



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



WE ARE NOT ALONE

One of the most poignant passages in the Bible concerns loneliness. Loneliness is a terrible feeling. And loneliness is a terrible reality. What if we truly were all alone? What if there was no one there for us? The prophet Elijah experienced the deepest feelings of loneliness. The prophet Elijah was truly all alone. After his dramatic victory over the prophets of Baal he was pursued by the wicked queen Jezebel. He fled from her in fear, and he sat down under a broom tree. Fittingly we are told the tree was a solitary broom tree. This deep feeling of being alone leads to an encounter with God, where Elijah tells the Lord the depths of his despair, pouring out his heart as he tells God twice, "I alone am left..." In other words, the prophet says, "I am all alone." It is at this lowest point of utter despair that Elijah discovers two things. First, God is with him. Secondly, although Elijah feels all alone, God lets him know he is not all alone. There are seven thousand others, in fact, who have not bowed down to worship the gods of Baal.

That feeling of being all alone hit close to home during COVID. For a long time, we were isolated. For a long time, we were prevented from seeing others. For a long time, we were not able to gather together as a church family, not able to gather for fellowship, for friendship, for growing in faith, and, not able to gather together for worship. It was during that time that the idea for a sermon series came to mind. The idea was to preach a series of sermons titled, "Partners in faith." I wanted to convey to folks that we are not alone. Obviously, like Elijah we have God. We always have God. God has promised he will never leave us and never forsake us. Of course we have God. And, also like Elijah, we have partners in faith whom we can learn from and whom we can lean on. These partners in faith are the biblical figures that fill the pages of the Bible. Through their encounters with God and their journey with God, I hoped that we could find strength and encouragement and guidance for our journey of faith, even during the lonely days of COVID.

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What's inside the latest issue

- "We Are Not Alone"
- Worship in February
- Faith Formation Classes Update
- Time Out for Men
- PW Horizons Bible Study
- Upcoming Events (2 pages!)
- "A Walk in the Word"
- Earth Care Corner
- 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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As we all know, we are not living under the strict edicts of isolation that marked the early days of COVID. And yet that feeling of loneliness lingers for many. With the goal of reminding us that we are not alone, I am going to be preaching a series that will cover the majority of the year. The series will be about partners in faith. We will look at a wide range of the biblical figures. By looking at and learning from their encounters with God, my hope is that we will all discover that we are not alone in our journey of life, and we are not alone in our journey of faith.

Along with the sermon series "Partners in faith," I am also inviting you to join me on what I am calling a "Walk in the Word." Throughout 2024 I will offer a Bible study Wednesdays at noon that will give us the opportunity to walk through the Word of God and grow in our understanding of some of the key moments that make up the biblical witness. This "Walk in the Word" will take us through: THE BOOK OF GENESIS (Lent: February 21- March 27)
THE BOOK OF ACTS (April 17- May 22, which will cover the Season of Pentecost)
THE BOOK OF EXODUS (June 5-26)
THE LETTERS OF PAUL (Late summer and fall)

Dear friends, we live in a world where so many do feel alone, where so many do feel isolated, where so many are longing to discover a place where they can belong, a place where they can be part of a community. God has given us the wonderful gift of being a church family, a community of faith. I look forward to exploring with you our many partners in faith and I am excited for our congregation to take an extended "Walk in the Word." May we each know that we are not alone. May we each know that we belong. And may we pay close attention to the ones around us who do feel alone, who do feel isolated, and who are longing to find a place they can call home, a place where they will belong and experience the blessing of being part of a family of faith.

With the love of Christ,

Wayne

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

John 4:9-12

Worship in February

2/4 Partners in faith: "Jacob: The Ladder"

Genesis 28:10-17

2/11 "The Beloved Son"

Luke 3:21,22

2/14 Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper, 5:45 pm Worship, 7 pm

2/18 First Sunday in Lent "Jesus: The testimony and the testing"

Mark 1:9-15

2/25 Second Sunday in Lent "Jesus: Rejection...rebuke... resurrection"

Mark 8:31-38

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, 9 am until 2 pm.

Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Friday, 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.

Activities are ongoing. See Souper Bowl of Caring and Pancake Supper in the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter.

Turn in registration forms now to Julie Eberly for Conclaves, the winter retreat, February 23-25 at Trinity Pines.

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

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, February 14.**

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.



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

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

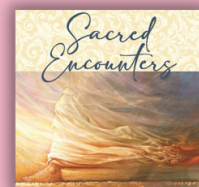
*****Christian Chat and Coffee, 9:30 am in classroom 104.**

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

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The Bible Study meets **Wednesday, February 14** 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 in the Horizons series: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir.

Ash Wednesday Service and Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on **February 14 at 7 pm** in the sanctuary, and will include the imposition of ashes.

We have a special treat on Ash Wednesday, as the youth will host a **Pancake Supper that will begin at 5:45 pm**. This Pancake Supper will be a fundraiser to raise support for the youth and their many activities, including the Conclaves, Mo-Ranch Conferences, and future Mission Trips. Come help support the youth on Ash Wednesday - enjoy a wonderful Pancake Supper, and then join us as we begin the Season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service.

Lenten Devotional

Local Pilgrim, the 2024 daily Lent devotional from the *Presbyterian Outlook* is written by Terri McDowell Ott with additional contributors. The writers invite you to explore and observe new and familiar places in your community. What will God reveal to you when you pause, ponder, and reflect.

Each daily reflection, beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating on Easter Sunday, will combine personal reflection, Scripture, and prayer.

The entire devotional is available on the APC website (apchumble.org). A few copies are printed and available in the narthex.

Commemorative APC 40th Anniversary Ornament

Last Chance - Almost Gone!

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.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Pickup and Delivery

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Pickup and Delivery is

Saturday, February 3. Meet in the church parking lot at

7:30 am. Load your truck and get a delivery route for the beds at 8:30 am. Please sign up on this [link](#).



Another way to help is consider buying a "Bed in a Bag" for a twin bed for a young boy or girl. Donations are accepted in the SHP box in the narthex.

Thank you to Rick Anderson, who has been volunteering with SHP and has agreed to be the main contact between SHP and APC! He will be able to coordinate delivery dates and other communications for which we will find helpful.

Some background information about Sleep in Heavenly Peace from Jim Hannan.

"Our Chapter was recognized by the SHP Board of Directors, as the Chapter out of all 340+ Chapters, with the largest increase (119%) of deliveries 2022 -2023. We delivered 732 beds in 2022 and 1,603 beds in 2023.

Sadly, with over 3% of kids 3 to 17-years-old in our community sleeping on the floor, on a couch, or sharing a mattress with multiple people (and that's a conservative estimate!), we have a lot of work to do in 2024.

The support and help from APC and our new Humble delivery Hub helped us reach this 119% increase, so thank you all!! We are indeed living out our belief that we are all Servants to our Brothers and Sisters."

Membership Information at APC

Join Allan Griffin **Sunday, February 4, 9:20 am** in the fellowship hall when he will offer an opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We look forward to having you come and learn about the PC(USA), APC, and what it means to be a member. For more information, please contact the church office (281-852-8990).

Souper Bowl of Caring



The APC youth group continues to build momentum for the Souper Bowl of Caring! All youth and any adults who are interested, may join us for a visit to HAAM,

Thursday, February 8, 11:30 am. We have the chance to get a walk-through and see how our donations will help out those in need.

Meet at 11:00 am in the APC parking lot. We will head over to HAAM in Humble. After our visit to HAAM we will all join together for a fun activity.

Ancient Mariners

Join us
**Friday,
February 9**



when 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.**

On **Friday, March 8**, Ancient Mariners will tour the Durham Bible Museum in Houston. Harris County precinct bus will depart APC parking lot at 9 am. Lunch is at Olive Garden near the museum.

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

CLC Registration Fall Semester

Registration for current enrollees begins
Monday, February 12
and open to the public
on Monday, February 19.



CLC offers a wide variety of classes custom suited to children from ages one through five that includes Children's Day Out (CDO), Preschool, and Pre-K. Depending on the age and class chosen, the school day ranges from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm. Class days also vary with the age and class chosen.

For more information, refer to the website (creativelearningcenteratapc.org) or contact Cathy Gerald (281-852-4832).

APC Needlers

Meet the second Tuesday each month. The next meeting is **February 13, 7-9 pm** at Janet Griffin's house, 19331 Kanawha Dr (Riverwalk), Porter 77365.

For those who knit (or want to learn), crochet, or sew, there are projects to do. Currently we are working on mariners' scarves, crochet/knit blankets for charity, and baptismal quilts.

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

February 15, 11:30 am at Azul Agave, 20669 W Lake Houston Pkwy, 77346. For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com)

Game Day for Grownups!



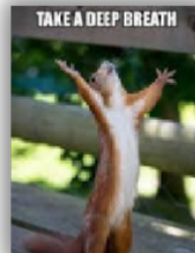
Gather for a potluck lunch and fellowship
Thursday, February 22, 11:30 am, in the fellowship hall and stay for games of Mexican Train or

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

Empty Nesters

Meeting the last Tuesday of the month. The group will meet **February 27, 6 pm** at a restaurant to be determined. For more information, please contact Ellen Nipe (enipe@comcast.net).

Yoga for all!



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

**JOIN PASTOR WAYNE FOR “A WALK IN THE WORD”
Bible Study at Atascocita Presbyterian Church
Wednesdays at Noon**

“Genesis: From Abraham to Joseph”

February 21 Abraham and Sarah- Genesis 12-17
 February 28 From Isaac to Mount Moriah- Genesis 18-22
 March 6 Jacob and Esau- Genesis 25:19-34; Genesis 27-33
 March 13 Time out for Men (11:30 meeting time)
 March 20 No Class (Wayne and Julie will be on a mission trip in Guatemala)
 March 27 Joseph- Genesis 37 and 39-50

A walk in the word: “The Acts of the Apostles”

April 17 The Acts of the Apostles- Jerusalem Acts 1-6
 April 24 The Acts of the Apostles- Judea and Samaria Acts 8-12
 May 1 The Acts of the Apostles- Paul’s first Missionary Journey Acts 13-15
 May 8 Time out for Men (11:30 meeting time)
 May 15 The Acts of the Apostles- Paul’s second Missionary Journey Acts 16-20
 May 22 The Acts of the Apostles- To Rome and the ends of the earth Acts 21-28

A walk in the word: “The Exodus”

June 5 Struggle- Exodus 1-4
 June 12 Deliverance- Exodus 5-14
 June 19 Covenant life- Exodus 16-24
 June 26 The tabernacle and the priests- Exodus 25-40

**Becoming Carbon Neutral In Your Church and In Your Life
Summary of seminar attended on January 13**

Earth Care Corner

On January 13, Gary Denmon and Forrest and Shelley Craig attended an interesting seminar at St. Philip Presbyterian Church: “Becoming Carbon Neutral In Your Church and In Your Life.” A total of 43 attendees shared experiences (in-person and via ZOOM) representing eight churches in our Presbytery.

Joe Schwarz of Webster Pres discussed how to quantify a church’s carbon footprint using “Cool Congregation” tools provided by Interfaith Power & Light (t.ly/EhZqK). These tools help prioritize actions to reduce carbon footprints and provide estimates of progress.

Other presentations and discussions included the following:

- St. Philip Pres and Webster Pres discussed their experiences with active solar panel systems.
- Webster presented their adaptation of motion activation light switches.
- Forrest shared APC’s use of LED retrokits to convert CLC classroom fluorescent light to LED.
- Woodlands Community and St. Thomas explained the benefits of native plants.
- St. Philip discussed their efforts to manage water use on a large campus.
- Woodlands Community described their recent energy audit and invited everyone to attend the consultant’s presentation of the results on Sunday, February 4 at 4 pm.
- Interfaith Power & Light’s household carbon footprint tool was explained. Discussion focused on what individuals can do to reduce their carbon footprint.

The attendees shared “best practices,” resources, and other thoughts about how churches and individuals can do our part to reduce our carbon footprint as good stewards.

Forrest Craig

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



Birthdays

2/2 Lisa Ryan
 2/2 Carroll Hebert
 2/4 George Eynon
 2/5 Jennifer Choate
 2/6 Shanti Herrington
 2/6 Ann Owen
 2/11 Carl Braden
 2/11 Hunter McPherson
 2/19 Meaghan Mumford
 2/21 Austin Cruz
 2/22 Ray Peregoy
 2/24 Garland McCarthy
 2/26 Linda Andrus
 2/28 Cathy Gerald

Anniversaries

2/9 Kari & Ryan Lauer

2024 Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
31-Dec	71	16	91	178	\$5,292
7-Jan	94	12	81	187	\$29,353
14-Jan	102	7	91	200	\$3,452
21-Jan	111	13	70	194	\$5,887
28-Jan	117	14	45	176	\$2,754
January End of Month Credit Card Receipts					
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$46,738
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$21,404

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.
- People of Equador as they deal with turmoil and unrest right now.
- Those impacted by recent natural disasters and weather extremes.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett and Sandy Lee, being treated for cancer and other health concerns.
- 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 and follow-up chemotherapy.
- Peace and safety for Adam Clark and all who are serving in the military away from home.
- Pat Litzinger recovering from surgery.
- Leah Barnes recovering from surgery.
- Tracy Peters, niece of Tommy Russell, in ICU treatment.
- Emily Murphy recovering from surgery.
- Kathy Gava, health concerns.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Carl Davis, former student of Joe Weir, AHS grad, and LHCS singer, he has passed away.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Nancy Transier, retired teacher and former co-worker of Liz Frye, she has passed away.
- Lynn Boyd, good friend of Judi Anderson, has entered hospice care.
- Praise and thanksgiving for Johnny McCann, brother-in-law of Danny Williams, released from hospital for congestive heart failure, is now at home, and doing better.
- Ongoing concerns: Sine McCarty, Garland McCarthy, Betsy Gould, Anne Wallace, Michael Burgos, Ann Owen, Connie Brown.

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

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for February, Marilyn Friedersdorf (713-204-0064)