



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



GOD OPENS A WINDOW

Holy Week brought a series of storms. Rain was pretty constant. I love the rain, but I also love to get out and take a walk or a run each morning. I went to bed Wednesday night of Holy Week feeling discouraged. The forecast for the next day was rain, which meant no run in the morning. You can imagine how pleasantly surprised I was to wake up, look outside, and see there was no rain. A window had opened up, a brief period of time when there would be a respite from the rain. In no time at all I had my running shorts on, laced up my shoes, and hit the road.

It was a beautiful morning. I ran out to the shores of Lake Houston. Every day outside is a gift, but on this day, when I truly felt like God had opened a window of opportunity, I stopped to give thanks. As I was out on my run, I came upon a man whom I have crossed paths with several times. He loves my running shoes, which are a bright fluorescent green. Once again, he commented on my shoes. Then we began to talk. Our conversation turned to other trails in the area, and he told me about the Lone Star Trail, which he said is up near Conroe and has something like 90 miles of trails. I gave him my email and asked him to send me a note so we could be in touch. He said he would do me one better. He said when the fall rolls around and the weather cools down, he is going to organize a walking trip for the Atascocita Presbyterian Church. Talk about God opening a window! I hope you open a window on your calendar and save that date in October. What fun to explore God's good creation.

I said goodbye to Joe, my new friend, and began my journey home. One of the favorite parts of my homeward bound run is that I cross what Julie has named "Turtle Bridge." The little stream under the bridge has at times 30-40 turtles paddling about. When the bridge came into view, I realized there were more than turtles this day. A baby deer was feeding in the grass next to the bridge. I stopped on the bridge, grateful that God had opened yet another window, a chance to look at this beautiful deer. Then I saw the deer had a partner. That pair of deer let me stare in wonder to my heart's content. I cannot see a deer without being reminded of the beautiful psalm, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O Lord." The longing for God is a good longing, a pure longing, a holy longing. And God is there to fill that desire.

The day God opened all these windows was the Thursday of Holy Week. That is the day we know as Maundy Thursday. Resting on that bridge, Turtle Bridge as Julie calls it, mesmerized by the deer, sharing in the joy of countless turtles bobbing and weaving in the water, thinking back on my chance encounter with my new friend Joe, and realizing that I never would have enjoyed such a perfect morning if God had not opened a window, I said a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Maundy Thursday...Holy Week...Good Friday...in a very real sense, Holy Week is all about doors closing. Each day is one step closer to the cross. Each day is one step closer to the tomb. Each day is one step closer to the stone being slammed in front of the grave. That is the ultimate closing of a door, the death of Jesus. With Easter in mind, the saying that when God closes a door, he opens a window becomes so much more than just another pious religious saying. The window of the resurrection is such a sign of hope. We thought all hope was gone. We thought we had seen the last of Jesus.

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Happy Mother's Day

I am blessed that God
gave me you

What's inside the latest issue

- Pentecost Special Offering
- Worship in May
- Welcome New Members!
- Faith Formation News
- Youth Group News
- Pres Women Bible Study
- Upcoming Events including:
 - Wednesday Church Supper
 - Wacky Wednesday 5/17
 - Summer Camps for kids
- Scenes from April Church Suppers and Easter Morning
- Ancient Mariners Day Trip
- Earth Care Committee
- HAAM News
- Birthdays, Anniversaries, Attendance Report, and Prayers

Stay Connected!

Visit the [APC website](http://apchumble.org) (apchumble.org) for more information and service schedules.

Make sure you are subscribed to *The Communicator* newsletter and Narthex News email.

Check us out on Facebook!
facebook.com/AtascocitaPresbyterianChurch

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We thought death, darkness, and despair had triumphed. We thought the joy of life had been extinguished. All those thoughts crowd their way into our hearts when God shuts the door of the tomb.

And then God opens a window...and then the stone is rolled away...and then the angel appears with good news...and then the tomb is empty. And then Jesus is alive.

The journey of life brings the closing of many doors. You know that. I know that. We all know that. The closing of doors can be difficult and often disappointing. When the doors close, I hope we never forget that our God not only opens windows, which is a blessing in itself, but our God has the amazing ability to even bring life out of death.

I was so happy when God opened a window that Maundy Thursday so I could go on a run. Can you even imagine the joy I felt a few days later when God opened the window wide open, raising Jesus from the dead? For me, it is not just a religious truism that when God shuts a door, he opens a window. For me, this is the great good news that through Jesus Christ, life has conquered death.

With the love of Christ,

Wayne

This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10 NRSV

Worship in May

5/7 Communion Sunday

Sermon: "My Father's house"

John 14:1-14

Text: "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"

John 14:2

5/14

Sermon: "We are not alone"

John 14:15-21

Text: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 14:18

5/21

Sermon: "My witnesses"

Acts 1:6-14

Text: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8


5/28

Sermon: "He made our heart his home"

Acts 2:1-21


Text: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Acts 2:21



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING
you're supporting ministries that unite young people and inspire them to share their faith in Christ.



April 10 - May 28, 2023

Your gift of cash or check may be placed in the special offering envelopes placed in the pew pockets on Sundays. You may also share your gift on the APC website (apchumble.org) by clicking on the "Give Now" button, then entering your donation amount in the appropriate column.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Pastor Wayne Eberly
 Director of Youth Ministry.....Aaron Seay
 Office Coordinator.....Carroll Hebert
 Director of Music.....Joe Weir
 Pianist.....Carl Braden

Pastor Wayne is in the office Monday through Wednesday, from 9 am until 2 pm.
 Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 2 pm.
 Aaron Seay may be reached by email: aaron@apchumble.org

Welcome New Members to APC!

APC welcomes new members into the family! After a "get acquainted" information session and luncheon in their honor, APC has received the following people onto the membership rolls:

Caroline Alohkese,
 Rick and Nancy Anderson,
 Julie Eberly,
 Chris Friedersdorf,
 Bobby and Sue Grawl, and
 John and Terri Parmerlee.

Please invite them to your small groups and events.

Children's Faith Formation Classes

Children 1st - 5th grade. Sundays at 9:30 am in the orange classroom.

Nursery, children who haven't yet entered 1st grade. Sundays 9:30-11:30 am in the nursery.

Please feel free to contact Terri Thomson with any questions or concerns related to APC Children's Ministries by email (apcchildrenscommittee@apchumble.org).

Youth Faith Formation

Youth 6th - 12th grade. Sundays at 9:20 am in the youth room with Aaron Seay, Youth Director.

Bible Study at 11:45 am in the youth room with Aaron. Lunch is provided.

Please feel free to contact Aaron (aaron@apchumble.org) with questions or concerns.

Youth News

Confirmation classes are ongoing during the Faith Formation hour at 9:20 am in the youth room. Please keep our class in your prayers as we dive deep into our faith using the "Big God, Big Questions" curriculum.

We invite all youth (6th-12th grade) to join us on Sundays at 11:45 am where we have a chance to fellowship, eat lunch, and study the Word.

TAKE NOTE for these Sundays at APC:

4/30: Youth Liturgist to serve during worship, plus all are invited to aid in support.

5/14: Mother's Day, Adrianna's Confirmation and Baptism, Senior Recognition Day, and Youth Liturgist.

5/27: Celebration of Life/Memorial Service for the mother of our friend and brother, Kiernan.

Mark your calendars for these special events coming up!

FREE Youth worship concert featuring Hope Ascending, Saturday, June 3 in the Northwoods Pres gym. Open for ages 11-18. Enjoy pizza, games, summer camp info, and camp goodies

Youth Celebration (grades 9-12) at Mo-Ranch, Sunday, June 25 through Friday, June 30.

Jr High Jubilee at Mo-Ranch, Sunday, July 9 through Thursday, July 13.

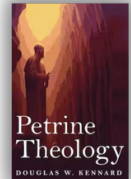
Registration for Youth Celebration and Jr High Jubilee, please contact Aaron Seay (aaron@apchumble.org).

Adult Faith Formation

*****Doug's class meets at 9:15 am in the library.**

Beginning April 30, the class will read and discuss Doug's recent book: *Petrine Theology*. Purchase the paperback book or Kindle from Amazon.

On May 7 we will talk about a short biography of Peter (from *Petrine Studies*) and get back to *Petrine Theology* on May 14.

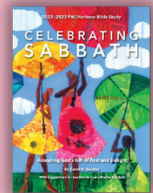


*****Shelley's class meets at 9:20 am in classroom 102.** Peeking and pondering our worship scripture. Everyone is invited to prepare for a deepened worship experience by time with the "who/what/where" of the sermon scripture.

Grab your coffee and a cookie and slip in for invigorating conversation. See you then!

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study 2022-2023

Studying Carol M. Bechtel's *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*.



God's gift of Sabbath to God's creation is a whole day set aside

each and every week for rest, community, and faith. But how do we honor Sabbath in a 24/7 world? Through this study, Ms Bechtel will share some of what she has learned by studying the Sabbath and embracing it as a way of marking time in her life.

APC PW meetings are the second Wednesday of the month in the fellowship hall. **The meeting on May 10** marks the end of this Bible study until September when another book will be chosen for study. Come for potluck lunch at 11:30 am and stay for the Bible study from noon until 1 pm.

For more information, please contact Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Supper May 10, 6 pm

The Worship Committee is hosting a meal of hearty salads and breads for dinner with a special dessert. In addition, kid-friendly foods will be offered as we want all ages to join in.

After dinner, you may participate in fun group games and create crafts that will be used for Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Pick the activity that you prefer, or do both! For more information, please contact Traci Hlavaty (trheentouch.net).

Seniors and Friends



Meet for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of the month. Join us **Thursday, May 18, 11:30 am** at

Italiano's, 8146 FM 1960 E, 77346.

For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com).

Game Day for Grownups!



Gather for a potluck lunch and fellowship **Thursday, May 25, 11:30 am**, in the fellowship hall and stay for games of Mexican Train or Bingo.

For more information, please contact Terri Parmerlee (tmparmerlee@gmail.com).

Yoga for all!



Meet Monday mornings at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. Bring your exercise mat.

Hey Kids!



Wacky Wednesday!

May 17 5 - 6:30 pm

SPLASH GAMES
ART & CRAFTS
SNACKS & DRINKS

Atascocita Presbyterian Church
19426 Atasca Oaks Dr, Humble 77346

RSVP
Cathy Gerald
cathy@apchumble.org
281-852-4832
OR
APC office 281-852-8990



Atascocita Presbyterian Church Summer Camp, 2023

3 weeks - Tuesday thru Thursday
children entering 1st through 5th grade

1st week June 6, 7, 8 - Science
2nd week June 13, 14, 15 - Art
3rd Week June 20, 21, 22 - Music

Cost is \$60 per week. The children will enjoy a Bible story and activities from 9:30 am-noon. Lunch from 12:00-12:30 then SportzBall (Tu, Th) & Kids in Action (W) from 12:30-2:30 pm.

Creative Learning Center Summer Camp, 2023

3 weeks - Tuesday thru Thursday
6/6-8 6/13-15 6/20-22
children ages 18 mo.-those entering kindergarten next fall.
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Camp Fee is \$125 per week
If you register for all 3 weeks, you will receive a \$25 discount.

Registration is open for CLC.

All camps are full for APC.

Wednesday Night Dinner, April 12 Hosted by Mission Committee



Did they come for the Soup Supper or Jim Hannan's informative presentation about "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Both were a big success! Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a 100% volunteer organization that is dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. SHP pledges: NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN.

APC has continued that enthusiasm by donating bed-in-a-bag packages to be used on the bunk beds. Also, volunteers have joined in the mission with cash donations and the assembly process.

Wednesday Night Dinner, April 19 Hosted by the Nativity Committee

What a treat! The fabulous Shepherd's Pie and Caesar Salad were made by Pastor Wayne. Dessert was Angel Food Cake topped with strawberries and whipped cream. Pastor Wayne also provided a Christmas carol puzzle that was solved by unscrambling letters to find Christmas terms.

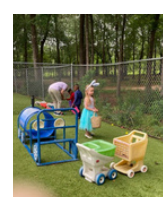
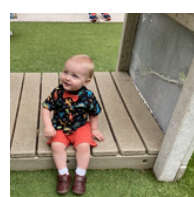
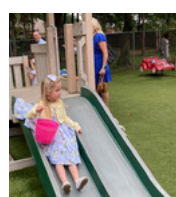
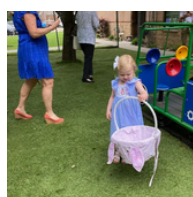
Christmas music, lights, and a slide show of pictures from last year's event helped jog everyone's memories of the first annual event. Some of those who participated in last year's event also spoke of their experiences.

Julie arrived in time to lead the group in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Fun was had by all!

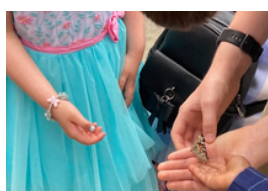
Scenes from Easter Family Activities



Snacks and Crafts



Egg Hunt



Butterfly Release



Donuts with Deacons

**Children's Message
in Worship**

Ancient Mariners' Day Trip

Friday, June 9 we set off on another adventure to Schulenburg! Traveling by Harris County precinct bus, the first stop is the Schulenburg Historical Museum that highlights the town's rich history. Lunch will be at Oak Ridge Smokehouse. After lunch we will shop at the local bakery and meat market. A cooler will be on the bus to store our goodies.

We have a chance to tour the Spoetzl Brewery with a guide if there's enough interest. Check with Linda Andrus for details.

The next option would be leaving Schulenburg and head over to Flatonia (about a 12 mile ride) and do some sightseeing there. More details coming soon. The cost of your trip is your lunch and any purchases you make.

The regular "trippers" are a blast but hope more folks can join us for this trip as well. Meet in the APC parking lot at 8 am to catch the bus.

Please RSVP to Linda Andrus (call 281-852-1668 or text 281-923-6286) and let her know you are coming and whether or not you are interested in the Spoetzl Brewery tour.



From Your Earth Care Team

Facilities Committee is 'Greening' APC

The APC Facilities Committee is working hard to both beautify our church and make it more energy efficient.

New Plantings - Parsley hawthorn shrubs have been added to the bed along Atasca Oaks in the continuing work to convert the bed to all native plantings.

G.A.T.E. Area - A workday will be scheduled soon to clean up the G.A.T.E., add additional granite to the pathways, expand the seating in the stage area, and clean out dead undergrowth.

Outside Lighting - The parking lot lights and five fixtures on the building have been replaced by high-efficiency LED lights to reduce our energy usage and provide more lighting as we safely return to our cars after dark.

Inside Lighting - All the fixtures in one classroom have been converted to LED lighting, and plans are in progress to convert the 30 fixtures in the remaining classrooms, generating more light while reducing energy usage by 75% and the maintenance time and costs to replace, and to dispose of, fluorescent tubes.

Solar Power - We've retained a consultant for obtaining bids from reliable installers for a solar panel system and explore options to lease or purchase. The tentative system would generate about 36% of our current annual usage and be eligible for the 30% Federal Solar Tax Credit. [A larger solar system doesn't make economic sense under current "buyback" contracts for excess electricity generated during low-usage months.]

Recycling and Reusing - Although we can no longer accept batteries and fluorescent tubes for recycling, because of fees charged for disposal, we continue to recycle paper, cardboard, and plastic used during worship services, meals, and church activities. We use reusable dishes and utensils for most meals and clean them in our sanitizing dishwasher. We accept old electronics anytime -- leave them in the A/V closet, the first door on the left as you enter the church.

If you're interested in being part of APC's Earth Care Team, let us know and plan to attend the next meeting on May 11 at 7 pm, either in-person or by ZOOM.

Co-Moderators, Forrest and Shelley Craig



Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM)

2022 Year End Results

Thank You.....Thank You.....Thank You!

A big thank you to the congregation and the CLC parents for your donations to HAAM throughout the year especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. Along with the donations from our community, many families were helped. Results are below:



Services	#Families	#individuals	Amount Distributed
Food Pantry Drive Thru	1,701	5,308	6,125 Food packs
Homebound Clients	47	101	390 Food packs
Mobile Pantry	12,29	54,500	176,520 lbs.
Food Fairs	6,403	25,793	400,892 lbs.
Meals On Wheels	214	244	42,248 meals
Nutritional Packs	1,296	1,443	1,443 packs
Housing	223	595	\$374,664
Utilities	654	1,665	\$138,875
Transportation	89	266	\$3,415
Healthcare			
(RX's and eyewear)	14	43	\$1,495
Education	26	79	\$50,301
Employment	30	78	\$5,708
Back to School	1,303	2,537	2, 537 packs
Season of Sharing -Food	3,334	11,979	3,334 meals
Season of Sharing-Gifts	1,695	2,665	13,942 gifts

New Resale Store Donation Hours:

HAAM Resale Store, 1302 First St, Humble - Monday through Saturday 10:30 am to 4:30 pm
Black Cat Junction, 22310 Loop 494, Kingwood - Thursday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm.

Food Pantry Needs: canned soup, pasta, and dry cereal

Donations: All donated items are greatly appreciated. Please, please follow these instructions when donating your items.

- PLEASE BAG ALL ITEMS
- The bin in the narthex is for food and specially requested items ONLY.
- All other items must be delivered by the donor to HAAM or contact HAAM for pick-up from your home. Go to the website and fill out the pick-up request.

Volunteer Opportunities

- HAAM Resale Store - various store helpers in electronics, housewares, clothing, product research
- Black Cat Junction Resale Store - cash register and sort/stock/price donated items
- Client Services - interviewers and client intake
- Food Pantry - warehouse assistants
- Facilities - light duty maintenance

If interested in volunteering, please contact Cathy Schrof (281-446-3663 x120) or email cschrof@haaministries.org.

If you have any questions about programs offered at HAAM, please contact George Williams (281-772-4706).

Thanks for your continued support of HAAM! *George Williams*

Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

Birthdays

5/3 Robert Frye
 5/4 Jan Kennard
 5/4 Charis Nees
 5/6 Valerie Phillips
 5/7 Mazie Williams
 5/9 Vicky Eynon
 5/10 Connie Brown
 5/12 Anne Wallace
 5/18 Mary Ann Kaminski
 5/19 Kristi Stanley
 5/24 Bob Arnold
 5/25 Laurie Coleman
 5/27 Alexandria Cruz
 5/27 Heather Pritchett
 5/30 Patty Williams
 5/30 Rick Anderson

Anniversaries

5/1 Susie and Jonathan Akrong
 5/11 Mazie and George Williams
 5/18 Susan and John Sheridan
 5/30 Nancy and Rick Anderson

Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
26-Mar	120	20	36	176	\$1,021
March End of Month Credit Card Receipts					\$4,386
2-Apr	100	18	33	151	\$4,281
9-Apr	182	28	83	164	\$2,733
16-Apr	80	17	29	126	\$3,635
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$97,465
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$85,616

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and in other parts of the world.
- Victims, families, and communities affected by gun violence.
- Michael Burgos, continued treatment. Strength and peace for Grace and the family.
- Jerry Sessions, health concerns.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Nancy LaNasa, she has passed away. Prayers of love and condolences to Joe Weir and family.
- Dominique Cousin, Chef Adrian's wife, for continued health improvements as she battles MS.
- Peace and comfort for Kevin, Michelle, Sarah, and Laura Bennett.
- Ann Owen, health concerns.
- Tom Olson, health concerns.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett, for healing and peace during cancer treatment.
- David McPherson, health concerns.
- Margie McHenry and Michelle McHenry, wife and daughter of Elroy, health concerns.
- Tom Smart, friend of Don Frye, has a loss of hearing and vertigo.
- Stacey Stepp Black, friend of Don and Karen Frye, in cancer treatment.
- Bill Bartholomew, Melissa Breda's father, surgery for cancer treatment.
- Brenda Miller, friend of Terri Parmerlee, in cancer treatment.
- Krista Sherwood, Carol and Paul Curtis' daughter, recovering from surgery.
- Grandson (Marine) and granddaughter (Air Force) of Ron and Cathy Fovargue serving in Okinawa and Georgia.
- Jackie Hannan broke her collarbone.
- Courtney Richmond has medical concerns. Submitted by Traci Hlavaty.
- Brenda Trevino, Kathleen McPherson's, friend, diagnosed with Lupus.
- Kim Hester, former APC member, health concerns.
- Sine McCarty, Betsy Gould, Anne Wallace, Garland McCarthy, Helen Wirt

Please email prayer requests to the church office (apceapchumble.org).

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for May, Will Nees (713-818-2941).