



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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Send articles for this newsletter
to cindy@pinespc.org

The church office will
be closed on July 3rd
in observance of the
July 4th holiday.



America's Birthday Lunch

Fried Chicken AND Singalong!

Potato Salad
Cole Slaw
Watermelon

Fellowship Hall
Sunday, July 12
After Worship



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.



Dear Pines family of faith,

I write today to share the news of the passing of George Bole on April 9th of this year. We recently learned of his passing from his family. George and his wife Jan were long time members, but attendance at church events became difficult due to growing health issues.

I hope you'll join me in lifting Jan and the rest of the family up in prayer as they continue to walk this difficult road.

With faith in the resurrection,
Andy

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. If you would be interested, please call the church office to contact Suzy.



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!

Corny jokes of the month...

What did the big flower say to the little flower? "Hi, bud!"

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? Because they lactose.

How does NASA organize a party? They planet.

Why is Peter Pan always flying? Because he Neverlands.

Seriously! WHO THINKS THESE UP!!!



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.

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 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

our
Contact Us

SAVE THE DATE, Sunday August 30th after Worship

After 27 years it is time to say goodbye to our Office Manager Cindy Houlihan. The Staff Committee is proposing a special way in which to honor Cindy. The theme is **Thanks for the Memories!!!**

There are many ways in which you can participate in this wonderful celebration and offering of love. Baskets will be set up in the Narthex to collect any hand written thank-you notes or cards. We will also have a link and/or QR code in the *This Week at Pines* and below in this newsletter, so you can upload any photograph over the last 27 years that you might like to share as we hope to create a slide show of fun pictures and memories. Finally, you may choose to make a love offering financial gift. Please send a check to Alexis Graham, Pines Financial Manager, with the wording "Cindy Houlihan retirement gift" written in the subject line. You can also drop a check with the wording in the offering plate. **ANY DOLLAR AMOUNT** would be greatly appreciated ~ The total amount will be used to purchase a VISA gift card for Cindy.

We plan to present the cards, notes and love offering gift to her at the retirement luncheon which will be held after the Service on Sunday August 30th.

We are so grateful and blessed that God sent us such a wonderful person to assist us for the last 27 years.

Thank you in advance for helping us acknowledge her and all of her years of service to Pines, and for contributing to this milestone event in her life.

Please reach out if you have any questions.
We are so thankful for this generous Congregation.
Staff Committee
Linda Aldred, Moderator
281-734-2043



Pastor's Page

Note: Andy has graciously turned his Pastor's Page over to the Isaiah Team this month

Greetings,

The Isaiah Project team is grateful for the more than 60 congregation members who participated in one of several listening sessions that we recently hosted at Pines. As a reminder, this was essentially the second step of the process, after the online survey this spring, where the team gathered in-person, frank and collaborative input about where we've been, where we are, and what our hopes and dreams are for the future. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and know that was only the first round of that process.

While all of the sessions had different groups of Pines members doing the talking and different members of the Isaiah Project team doing the listening and hosting, you can [click here](#) for a detailed summary of the conversation, or scan the accompanying QR code with your phone. Some highlights:

The participants were in general agreement about keeping and growing some of the core elements of our identity, such as music, missions and **being welcoming, something that we could certainly be more intentional about but — like almost everything else — needs a spirit of volunteerism and enthusiasm**. While the church remains missional at its core, there was a concern that the same limited number of faces seem to participate in most every activity.

Family was a top theme. And not just our *families* within the congregation, but the congregation itself as an **extended family that loves and cares for one another**, both on a regular basis and particularly in times of loss or worry. Regardless of what the future holds, the groups were very consistent in wanting to ensure we maintain that tradition that binds us.

A key repeating concern was the **lack of presence within our immediate neighborhood**. The church was founded largely by members within a few blocks of the building, and while it's gratifying and encouraging that so many people near and far have found us, trying to reconnect and engage with the community surrounding us was a constant theme. Ideas such as **better leveraging the preschool, our campus and gym, and Bendwood Park** were starters. Improving communication with the world we serve was mentioned frequently.

Another constant lament, shared by virtually every mainline Protestant denomination, is how to get younger families and — by extension — **more children and youth in our halls** beyond preschool and special events like: VBS, Easter egg hunts, Trunk or Treat, and other successful outreach missions. The nature and relationship with the preschool came up often.

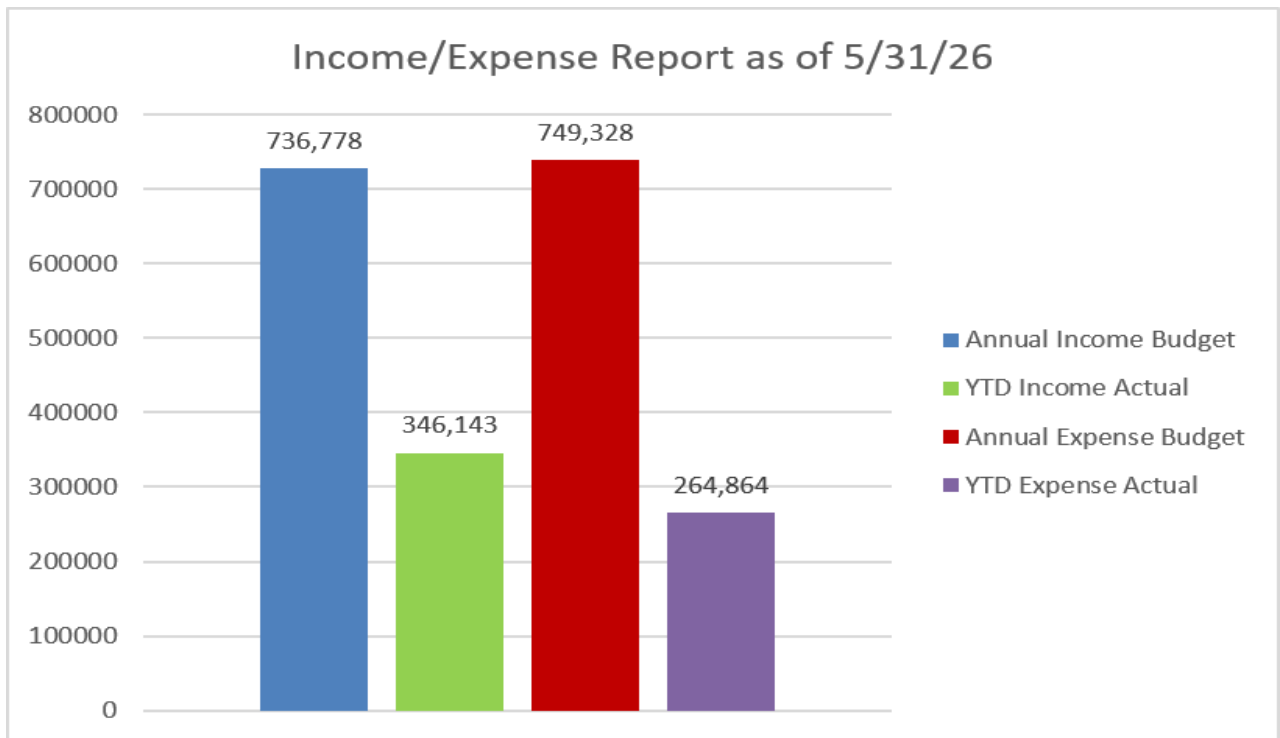
Lastly, **concerns about increasing operating costs** of our facilities threaded through the conversations.

Our next steps will be to reach out to the community, whether they have tangible ties to Pines or not, and see if we can learn more about our opportunities to better intertwine with it. We are in the early stages of that process now.

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. Pines financials are very strong through May 31, 2026. We normally expect to receive 42% of the full years budget at this point in the year. Pledge, non-pledge and interest income have all exceeded that goal! Total income is \$346,143 of the full year's \$736,778 budget.
2. Expenses at this point in the year are below where we would expect at the end of 5 months. Total expenses are \$264,864 versus a full year's budget of \$749,328. Staff expenses are well below budget due to the inability to fill the Director of Faith Formation position. Property expenses are also below budget due to increased income from outside groups, primarily the Pines Preschool.
3. Total Income at the end of May is \$81,279. Budget for the year is a net deficit of \$12,550.

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on June 22, 2026.

Here are some highlights:

- Prayed and reflected on Matthew 10, with the focus on how we can be a more welcoming church.
- Heard a report from the Isaiah Project on key themes from the recent listening sessions. A report will be included in the July newsletter.
- Elected commissioners to the July 18, 2026, meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- Heard a positive report on finances year to date.
- Reallocated funds to pay for refurbishment of the sanctuary piano.
- Approved the 2026-27 Preschool budget.
- Approved plans for the retirement celebration and gift for Cindy Houlihan.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer

Session



*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;*

*Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next. Amen.*

Reinhold Niebuhr

May this age-old prayer be a blessing to you today!
If you would like someone to help you find serenity
and courage, please reach out to Ann Guerra or
Phil Wetz to talk about connecting with a Stephen
Minister.

MAM

Spring Branch Community Event
77055 • 77080 • 77043
77040

Getting to know
Spring Branch

Be informed. Get involved. Make a difference.

Are you a resident of Spring Branch or do you work in Spring Branch?
We're inviting participants from across the community to join us

Wednesday
July 29, 2026
6PM to 8PM

MAM Hamill Education and Workforce Training Center
1625 Blalock Rd, Houston, TX 77080

Look forward to *Lite bites + Local care groups*

A special opportunity to:

- Join and engage with Spring Branch members for a community conversation
- Participate in a panel discussion with community stakeholders
- Learn about resources in your community
- Learn how your voice impacts the community

MAMHouston.org

Scan QR Code to Reserve Your Spot

L1826

Looking for Things To Do???



MAM VOLUNTEERING

YOU TOO could be having all this fun at MAM on Mondays! Please contact Margaret Schafer to volunteer at our next MAM Volunteer Monday.
Pictured Pines members and friends: Nancy Ridgway, Linda Aldred, Nan Stout, and Terrie Cardwell

Missions

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST
PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!



Would you like to truly make a difference in the life of a child? Several meaningful volunteer opportunities are available with our missions partner, Sherwood Elementary, for the upcoming school year:

Reading Buddy: Meet 1-on-1 with your elementary-age reading buddy for 30 minutes a week for full school year to help build their confidence and reading skills. Learn more here: <https://www.springbranchisd.com/engage/partnerships-volunteers/readsbisd/reading-buddies>

Mentors: Meet weekly with your elementary student mentee for 30-45 minutes, helping and inspiring them to reach their full potential. Learn more here: <https://www.springbranchisd.com/engage/mentors>

Interested?? Training (1 hr per school year) and resources are provided by SBISD. **To register as a reading buddy or mentor, sign up on the Spring Branch ISD website.** Sign ups and training dates will be available mid-July. <https://www.springbranchisd.com/engage/register-to-volunteer>

If you have any questions, contact Beth Patterson or Margaret Schafer.

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE





Your gifts will help provide back-to-school clothes, shoes and school supplies!

JULY/AUGUST AGAPE

Donations can be placed in the offering plate, made online at pinespc.org/giving or on Zelle, or brought to the church office.

PINESPC.ORG Include "Back to School" with your donation.

Mission@PINES+



A Season of Hope and Connection 🌸💖

Our 2026 Spring Luncheons have wrapped up, and we are so grateful for everyone who joined us in celebrating this year's theme, *Hope Outshines Hardship*. Each luncheon was a meaningful time of sharing stories of resilience, hope, and transformation across the communities we serve.

💖 Be on the lookout for information about our Fall 2026 luncheons coming soon!



Pines Preschool News

The 2025/2026 school year is a wrap! Thank you so much to Pines Presbyterian for your support. Working together, we have provided a loving early childhood ministry to west Houston for 56 years. We are incredibly proud of the growth and learning that happens in our hallways from September through May. We look forward to partnering with the church for many more!

A note from Montrose Street Reach: Kathy, thank you and Pines Presbyterian so much again for your labor of love to our Street Church crowd. We served 135 adults plus children last night as (the) Holy Spirit was working amongst the crowd many people touched by the power of God. I am in talks with a young man by the name of Jaylen (27 years old), just lost, could be on the streets, but he's potentially meeting me on Tuesday to talk about going into a program. Please pray for him. We love y'all dearly. Montrose Street Reach.

Note from the Mission of Yahweh: Dear Pines Mission Team and Congregation, Thank you very much for the children's clothing and beach towels. It is such a blessing for these children to enjoy a summer of fun, and feeling well loved and cared for. Your longtime support of the mission has been core to our history and we are so thankful that you continue to work with us into the future, serving His people. Thank you for your service, donations, and encouragement. Glenda Haynes

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!

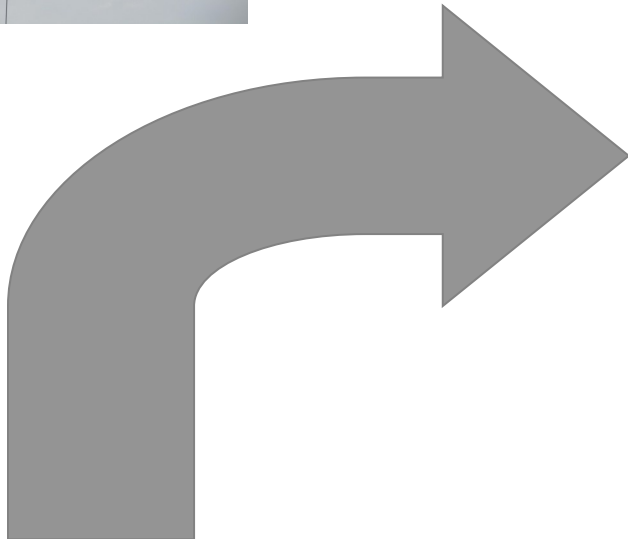
| Mission Partner | Activity | Date | Location | Contact (for phone numbers contact Church Office) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| Potpourri Ladies | Volunteer Every Monday at MAM | Ongoing | MAM | Margaret Schafer |
| The Restoration Team | Assist 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 mo., 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 |

houston TOOIBANK

Community Preparedness Training

Learn practical individual preparedness strategies and assemble your own emergency supplies bucket to take home. This training is in collaboration with SBP and sponsored by LISC Houston.

Contact to register:
(713) 674-0262
Date: Thursday, July 16
Time: 6PM - 8PM




RESTORATION BEGINS WITH STABILITY

This is our 500th home—and a family that has been holding on, waiting for help.



This is the current condition of Mr. William Pierre's home—one that has endured years of damage, deterioration, and ongoing challenges.

Mr. Pierre and his two sons have done everything they can to hold things together. But the reality is, the home now requires significant repairs to make it **safe, stable, and secure**.


WHY TEMPORARY HOUSING IS NEEDED

Due to extensive structural and interior repairs, the home must be temporarily vacated for approximately 3 months. TRT is coordinating temporary housing so the Pierre family can stay safe while the restoration takes place.



TRT'S 500TH HOME

This milestone represents more than a number. It represents hope, restoration, and a fresh start for a family who has deserved it for far too long.



~~\$10,000~~ **UPDATED \$21,300 TOTAL**

THE *Journey* TO 500 FAMILIES

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| HALLWAY & LIVING ROOM \$1,500 | BEDROOM \$1,500 | HOT WATER HEATER \$1,200 | KITCHEN \$4,000 | SIDING REPAIR \$3,000 | BATHROOM \$4,000 |
| LAUNDRY ROOM \$2,000 | EXTERIOR PAINT \$2,500 | REAR BEDROOM \$2,900 | MIDDLE BEDROOM \$2,900 | PRIMARY BEDROOM \$2,800 | WINDOWS \$1,500 |

WE'VE LAUNCHED A \$10,000 PHASE 1 GOAL to stabilize this project and care for the Pierre family.

TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR 90 DAYS
Safe, stable housing while repairs are completed.

INITIAL MATERIALS TO BEGIN RESTORATION
Critical materials to start structural and interior repairs.

FOR HOUSING LEADS OR PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT, feel free to reach out directly.

EMAIL: DCASTILLO@THERESTORATIONTEAM.ORG
PHONE: 832-947-3667
(Please leave a voicemail if there is no answer.)

THIS IS WHERE WE'RE ASKING FOR SUPPORT
If you're in a position to give, partner, or connect us to temporary housing solutions, we would greatly appreciate it.

DONATE HERE:
therestorationteam.org/give
(Please write "PIERRE" in the comment section when donating.)

AND WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, THIS WON'T BE WHERE THE STORY ENDS.

SAFETY TODAY | **RESTORATION IN PROGRESS** | **HOPE FOR TOMORROW**

TOGETHER, WE CAN TURN THIS HOUSE BACK INTO A HOME.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



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 officelike: making copies, keeping the office supply room organized, our keys for the building need help, and a variety of other things. If you have a few extra hours any Monday through Thursday 9am to 4pm, please contact Cindy in the church office.

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 July 12-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

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| July 5 | No Sunday School | |
| July 12 | Alan Keese | My Favorite Bible Passage: I Kings 1:1-53 |
| July 19 | Margaret Schafer | My Favorite Bible Passage: Philippians 4:4-9 |
| July 26 | Mark & Susan Babineck | My Favorite Bible Passage: Romans 14:1-3 |
| August 2-23 | Kyle Brinkman | Astronomy in the Bible |
| August 30 | Pines Mission Trip Team | Report & Celebrate the Memphis Mission Trip |

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. These same items are donated 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. These items need 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 women's and children'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 mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: July 24 (for the August 2026 issue)**

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/approved.

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

