



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Table of Contents

Family News, Events
and Contact Us
Page 2

Pastor's Page
Page 3

Stewardship and
Session
Page 4

Stephen Ministry
Page 5

Missions
Page 6, 7, and 8

Member & Friends Highlights
Page 8

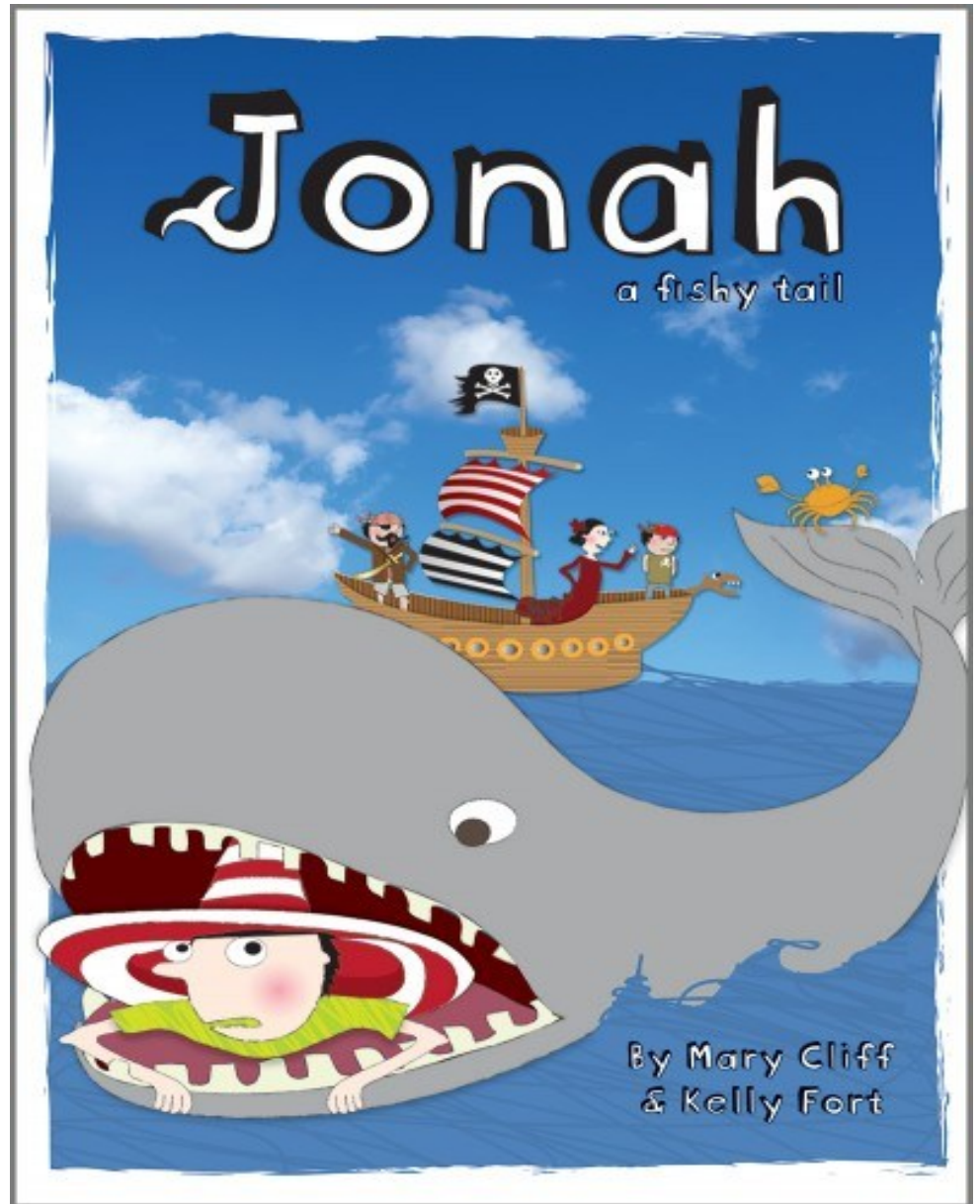
Volunteers Needed and
Summer Sunday School
Page 09

Life Line Event
Page 10

Pines Needles Stitch Ministry
Page 11

Scotland Trip Information
Page 12

Send articles for this newsletter to
cindy@pinespc.org



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!



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...

What's brown and sticky? A stick.

Why don't some fish play piano? Because you can't tuna fish!

Why do French people eat snails? Because they don't like fast food.



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...

will start back up in the fall.

Please watch the Newsletter and This Week at Pines for dates to come.

Have a great summer!

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

Greetings in Christ's name,

Welcome to June and the beginning of summer! Now is the time when many folks pack their suitcases and head out of town to enjoy new vistas, new cultures and new opportunities to rest. I hope you're one of those people! Going out to experience God's creation of land and people reminds me of the Pentecost scriptures in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit descends upon the multitudes gathered from all across the known lands and gives them the ability to speak the Gospel message to others. This becomes the birth of the church as the Spirit sends them out to share this newly given gift. I'm also reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 28 when he tells the Disciples to "Go and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit." As God's people we are all called to go to the world to not only enjoy God's creation, but to also share the Good News of the Gospel.

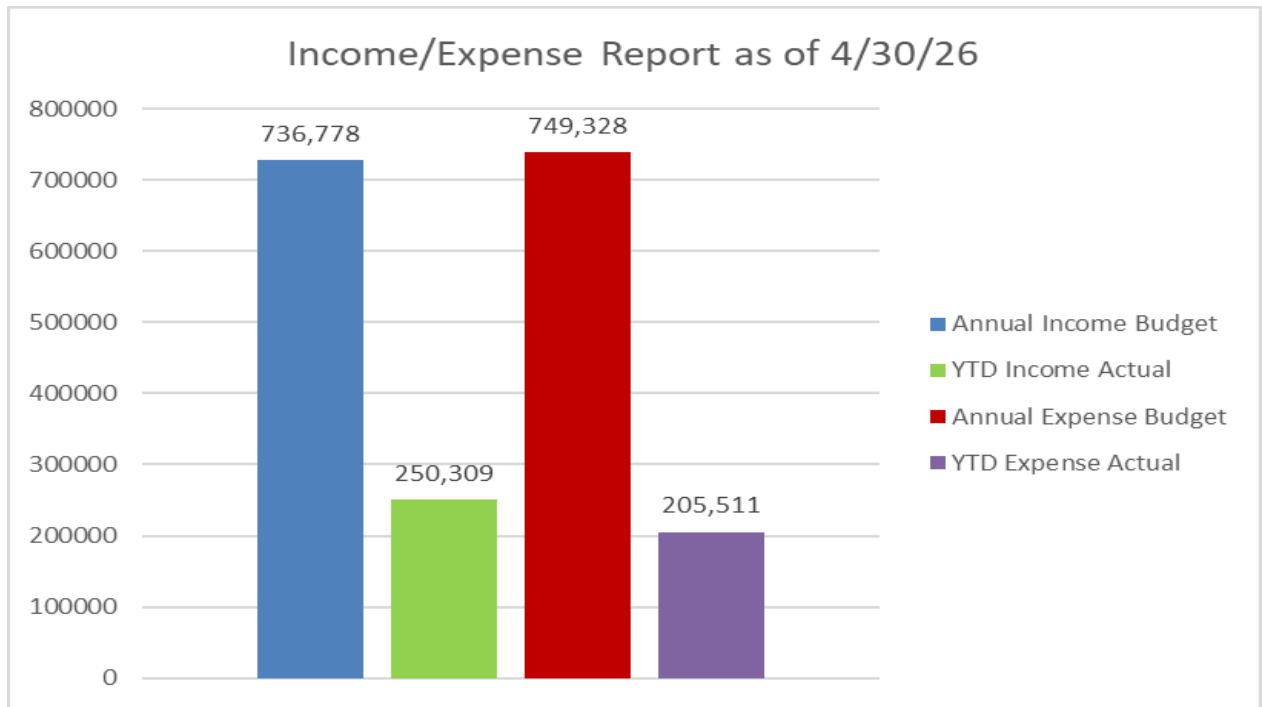
Summertime is a wonderful time to explore so many things. I always love trying new foods, new places and especially new adventurous activities. Last summer the new and adventurous activity was swimming. Now you might not think swimming to be very adventurous, and it's usually not, but swimming in the Baltic Sea off the coast of Finland is a different story. The Baltic Sea is arctic water so it's reeeeealy cold. As I sat on the shore trying to psych myself up to get in the water, all kinds of things were going through my mind. First thing was, "Why do I want to do this?" The next question was, "Should I just jump all the way in, or slowly ease my body into the cold water?" As I sat there, a local person came up and asked me what I was afraid of, they said, "It's just water and you've probably swum in water before, this water's just a little colder." As I sat there and contemplated what my body would do if I jumped in, the second part of Jesus' words in Matthew came to mind, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." I prayed the words of Matthew were true and then I jumped in. The water was so cold, but after swimming around a little bit, I got warmer. The person on the shore asked me what made me decide to jump in, I told them Jesus words in Matthew. After I got out of the water the person was still sitting on the shore and asked me what I meant about Jesus' words. This was my opportunity to "disciple all nations," or at least this Finlander. We didn't talk long, and I didn't baptize him, but I did have the opportunity to share what I knew about God's love.

I was thankful for that arctic plunge adventure, and for Jesus' words that gave me the courage to try something new. But I'm most thankful for the opportunity that plunge gave me to share with someone what I knew about our Lord and Savior. Where is God sending you this summer to go and share the Gospel message of Christ's love, mercy, welcome, and grace? I can't wait to hear!

Your brother in Christ,



Stewardship



Stewardship Notes:

1. Pledge income is slightly ahead of schedule with 63% of budget remaining to be received and non-pledge income is below budget, 81% remaining to be received. Interest income is running ahead of schedule. Total income is exactly on target with 66% remaining. It is normal for a much higher percentage of non-pledge income to be received in the last quarter of the year.
2. Expenses at this point in the year are running below budget (25% of net budget spent.) This is primarily due to 3 different causes: CE committee is well under budget as their expenses increase during the summer (mission trip and VBS); Property committee is also underbudget due to an early contribution from the Preschool to offset last year's AC costs. Also, Staff committee is under budget due to an inability to find the right candidate to fill the Director of Faith Formation position.
3. Net income at 4/30 is a positive \$44,798 vs a budget forecast of (12,550) net loss at year end.

Session

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on May 26, 2026. Here are some highlights:

- Approved speakers for the Summer Sunday Speaker Series, which begins June 7.
- Heard a report from the Trustees that this year's insurance came in with better coverage and lower cost
- Heard a report from the Isaiah Project that the first round of Listening Sessions is complete. We have preliminary plans to listen to our neighbors during the summer.
- The Property Committee reported that repairs to the Sanctuary chiller are in process.
- Finances are on track for the year to date.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer - Clerk of Session



MARCH ON

In my role as a volunteer lay hospital chaplain at Methodist Hospital, I am often the recipient of ministerial messages by the patients with whom I interact. I would like to share such an occurrence with a patient I will refer to as Maddie during my visits with her in March.

When I first visited Maddie in early March, she was scheduled to undergo double bypass surgery later that week. As we talked, she offered to share the complete story of how she got scheduled for this surgery. Several days before I met her, Maddie's husband of over 50 years went outside to get the mail but did not return in a timely manner. When she went to look for him, she found him on the ground. She immediately called 911, the EMTs arrived, began working on her husband, and placed him in an ambulance to take him to Methodist.

Maddie's husband died in ER and while she was with him, she developed chest pains. The personnel began working on her and, while doing so, Maddie had a heart attack while in the ER. The medical personnel were able to stabilize her and began running additional tests which showed the blockages resulting in scheduling the bypass surgery. Scheduling complications arose at the hospital and Maddie's surgery was postponed. She was discharged for a couple of days which allowed her time to schedule a memorial service and bury her husband.

After that brief respite, Maddie returned to the hospital and had the double bypass surgery. I saw her the day after her surgery and was amazed at her positive spirit as she shared the events which had occurred since our first visit. After sharing the entire story, she summarized her life during the month of March by saying, "In one month, I lost my husband to a heart attack, survived my own heart attack, buried my husband, had a double bypass surgery, and am able to share the story with others."

After listening to her, I asked how she was dealing with the physical and emotional challenges she continued to face. **Her response was, "I laugh while talking to my friends during the day. And I cry when I am alone during the evenings. I have decided to write a book on my experiences and will entitle it 'MARCH ON!'"**

During that last visit, Maddie's best friend was with her and I could tell that the friend was filling the role of a Stephen Minister by being present, listening and supporting Maddie. As I prayed, I gave thanks for that friend and vowed to share Maddie's story as a reminder that we can often benefit from having someone willing to listen, laugh and cry with us. Stephen Ministers are trained to support others in this way and to help them "**March On**" when faced with life's challenges.

If you would like to have a confidential discussion on possibly working with a Stephen Minister, please contact Ann Guerra, Phil Wetz, or the church office.

Phil Wetz

Pines Monthly Agape Offering

What is the AGAPE Offering? The Greek word Agape (ag-ah-pay) is used in the New Testament to refer to a kind of love that is not necessarily a feeling but a motivation for action, a sacrificial love that voluntarily gives without expecting anything in return. We are called to Agape love through Christ's example. To bring greater awareness of and participation in Pines' "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Offering** of small, tangible goods or financial donations are scheduled each month. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting items to donate and bring to the donation bin.

Watch the monthly fliers in the bulletin, newsletter, and This Week at Pines email for more information.

Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ! Thank you! Your Pines Missions Committee



Want to share a favorite recipe? I am looking for some new appetizer recipes or quick and easy crock pot meals. Send Cindy an email and she will publish it in the next newsletter.

**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



**GUATEMALA MISSION OPPORTUNITY -
October 25 to November 1, 2026**

Nueva Vida, a special needs school in Guatemala, and one of Pines' mission partners, is hosting a mission opportunity that will include time at the school helping with a VBS and end-of-year celebration, building a home alongside a Nueva Vida family, spending time in the community of Santa María de Jesús, and participating in a few cultural activities along the way.

It's going to be a full and beautiful week. An opportunity to meet the Nueva Vida staff and students and spend time in the life of the community. A chance, too, to step into what God is already doing there and to be part of it in a real way.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating or getting more information about Nueva Vida or the trip, contact Emily Scriver, Executive Director of Development - emily@nuevavidaguatemala.org (+1-705-321-9120)

CanCare JUNE AGAPE

A survivor by your side.

Our Agape offering benefits CanCare, a community of survivors that supports cancer patients and caregivers through one-on-one support, empathy, and hope.

Bring lap blankets, shawls, scarves & warm caps to "wrap up" cancer patients in love and hope.

You can also place a check in the offering plate, bring it to the office, or give online at pinespc.org or Zelle. Note "CanCare Agape" in the subject line.

No time to shop? Scan to use our Amazon Wish List. Bring your purchases to Pines and place them in the Agape box outside the sanctuary.



Wrapping Up Cancer.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PINESPC.ORG

TACO AND A PRAYER

May 8 was our final day of Taco and a Prayer before the summer break. All members including Blair Robinson, new member, Dan and Margaret Schafer, Andy and Cheryl Gans, Terrie Cardwell, Valerie Harelson, Roger Mowell, Jim Patterson and Kyle Brinkman were there at 6:30 am to break and beat eggs, cook, and roll 100 breakfast tacos that were packed in lunch bags. At 7:15 we prayed together and went to the front drive to greet our neighbors with tacos, juice, water and prayer.

As people drove up, in addition to offering prayer, we asked if they had dropped off kids at Wildcat Way preschool, Bendwood School or were neighbors driving by. To our surprise, many were our surrounding neighbors and of course people dropping off students.

One of the last cars was a mom and her beautiful daughter who handed me a \$100 bill as a donation. Her face lit up when she gave it to me! What a wonderful gift of support for our ministry!

As we continue this wonderful ministry in September, please consider joining this team of special volunteers. On the first Friday of each month, we gather in the fellowship kitchen at 6:30 am. It will be Friday, September 4th. Call Margaret Schafer if you would like to join in!



and a



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!

Pines Presbyterian recognized for its participation in the Sherwood Elementary *Reading Buddies* program

Dear SBISD Reading Buddies,

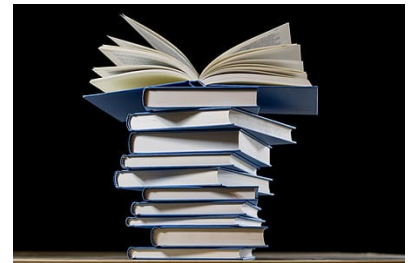
On behalf of the students, teachers and elementary schools you so faithfully support, thank you for the incredible difference you have made in the lives of our students.

We are proud to share that SBISD was recently recognized as a “District on the Rise” in the Harvard and Stanford Education Scorecard—one of only 108 districts out of more than 14,300 nationwide to demonstrate continued post-pandemic gains in both reading and math.

As part of this national recognition, SBISD’s Reading Buddies program was specifically highlighted in the Harvard Education Scorecard SBISD case study as an example of the kind of meaningful, community-supported effort that helps students thrive. Of the 108 recognized districts, only a select few were chosen for a case study, making this spotlight especially significant.

Your dedication to helping our young learners build strong literacy skills is part of that story. Your time, care and commitment reflect SBISD’s belief that early literacy changes lives and sets our students on trajectory of success—your impact is being felt not only in our classrooms, but also now recognized on a national stage.

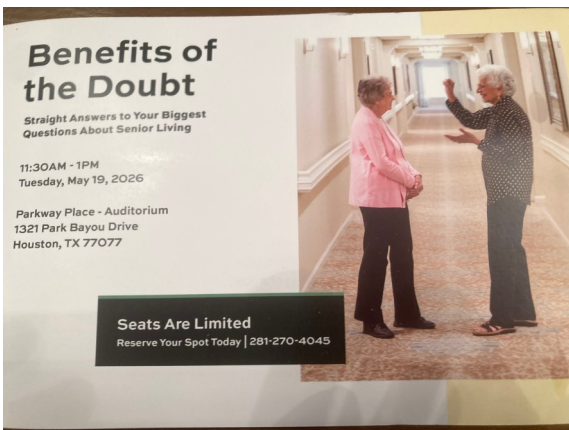
With heartfelt gratitude,
Linda H. Buchman
Associate Superintendent



MEMBER and FRIEND HIGHLIGHTS



Clara Gay Circle went to Kay Brown’s home this month where they had a wonderful **100th** birthday celebration. Her son Dennis and his wife Kathy provided a tasty lunch and Chantilly cake. Many stories were shared, a prayer of thankfulness for Kay’s life was recited, and a personalized version of ‘This Little Light of Mine’ was enthusiastically sung. The circle presented Kay with a soft pink shawl for continued warmth and love.



I received a note from Phil Wetz that I wanted to share with our Pines family. Thanks Phil, for this wonderful picture of our Pines friends!
Cindy

As you might guess, I receive lots of flyers in the mail advertising the benefits of residing in a senior living community. Today I received one from Parkway Place and when I opened it, I found the wonderful attached photo of Eleanor Loose and Toshi Hayre who I know spent many hours visiting when they both lived at Parkway Place.

The photo evoked many treasured memories of these two wonderful women so I wanted to share!
Phil

A note from friends of Pines...

Dear Pines Presbyterian, thank you very much for blessing our Rugby team for our fourth season! Having our gear available right here next to Bendwood (we allowed them to place a pod on our premises) has been amazing. And as you so kindly shared with us last year, the amazing room that we were able to hold our end of season banquet in, was just beautiful. Thank you for helping us build God’s kingdom through Rugby and friendships! Blessings on behalf of the whole team, Gambrill



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.

Do you have any computer skills? Cindy has a very basic project that simply requires one to save each file as a PDF. If you think you can help with this, please call the church office and let Cindy know you have an interest. This volunteer project comes with free training, coffee, and brownies!



Summer is HOT!
So is the Pines Summer Speaker Series!

New Topics
Every Week

Scan for
Schedule

Fellowship
Hall

Coffee - 9:15am
Speaker - 9:30am

Beginning
June 7

Invite Your Friends for a COOL Sunday Morning!

Children and Youth
Senior High Room

Nursery Available

**Pines Summer Sunday School Speaker Series
 June 7-August 29, 2026**

Pines Summer Speaker Series is back this year, and **you're invited!** We have a varied line-up of speakers and presentations to provide a different Sunday school experience, combining adult Sunday school classes and inviting the congregation and the community to attend. Each Sunday morning, we will gather at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and coffee before the presentation at 9:30. **Join us!**

Pines Summer Speaker Schedule

June 7 & 14	Valerie Harelson	Travels Around Western Turkey
June 21	Cheryl Gans	Awake my soul: Labyrinth Journey
June 28	Kathryn Huntsman	The Bahai Faith
July 5	No Sunday School	
July 12	Alan Keese	My Favorite Bible Passage: I Kings 1:1-53
July 19	TBD	My Favorite Bible Passage
July 26	TBD	My Favorite Bible Passage
August 2-23	Kyle Brinkman	Astronomy in the Bible



You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Pines Presbyterian Church

When: July 21, 2026

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:
Anyone **age of 40+**

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **800-324-9458** and use promo code **HABC001**

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)



Text the word **"circle"** to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

Suggested Guidance [Tips] for Yarn Donations to Pines Needles Stitch Ministry

Pines Needles donates crocheted and knitted lapghans, hats and scarves to CanCare and to Mission of Yahweh. We donate lapghans, hats and scarves to CanCare for patients going through chemotherapy and radiation treatments through the June Agape offering. Items donated to CanCare need to be as soft as possible, because skin is fragile from the chemotherapy and radiation. We would like our items to be easy to care for, ideally machine wash and dry, since cancer patients have many issues to deal with.

We donate hats and scarves to Mission of Yahweh to contribute to each woman and child's Christmas celebration. Young mothers with children at Mission of Yahweh don't have the time to spend handwashing items, so as with CanCare, ideally items should be machine washable and dryable.

We greatly appreciate yarn contributions. It is so helpful for us. To be able to make the best use of the yarn given to Pines Needles, we would like to make the following suggestions for donating yarn.

HELPFUL

1. Big skeins are better than smaller. Lapghans, in particular, take more yarn.
2. If smaller skeins are donated, then three or four skeins of the same dye lot to be able to complete a project
3. Acrylic, or acrylic blend, is soft yarn.
Acrylic / polyester blend is good.
Acrylic (80%) / wool (20%) is good.
4. We believe it is easier for the recipients if the yarn is machine washable and dryable; CanCare said that handwash yarn is fine, such as wool. An important consideration for the yarn is that it is soft on the recipients' skin.

TO AVOID

1. Yarn that needs to be taken to the dry cleaners
2. Wool, especially 100% wool, or any yarn that is scratchy next to the skin
3. Cotton
4. Small skeins of yarn, because it could be difficult to finish a project



Please remember to bring your door card to enter the building for meetings. For safety reasons, the doors will be locked unless approved specific times are requested.

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: June 19 (for the July 2026 issue)