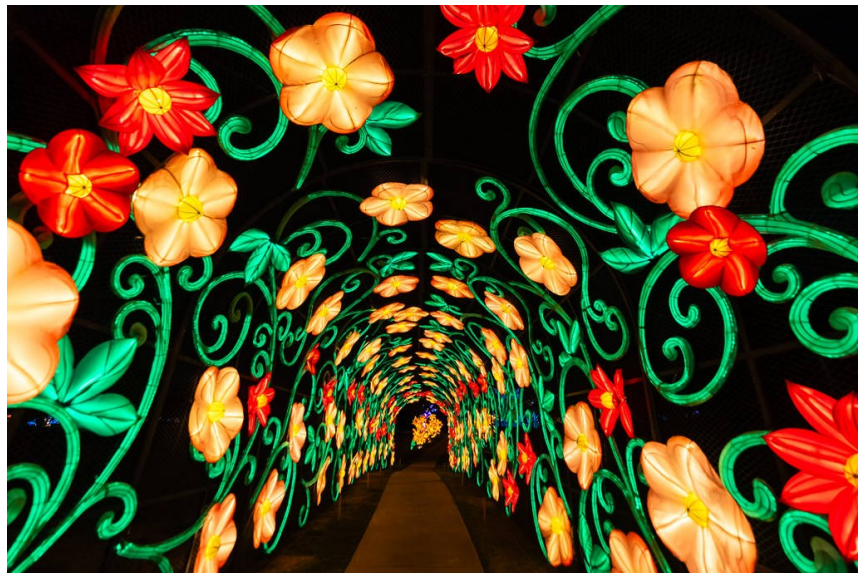
“Produced by [Tianyu Arts & Culture](#) and inspired by traditions celebrating the Lunar New Year as well as regional plant and animal life, Radiant Nature features more than **50 Chinese lantern installations** throughout the mile-long path, each of which could be perfect for creating eye-popping Instagram and TikTok content,” the organization wrote in a statement.

“Set among the Botanic Garden’s verdant and diverse natural exhibits and featuring a complementary soundtrack, Radiant Nature creates a truly serene and almost otherworldly guest experience that is not to be missed.”



Radiant Nature opens at the Houston Botanic Garden on **Friday, November 7**. The event will run on weekends (Friday through Sunday) as well as select weeknights before and after the holiday through February 23.

Tickets are priced at **\$28.50 for adults** and children aged 4 and over. Children aged 3 and under are permitted free entrance. The organization recommends visitors purchase their tickets online to secure their preferred date and 30-minute entry window.



CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRAVEL SERVICES LIMITED

Footsteps of Faith Through Scotland and the Reformation

11 Days: September 1-11, 2026

Visiting

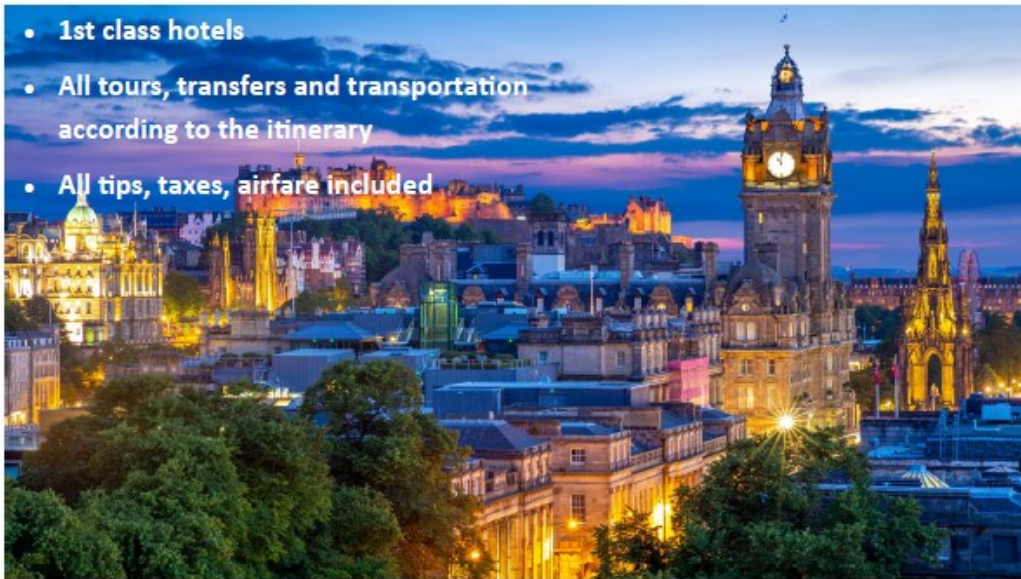
Edinburgh • Stirling • Inverness • Loch Ness • Oban
Isle of Skye • Iona • Glencoe • Loch Lomond • Pitlochry

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



Don't forget to move your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 1, so you will be not be late to church on Sunday!