



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Vacation Bible Camp is **COMING!**

June 23-26 from 9:00am-11:45am

This year we will have a *Safari for Jesus* theme. Camp will be so much fun as we hear stories about Jesus and the Israelites going from slavery to the Promised Land!

There will be play time, music, science, crafts, and, of course, SNACKS! We have cleared our waitlist, so if you have friends or neighbors looking for a new adventure for their kids, have them get on the waitlist now by contacting Kristin at kristin@pinespc.org.

We are also collecting empty toilet paper rolls!! Please bring them to Kristin's office or to the receptionist desk. Thank you!

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 on Fridays, call Cindy at 832-489-5989.



Please keep the Lacy family in your prayers with the loss of husband and father Brian. Services were held here at Pines in April.

Please keep the Lade family in your prayers with the loss of Mike's mom, Bettie Lade Lehman. A service will be held at Pines on June 28th at 2pm.



Zoe Rundle Schafer's new baby boy: Roland James Schafer, born April 7, 2025. Roland "rolled in" at 8lb, 11 oz, and 21.5 inches long. This Makes Jim Beall a GREAT grandfather and Kristin a great Aunt. Congratulations to all!!

THANKS!

Dear Pastor Andy and Pines Church congregation, My family and I wanted to express our gratitude for praying for Moises while he was in the hospital. We felt your love and prayers every time he had a smile on his face. You all have a special place in our hearts, we will never forget your kindness. May God bless your lives with health, happiness, faith, and love. Thank you, Paola, Jonathan, Moises, and Oriana Cohen



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



**Next BINGO...May 15th
6:30 pm**

SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us in this opportunity for
Fellowship, Fun, Good Food, and Prizes!
Everyone is invited! Bring a friend!

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...will meet again in June.

There is Mother's Day in May so Sunday Lunch Bunches are postponed until June. We look forward to seeing everyone there this summer!

PLEASE help us conserve energy...by remembering to turn off lights and AC when you leave the building. **If you turn it on, please turn it off!** Thank you for caring for **YOUR** church!
The Property Committee

Brown Bag Book Club

For our next Brown Bag Book Club meeting, scheduled for June 17th, we will discuss the delightful New York Times bestseller, "Remarkably Bright Creatures", by Shelby Van Pelt. Come join us and if you have any questions, please contact Shirley Bollich.



Pastor's Page

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Isn't that GREAT news! The season after Easter is such a wonderful time of year. The season brings with it a freshness, new beginnings, and new life. You can sense people's excitement as the days get longer and warmer. We sense the coming of summer, and the earth begins to bear more and more beautiful colors as flowers begin to grow and bloom.

This past Easter, as I enjoyed the lilies in the Sanctuary, I thought how fresh and welcoming the lilies made this house of God appear. I also went out to the columbarium/ memorial garden and just sat there for a few moments. As I sat there, I realized how the peacefulness of the garden reminded me of God's presence. I was amazed how fresh flowers and trickling water made such a difference in the way I felt about entering our campus. Our Easter faith needs to be like these flowers and the garden. The flowers are like Evangelism 101. A flower's beautiful colors draw people, and animals, to them to enjoy the color and nectar they provide. We may then go and tell others about how beautiful these flowers are, and they will come and see. Those people may come and bring others, and awed by their beauty they may wish to plant some of their own. Do you see how this can be seen as basic Christian evangelism? The sweet nectar and beauty of the flower is our Lord and Savior, and we are the ones who take the nectar of the message to the world and share the sweetness of Christ with others.

Like the flowers the Memorial Garden draws people in, not necessarily by its beauty, but by its peacefulness and its living water. One dry day a few months ago I saw three birds drinking from the fountain. This was marvelous! The garden reminds me of our amazing God. Our God who offers peace and solace. Our God who offers refreshment and living water to a dry people.

I pray that, as we enter these new days following the resurrection, we will use the flowers and the garden as reminders of our life-giving, amazing Lord who reaches out, gives new life, and refreshes a dry people.

Living into His resurrection,



Andy

**Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: May 23 (for the June 2025 issue)**

If you would like to opt out of receiving this newsletter, or if your email is going to change, please send a note to cindy@pinespc.org and we will update your record.

Family Ministry Calendar for May

PLEASE HELP!

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

May Calendar:

- 4 Hand on Hand Bingo for Kids- come help- loading at 4:45pm back at 6:45pm
- 10 Family Summer Fun Day- indoor picnic fun for the whole family with dominos, jacks, pick up sticks and human size ants in pants! Hot dogs, chips, watermelon and ice cream bars! 4-6pm
- 14 Youth end of the year party! 6-7:30

No Sunday school memorial weekend!

Hand on Hand is growing in its new location! Upland Park is what is formerly known as Knights Landing. Come help us love on this community with food, supplies and playing various games and activities! May is kids bingo!





FAMILY FUN DAY!

Saturday, May 10 | 4:00-6:00pm

Vintage Games

Playground Time

Picnic Dinner

Prayer

Summer Check In

FAMILIES

OF ALL AGES

INVITED!

Together@PINES+

The Pentecost Offering

is a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of children, youth, and young adults. 40% of the offering remains with our congregation to support youth and children ministries in our church and the local community. We will be collecting the offering during Pentecost season beginning May 18 and continuing through Pentecost Sunday, June 8.

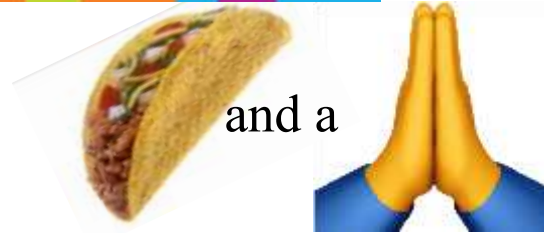


Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

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 May 2.

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



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The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Monday through Thursday. We have 3 volunteers currently, but we need one 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 to get on the list. By the way...one of our long ago male members (Jack Long) used to answer the phones on occasion...just to give you gentlemen out there something to think about!



Corny jokes for the month...

How do you keep a bagel from getting away? Put lox on it.

How does the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it.

What do lawyers wear to court? Lawsuits.

Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants? In case he got a hole in one.



Contact Us

Sanctuary flowers: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred at

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

Pickleball Program: Kristin Beall at kristin@pinespc.org

Anything else? Just give the office a call at 713-467-2234



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

It's not Potluck! by Ann

Last month I gave the children's message about our potluck dinners. Many of you were amazed at my many props that day!

We all know when you go to a potluck you get what you get- it may be exactly what you were craving or you decide you will be heading to your favorite drive thru after you event is over!

The awesome thing about your faith journey is- it is NEVER a potluck! Even though you may not always get what you want in the moment. Faith means trusting with all your heart that your loving God knows exactly what you need when and how you need it. It can be very scary, exciting, or maybe frustrating.

A Stephen Minister understands this. We are here to walk with you when you feel like you have been left with unwanted choices or circumstances. Please reach out to Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz if you would like to talk about Stephen Ministry.



A thank you note from Priscila, Brian Lacy's wife...

Dear Pines Presbyterian Church,

I have so many things to thank you for that I hardly know where to begin.

Even before my husband David Brian Lacy received his official ALS diagnosis last year, I was already praying—asking God for wisdom, strength, and guidance on how to preserve my children's faith.

God answered in countless ways. One of the most powerful answers came through you.

Pines Presbyterian welcomed us with a love and compassion that I still struggle to put into words. The love, support, care in many different formats, unbelievable and endless prayers, friendship, words of encouragement, affirmation and hope. Lots of cards, more and more prayers, the whole community to make the memorial service for Brian happen (that I know, is huge), more unconditional love, all the contributions and never-ending support. Tireless work. Being there for my family. Pines has been overwhelming doing this in the most beautiful way. I am really blessed for this encounter and grace!

Your community surrounded us with the love of Christ. That love gave me strength. It allowed me to focus on what truly mattered—spending meaningful, loving time with Brian and comforting him in his final days. Without you, I would not have been able to carry the weight of everything we were facing. You gave me space to breathe, to hope, and to remain grounded in faith.


I want to sincerely thank and hug every member for this kind and unforgettable support, this endless and altruist pouring love in the name of Jesus Christ.

Your kindness will never be forgotten. My gratitude is eternal. Thank you and thank you!

In Christ's love,
Priscila N Lacy

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact-for phone no 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)	Spring Semester	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
	Reading Buddies	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy & Dave Coles, and Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team	Spring semester	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
Youth Hand on Hand Apartment Outreach	Assist with preparing food and other activities	Monthly	Pines/nearby apartment complex	Kristin Beall
Vacation Bible Camp	Various roles to be filled – group leader, crafts, and more	summer	Pines	Kristin Beall

May Agape Offering



Donate New or Like-New Children's Books

Books Between Kids serves Houston's at-risk children by providing them with books to build their own home libraries.

DROP OFF DONATIONS

IN THE MISSIONS BIN IN THE NARTHEX

OR

PLACE A CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE, BRING IT TO THE OFFICE OR GIVE ONLINE ON ZELLE OR AT PINESPC.ORG

(NOTE: "BOOKS BETWEEN KIDS")

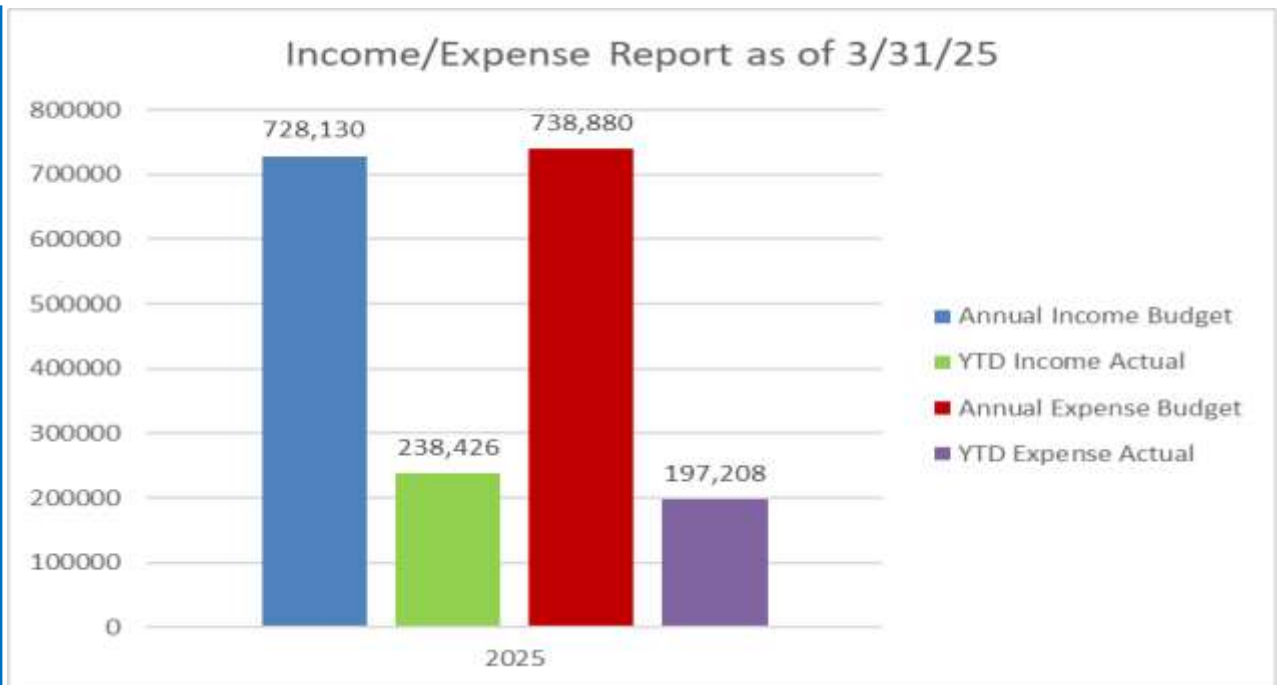
Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular stated meeting on April 28, 2025. Here are some highlights:

- Approved a Letter of Transfer for Katherine Allison to First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC.
- Approved a grant request to presbytery for the 2026 Feed My Starving Children MOBILEPACK.
- Approved a memorial service for Bettie Lade Lehman, mother of Mike Lade, on June 28.
- Approved adult curriculum motions from the Christian Education Committee.
- Received a report that pledge and non-pledge income are ahead of plan for the year to date.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer
Clerk of Session

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total income received through January 31 was \$238,426 (33% of budget, ahead of target.) Pledge income was \$194,763 and unpledged income was \$24,259. Interest income was \$3,414, slightly behind projections.
2. Overall expenses were almost on target at \$197,208 (27% of budget).
3. Net income through March was \$41,218.

RENOVATIONS

The contractor has requested an extension to May 6th on the Fellowship Hall restrooms. We will continue to drive the project until completion. Walt Penberthy for the Property Committee

Pines Directory...Folks, we are encouraging people to use our Breeze system to access member information. If you would like to have access to this information on your phone or computer, please contact Alexis in the church office on Mondays, or you may email her at alexis@pinespc.org. She will get you set up for access. Otherwise, if you would like to have a church directory printed, please send an email to Cindy and let her know. We are taking a head count to see if it is worth the cost of printing a directory. Thanks for your patience, Cindy



JOIN POP LAY CHAPLAINS' TRAINING & GUILD

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Training will be held at First Presbyterian Church

5300 Main Street, Houston, TX 77004, Room CE 225

Please join us for the POP Hospital Ministry Training! This training will develop your desire to provide comfort, peace and prayer for those who are sick. Using the POP Manual, you will enjoy this Training and feel confident to hear the concerns of God's precious people. All Caring Ministry volunteers are encouraged to attend including Deacons, Elders, Stephen Ministers, and Homebound ministries.

Registration:

To register, please visit the POP Website at <https://popministry.org/home/programs/training>, or call 281-814-3362. A confirmation will be sent to your email address.



Do the two items to the left look familiar to you? If so, please give Cindy a call in the church office. They were left at the church and we do not know where they belong. Items left at the church are usually donated to MAM after a certain length of time. Thanks!

Adult Sunday School

We invite you to join our Sunday School class called Explorers. We meet each Sunday in room C-3 @ 9:30 am. The class consists of short videos followed by lively group discussions. Come join in on any Sunday!

A Message from your Pines Staff Committee...

Did you know we have amazing and wonderful volunteers on the Session here at Pines? Our “Get to Know Your Staff” was so very well received that we decided to begin a “Get to Know Your Session” and this is month one as we explore a fun way to get to know them a little bit better. If you are familiar with the “’Stro Poll” that comes up on the screen during every Astros game, then you know that they list 4 fun facts about an Astro; you can text in and guess who it is. Along those same lines, we are going to list a few fun facts about our Session members and ask you to participate by guessing who you think it might be.

We will continue this process for several months as we discover interesting things about our Session volunteers. The answers will be listed during the last month in the Newsletter.

1. Can you guess who this person is?

They love the color pink and they also love to do anything involved with crafting. He/she also loves to do anything that might be involved with dogs. They really love the movie *Gone With the Wind*. They read the book 20-30 times as a teenager and early adult. He/she said that they have many favorite quotes some of which are: “Don’t make me come down there”...God; Never be afraid to try something new, remember amateurs built the Ark – professionals built the Titanic; When I get old they’re never going to say “what a sweet old person”, they’re gonna say “what the heck are they up to now!”; “I had my patience tested – I’m negative.”; “America, the Donkey and Elephant won’t help; We must turn back to the Lamb”. They shared that their favorite food is fried chicken. The best part about their role here at Pines is that they are involved and even though the years are adding up, they can still help where the people they love are. Something that is not known about he/she is that they loved riding horses and wish they still had the opportunity to do that. Favorite childhood memories include riding their horses, having lived in several states when they grew up, and playing outside as a young child and catching fireflies at dusk. An example of when He/she feels God most in their life is when they have suffered a loss and when they are quiet and still and let Him come into their mind. Their great grandsons, and their grandson and his extended family and my friendships at church bring he/she the most joy. Great influencers include their mother, in some good ways and negative ways, and their senior high English teacher who helped her/him see how actually smart they truly were.

2. Can you guess who this person is?

Their favorite place to visit is anywhere where they can hike in the mountains. He/she has many favorite movies and they include *Rio Bravo*; *Robin Hood* (1939 version with Errol Flynn); *Singing in the Rain*; *White Christmas*; and *Swiss Family Robinson*. They love the one-on-one fellowship opportunities to share here at Pines. Something that not many people know about them is that they were blessed to be able to watch their youngest daughter sing in concert at Carnegie Hall. He/she feels God most in their life when they are trying to serve those in need. A favorite childhood memory includes catching fly balls hit by their dad while running barefoot on the street where they lived. He/she feels the most joy when they sense they have been of some assistance to a person in need. The most influential people in their life include two college professors who believed in them before they believed in themselves and, in so doing, changed the course of their life.

3. Can you guess who this person is?

Their favorite foods include lasagna and osso buco. He/she loves woodworking and they love to fix things. Their favorite color is blue and their favorite place to visit is Laity Lodge. Their favorite movie is *The Princess Bride* and their favorite quote is “Love never divides, it always multiplies.” Something that not many people know about them is that their name was on something bigger than a house: a jackup drilling rig. Their favorite thing about their role at Pines is taking over the minor repairs and remodel jobs when Jim Anderson couldn’t do them anymore. A favorite childhood memory was always feeling safe and knowing they were loved. They feel God most in their life when they spent time at Laity Lodge and any time they were singing, especially the song “In Remembrance of Me”. He/she stated that being with family or close friends, especially at the table brings them the most joy. Their family, Sunday School teacher (Mrs. Gerlack), Jerome Berryman, and Peter Kemery have had the most influence in their life.

We will have a specially decorated box near the Sunday Coffee table in the narthex, along with pieces of paper to write your answers. If you think you know the answer(s) please leave them in the marked box, along with your name.

The answers will be listed in the newsletter in a few months. Thank you for participating.
Session/Staff Committee

Motor Skills with Mrs. Schafer!

The Pines Preschoolers attend Motor Skills Class with our very own Margaret Schafer each week. Margaret has been teaching, directing and training in the preschool since 1985. Movement serves as a catalyst for social interaction, emotional expression and stimulates cognitive faculties. Activities that promote gross motor skills, such as running and jumping, stimulate the release of neurotransmitters like dopamine and serotonin, which are essential for attention, memory, and mood regulation. The teachers and kids are grateful for all Mrs. Schafer brings to them in such fun ways!



Looking for something different to do???

HOUSTON AREA LIVE STEAMERS FREE RIDES

MARCH THROUGH NOVEMBER

The Houston Area Live Steamers tracks are located at Zube Park in Hockley: 17802 Roberts Rd, Hockley, TX 77447. The rides are approximately one mile long and last 12-15 minutes, and are fun for all ages! And you can ride as many times as you like - you just have to get back in line!

The Houston Area Live Steamers members offer FREE train rides to the public every 3rd Saturday of the month (and select Sundays!) from March through November on their tracks.

Go check out their ride schedule at <https://www.hals.org> for directions and their schedules. Fun for Adults and children! Below is a link if you want to see a video: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1BhmGqEjvC/>



Music Theater Camp is coming back! Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 6, 8:30am-12:30pm, Pines Presbyterian Church offers a Music Theater Camp which is open to children who have completed first grade through high school who would like to sing, dance, and act. Don't worry if you don't have any experience – that's OUR job to help you gain it! The final production will be presented during 10:45am worship on June 8, followed by a reception/autograph party for all the actors and their families, as well as the Pines church family. The cost is \$75 per student. Sign up at pinespc.org or email laurie@pinespc.org.

Want to share a favorite recipe? Send Cindy an email and she will publish it in the next newsletter. This one is from Pines member Laurie Conner. Bon Appetit!

Danish Puff Pastry

A layered puff pastry topped with a sweet frosting, almonds, and cherries!



Ingredients:

Short crust Base 1 stick salted butter chilled, 1 cup all purpose flour spooned and leveled

Choux 1 cup all purpose flour, 1 stick salted butter, 1 cup water, 1 teaspoon almond extract, 3 eggs

Frosting 1 stick salted butter softened, 2 cups confectioner's sugar see notes
1 teaspoons almond extract or vanilla extract

Topping sliced almonds, maraschino cherries destemmed and sliced in half

Instructions:

Make the short crust base

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees or 325 degrees convection.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Tip: Use a little bit of butter or cooking spray to keep the sheet in place.

Add flour to a medium sized bowl.

Cube butter and add to bowl with flour. With a pastry cutter or fork, cut butter into flour until all of the butter is well combined. You'll know it's cut in well when you can easily form 2 evenly sized rough balls of dough and it all sticks together.

Add each dough ball to the cookie sheet. Use your hands to form each pile of dough into a long flat strip approximately 12 inches long and 3 inches wide. Set aside.

Make Choux

Add water and butter to a small to medium sized saucepan and heat on medium and bring water to a boil while the butter melts. Be sure to watch the water so that it does not boil over. If it does, you will need to start again.

Once boiling, add the 1 cup of flour and almond extract to the pan and turn down heat to low. Use a fork to vigorously stir in flour until a ball of dough forms and begins to pull away from the side of the pan. Approximately 1 minute.

Remove pan from heat. Add 1 egg to the pan and with your fork beat it very very fast into the dough. Be sure that you do this quickly so that the egg does not scramble. Repeat with all eggs, continuing to beat vigorously, until you have a smooth velvety dough. Set aside to cool for about 10-15 minutes.

Make Frosting

While choux cools, in a medium sized bowl add softened butter and almond extract. Use a hand mixer to cream butter. Slowly add 3/4 cup of powdered sugar and beat together until the butter and sugar is a soft and creamy frosting. Set aside.

Assembling

Once choux has cooled, scoop it out onto the short crust. Do this one even sized scoop at a time, alternating between each crust to assure an even split.

Use a spoon, spatula, or your hands to smooth the layer of choux on each short crust into a flat layer that covers the top of the crust.

Add to oven and bake for 1 hr.

After 1 hr. the pastry should be golden brown and dry.

Remove pastries from oven and gently transfer to a cooling rack and store in a draft free space of your kitchen for at least 30 minutes. If there is a draft, your pastry will sink.

Final Assembly

Once pastry is cool, split frosting in two and frost the top of each in an even layer.

Top with sliced almonds and halved maraschino cherries, if desired.

Slice into strips and serve!

Notes

Storage:

Fridge: Cover and store in a fridge for up to 1 week.

Freezer: You can store the cooked Danish puff, unfrosted, in the freezer for up to 1 month. Let thaw completely and then frost before serving.

Substitutions:

Butter: Use unsalted butter and add 1/4 teaspoon of fine ground salt to your short crust flour and another 1/4 teaspoon to your choux flour. Give each a quick mix before continuing with the recipe.

Extract: You can use vanilla extract in place of the almond flavor in the choux and/or the frosting.