



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1

THE PINES PRESS

OCTOBER 2026



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OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

- 10/02 Taco & A Prayer
- 10/04 World Communion Sunday
- 10/08 Brookwood Day Trip
- 10/11 Stewardship Commitment Sunday
- 10/11 Sherwood Christmas Kickoff
- 10/17 Autism Outreach Event
- 10/25 Trunk or Treat



What's new, Pines Family?

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to Pines from

Cindy

I wanted to thank each of you for your very generous retirement gifts to me in August. The party was wonderful and you made me feel so appreciated! Patrik and I are beginning to discover retirement slowly and enjoying every moment we have together. I still keep thinking I am on vacation and will need to return to the office, but I am sure that feeling will pass eventually. Know you are missed and prayed for daily.
Love, Cindy



SO YOU'VE GOT AN AUTISM DIAGNOSIS... NOW WHAT?

JOIN US TO LEARN WHAT COMES NEXT- FROM THERAPIES TO ADVOCACY, RESOURCES AND EVERYDAY LIFE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 5-7 PM

Speakers:

<https://forms.gle/v8bNQMUSKjH45vH7>

We will have speakers from many disciplines including Speech Language Pathology, Special Education and SpEd Advocacy, and Occupational Therapy

This event is Free and open to the public. Childcare is available on site.

Registration is REQUIRED, please use the QR code or click link to register.

Contact us 713-467-2234 Email Cassandra@pinespc.org

YOUTH GRADES 6-12
contact Cassandra for more information or to register

YOUTH RALLY



AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GALVESTON

NOV. 8TH
SUNDAY

11:00 - 2:30
AM PM

Youth grades 6-12 and their adults are invited to participate in worship, lunch, games, and community service, all led by PYCC.

you are not alone

Join us to learn how we can better support individuals and families affected by autism.

Let the little children come to me



Pines Presbyterian
—PRESCHOOL—

"But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"

Luke 18:16



The Preschool was so excited to kick off Hands on Nature with church member, Jim Patterson, on Monday, September 21. Jim led a fantastic presentation on birds for all of our older classes and installed a squirrel-proof birdseed feeder on the playground for everyone to enjoy! He will be back periodically throughout the school year to lead outdoor nature sessions on topics such as pumpkins, trees, and weather. Thank you, Jim!





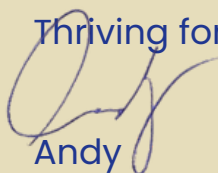
a note from

our pastor

Looking ³
Upward

Grace and Peace in Christ's name,
I think October has become one of the most exciting times of the year for the church, outside of Christmas and Easter. I find it exciting because this is the month we celebrate the many gifts God has given us, and the church. In the church world we call this Stewardship. Don't be scared, sure talking about stewardship and a campaign can be a downer, and as I said in one of my sermons, especially if our focus is worrying about surviving, worrying about paying our bills, keeping our lights on and paying for the programing we already have in place. But what would happen if we shifted our focus from talking about raising money so we can survive and preserve what we've known and become comfortable with, to focusing on becoming a family of faith that thrives, that's alive, that's excited, that flourishes, that's active, that's joy-filled, because we are a church that invites people to trust God's lead and transform our community. I believe when we do this then stewardship campaigns will take care of themselves because people will want to be involved physically, emotionally, and financially in what God is doing right here, and with each one of us. So this stewardship season, as strange as this might seem, we're not asking you to fund a budget, but what we are doing is, we're inviting you to participate in what God is doing, and will do, with this family of faith. We're inviting you to thrive in your relationship with God, and in so doing, help Pines to thrive as we move forward into God's exciting future. So let's not be an ordinary church, let's be more than we are today, let's be more than what we ever thought we could be. Let's ditch any survival mode attitude, and let's thrive at being the church God meant for Pines to be. Let's be bold and daring. Let's trust God. Let's get moving, because Pines was made to thrive!

Thriving for the Kingdom!



Andy

A MESSAGE FROM THE ISAIAH TEAM

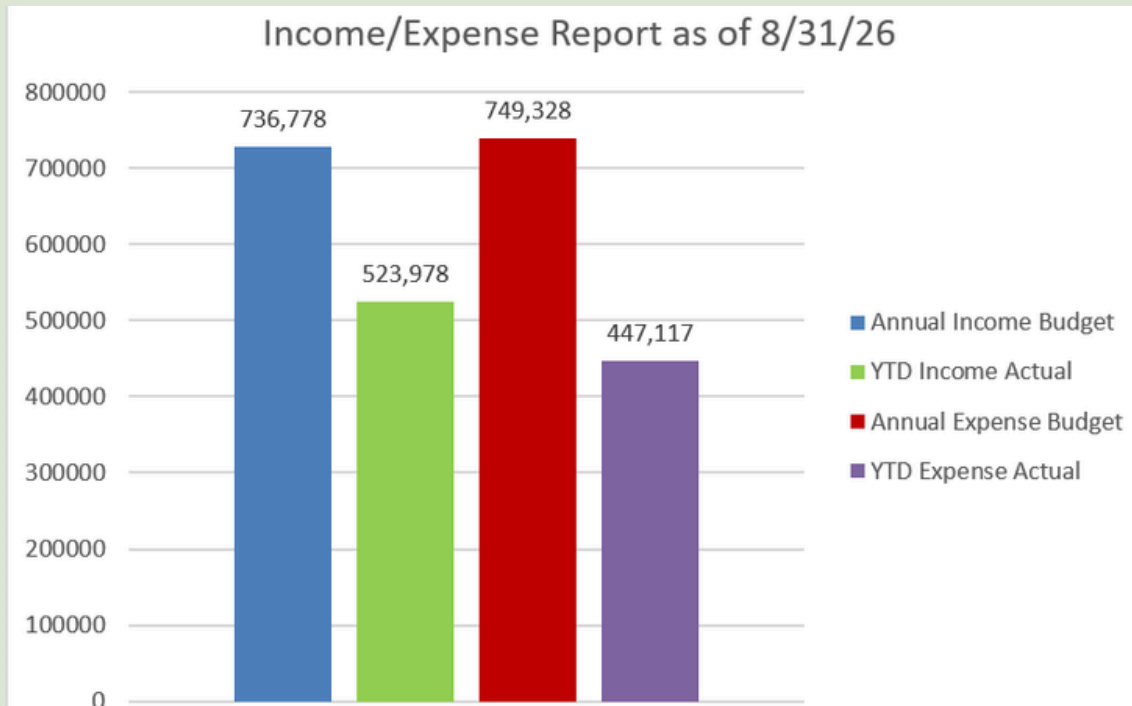
Greetings,
The Isaiah Project team continues to reach out to area organizations and entities that provide critical services aimed at communities in need, across all age groups. We're listening to both their successes and challenges as we keep praying about where Pines might fit into an evolving Houston in the future. We're hearing that people need connections and support, not just services, and there is strong demand for volunteers, mentors and community partners. Please continue to pray for this process.

Blessings,

The Isaiah Project team

Mark Babineck – Terrie Cardwell – Andy Gans
Linda Johnson – Mike Lade – Beth Patterson
Dan Schafer – Phil Wetz

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Pledge receipts and interest income through 8/31/2026 are ahead of forecast by 5-6%. Non pledge income is right on target.
2. Expenses are on target in most areas and under budget in Staff and Christian Education.
3. Net Income is \$76,861 which is impressive given a budget deficit is forecast for the full year.
4. The 2025 Annual Financial Review, performed by Amanda Hofstetter and a small audit committee, was reviewed by the Stewardship Committee this month. The report states, "The financial statements present fairly the financial position of Pines Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations for the year then ended."

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on September 28. Here are some highlights:

- Elders presented their 2027 pledges during worship as part of the meeting.
- Approved a motion to receive Dr. Collin Cornell as a candidate for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament under care of Pines in partnership with Mosaic Village Church.
- Approved a motion to move the time of Stated session meetings to the fourth Sunday of the month following worship, effective March 2027.
- Elected Commissioners to the November 21, 2026, meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- Heard a positive report on finances for the year to date.

Session

In Christ,
Dan Schafer – Clerk of Session

Thriving into Stewardship Season 2027

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God is at work every day within each of us and also within this place we call Pines. We are excited! Pines is: People, Inclusive, Neighborly, Empathetic, Service. And why do people come here? Furthermore, why do people move away and then come back here? This church is such an incredible place. Here, people can really make a difference. YOU matter and you always come through because People here have a Servant's heart. We are not just getting by and being ordinary. We are made to thrive!

Please prayerfully consider what your 2027 contribution will be toward our Stewardship Campaign, which caps off with Commitment Sunday on October 11th. What successes will you be a part of?

Thank you so much for choosing to participate in this wonderful opportunity, where we CAN make a difference in our church and in our community and beyond. We have collectively made the choice to THRIVE!

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul writes, "To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us."

God is at work within us! Let's celebrate. We can hardly wait and see how God will once again do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. It's a privilege to be on this journey with each of you. So, YES, let's get excited!

Val and Linda Aldred



save the date

Sherwood Christmas



is coming

One of Pines' favorite traditions is our annual Christmas toy drive – partnering with Sherwood Elementary to provide gifts that help make Sherwood Elementary families' Christmas morning special! For many of these children, the gifts we provide will be the very ones they open on Christmas morning. Mark these dates on your calendar so you can join in the fun – sharing the joy of Christmas with Sherwood Elementary! More information and reminders will be shared as we get closer to each date.

Sunday Oct 11- Nov 15 – Take an "angel" tag from the tree

Sunday, November 22nd – Deadline for bringing gifts to Pines.

Saturday, December 5th, 9am to noon – Gift wrapping party!

Here are a few ways you can be part of this meaningful tradition:

- Take an "angel" tag from the wooden tree in the Fellowship Hall hallway, purchase gifts indicated on the tag, & return gifts to Pines
- Join in the wrapping party
- Give a financial gift

When you take an angel off that tree, you aren't just buying toys or clothes; you are letting a child know that they are seen, valued, and loved by this community. You are bringing peace of mind to parents who want to give their children a magical morning but are facing financial hardships. Thank you for your generosity!



HOW TO HELP A FRIEND WITH DEMENTIA

Earlier this year a representative from Amazing Place gave suggestions to an audience at Pines of about 25 people on “How to Help a Friend with Dementia”. Shown below are some of the key points from the presentation:

HOW BEST TO COMMUNICATE

- Focus on milestone memories. Ask about their first job or favorite trip.
- If they keep repeating, change the environment. For example, invite them to another activity or room or play some of their favorite music.
- Simplify your questions. As the disease progresses, give fewer options. For example, instead of asking, “What would you like to eat?”, ask “Would you like soup or a snack?”.
- Be flexible and adapt your style over time. As a progressive disease, it is important to recognize that the level and clarity of communication from the impacted person will decrease over time.

SEVEN STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH EARLY-STAGE MEMORY LOSS

- 1.Acknowledge a person’s sadness, fear or anger due to the loss of independence.
- 2.Look for support groups for both the loved one and the caregiver.
- 3.Find ways the impacted love one can still contribute and have a sense of purpose.This might be setting the table or playing an instrument or singing or offering a prayer.
- 4.Ensure the safety of the individual -- be aware of wandering, driving, and obtain a Medic Alert, as needed.
- 5.Schedule a daily routine that includes activities, people or places the person enjoys.
- 6.Communicate with short simple phrases, giving full attention, using touch, and maintaining eye contact.
- 7.Use reminiscing as an activity that uses their strengths and can be calming.

Amazing Place programs do not provide a cure for dementia but they do offer support to loved ones and caregivers experiencing a very challenging time. Similarly, Stephen Ministers are not “curegivers” but pledge to walk with people facing difficult challenges in their lives. Sometimes their efforts include suggesting to a care receiver that they investigate getting help and support from an organization like Amazing Place. While this is not always the case, the Stephen Minister does commit to walk with the care receiver by listening and praying for them.

If you would like to confidentially explore the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister, please contact Ann Guerra, Phil Wetz or call the church office.

Let's be the hands & feet of Jesus.

Come and join us.

Join Us for a Fellowship Outing to The Brookwood Community! Experience a day of inspiration, shopping, and fellowship at The Brookwood Community, a Pines missions partner, on Thursday, October 8. We will tour their beautiful campus near Brookshire, which provides a meaningful living and working community for adults with disabilities including the adult children of two Pines families. We will enjoy a delicious lunch together at the Brookwood Café, shop their unique gift store and tour the living and working spaces.

RSVP to Linda Johnson so that we can arrange carpooling from Pines. We plan to leave Pines at 10:45 am and leave Brookwood to return to Pines by 3:30 pm.

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT SUNDAY & THANKFULNESS LUNCH NOVEMBER 8, 2026



Join us on Sunday, November 8th, for a special day celebrating our volunteers and mission partners!

- Before Worship: Meet our partners in the Sanctuary lobby.
- During Worship: Active Pines volunteers and mission representatives will lead the service.
- After Worship: Join us for a Thankfulness Lunch, complete with info tables and stories of their exciting work.

Bonus: Wear a T-shirt spotlighting an organization you love and support!

See you there as we celebrate doing God's work together!

Thank you, Pines!

Pines Presbyterian Church is being honored as one of the Top In-Kind Book Donors for 2025-2026! Thank you for your generosity!

"Thank you for putting joy in the hearts of the kids" - Ann Guerra





THE ROLODEX

HOW CAN WE HELP?

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Contact Melissa Gravett
or Linda Aldred

MAKE A DONATION

Contact Alexis Graham
alexis@pinespc.org
or donate through our
website at pinespc.org.

PRAYER LIST

Contact Bethel Strawser
prayer@pinespc.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact Laurie Conner
laurie@pinespc.org

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org

THIS WEEK AT PINES ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact Dan Schafer
communication
@pinespc.org

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org

PLAN A WEDDING

Contact Linda Aldred

BOOK THE CALENDAR

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR KITCHEN

Contact Ann Guerra

PINES PRE-SCHOOL

Contact Connie Pike
connie@pinespc.org

ANYTHING ELSE?

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org