



A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Newsletter

Volume 71

October 2026

A WORD from Rev. Kane

Here I Am !

Greetings amidst the beginning of this amazing Autumn season of changing colors, cooler temperatures and fresh new walks in nature. Autumn 🍂 is my favorite time of year to experience the presence of God's grace and mercy in my journey of life. The quiet and peacefulness of the Village slows me down to hear and see and feel the Spirit of the Lord moving across my heart. Some days it seems I am in another world, the awesomeness of being alive and awake.

In these "Autumn Awakenings" God speaks gently in the sounds of silence. I have heard the tears of funerals and the joy of a wedding along with the pipes of the Kirkin 'and laughter of sharing conversations.

Here I am Lord in the season of life full of adventure and new life. Your presence offers peace and renewal and sense of purpose.

You are not finished with me Lord, left to wander and wonder what the future for me is. The story is being written by You, not the cultural experience of simply enduring time, going through the motions. May we hear and respond to God's voice calling us here at the Kirk with a heartfelt gratitude of Here I am Lord !!!

September Sermons and Scriptures

October 4. Exodus 12:21-32- *This Shall Be a Day of Remembrance.* World Communion Sunday.

October 11: Exodus 15:1-20- *Sing to the Lord*

October 18-Exodus 20:1-21- *Steadfast Love*

October 25. Exodus 19:1-9- *A Priestly Kingdom.* Reformation Sunday !! Stewardship Sunday !!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE KIRK

- **Saturday Worship – 5:00 p.m., Bailey Hall, Rev. Jeff Kane leading worship.**
- **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Rev. Jeff Kane leading worship.**
- **Fridays with Jeff- 10:00 am, Bailey Hall. October 9, 16, 23 (cancelled Oct. 2)**
- **"Signs and Wonders: Miracles in the Bible and Beyond"- Led by Dr. Bob Morrow. Wednesdays at 10:00 am, October 7**
- **New Study- "Heretics"- Led by Rev. Bill Bailey, Thursdays, 10:00 am, Bailey Hall, October 15th-November 19th**

Find more events by clicking on the CALENDAR tab on the Kirk website kirkinthepines.com

Kirk Mission Funds in Action

(The following is the latest in a series of articles about local organizations supported by the Kirk in the Pines Mission Budget.)

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services A Place where Children are Encouraged to Dream

Officially founded in 1923, Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services (VLPFS) began as a day nursery in Monticello, Arkansas in 1910. Still located in Monticello, today it serves as a residential facility supporting youth in crisis through shelter, counseling, and life-skills programs.

Children are referred to VLPFS mostly from the juvenile justice system or the Arkansas Department of Children and Family Services foster care system. Common to all referrals is an unstable family environment; therefore, the VLPFS mission is totally centered around safety, stability, healing, and preparing for the future. The seven residence buildings on the 16-acre campus can accommodate 52 children, who currently range in age from 12 to 20 years old.

Under the energetic leadership of CEO Nathan Chennault, VLPFS is a place devoted to taking abused and abandoned children and teaching them to live in a family type environment where people genuinely respect and care about them. The length of stay varies, but VLPFS is a long-term facility where children prepare to either graduate from high school or obtain a GED, as well as prepare to enter the work force. While at VLPFS, the children attend school either on or off campus, and receive counseling and training in trades like welding, truck driving, and HVAC repair. They also receive training in life skills such as financial management, cooking, preparing resumes, interviews, and many other activities that ready them for life after they leave VLPFS. The list of successful VLPFS “graduates” who have gone on to good jobs and higher education is indeed impressive.

VLPFS gets minimal reimbursement from the state; it is insufficient to the tune of \$70 per day, per child in meeting needs. There is also some contribution from grants and endowments, but roughly 80% of VLPFS funding comes from private donors. It is commendable that of funds received, 86% is spent on children’s services while only 14% is set aside for administration and salaries. Over the past 2 years, the Kirk in the

Pines contributed \$11,000 to this amazing organization. If you would like to contribute further, donations are accepted through their website at veralloyd.org, or you can contact Nathan Chennault at 501-666-8195.

Contributed by David Deas, Communications Committee Member



Williamson Hall on the Vera Lloyd campus once housed children. Children now reside in one of seven houses on the campus.

Chili Cookoff will be October

An annual tradition at the Kirk, the "Chili Cookoff" on October 28th, 5:30 pm, will feature a new method of voting for your pick of best chili. You will vote with dollar bills for your favorite chili. The money raised by the vote will go to Kirk missions. So bring your dollar bills!

If you want to attend you will need to sign up starting on Oct.3rd at the Saturday evening service and continuing through Sunday, Oct. 25th. You will also sign up if you want to enter your chili in the contest to determine the best Chili Chef in the Kirk. **We are limited to 10 cook entries so sign up early.** There will be a prize for the best traditional Chili and one for the best spicy Chili.

Those who want to eat Chili but do not want to be part of the contest need to sign up for a head count. If you have questions, call Vicki Rosenquist, 706-371-2877.

Contributed by Vicki Rosenquist,
Fellowship Moderator



***Invite your friends
AND bring your
dollar bills !***

New Study

HERETICS!

**Ancient and Modern
Rev. Bill Bailey**

**10:00am, Thursdays
October 15-November 19**



What's a heretic? Who's a heretic? Who decides?

Get Ready for Jubilation Jazz at the Kirk
Saturday, November 7, 2:00 p.m.
Celebrating America at 250 years.

HOT SPRINGS / HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE
SYMPHONY GUILD

★ CLASSIC CONCERT SERIES ★

JUBILATION JAZZ

in Concert

★ HONORING VETERANS ★ & AMERICA AT 250 ★



**AMERICA
250**
1776 ★ 2026

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026
★ 2:00 P.M. ★
**PRESBYTERIAN KIRK
IN THE PINES**
275 ASTURIAS DRIVE
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR 71909

**ADMISSION
\$10**
SCAN FOR TICKETS



★★ ★ CELEBRATING AMERICA. HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED. ★ ★

2026 Kirkin' o' the Tartans raises the bar!

What is now an established tradition at the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, the September 20th Kirkin' o' the Tartans worship service came together without a hitch. No doubt it was due to the excellent preparation by an army of volunteers led by the Kirkin' Committee chaired by Jane Moore, Worship Moderator. The coordination of music and message added to what was both a festive and worshipful celebration of faith and our Scottish Presbyterian heritage.



Robert Sonnen photo

The Lyon College Pipes and Drums led the processional with *Scotland The Brave* followed by the St. Andrews Cross carried by Jim Patton ahead of the 33 Tartans. This stirring beginning gave new meaning to "call to worship." At completion the sanctuary was replete with 34 Tartans. Liturgist Randy Toney led the congregation in the Blessing of the Tartans. The first hymn, the familiar *Morning Has Broken*, even had Gaelic roots, the tune, named after Bunessan, Isle of Mull.

The responsive Prayer of Confession was taken from the 1637 Scottish Book of Common Prayer. The very Scottish service continued with the Kirk Choir singing a Scottish anthem by John Bell, *Will You Come and Follow Me*, set by Tom Trenney. Following Reverend Kane's message on Exodus 1:8-2:10 entitled "*The Audacious Midwives*," Fran



Susan Pendergrass photo

Stroud and Donna Toney played a piano/organ duet, *Brother James' Air*. The congregation then recited the Scots Confession (1560). Pipers Ken Adler and James Bell then played the *Amazing Grace* as the offertory followed by the prayer of dedication of the Tartans, led by Rev. Kane. After the benediction, the congregants in attendance followed the pipers, drums, and Tartans out of the sanctuary to the Scottish tunes *High Road to Gairloch*. The Pipers then played *The Rowan Tree* as they processed into the Memorial Garden where the gathering was blessed marking the end of the ceremony. This was all followed by an amazing "high tea" with an abundant offering of all sorts of sweet and savory treats provided by an army of cooks, kitchen helpers, and servers. Jane Moore comments, "I was absolutely amazed at the extent of group involvement. When you include the official committee members, the tartan carriers, the cooks and servers for the tea, the choir, the ushers, the decorators there were very few people in the church who were not involved in at least one way. Many were involved in multiple ways. It definitely took a team. Everyone seemed genuinely excited." She continues, "I was also pleased by the people who came from out of town. There were four children of parents who were deceased or who were unable to come who made trips to carry tartans that their parents had purchased. Six of my non-member neighbors came." There's little doubt this time honored tradition will continue at the Kirk. But, this year's Kirkin' will be hard to top!



Robert Sonnen photo

Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator.



Robert Sonnen photo



Robert Sonnen photo



Rosalyn Halbert with the centerpiece she designed.
Robert Sonnen photo



From left, Susan Deas, Donna Toney, Jim Patton in full Scottish regalia, and Becky Baldwin. *Bob Morrow photo*



Robert Sonnen photo

In Memoriam

Mildred Lucy Croson (nee Kaiser), a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend passed away on September 6, at the age of 90 years old.

Mildred was born on May 29, 1936, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Alfred and Anna (Palokonis) Kaiser. One of six children, Mildred grew up in Cudahy, Wisconsin, and graduated from St. Mary's Academy. After graduation, she spent time modeling and working at Allen Bradley, in Milwaukee. She then went on to enjoy a career as a Controller at Allen, Anderson, Niefeld & Paley, in Chicago, Illinois. It was in Chicago that she met her lifetime love, Richard. They married on April 29, 1967, and soon settled in Wheaton, Illinois, where they began their life and family and Richard eventually moved their family to Mountain Home, Arkansas. There they embraced the joys of life on a small farm and raised their children in a loving and welcoming home. In addition to caring for her family, Mildred worked part-time outside of the home as a bookkeeper. When retirement approached, they found their perfect home in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, where they looked forward to beginning the next chapter of their lives. Mildred embraced life in Hot Springs Village and formed many lasting friendships. She enjoyed playing golf, participating with the Hot Springs Village Players and most of all being active in her church, Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

Mildred will be remembered for her sense of humor, her love of music and her love for family and friends. Mildred is survived by her children Ronald (Deanna) Croson, Karen (Brett) Patten, Gerald (Carrie) Croson, bonus children Andrew Croson and Richelle (Alex) Montez, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters Geraldine Prusak and Janet Jessup, and brother Robert Kaiser.

Mildred was preceded in death by her loving husband Richard Croson, parents Alfred and Anna (Palokonis) Kaiser, and brothers George Kaiser and Donald Kaiser.

A memorial service celebrating Mildred's life was held on Saturday, September 12, at 2:00 p.m. at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Memorial Fund.



Millie Croson

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

In addition to our usual Session business in September, there were a few special items of interest that I'd like to note.

The first is that there continues to be a number of internet scams targeting some of our members. They request money using Rev. Kane's name. The same thing happened with Rev. Hyde's name, and before that, with Rev. Bailey's name. PLEASE NOTE, there will never be an e-mail from Rev. Kane requesting a gift or donation of money. Block the sender or at a minimum, delete the e-mail. Do not give out any information or send money. It's a scam!

Speaking of money, but on a different note, the Session has begun preparation of the 2027 budget. We ask for your prayers as we begin to make financial plans for next year and for what God is asking the Kirk to do during 2027. And that leads into announcing the upcoming Fall stewardship season when we'll be asking you to contribute to helping us fulfil those plans. What will God be asking of you in 2027?

Also, your prayers are needed for the Nominating Committee as they begin their work of selecting a slate of officers for Session membership next year.

And lastly the Session has decided to change the time of the regularly called Session meeting. It will still be held on the on the second Friday of each month but will now be at 1:00 pm instead of 10:00 am. This will allow Rev. Kane to continue his 10:00 am Friday morning discussion group uninterrupted on all of the Fridays of the month.

Session Highlights:

- **Church Statistics:**
Members—146 Households—107
- **Deaths :** Millie Croson, September 6, 2026, with a Memorial Service on September 12, 2026.
- **Presbytery Meeting:** October 2-3, 2026, First Presbyterian Church, Springdale.
Motion: move to appoint Susan and Bob Morrow as commissioners to the Presbytery Meeting. Motion passed.
- **World Communion Sunday:**
Motion: move to approve the PC(USA) World Communion Offering during the World Communion services on October 3 and 4. Motion passed.

The Clerk's Corner

**Ruth
Hamilton**



OUR VISION

A Presence of Christ in the Village

OUR MISSION

We are a caring Christian community, striving to welcome, nurture, and inspire those who seek the Word of God and desire to grow in faith, fellowship, and service to others.

Financial Report- Year to Date August 31, 2026

	<u>Aug-26</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
<u>General Fund</u>			
Revenues	30,282	286,708	272,276
Expenses	(29,873)	(253,676)	(272,276)
Change in Net Assets	409	33,032	(0)
Extraordinary expense (parking lot)	0	(22,500)	
Total Change Net Assets	409	10,532	
 \$1 Mission Giving	 264	 1,984	 1,733
Cash Balances		130,087	

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines



We are perpetual students of God's generous giving and sharing nature.

Our **Kirk Story of Generosity** kicks off October 24/25 and continues through our Celebration Event on December 2.

We will take time to name God's abundant blessings given to us and give grateful thanks.

Kirk Stewardship Committee



**Our Socks Shoes Soup
drive needs your donations!
Please donate new or gently used
shoes, new socks, and canned
soups to help clothe those in
need and those
who are hungry.**

Ends October 31st

Matthew 25:40

**"Whatever you did for the least
of these you did unto me."**

We Need Coffee Servers !

**Coffee hour is not Coffee
hour without Coffee !**

**Sign up to serve on the
signup sheet in Bailey
Hall !**



Coffee servers (from left) Linda Hommema,
Kathy Martin, and Melissa Sonnen.

Bob Morrow photo



October Birthdays

1 Martha Nielsen	16 Jim Erickson	25 Jerry McAnarney
6 Dick Mayer	18 Gene Carlisle	27 Randy Toney
8 Jim Reimers	20 Rowena Easter	28 Melody Slack
13 Bill Morrow	21 Sissy Wilson	29 Woodie Barefield
David Cox	25 Janette Wiard	

October Anniversaries

17 Cindi & Jim Erickson 45yrs



The House by the Side of the Road

Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
 It's here the race of men go by—
 They are good, they are bad, they are weak,
 They are strong.
 Wise, foolish — so am I.
 Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
 Or hurl the cynic's ban?
 Let me live in my house by the side of the road
 And be a friend to man.

By Sam Walter Foss

My mother Alvina White loved poetry, memorized, it and shared it with others. This is one poem I remember her sharing with me. "My head is full of poetry" she said.

Contributed by Dotty Rector, Communications Committee Member

Worshiping God, Serving Christ, Loving Others

Kirk Staff

Reverend Jeffrey L. Kane- Minister

Tina Kneisler- Music Director

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth- Secretary

Arthur “Chip” Johnson- Sexton

Fran Stroud, Donna Toney-Organists/Pianists

Patty Barnes- Saturday Worship Pianist

Session

Clerk of the Session: Ruth Hamilton

Dave Hamilton- Administration

Robert Sonnen- Building

Donna Toney- Christian Education

Bob Morrow- Communications (Trustee)

Susan Pendergrass- Congregational Care

Vicki Rosenquist- Fellowship (Trustee)

Susan Morrow- Finance

Priscilla Hayek- Grounds/Memorial Garden

Judith Rosenthal- Missions

Wendy Gage- Member Outreach

Jane Moore- Worship (Trustee)

PW Moderator: Rosalyn Halbert

A Voice in the Pines is a monthly publication of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. It is produced and edited by the Kirk's Communication Committee, Bob Morrow, Moderator.

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