



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



The Lord looks at the heart

Israel needed a new king. The Lord sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse. The Lord told Samuel that the new king would be one of Jesse's sons. Samuel arrives in Bethlehem and is soon joined on the scene by Jesse and his sons. Apparently they are a pretty good-looking crew. Samuel's eye is drawn to Eliab. Eliab was the firstborn son of Jesse. He was the oldest. You get the impression he might have been the tallest, maybe the strongest. We don't know exactly why but Samuel sees Eliab, the oldest of Jesse's sons, and begins to think maybe God has a pretty good plan after all. When Samuel sees Eliab he thinks to himself, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But God says, "Not so fast. He's not the one."

Abinadab comes up. He's second oldest. God says not this one. Shammah steps forward. He's third in line. God says nope. All seven of Jesse's sons come up, show their wares, and each one gets rejected. When there is no one else in line, and all the seven sons have been rejected, Samuel is not quite sure what to do. He was sent to anoint a king from the sons of Jesse and all seven have been rejected. So Samuel asks Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

It turns out Jesse has been holding back. He's got a big, strapping, handsome, athletic, intellectual, artistic, creative, combative, strong but sensitive, brave and bold son that would be just perfect for the job of king. Jesse and his seven other sons pair up and form a tunnel. With great fanfare Jesse shouts out, "Now Samuel, I give you the cream of the crop, the golden child, the best, the biggest, the brightest and the baddest of all my boys. I give you David." As his brothers cheer, David races through the tunnel and bursts out with a bang, right there in front of Samuel, who is bowled over at God's choice for a king.

It doesn't turn out quite that way. In fact, when Samuel asks Jesse if these are all his sons, Jesse almost apologetically says, "There is still the youngest." But Jesse didn't even think to bring him to the anointing party. He left the youngest out

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Happy 40th Anniversary APC!

What's inside the latest issue

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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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tending sheep. Jesse seemed to think one of the seven older ones, and maybe any of the seven older ones would do just fine as king. Why bring David? What do you think the older brothers did when David showed up? Can you imagine the snickering and rolling of eyes and muffled laughter as the little squirt that is their youngest brother shows up and stands before Samuel? Can you imagine the pit in Samuel's stomach as he moved down the line, from biggest to smallest and God said, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no? When God finally reveals his choice, it is the youngest and undoubtedly the most unlikely of all the sons of Jesse. This story could be a disaster, except for one thing. God tells Samuel not to consider outward appearances. Instead, God says, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

For all those who have been judged by outward appearance, for all those who have fallen short on the grading curve, for all those who didn't get chosen for the team or who sat on the bench, for all those who didn't advance to the next round of dancing with the stars or gymnastics or the singing competition or the tryout for the school play or make first chair in the band...for all those whose application was rejected and who were passed over for promotion or gathered in a room and told your services are no longer needed...for all those who had a parent who, for whatever reason, said you weren't good enough or you were a disappointment or you would never amount to anything...for the ones whose hearts have been broken by a break-up or divorce...and for all of us who have looked in the mirror and judged ourselves as not measuring up to whatever standard the world has set for us...for all of us who have wondered if our life matters or if our life makes a difference...this story of God choosing David reveals an incredibly powerful and urgently important reality about God. God does not look at the things people look at. Humans look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

No matter what your life situation is, I pray these words bring you hope and encouragement. God looks at the heart. God looks at your heart. God looks at your heart and God likes what he sees. God sees a child he created. God sees a child he loves. God sees a child he sent his Son to live for and to die for. Keep faith, dear friends. We have a God who looks at the heart. We have a God who loves us.

With the love of Christ,

Wayne

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Mathew 28:18-20 NRSV

Worship in November

11/5 "A kingdom of servants"

Matthew 20:20-28

11/12 "The generous act of Jesus Christ"

II Corinthians 8:1-9

11/19 "Sing to the Lord with a grateful heart"

Psalms 147

11/26 "The least and the kingdom of heaven"

Matthew 25:31-46

Gospel of Matthew Bible Study Schedule

Wed, Nov 1 BIBLE STUDY: Readings 31-35 noon

Wed, Nov 8 PW, Men's Time Out (11:30 am)

Wed, Nov 15 BIBLE STUDY: Readings 36-40 noon

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Pastor Wayne Eberly
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 Friday, from 9 am until 2 pm.



Children's Faith Formation Classes

Children K - 5th grade. Classes meet at 9:30 am in the orange classroom.

Pre-school - 2-4 years old. Classes meet at 9:30 am in the teal classroom.

Nursery care will be open each week during FF and worship hours for children who haven't yet entered Kindergarten. 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. Come and join our exciting new Sunday morning meeting time at 9:30 am.

We will be studying God's word, building friendships and faith, and exploring how we can reach out with God's love.

Contacts for the Youth program are Terri Thomson, Joe Breda, and Julie and Wayne Eberly.

Time Out for Men

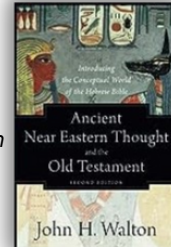
The second Wednesday of each month during the Matthew Bible study, APC men are invited to join Pastor Wayne in a program that gives everyone a chance to have fellowship, share a meal, and grow together in faith.

Meet at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall to share a potluck lunch with Presbyterian Women who are meeting for their monthly Bible study. Then, at noon, the men's group will gather in the parlor for their fellowship.

Adult Faith Formation

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

Discussion of *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*, by John Walton.



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*****Sermon Scripture Study, 9:30 am in classroom 102/hybrid.**

Everyone is welcome for a discussion of Sunday's worship scripture.

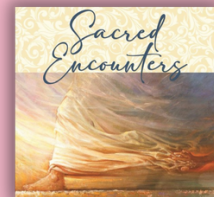
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*****Christian Chat and Coffee, 9:30 am in classroom 104.**

Everyone is welcome for an easy hour of discussions and fellowship.

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The Bible study meets **Wednesday, November 8** with the Horizons series: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir.

Attendants will meet at 11:30 am for a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall before starting the Bible study at noon. For more information, please contact Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com).

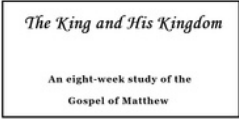


Sunday, November 5



UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel of Matthew Fall Bible Study



The Bible study continues on Wednesdays at noon in the parlor with

Pastor Wayne leading a discussion of the previous week's readings. The devotional guide will outline the readings for each day. The schedule in the book shows when each set of readings will be discussed at the weekly study. Pick up a copy of the devotional guide in the narthex.

Every second Wednesday Presbyterian Women and Time Out for Men meet at 11:30 for potluck lunch. All other Wednesdays through November 15 are Gospel of Matthew Bible studies.

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All Church Hike Saturday, November 4

Meet at the church parking lot at 7:30 am. We will carpool to a spot on the Lone Star Trail not far from Cleveland. Maps will be handed out.

Our plan is to do a two-hour up and back hike. Because it is an up and back hike, everyone can go at their own pace. You walk for an hour in one direction and then turn around and head back to the starting point. We plan on returning to the church parking lot by 1 pm.

Please contact Wayne and Julie Eberly for more information. Sign up in the narthex.

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Yoga for all!

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

APC 40th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, November 12

Join us for worship at 10:30 am and stay for a reception in the fellowship hall. We have invited friends, former members and staff, partners in ministry, and colleagues from the presbytery to celebrate and reminisce with old friends.

Check out the picture collage in the narthex. Stop by to see some memorable events in the life of APC.

Invitation post cards are available at the display if you think of anyone else you would like to join us on this special day.

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CLC Wacky Wednesday

**November 8,
5 - 6:30 pm** on APC grounds.

Kids will have a craft project and make their own popcorn bowl to enjoy during the movie, "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving."



Thanksgiving."

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APC Needlers

Meet the second Tuesday each month. The next meeting is **November 14, 7-9 pm** at Karen Frye's house.

Bring needlework thread and supplies for a new project.

For more information, please contact Karen Frye (vkfrye62.kf@gmail.com) or Rosemary Mumford (rosesmum@aol.com).



Sunday, November 5

Seniors and Friends

SPRING-CREEK BARBEQUE Meet for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of the month. Join us **Thursday, November 16, 11:30 am** at Spring Creek BBQ, 5613 FM 1960 E, 77346. For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com).

Empty Nesters

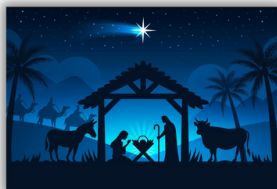
Meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month. The group will meet **Tuesday, November 28, 6 pm** at a location to be determined. For more information, please contact Ellen Nipe (enipe@comcast.net).

Game Day for Grownups!



Gather for a potluck lunch and fellowship **Thursday, November 30, 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).

Live Nativity Program Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9



The Program is from 6 until 6:30 pm both nights on the stage in the GATE area.

The Celebration is from 6:30 until 8 pm featuring a variety of

activities for the entire family in the GATE area. Enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, children's nativity sets for sale, scent tasting of frankincense and myrrh, an accapella choir, Santa's mailbox, a petting zoo, and a photo booth to capture the event with your family.

The food truck, "Moon Rooster," will be here from 5 until 8 pm serving salads, tacos, and hot dogs.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the activities. For more information, please contact Sandra Berry (713-447-7719).



Advent at APC

Sunday morning worship 10:30 am

December 3, The First Sunday of Advent, The Candle of Hope
Sermon: "O that you would rend the heavens and come down" Isaiah 64:1-9

December 10, The Second Sunday of Advent, The Candle of Peace
Sermon: "Comfort, O Comfort my people" Isaiah 40:1-11

December 17, The Third Sunday of Advent, The Candle of Joy
Sermon: "The year of the Lord's favor" Isaiah 61:1-4

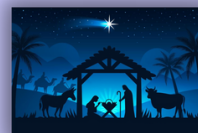
December 24, The Fourth Sunday of Advent, The Candle of Love
Sermon: "Here I am" Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH THESE SPECIAL EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

Live Nativity Program and Celebration

Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9
The food truck opens at 5 pm, the Program begins at 6 pm, and the Celebration is from 6:30 until 8 pm.



Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 10

Our Chancel Choir will present, "A New & Glorious Morn!" during the morning worship service.



Advent Devotionals

Daily readings will be provided for the church family as we make our Advent journey of faith.

Sunday, November 5



Scenes from Wednesday Night Dinner, October 25



"Wonderful Friends -
The Oktoberfest Dinner was truly an OktoberFEAST!!! So delicious- every dish! Thank you so very much for your wonderful cooking talents and your gifts of time and energy in preparing all this great food for us-It makes my heart happy to see how nice our kitchen looks and to see us using it again for Church dinners and get-togethers!
With much grateful appreciation for all of you" - Judi Anderson



Sunday, November 5

Community Garden

The community garden is blooming! We have replanted several different varieties of vegetables that are stubborn about coming up! We have also transplanted kale, carrots, beets, onions, and kohlrabi that were started in cups at home. Squash and radishes are coming in and have been shared with members of the congregation.

If you would like to help and are a coffee drinker, save your coffee grounds and sprinkle it on the beds when you visit church! This will help enrich our soil. If you are interested in starting your own garden, check out the planting guide for our region!



APC is a certified Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA).

Vegetable	Vegetable Garden Planting Dates for Harris County											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
ASPARAGUS, Crowns												
BEANS, Lima & Snap Bush												
BEANS, Lima & Snap Pole												
BEETS												
BROCCOLI, Plants												
CABBAGE, Plants												
CAULIFLOWER, Plants												
CARROTS												
CHARD, Swiss												
CHINESE CABBAGE												
COLLARDS												
CORN												
CUCUMBER												
EGGPLANTS, Plants												
KOHLRABI, Plants												
LETTUCE												
MUSKMELON, Cantalope												
MUSTARD												
OKRA												
ONION, Bulb-type sets												
ONION, Transplant for scallions												
ONION, Multipliers												
PARSLEY												
PEAS, English & Snap												
PEAS, Southern												
PEPPER, Plants												
POTATO, Irish												
POTATO, Sweet												
PUMPKIN												
RADISH												
SPINACH												
SQUASH, Summer												
SQUASH, Winter												
TOMATO, Plants												
TURNIP												
WATERMELON												

HAAM NEWS

SEASONS OF SHARING

CHRISTMAS EMPTY STOCKING GIFT CARD AND TOY DRIVE

To bring joy to families in need this holiday season, HAAM is requesting donations of gift cards and toys. Also, monetary donations are acceptable. Due date for all donations is Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Gift cards: since most toy donations are for younger kids, HAAM is recommending donations of \$25 Target or Walmart gift cards to give to older kids. Please note that Gift Cards should be hand-delivered to George Williams or Carroll Hebert.

Toys: If you prefer donating toys, please place them in the HAAM box or under the Christmas Tree in the narthex.

Monetary Donations: You can make monetary donations by visiting the secure HAAM [website \(haamministries.org\)](http://haamministries.org).

All donations are due by Sunday, December 10, 2023!

Thanks for your continued support of HAAM.
George Williams (281-772-4706)

Sunday, November 5



“GOD PROVIDES”

APC Stewardship Campaign for 2024



We invite the members and friends of the Atascocita Presbyterian Church to generously support the mission and ministry of our church as we look forward to an exciting year before us in 2024.

Our theme for stewardship this year is “God Provides.” Knowing we worship and serve the God who truly does provide, may we joyfully accept the call to give generously and joyfully to the work to which APC has been called.

This is a critical time in the life of the church. Believing in the future of our congregation, the church stepped out in faith with a budget for the current year of 2023 that projected a deficit of \$38,822.

By the grace of God, the Atascocita Presbyterian Church is growing!

Now we must join our hearts together to grow in our giving. We are praying that through the faithful giving of our congregation through the remainder of 2023 that we can meet this year’s projected deficit of \$38,822.

We are praying that with your generous commitment and pledges we can continue to grow as a church, stretching to meet the budget goal for 2024 of \$365,314.

Dedication Sunday is November 12, 2023. We look forward to a joyful celebration, believing and praying that God will provide all we need to continue this wonderful ministry in which we all share.

Year-End Tax Strategies to Consider

Qualified Charitable Donation –

The Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) gifting option allows you, starting at age 70½, to instruct your IRA administrator to direct IRA distributions—up to \$100,000 per year—to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity such as APC. Because the IRA income goes directly to charity, you do not report the QCD as taxable income and do not owe any taxes on the QCD, which may be particularly beneficial to you if you are forced to take a Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) and don't need the extra money.

In addition to avoiding taxable income, your IRA distribution can be put to good use by your favorite qualified charity. It's truly a win-win option.

Be sure to consult your tax adviser to be certain this is the best strategy for you.

Appreciated Stock –

By donating stock that has appreciated for more than a year, you are actually giving 15% more than if you sold the stock and then made a cash donation.

The reason is simple: avoiding capital gains taxes.But if you donate the stock directly to a charity, there's no capital gains tax to pay.

Plus, you are still eligible to deduct the full fair-market value of the asset you donated from your income taxes, up to the overall amount allowed by the IRS.

How do you make a gift of stocks?

Contact your broker with the following information:

Recipient – Atascocita Presbyterian Church
Contact Name – Forrest Craig, (785) 633-2994, finance@apchumble.org
Our DTC# – 0015
Our Account Number – 283-032388
Brokerage Firm – Morgan Stanley
Broker Name – Gregory M. Kroencke, (713) 966-2100, Gregory.m.Kroencke@ms.com

Your Broker will also need to know –

- Your Name
- Your Account Number
- Name of Stock to be Donated
- Number of Shares to be Donated
- Estimated Value of Donation

Let us know your plans so we can keep an eye out for your gift. We'll send you an acknowledgement and a thank you as soon as we receive it.



Sunday, November 5

Birthdays

11/1 Carol Peterson
 11/2 Jada Akrong
 11/3 Eric Mills
 11/4 Bill Mumford
 11/5 Judi Anderson
 11/6 Sandra Lee
 11/8 Claudia Nelson
 11/9 Michael Cruz
 11/9 Lisa Herrington
 11/9 Brian Lemer
 11/16 Michelle Vance
 11/16 Susanne Wilkerson
 11/20 Sarah Olson
 11/21 Dorothy Jana Casas
 11/23 Jena Hlavaty
 11/23 Casey Ingram
 11/23 Donald Wilkerson
 11/26 Elroy McHenry
 11/28 Sarah Bennett
 11/28 Erin Kinney
 11/28 John Sheridan
 11/29 Liz Epie-Tchussen
 11/30 Julie Fisher
 11/30 Alicia Taylor

Anniversaries

11/9 Kristi & Jasper Stanley
 11/14 Chinelo & Tchana Fangtang
 11/24 Sharis & Scott Mayer

Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
1-Oct	83	14	43	140	\$4,374
8-Oct	82	23	36	141	\$1,132
15-Oct	90	12	46	148	\$6,901
22-Oct	100	13	30	143	\$1,670
29-Oct	104	11	30	145	\$18,056
October End of Month Credit Card Receipts					
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$255,922
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$235,443



Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, and in other parts of the world.
- The people of Israel under attack.
- Innocent civilians in Gaza.
- Support humanitarian assistance in Israel/Palestine through the Presbyterians Disaster Assistance. Donations can be made online, by calling 800-872-3283, by texting PDAIP to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (USA) with "DR000081-Israel/Palestine" on the memo line. Mail to PCUSA, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.
- Victims, families, and communities affected by violence.
- Those impacted by recent natural disasters.
- Those in the Acapulco, Mexico region who were devastated by Hurricane Otis.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett and Sandy Lee, being treated for cancer and other health concerns.
- Maureen Allen recovering from surgery.
- Vicki and David Lasinsky, medical concerns.
- Nina Petty, Carroll Hebert's sister-in-law, health concerns.
- Jim and Stephanie Woods, Brenda Ginste's friends. Jim entering cancer treatment. Peace for Stephanie.
- Deana Price, long-time friend of Mission Crafters, recovering from a stroke Tuesday, 10/17. Her family expressed their thanks for our prayers for Deana.
- Dale Jameson, Emily Murphy's friend, diagnosed with covid and awaiting surgery for broken ankle.
- Connie Brown recovering in rehab.
- Janeice Russell, Tommy Russell's sister, diagnosed with cancer.
- Shawn Jennings and family, Joe Weir's friend, dealing with a cancer diagnosis.
- Peace and understanding to family and friends of Jesse Sustaita, he has passed away. Submitted by Joe Guerra of Henderson NV United Presbyterian Church.
- Kathleen McPherson, upcoming surgery.
- Adam Clark and all our service men and women for peace and safety.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Rev Stewart MacColl, he has passed away.
- Thanksgiving for the Prayer Walk Sunday, Oct 29, joining in fellowship and exploring church grounds.
- Ongoing concerns: Sine McCarty, Garland McCarthy, Betsy Gould, Anne Wallace, Jerry Sessions, Michael Burgos, Ann Owen.

Please email prayer requests to the church office (apc@apchumble.org).

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for November, Joyce Olson (713-702-7261).