



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**ANOTHER FUN PINES FOOD & FELLOWSHIP EVENT!
SAVE THE DATE!**



Come have Lunch with your Pines Family—Comfort Food for Everyone!

Date: Sunday March 2, 2025

Time: Right after the Sunday Service

Where: Fellowship Hall

Menu: Chicken Noodle Soup OR Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, and Ice Cream Sundaes (WOWSA!)



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper!

**Donations Support Our
Feed My Starving Children
MOBILEPACK!**

Tuesday, March 4

**Hot Pancakes Served
from 6:00-7:30pm**

Together @PINES+

Lenten Devotionals are available for pickup in the church lobby and at the office front desk, and they will be available online daily. This year's theme is "The unpredictable, faith-filled journey toward the resurrection." Be part of the journey and pick up your copy today!

See Page 6 for a full list of Lent and Easter activities.

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.

Brown Bag Book Club

Our spring Brown Bag Book Club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th at 12:00 Noon. Beth Patterson will be leading our discussion of the book, "The Ways We Hide," by Kristin McMorris. If you enjoy an action-packed novel, this is a good book for you. It is about an illusionist who is recruited by British Intelligence during World War II, and is set on a perilous and heartrending path. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!! Shirley Bollich



Our prayers go out to the Loose family in the loss of their mother Eleanor Loose. Eleanor was a long time member of Pines. She was involved in many aspects of the Pines interiors, The Pines Preschool and Committee life. Her sweet smile will be missed. Eleanor's service at Pines will be held on March 1st at 2pm.

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!



Want to learn to play Mahjong, or are you already a seasoned player? Suzy Wolfe has begun a Mahjong group in room W12 each month at 7pm. The next night is March 13th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.



Next BINGO...March 20th 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 at Bull and Bear on Westheimer on March 9th.
We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Important Info...

In the event that the doors are not open for your group, please leave a note on the door to ask them to call your cell phone for entry. Every group leader should have an entry card to come into the building. If you do not, please contact Cindy in the church office to assist with getting one for you. Propping the doors open not only wastes electricity, but also is a danger to those in the building in case of intruders. Please treat your church as your home. **And please, NEVER prop open the doors at any time!** Thank you.

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 so much! Your Property Committee

Pastor's Page

Lenten blessings to you,

Welcome to the season of Lent, a forty-day journey to the empty tomb of Easter. But before we get to that joyous Easter morning we have to walk through the valley of Lent and Holy Week. The six weeks between Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and Easter Sunday (April 20th) can seem like an extremely long journey, especially when we love to have things almost instantaneously. How many of you remember dial up internet connections, or a time before microwave ovens? Nowadays, if a package takes more than two days to get to us, we consider it an inconvenience. Heck, if the speed limit on the freeway is anything less than 70mph we think it's too slow. We've become used to things happening right away, to getting from point A to B as quick as we can. I think that's, sometimes, unfortunate. I believe there are blessings in the journey from point A to point B, just as there can be a sacredness in the waiting.

There's a reason for the long journey. We can't enter Lent on Ash Wednesday and have Easter Sunday that same week. It wouldn't make sense. The six long weeks are intentional. They are meant to make us slowdown, to make us think, reflect and re-imagine our walk with God. Our walk with God needs to be intentional. We need to take time to be in the Word, to be in conversation with God, to look around and experience what the Spirit is doing around you. This type of journey isn't easy. If you are serious about your journey, God will show you things that will challenge and stretch you, and make you feel uncomfortable. But that's ok, because any good and worthwhile journey will make you stronger and thankful to where you've come.

I can remember a journey I was on in my life some years back. It was a journey I wanted to be over the very next day after I started. I didn't think I'd learn much on this journey God had me on. I grumbled and I kicked for several days at the beginning, but then God began to pry my eyes open to the Spirit's work. I read an article that opened my heart to what God wanted me to learn on this journey. Each day following, I saw and experienced new things that helped me get from point A to point B, and when I finally got to point B, I was a much better and faithful person. God knew what I needed. God knew I needed the long journey to draw closer to him.

Sometimes we need the long journey of Lent to help us learn, grow and draw closer to God. So as we walk this long journey of Lent, let's be thankful for what God is doing in and around us as we make the slow, intentional walk to the empty tomb of Easter.

Blessings on your journey,



Andy

**Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: March 21 (for the April 2025 issue)**

Family Ministry Calendar for March

PLEASE HELP!

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

March Calendar:

1-2 youth conclave retreat
 4 Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner
 5 Ash Wednesday
 7 Youth to Toby Mac
 16 Hand on Hand Apt Ministries noon
 21-23 youth camping trip
 30 Prayer Pal Dinner 6-7:30pm

Thank you to all who helped by baking or buying the youth bake sale! We sold over \$900 that morning! Mark your calendar now for April 5 car wash! All money helps us go on mission to Puerto Rico!

All invited to help with Hand on Hand- we need people to help load and unload, serve food and play with kids! Families welcome! See Kristin to get connected. Kristin@pinespc.org

Youth Sunday School 9:30-10:30am in Senior High Room- Spice Rack Bible



Christ caring for people through people

Refresh, Renew, Rejoice!

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12 NIV

There are times in life when a freeze seems to stop our growth. As we clear away the wreckage, we make room for new growth and better days.



If you are experiencing a freeze, you do not need to walk alone. Reach out to Phill Wetz or Ann Guerra if you would like a Stephen Minister to support you in your journey.

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.



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 February 7th.

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.

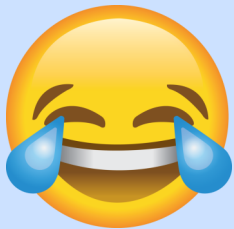


The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

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!



Everyone is invited to attend the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) fundraising luncheon on **April 24, 2025, 12:00-1:00 pm**. It will be held at the beautiful Lakeside Country Club on Wilcrest Drive. The Luncheon is FREE, but there will be a fundraising request for a donation. If you're interested, please contact Margaret Schafer or call the church office.



Corny jokes of the month...

Why did the scientist disconnect his doorbell?

He wanted to win the no-bel prize!

Have a beautiful day!!!

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

Cracker Barrel Copycat Hashbrown Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 small yellow onion, finely diced
- 1 T. butter
- 28-32 oz. frozen hash browns, thawed and patted dry
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 10.5 oz. cream of chicken soup (I prefer Campbell's. . .)
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 2.5 cups cheddar cheese, shredded (I prefer extra-sharp cheddar)
- 1/3 teaspoon pepper

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Heat 1 T. butter in small skillet over medium heat and add the onion. Soften for 5 minutes, then set aside. Pat the thawed hashbrown dry.
- Set 1 cup of cheddar cheese aside for the top of the casserole, then combine all remaining ingredients in a large bowl (hashbrown included). Transfer to greased 9 x 13 casserole dish and top with remaining cheese.
- Cover and bake for 45 minutes.
- Remove cover and increase heat to 400 degrees F. Bake for an additional 10-15 minutes, until the top begins to crisp and brown slightly. Remove from the oven and let stand for 10 minutes prior to serving.



THE FMSC VOLUNTEERS PACKED A NEW TOTAL THIS YEAR... 124,416 meals for 2025! This will feed 340 kids for an entire year!! Thank you to everyone that donated, volunteered and prayed for this packing event!

Dear Friends -- The note below is from a friend of mine who attends Unity Church. Last year, I invited him to FMSC and he brought six other people. He returned this year with an even larger group and sent the note below to me. I am sharing this so you know what a positive

impact your efforts had on those who attended. Phil Wetz

Phil, our group had a great time today. Everything was well organized and a welcoming environment. We had 11 of our 15 signees on site, we will look to be back next year with an even larger group. FMSC is an amazing charity.

Alan

See pictures from The FMSC event on page 11.

Lent & Easter @PINES

Wednesday, March 5:

Ash Wednesday Service (Holy Communion) | 6:30pm

Sunday, April 13:

Palm Sunday

Worship - Holy Week in Song | 10:45am

Followed by Fellowship Lunch (Location TBD)

Thursday, April 17:

Maundy Thursday Worship (Holy Communion) | 6:30pm

Friday, April 18: Good Friday Worship | 6:30pm

Saturday, April 19:

Easter in the Park for All Ages | Bendwood Park
Including Easter Egg Hunt | 10:00am

Sunday, April 20:

Easter Sunrise Worship Service | Bendwood Park | 6:30am

Sunday, April 20:

Easter Worship Service (Holy Communion)
With Hallelujah Chorus | Sanctuary | 10:45am

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

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact
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)	Beginning in February	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
	Reading Buddies	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy Coles; Dave Coles, Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team	Beginning spring semester	Sherwood	Cindy Coles
Montrose Street Reach	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening (next is Dec 5 th)	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	summer	Pines	Kristin Beall
Easter Egg Hunt	Various	April 19	Bendwood Park	Kristin Beall



The Pines Preschool Ladybug Class celebrated the 100th day of school as 100 year olds!

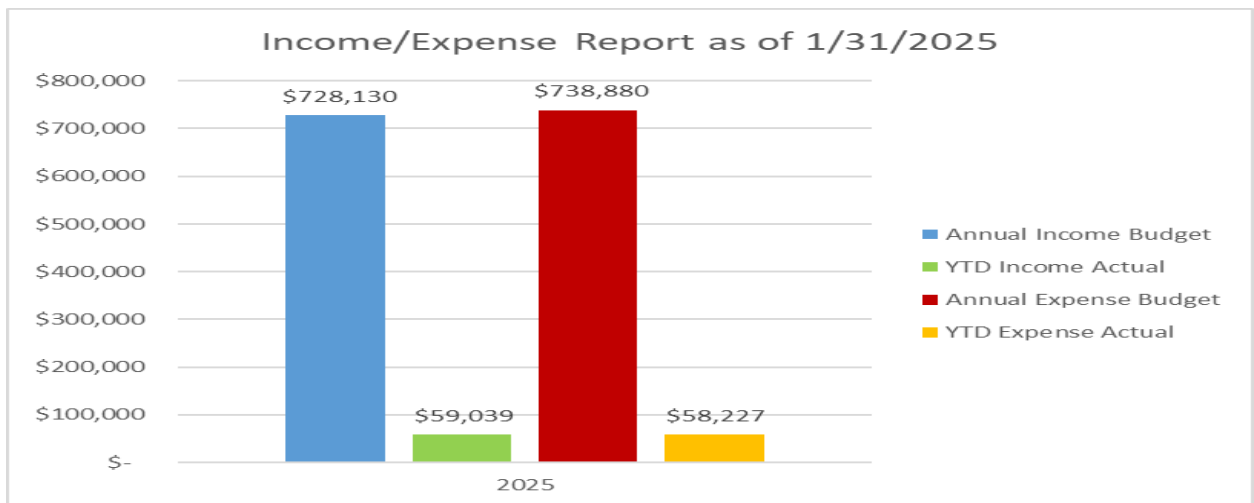
Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on February 24, 2025. Here are some highlights:

- Elected Dan Schafer as Clerk of Session for a one-year term.
- Approved curriculum for Adult Education: “The Message of Jesus” by Adam Hamilton, and “Tending the Wild Garden” (a study of the Fruit of the Spirit) by Eugenia Anne Gamble.
- Approved a grant request to Presbytery for two new iMac computers in the Sanctuary
- Elected Linda Johnson as Treasurer for a one-year term.
- Elected three Commissioners to the Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant on March 22, 2025 at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Houston.

Faithfully submitted,
Dan Schafer – Clerk of Session

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

The January 2025 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

1. Total income received through January 31 was \$59,039 (8% of budget, right on target.) Pledge income was \$43,062 and unpledged income was \$7,943. Interest income was \$2,704, slightly ahead of projections. Total income is right on target for the first month of the year.
2. Overall expenses were also on target at \$58,227 (8% of budget).
3. Net income through January was \$812.

RENOVATIONS

Restroom construction is ongoing. Demo is complete & we look forward to having it back in use.

The contractor has given us no indication of delays, so we hope to have it back in service by spring break.

Thanks so much for your support and patience!



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 at to sign up.

AND

It's time for our annual Sign-ups for **Lilies** that are ordered from Brookwood Community to decorate our Sanctuary as we celebrate the Resurrection on Easter morning. The cost is \$12.00. You can either sign up in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall before the service on Sunday mornings March 23 or 30, April 6 or 13, or you can email or call Linda or Melissa with your information. Please designate whether the **Lilies** are "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" when you make your selection and you may order as many as you like. Please place your check or cash (in a marked envelope with your name on it) in the offering plate at church and write on the notation line "**Lilies**". You may also pay electronically using Breeze or Zelle. The **Lilies** may be taken home after the Easter service. Linda Aldred and Melissa Gravett



2025 Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering



CULTIVATING A WELL BALANCED LIFE

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH | 9:30 A.M.—2:30 P.M.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church

4807 San Felipe St., Houston, TX

Speakers:

Mahlon Hight, Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX

Meg Scott-Johnson, St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

Worship Leader:

Rev. Keatan King, St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

Registration Fee: \$18

First Time Attendee: \$15

Late/Walk In: \$20

Includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch



Mission Opportunity

UCM is an ecumenical partnership of the Presbyterian Church USA, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ.

"The mission is to demonstrate the love of God as expressed through Jesus Christ through programs initiated within the local college and university communities which equip, inform and serve."

Registration Deadline: Monday, March 31st



Please send questions or concerns to Mary Ann Thomas, Co-Moderator
ma.thomas48@yahoo.com / (713) 594-1872

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?

He/she loves to travel and their favorite place to visit is Cedar City, Utah which is home of the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and, also close to several National parks. Favorites include the color turquoise and the Scripture, “Do not be anxious about anything, but present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”, Philippians 4: 4-7. He/she said that their mother had a great influence in their life. She was a beautiful and vivacious lady who adored her children. She was an RN in her early days and she was also a talented cook and seamstress. She also learned to create lovely silver jewelry and she gave crosses to many friends and family. She cared for children, neighbors and animals. They feel God most in their life when singing beautiful hymns and anthems. He/she also experiences God when they are enjoying the beauty of nature. A favorite childhood memory includes swimming, horseback riding and playing in the tree house with siblings and friends in Carlsbad NM.

2. Can you guess who this person is?

He/she likes the color green and they love reading. Their favorite place to visit is any place where they can see snow. Their favorite movie is *It's a Wonderful Life*. They cannot choose a favorite book because it would be like choosing a favorite among their children, and they have favorites for many seasons of life. They love the opportunity and are honored to have a voice on Session. He/she feels God most in their life when they can advocate and work for love, grace, inclusion and representation. A favorite childhood memory is when each spring break 6-10 families from their small Texas town would caravan to Colorado in their old fashioned full size vans to snow ski.

3. Can you guess who this person is?

He/she loves football and also loves to read in the off season. Their favorite color is orange and their favorite place to travel is Sante Fe. Their favorite movie is *A League of Their Own*. He/she loves the quote “let’s work on that for next spring training” and also “get back down on the floor as you are the only one here who knows what they are doing”. Their favorite foods include good chili and any other great Tex Mex. Many people do not know that they share a name with the Pope. Their favorite thing about their role at Pines is being involved in the common direction. A favorite childhood memory is going on family camping trips in the Canadian wilderness. They feel God most in their life when they knew only He could fix a serious problem, and when they asked, God did it. He/she shared that obtaining a measure of justice for others that need and deserve it brings them the most joy. Their spouse and their children have had the most influence in their life past, present and future.

4. Can you guess who this person is?

He/she loves the colors red and turquoise and they also love to sew and create things from scratch. Their favorite place to visit is Galveston or any beach. Their favorite movie is *It's a Wonderful Life* and one of their favorite books include *Heaven is For Real*. He/she loves the quote “To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”, Ephesians 3:20. Their favorite foods include Mexican food and Smoothie King. Many people do not know that they were on a game show and won \$12,000. They also played left halfback for a pro football Houston team. Their favorite thing about their role at Pines is getting to know people better and assisting where they can. A favorite childhood memory is enjoying incredible meals cooked by either parent. Their father would go fishing in Galveston almost every weekend and sometimes he would bring back 15+ pounds of fresh shrimp that he would cook and then feed all of the neighbors. They grew up thinking everyone ate fresh fish weekly. They feel God most in their life when they volunteer and watch for the God Winks or miracles happen that only He could make happen. He/she shared that being anywhere with their spouse and family brings them the most joy. Their parents influenced them greatly. Other influencers include many many church friends who were in small groups over the years, and they all shared experiences and came alongside each other as everyone was trying to navigate day to day experiences in 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





MEMORIAL DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRESENTS



AN EVENING WITH

**SHANE
CLAIBORNE**



We've invited Shane Claiborne—speaker, activist, and best-selling author—to speak on "Radical Hospitality" because at MDUMC, we believe life is better together and Christian community matters. From working with Mother Teresa to advocating for justice and peace, Shane lives out his faith in bold ways. Don't miss this inspiring evening!

- ✔ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
- ✔ 6 - 7:30 PM (5:30 PM DINNER)
- ✔ MAIN CAMPUS - WESLEY HALL
- ✔ MDUMC.ORG/EVENTS

Dinner & childcare available upon reservation

12955 MEMORIAL DR. | HOUSTON, TX 77079

Greetings to you from MDUMC:

MDUMC is excited to welcome Shane Claiborne on Wednesday, March 19 for a dinner/dialogue about radical hospitality within Christian community. Please share the below and the attached flyers with those interested within your community. Let me know if you have any questions!

Join us on **Wednesday, March 19 at 6:00-7:30pm at Memorial Drive UMC** as we welcome prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author, Shane Claiborne. Shane will be speaking on the impact of radical hospitality on Christian community and why it matters. All are welcomed to attend. **Register online at www.mdumc.org/events**. An optional dinner at 5:30pm, as well as childcare are available by reservation only.

Shane worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and founded The Simple Way in Philadelphia. He heads up Red Letter Christians, a movement of folks who are committed to living "as if Jesus meant the things he said." Shane is a champion for grace which has led him to jail advocating for the homeless, and to places like Iraq and Afghanistan to stand against war. Now grace fuels his passion to end the death penalty and help stop gun violence.

Shane's books include *Jesus for President*, *Red Letter Revolution*, *Common Prayer*, *Follow Me to Freedom*, *Jesus, Bombs and Ice Cream*, *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*, *Executing Grace*, his classic *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Beating Guns*, and his newest book, *Rethinking Life*.

We hope you and your small groups will join us for this important conversation for such a time as this.



When is daylight saving time in 2025?

Daylight saving time is set to begin on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**. In the early hours, time will jump forward by one hour from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. This marks the shift to local Daylight Saving Time (DST). Tell us...how do you feel about Daylight Saving Time?