

The Tidings

the monthly newsletter of

Pineda Presbyterian Church
(PCUSA)

September

2026



Sunday – September 6th

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (*Room A*)

**10:00 a.m. — Worship Service
with Communion** (*Sanctuary*)

Sunday – September 13th

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (*Room A*)

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

11:00 a.m. — Congregational Meeting (*Sanctuary*)

Sunday – September 20th

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (*Room A*)

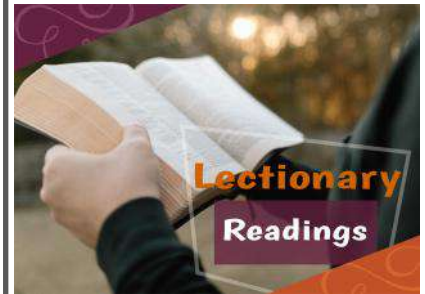
10:00 a.m. — Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)

Sunday – September 27th

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (*Room A*)

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
(*The Five Cents per Meal Offering will be received.*)

11:00 a.m. — Hands-On Mission Project (*Fellowship Hall*)



September 6th

Exodus 12:1-14

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13th

Exodus 14:19-31

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 20th

Exodus 16:2-15

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27th

Exodus 17:1-7

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32



PASTOR'S NOTE

Good day to you Pineda Pres!

The sun is shining, school is back in session, and the heat has broken! Well...kinda...

This feeling that starts in August and continues through September has always felt palpable to me. It's a stirring of the soul, a restlessness, an urge that calls us forth to get off the beach and throw ourselves back into life as we know it. It's an itching in our spirits to settle into the routine and familiarity, to make ourselves useful. It's a demand, a special little nudge from God that begs us to ask the question...have you found your place yet?

At the start of this month, when I returned from my continuing education in New Mexico, I found myself leading the Presbyterian Women's Retreat. I've never been to this event before, much less led one! But there I was, standing at the pulpit, trying not to nerd out too much at one of Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Before going away, I'll confess, I was a bit nervous about this event. Being out of the office the week before a major Presbytery event held at the church like this seemed like a bad idea, and yet...

When I arrived, everyone had folders created for them, lovingly put together by Barb (she made me a purple one). There were ample amounts of food, prepped and served by people like Dian Walker, Lisa Steinke, and Lin Dankmyer. Jen Grey ran the A/V booth in the back and had a clicker all prepared for me so I could use my slides. A dear friend from my former position at St. Luke's bought me a six pack of Dr. Pepper to make sure I was awake and ready for the event and at the end of the day it reminded me...everyone has a place here in this community.

We are so lucky to have a community of good people here at Pineda. Having people who help us make the church work year-round so that she can have what she needs to thrive. That's what a community is! A group of people who commit to living their lives side by side for the betterment of all. But there is always room for more...

In the next few months, it is my hope that you'll begin to start to see Pineda shed the hot days of summer and resume her normal activities. I know to the outsider it may seem flawless around here, a well-oiled machine, but look a little closer...

Where do you see holes in the system? Where is there something missing? A job that someone needs to occupy? Perhaps someone like you?

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Pastor's Note continued

The choir is always looking for more members! There is always food to be prepared. Articles need to be written for the newsletter. Liturgists are needed on Sundays alongside ushers, greeters, and communion servers. LAFF would love to have you stop by and try to win one of their candy bars in their weekly game of bingo. There are people looking for rides to and from service on Sundays. And the wonderful people doing chair yoga over in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings would absolutely love to have you jump in and join them!

Can you see it yet? The empty spots where you might fit in, and might add to this community. Whether it's big or small, whether you are active or prefer to sit, whether you prefer the tones of Billie Holiday or Billie Eilish, there is a place for you here. There is a place for you and your friends here! It's not the same without you and will never be the same again once you jump in. Join us! With your help, we can reach our full potential.



Peace to you,

Pastor Emily

September Worship Volunteers

	September 6th	September 13th	September 20th	September 27th
	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>
	<i>Communion Sunday</i>		<i>Cross the Jordan Band leading worship</i>	
Deacon of the Week	Leslie Lyman	Karen Smith	Scott Zinn	Freda Baker
Liturgist	Pat Zinn	Elizabeth Bumgarner	Barb Mathewson	Betty Francis
Communion	Melissa Ketterman			
Servers	Barb Mathewson			
	John Ellis			
	Pat Zinn			
	Leslie Lyman			
Ushers	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker
	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith
	Mike & Sandy Curry	Mike & Sandy Curry	Mike & Sandy Curry	Mike & Sandy Curry

spotlight

on our Staff

Justin Walker

Music Director

As part of my recent annual evaluation, one question that came up was “How can members of the church get to know you better?” Realizing that there are few opportunities to do so, the Worship and Music team decided this month to do our own “Spotlight” to help the church learn more about the Music Director. Starting with a short professional bio:

Justin Walker joined the staff of Pineda Presbyterian Church in 2019 as Chancel Choir Director, eventually taking on the roles of Music Director and Worship Band Leader. He has his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Louisville, his Bachelor of Music Performance in Voice from the University of North Florida, and his Associate of Arts degree from Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College). Justin began teaching at Eastern Florida State College in 2022, where he directs the Brevard Chorale and has conducted the Brevard Community Chorus, EFSC Madrigal Ensemble, Brevard Community Orchestra, and EFSC Chamber Orchestra. In addition, Justin directs the Melbourne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Harbor City Harmonizers, and teaches private lessons at his studio in Rockledge.

There is plenty missing from this, and more can be found on my website (<https://www.jpwalkermusic.co>) or any concert program for EFSC or the Harbor City Harmonizers. However, to truly get to know me better, we have to go further than just professional achievements.

I grew up in Port St. John with my parents and older sister. I attended Space Coast Jr./Sr. High School, joined choir my junior year, and decided my senior year to pursue music instead of mechanical engineering. I enrolled at Brevard Community College, where I met a flute major named Stephanie, who I would marry about two years later. On Sunday mornings, my wife of 15 years is home with our three children: Aodhan (13), Emrys (9), and Elyan (3). We are a neurodiverse household with multiple instances of autism and ADHD; my personal neurodivergency includes sensory processing issues, making me more sensitive and “overreactive” to certain sounds, lighting, and physical sensations.



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Outside of our two rescue cats (Meeska and Mooska), we are also a “plant-based” household. Most of the family went vegetarian during the pandemic, and though I still ate animal products at first, I skipped straight to veganism a few months later and never looked back. I have since also developed a love for philosophy, which has led me to even more thoroughly examine the impact of my actions on the world around me while deepening my understanding and connection to Christ’s message. Most recently, I have become interested in 12th-century theologian Peter Abelard’s views on virtue and the use of reason to learn God’s truth.

I share Pastor Emily’s love of Disney; *Fantasia* was one of the strongest influences on my love of music, and *Fantasia 2000* introduced me to my favorite musical work (Stravinsky's *Firebird*). In contrast to Pastor Emily, I prefer the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien over those of C.S. Lewis, with *The Silmarillion* and *The Hobbit* being in my top five favorite books, alongside Dante Alighieri’s *Divine Comedy*, Maurice Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are*, and Douglas Adams’s *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. Perhaps the biggest surprise to people who only know me professionally are my favorite bands: German power metal band Blind Guardian and progressive rock band Thank You Scientist. I enjoy playing chess and strategy games of all varieties, my favorite snack is hummus with pita chips, and while I’ve been away from it for a while now, I enjoy practicing martial arts whenever I can find the time. I am introverted by nature, but I will happily participate in conversations individually or in small groups.

Which is really the best way to answer the original question. If you want to get to know me better, come talk to me. Find me after service, engage with me about any of these or related topics, or about the music in worship, or even just to say hello and introduce yourself if you haven’t already. We are together a community of faith, and one I feel blessed to be a part of.



9/6

Marijane VanOst

9/9

Jean Beschen

9/15

Sue Lundgren



9/14

Ed & Dian Walker

9/20

Joel & Pam Kelly

9/23

Loy & Rhenae Sikdar

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Pineda Presbyterian Women offer two Circles for Bible study and fellowship. Circles will begin again in September and will meet monthly through May. Both Circles will study Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth through this year's Horizon's Bible Study "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other". This Bible study explores the letter's setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ. Study participants will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today.



Although First Corinthians contains familiar theology and passages we easily recognize—like the words of institution for the Lord's Supper and the meditation on love—readers often don't realize that Paul wrote this letter to a church in conflict. Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return, and he challenged all to be ready when that day came. Today the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. This Bible study challenges us to trust in Christ's saving love and to demonstrate that love by the way we live.

Please see the meeting details for the two Pineda Presbyterian Women's Circles below and choose the one that works for you! We hope you will join us!

Lydia Circle

Begins September 9th

***2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
at Pat Zinn's home***

(Contact the Church Office for Pat's address.)

Dorcas Circle

Begins September 10th

***2nd Thursday of the month
at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall***



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you for your consistent donations to the Advent Food Pantry! In the past month we have assisted the food pantry as it has assisted 83 neighbors consisting of 256 individuals. An average of 118 bags were distributed with a maximum of 131. 9 new families were served. My contact at Advent is always effusive in his thanks for your generosity.

- Sunday, September 6th**—Canned Fruit
- Sunday, September 13th**—Breakfast Cereal
- Sunday, September 20th**—Canned Pasta
- Sunday, September 27th**—Macaroni & cheese



SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED AT IGUARÁ AND MENESES

On August 26, solar panels were installed at our Cuban sister churches of Iguará and Meneses!! The installation was made possible by a \$5,000 grant from Pineda's Endowment Fund and a matching \$5,000 grant from a donor at First Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach. Thank you, Pineda, for your generosity and continued support of our Cuban brothers and sisters!

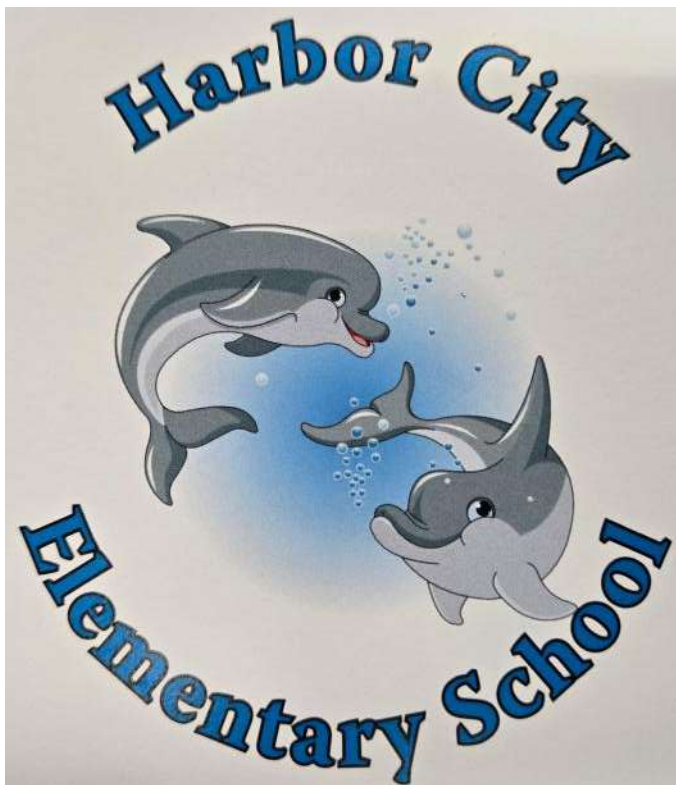
Pastor Dargel wrote to me upon completion of the installation:

"Today we overcame the blackout, and the light shone through the darkness. We want to thank the Pineda church, and you, Patricia, for being the bridge that enables our churches to walk hand in hand. Thank you—a thousand times, thank you. We have 5kw in batteries and inverter. With that we can do everything that needs to be done in the church clearly step by step so that everything lasts.

On the next day, Milagros, the lay pastor at Iguará wrote,

"Greetings in Christ to the entire Pineda church—sending a big hug of peace. Yesterday, a need in our church was met: the solar panels were installed, and we were able to see our church lit up. I had conducted so many services in the dark, sweating in the heat. Thank you to all the brothers and sisters; I am so grateful for your help."

There are no words to express the impact on both churches. Cuba continues to experience blackouts lasting 30 - 72 hours. Electricity from the solar panels will allow them to cook, prevent food from spoiling (no electricity = no refrigeration or freezer), run fans, worship in the light, and charge devices for communication. These churches will truly be bright lights for their communities.



Dear Pineda Presbyterian Congregation,

Harbor City Elementary is so grateful for your continued support and dedication to our students. Many of our families are at or below the poverty level and your donations of school supplies really make a difference for our students so they can start the new year on the right foot. Thank you again for your support. We appreciate you!

The Harbor City Team



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of the three special offerings we receive each year. This offering will be received on

World Communion Sunday, October 4th.

A gift to Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice around the world.

- ◆ Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace.
- ◆ Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation.
- ◆ The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



PRAYER CHAIN & PRAYER LIST – “WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?”

The Prayer List is placed in the bulletin each week and includes non-crisis prayers that may even be longer-term. You can place a prayer request on the list by writing your request on the Prayer Request Cards found in the pew racks and placing them in the offering plate or handing them to an usher. They will be given to the Pastor and then to the Office Manager who will add them to the bulletin prayer list. You may also contact your deacon or email the Church Office with your request, and it will be added to the bulletin prayer list for 3 weeks. If your prayer request needs to remain on the list, simply contact your deacon or the Church Office to let us know.

The Prayer Chain is for immediate prayer needs such as an emergency, accident, hospitalization, or an upcoming surgery for which one needs prayer on a specific day. The Prayer Chain is managed by the Deacon Moderator (presently, Karen Smith). Those with an urgent prayer need can contact their deacon who will notify the Moderator of the request. The Moderator will then begin calling the first “link” on the prayer chain and immediate prayers will begin. If requesters do not know their deacon, or cannot reach them in a timely manner, they can contact the Deacon Moderator or Church Office Manager directly with their request. If you would like to be a “link” in the prayer chain, and respond to the immediate prayer needs of our congregation, please contact the Deacon Moderator.

SESSION SOUND BITES

(From the August 19th Stated Meeting)

- ◆ The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder Barbara Mathewson and a devotional from Hebrews 13:5 on the upward pull of God and how we are never lost when we're with God.
- ◆ Minutes of the July 22nd called session meetings was approved.
- ◆ Dian Walker was elected as elder-commissioner for the September 15th Presbytery meeting.
- ◆ The Endowment Policy was updated to align the election of members and start dates for terms of office with those for elders and deacons.
- ◆ A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, September 13th, immediately following worship, to elect three members of the Endowment Team, act on recommended changes to the Bylaws, and hear a report on the recent church-wide retreat.
- ◆ The pastor will be on vacation August 26th-30th. Rev. Maynard Pittendreigh will preach on August 30th.
- ◆ Game Night is cancelled for September and will resume in October.
- ◆ Finance reported that the current operating deficit has been reduced to under \$5,000; however we are still \$28,000 behind on planned income from estimates of giving.
- ◆ The Stewardship campaign will be starting soon, with Consecration Sunday on November 1st.
- ◆ The Mission Team invites the congregation to assemble hygiene kits for PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) after worship on Sunday, September 27th. Cub Pack 285 has been invited to join us. A Minute for Mission will be presented on Sunday, September 6th to request donations to help cover the cost of the items for the kits.
- ◆ The Big Red Bus will be on site on October 25th for a blood drive from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. More details and a sign-up sheet will be available at the end of September.
- ◆ The Presbyterian Foundation did not approve the Tech Grant application to upgrade our video display capability in the Sanctuary. The Tech Team is researching other grant opportunities.
- ◆ The session is finalizing a contract with the Platinum Show Chorus to rehearse in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings, starting September 3rd.
- ◆ Elder Patricia Zinn closed the meeting with prayer.

NOTE: If you have questions about any of these items, or would like more information, please contact the clerk of session or the appropriate ministry team chair. A list of session members and team assignments can be found on our website under the "About" tab.

Pineda Presbyterian Church (USA)

5650 N. Wickham Road, Palm Shores, FL 32940

321-259-1330

pinedapc.office@gmail.com

www.pinedapc.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm "Heart Strings" Knitting & Crochet (Fellowship Hall)	2 6:00pm Worship & Tech Team Meeting (Room A)	3	4	5 10:00am PW Coordinating Team (Fellowship Hall)
6 8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service with Communion (Sanctuary) 11:30am Fellowship & Faith Formation Team (Fellowship Hall)	7 	8 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 2:00pm Administration & Personnel Team (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Mission Team (Room A)	9 4:00pm Finance Team (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Lydia Circle (Pat Zinn's home)	10 10:30am Dorcas Circle (Fellowship Hall) 2:00pm Facilities Team (Fellowship Hall)	11	12
13 8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) 11:15am Deacons' Meeting (Church Office)	14	15 9:30am Presbytery Meeting (Zoom) 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	16 6:00pm Session Meeting (Room A)	17	18	19  11:00am Memorial Service for Laird & Joyce Arey (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)
20 8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	21	22 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	23	24	25	26
27 8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) <i>5 Cents per Meal Offering</i> 11:00am Hands-on Mission Project (Fellowship Hall)	28	29 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	30			