



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



THE LAST HYMN

Our final worship service for the year 2023 will be on the final day of 2023, December 31. How fitting to bring our year to a close with a service of worship. Our final hymn of our final worship service on the final day of the year is titled, *For the Fruit of All Creation*. Knowing that the Sunday after Christmas is traditionally a day of light attendance, and compounding that with the fact that the service will be on New Year's Eve day, well, that almost guarantees we will have a few empty pews. But whether or not you are able to join us on December 31 at 10:30 am, I want to put our final hymn before you in my final newsletter article of 2023, a year that has truly been filled with blessing and joy. As you reflect on these words, I invite you to think of your year and consider what it is that touches your heart and leads you to say, "Thanks be to God."

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
 For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
 For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping
 Future needs in earth's safekeeping thanks be to God.*

Moments before I sat down to write this article, I stood in the church kitchen and admired radishes sitting in the sink, representing just some of the abundant harvest we have had with our Community Garden. The harvest of a garden comes because of faithful plowing, sowing, and reaping. As it is in the soil of the ground, so it is with the soil of our soul. We rejoice in the membership of APC, for the faithful plowing, sowing, and reaping of the spiritual soil of life. THANKS BE TO GOD.

*In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
 In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
 In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing...
 In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.*

Just as the sink in the kitchen held fruit from the labors of our congregation, the second verse of the hymn rings true here at APC. The labors of our church have given us the blessing of helping others

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- Birthdays, Attendance Report, Stewardship Update, 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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through HAAM, Family Promise, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, PCHAS, and Seafarers, just to name some of our outreach ministries. And our ministries are not limited to physical needs. It warms a pastor's heart to know you are praying, visiting, writing cards, making calls, listening and sharing the hope and comfort of God's love with all who are facing the challenges and struggles of life. THANKS BE TO GOD.

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us...
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

We share together in a journey of faith. Together we have walked the 40 days of Lent with our Lord as he made his way to Jerusalem. We shouted Hosanna, gathered to remember the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, prayed through the darkness of the crucifixion, and released butterflies and shouted, "He is risen indeed!" on Easter Sunday. We rejoiced in the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, remembered the saints, and celebrated our 40th anniversary. Now we have drawn near to the manger, bowing in reverent worship at the good news of great joy that comes through our God, Emmanuel, the blessed Christ child who comes to be with us. THANKS BE TO GOD.

As I invite you to consider how you might give thanks to God as this year comes to a close, I offer my own verse to this wonderful hymn.

*For a church whose love inspires, thanks be to God.
Remaining strong through flames and fires, thanks be to God.
Deep, deep faith that's never drifting, songs of joy your voices lifting,
Countless acts of kindness gifting, thanks be to God.*

Atascocita Presbyterian Church, we love you!
Blessings from Wayne and Julie

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Lamentations 3:22-24 NRSV

Worship in January

1/7 "A good start"

Genesis 1:1-5

1/14 Partners in faith "Samuel"

1 Samuel 3:1-10

1/21 Partners in faith "Abraham"

Genesis 12:1-9

1/28 Partners in faith "Sarah"

Genesis 18:1-15

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.

**Church office will be closed
Monday, January 1, 2024**

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, Joyce Olson, and Julie and Wayne Eberly.

Time Out for Men

The second Wednesday of each month, 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. We look forward to our time together **Wednesday, January 10.**

Meet at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall to share a potluck lunch with Presbyterian Women who meet 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 *Messiah Jesus: Christology in His Day and Ours*, by Doug Kennard.



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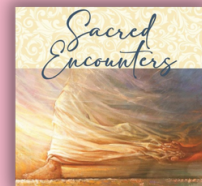
*****Christian Chat and Coffee, 9:30 am in classroom 104.**

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

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The Bible Study meets **Wednesday, January 10** from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm, in the fellowship hall.

Share a potluck lunch at 11:30 am. We will welcome again the "Time Out for Men" group before they break out for their own session.



PW will continue at noon with lesson 5 in the Horizons series: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commemorative APC 40th Anniversary Ornament

On display in the narthex, the price is \$10 to benefit the Music and Youth programs.



See Joe Weir or Carroll Hebert in the office. Please indicate "ornament" on the memo line of your check.



APC Needlers

Meet the second Tuesday each month. The next meeting is **January 9, 7-9 pm** at a location to be determined.

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



Seniors and Friends



Meet for lunch on the third Thursday of the month. Join us **January 18, 11:30 am** at Italiano's, 8146 FM 1960 E, 77346. For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com)



Yoga for all!

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

Game Day for Grownups!



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



Empty Nesters

Meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month. The group will meet **January 25, 6 pm** at a restaurant to be determined. For more information, please contact Ellen Nipe (enipe@comcast.net).



Ancient Mariners

Join us **Friday, February 9** as we visit the Brookwood Community in Brookshire by way of Harris County precinct bus. Shop in their store and garden center and lunch at the Brookwood Cafe. Please sign up in the narthex. The bus will **leave APC parking lot at 8 am.**

More trips are getting lined up for the coming months!

For more information, please contact Linda Andrus (harley3064@aol.com).

Scenes from the Live Nativity Program and Celebration



Set up required many workers.



Stable animals were a part of the program.



Nativity sets crafted and sold.



Saturday's event was moved indoors due to the weather.

Scenes from the CLC Polar Express Adventure



A train ride to the North Pole with a punched ticket and having the story read by the conductor.



The train tracks lead to the train car.



Everyone was given a bell that was cold, having come from the North Pole.



Hot cocoa and cookies served after the adventure.



HAAM NEWS

SEASONS OF SHARING

Thanks to all who donated to this year's Seasons of Sharing! For Thanksgiving, many boxes of rice and gravy packets were delivered to HAAM. For Christmas, several large bags of toys and 43 gifts cards were donated.

Have you ever wondered how well your donations are received by HAAM's clients? For the toy distribution, my grandson, Kai, and I were shoppers, assisting the clients as they selected toys for their families. The first client we helped was overwhelmed with the quantity of toys donated by the community. Then, when she was selected to receive a bicycle for one of her kids, I thought she was going to faint! She had prayed that she would receive a bicycle. Tears and joy best describe her reaction to toys and gift cards she received for her family.

Please keep in mind that when you donate to help others, you may be answering someone's prayers.

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

Gratefulness

From Tiffany Venekamp, Interim Executive Director:

A mom in the program recently came up to me and said how grateful she was for Family Promise of Lake Houston. She was so happy that she and her daughter would be safe this Christmas, free from the worries she has had in the past.

I was obviously so delighted to hear her express this gratitude. I know that she is in a better place and on her way toward a brighter future. This is our wish for every family this Christmas! And yet, I know that so many will go without this year. And it's for them that our hearts break as we have seen an increase of over 1,000+ calls a month for shelter and services.

Would you GIVE to help children and families right here in Humble this Christmas? Your donation of any size will make a tremendous difference.

Family Promise is here for these families every day of the year. We will not rest until we see them fully restored, living life on their own. Our plan of action for these families is achievable and sustainable. Thank you!



Each Person Makes a Difference

Earth Care Corner



Many people are familiar with this symbol, but most are only focused on the recycle portion which is really the last thing we should do in the circle of keeping our earth healthy. For me, reducing has been my goal this year, mostly reducing plastic.

Not sure if you have been by the water bottle filling station by the CLC office, but if you have, you may have noticed that we have reduced over 3,000 plastic bottles in the past seven months! This is a great accomplishment that we should all be proud of.

In my home, we added filters in the sink faucet and a filter water system in the refrigerator so we can use glassware for drinking water around the house. I have also introduced ECO sheet laundry detergent. These sheets come in a biodegradable packaging instead of that normal, large plastic container. Earth-Breez and Arm and Hammer both make these sheets. These sheets are better for the environment than pods, as these still contain plastic that runs off into our oceans.

When I look back, I may not have made a huge impact on the environment, but doing my part does help, as all efforts help in the long run. As an Earth Care congregation we all need to do our part in helping our one and only earth.

I hope everyone has a great Holiday season!
Hope and Love,
Gary Denmon - Ruling Elder

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



Birthdays

1/4 Charlotte Nazarko
 1/4 Danny Williams
 1/6 Mike Vance II
 1/9 Lizzy Frye
 1/11 Julie Eberly
 1/16 Ron Powell
 1/19 Carol Curtis
 1/19 Gayle Grubbs
 1/19 Kathleen McPherson
 1/23 Christina Michie
 1/24 Jeff Berry
 1/27 Thomas Mumford
 1/27 Robert Pritchett
 1/29 Leah Barnes

Anniversaries

1/10 Charis & Will Nees
 1/21 Jean & Don Treleaven

Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
3-Dec	121	12	47	180	\$4,606
10-Dec	115	25	36	176	\$10,137
17-Dec	112	13	22	147	\$22,947
24-Dec	94	28	35	157	\$4,980
24-Dec pm	171	6	64	241	\$601
December End of Month Credit Card Receipts					
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$316,460
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$283,602



Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and in other parts of the world where there is war.
- Praying for peace in Israel and Palestine.
- Victims, families, and communities affected by violence.
- Those impacted by recent natural disasters.
- Safe travel for those attending holiday celebrations.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett and Sandy Lee, being treated for cancer and other health concerns.
- Peace and comfort for family and friends of Nancy Davis, sister of Cathy Fovargue, she has passed away.
- William Fitzpatrick, Frank and Barb's son, emotional and physical recovery from pulmonary embolism condition.
- Mason Courville, Janice McCormick's 18 yr-old grandson, needs a heart transplant.
- Alison Brookby, Harry and Judy's daughter-in-law, continued recovery from breast cancer surgery.
- Ed Cooke recuperating from surgery.
- Alex Dickmann, great niece of Eunice Munoz, in stage 2A Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Johnny McCann, brother-in-law of Danny Williams having heart tests for possible bypass surgery.
- Nina Petty, sister-in-law of Carroll and Doug Hebert, recovery from surgery.
- Bob Pritchett's mother has had a stroke.
- Bobby and Sue Phelps, brother and sister-in-law of Elaine McCool, health concerns.
- Peace and safety for Adam Clark and all that are serving in the military away from home this Christmas.
- Mike Williams, brother of Danny Williams, received news that he is prone to heart failure.
- Safety and a meaningful trip for Rev Susie Wilder, aunt of Katie Hannan, as she travels to Palestine with a delegation of international clergy amidst the ongoing conflict in the region.
- Ongoing concerns: Sine McCarty, Garland McCarthy, Betsy Gould, Anne Wallace, Michael Burgos, Ann Owen, Connie Brown.

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

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