



●●●● ————— ATASCOCITA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**THE COMMUNICATOR**

**MARCH 2026 EDITION**

**This Month from Pastor Wayne**  
***For Such a Time as This***

A young woman named Esther became the Queen of Persia at a tenuous and tumultuous time for the children of God. Her rise to a position of authority is interesting and worth exploring as this young Jewish woman living in exile is exalted to the royal throne through a beauty pageant of all things. Once seated on the throne, trouble comes her way. No one knows she is Jewish except her uncle, whose name is Mordecai. Mordecai becomes aware of a plot to put all the Jews to death. So he approaches Esther and pleads with her to intervene with the king. Esther hesitates. If she intervenes and the king does not welcome her, she has put her own life at risk. Mordecai is adamant that Esther must act, even if risking her own life. The fate of her people rests in the balance. To stir Esther to action, Mordecai sends a message that has echoed down through the ages, a message calling God's children to step up and take action. Here are Mordecai's powerful, even prophetic words to his niece, to Esther, to the Queen of Persia. "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal power for such a time as this." (Esther 4:13, 14)

Such a time as this speaks to being placed in a critical position at a critical time and knowing that being in such a time and such a place calls for action. In some ways, every day we are presented with opportunities that call to mind Mordecai's words about "Such a time as this." In other ways, there are larger movements that create an awareness that we are living in "Such a time as this." As the pastor of our church I have been aware of the divisiveness in our nation, the turmoil and dangerous situations people face related to immigration and the actions of ICE, the struggles people grapple with regarding meeting their basic needs as we navigate this strange time when the rich get richer and the poor struggle to make ends meet and to put food on the table. Racism and prejudice continue to raise their ugly heads. We live in a time fraught with injustice, inequality, and division.

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Although we cannot do everything, we can do something. I just want to take a moment in these few paragraphs to thank you for being a congregation that continues to discover ways to live and serve faithfully in "Such a time as this." Over the last few months we have opened our doors in some very significant ways. For such a time as this...

- We placed a Blessing Box right out on Atasca Oaks. I have yet to see anyone picking up food or dropping off food. And yet...day by day and week by week for the last several months the box gets emptied out...and the box gets filled up. You all, and our friends in the community, are demonstrating that during a time of insecurity for so many, APC is prepared to respond to "Such a time as this."
- Some forty volunteers stayed after church the last Sunday of November to make Chicken Soup Casseroles. By the end of that joyous joining together of caring hearts, 54 casseroles were ready to be delivered to families in need. Each family who received a casserole understood that this small church in the greater Humble area was doing our best to help out in "Such a time as this."
- On a Friday right before Thanksgiving, a steady stream of seniors entered the doors of Fellowship Hall to some raucous rock and roll, swaying side to side even as they navigated their walkers. It was the Thanksgiving Feast for the HAAM Seniors program. People came from east and west and north and south to sit at table...in our Fellowship Hall...yes...but it also felt a lot like we were all gathered together in the Kingdom of God. A church experiences the richness of God's blessing when we step forward to share God's gracious love during "Such a time as this."
- Every Sunday morning, people come to our church seeking a safe haven, a place of welcome, a family where every member of that family is accepted just as they are. Sometimes we fall short and people do not experience the feeling of being connected. But so many times people find that in a world of division and harsh words and judgment and condemnation, APC is a place of welcome, a place of refuge, a place of belonging, and a place they can call home.
- The last weekend of February was one of those times in the life of a church that make a pastor's heart sing. On Saturday, February 21, Julie Fisher was married to James Ekola in our sanctuary. Love was in the air, in all the beautiful ways described in the bible. We read from I Corinthians 13 about the love that is patient and kind, forgiving and not judgmental, a love that always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...and a love that never fails. Doris Fisher, Julie's mom, was able to attend the service. Doris has been facing some significant health challenges, but she was able to be by her daughter's side as Jimmy and Julie were pronounced husband and wife. Then we gathered for worship on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, a service marked by the joyful introduction of our new members, Angel Melo and Taryn Hemsing, and Tommy Russell. What a blessing to officially welcome these long-time friends as members of our church family. The weekend was capped off with the Rise Against Hunger event, where more than 60 members and friends of APC worked like a well-oiled machine to put together 10,000 meals in under two hours. We had members who were older than 90 working alongside little children whose energy and exuberance gave us all a boost.

No, we cannot do everything to change this world. But to be a family of faith, to love one another, to care about the world in which we live, to choose kindness and compassion over harsh words and even harsher laws, these are good things. These are godly things. And these are the things that mark our lives as members and friends of the Atascocita Presbyterian Church. I truly believe God has put our church here for such a time as this. May we continue to seek to serve our Lord in ways that bring glory and honor to his holy name.

With the love of Christ,

*Wayne*

# Messages for March

## March 1

"He Weaves a World of Blessing" | Matthew 5:1-12

## March 8

"This Little Light of Mine" | Matthew 5:13-16

## March 15

"Bringing the Law to Life" Matthew 5:17-20

## March 22

"Love and the Law" | Matthew 5:43-48

## March 29

Palm Sunday "Our Humble King" | Matthew 21:1-11



**First Phone Call: Alexander Graham Bell made the very first phone call to his assistant on March 10, 1876!**



## Office Hours

**Pastor Wayne Eberly**

Mon-Wed  
9 AM – 2 PM

**Rhonda Blake**

Mon-Fri  
9 AM – 2 PM

## Church Staff

**Pastor** - Reverend Wayne Eberly

**Office Coordinator** - Rhonda Blake

**Director of Music** - Joe Weir

**Pianist** - Carl Braden

**Director of Creative Learning Center** - Cathy Gerald

# MEETING

## Notice of Session Meeting

Sunday, Mar 15 at 11:45am

Contact Joyce Olson for more information.

Location: Fellowship Hall

# MARCH EVENTS



## Empty Nesters

Tuesday, Mar 3 at 5:30pm

**Contact:** Nancy Anderson at [nancy.anderson56@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy.anderson56@yahoo.com)

**Location:** Skeeter's Mesquite Grill, 4121 W. Lake Houston Pkwy, Kingwood

TUESDAY  
3



## Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery

Saturday, Mar 7 at 8:30am

**Contact:** Rick Anderson, 713-859-1695

**Location:** APC Parking Lot

SATURDAY  
7



## Time Out for Men

Tuesday, Mar 10 at 12:00pm

**Contact:** Pastor Wayne

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY  
10



## Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Thursday, Mar 12 at 11:30am

**Contact** Linda Andrus [harley3064@aol.com](mailto:harley3064@aol.com).

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY  
12



## Lake Houston Chamber Singers - Spring Concert

Sunday, Mar 15 at 7:00pm

**Tickets** - Purchased via QR Code

**Location:** Sanctuary

SUNDAY  
15



# HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday  
Service @ 10:30am

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem with courage and compassion.

SUNDAY

29

MAR



Maundy Thursday  
Service @ 7:00pm

On Maundy Thursday we gather around the table where Jesus showed us what love looks like in action.

THURSDAY

2

APR



Good Friday Prayer  
Service @ 12:00pm

In His sacrifice, we find mercy that holds us even in our darkest hours.

FRIDAY

3

APR



Easter Sunday  
Service @ 10:30am

Christ is risen, and hope rises with Him.

SUNDAY

5

APR



Children's Activities &  
Butterfly Release

9:30am - 10:15am

SUNDAY

5

APR

# 2026 MEN'S CONFERENCE AT MO-RANCH MAY 1-3, 2026



**Registration Deadline: March 31, 2026!**

**REGISTER HERE**

Several APC men will be attending the 2026 Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch, held from **Friday evening, May 1, through Sunday morning, May 4**. The cost is **\$375 per person, which includes tuition, meals, and housing**. Please **register by March 31, 2026**. The conference offers a meaningful weekend of fellowship and spiritual renewal, with keynote presentations, worship, song, workshops, relaxation, and recreation. Saturday afternoon includes optional free time for sports and outdoor activities, and the Saturday evening BBQ is always a highlight.

**APC men traditionally stay together in the Mo-Ranch Triplexes**, each with two sleeping areas, a family/dining room, and a full kitchen. We have reserved Triplex 1, 2, and 3, each sleeping at least five men, with additional space for anyone willing to take an upper bunk. Evenings are spent enjoying games, conversation, libations, stargazing, and time around the fire pit.

Several men also **arrive early on Wednesday to play golf** or explore the area on Thursday and Friday morning. **Early arrivals pay an additional \$150, which covers Thursday lodging, Thursday dinner, and Friday breakfast and lunch. Golfers and early arrivals should select this add-on when registering.**

Each participant **must register individually**. Under lodging, **select Group Lodging, and if contacted by a Mo-Ranch representative, let them know you are with the APC men staying in the Triplex.**

**Registration and additional details are available at [moranch.org](http://moranch.org) under Programs & Events, or use the QR Code.**

If you have questions, are interested in attending, or want to join the golf group, **please contact George Williams (281-772-4706) before March 31, 2026.**



## Humble Area Assistance Ministries

The HAAM 2025 Season of Sharing activity was provided in last month's newsletter. HAAM was very active during the year providing other support. These services were:

SERVICES	# OF HOUSEHOLDS	# OF INDIVIDUALS
Utilities Assistance	248	696
Senior Services	1,216	2,189
Financial Stability	132	132
Benefits Access	144	161

Thanks for your continued support of HAAM.

# The Blessing Box

## A HUGE THANK YOU TO DRU FRYE

for his efforts in building and installing the new Blessing Box. We are grateful to him for using his skills and talents to build this new box that will help us grow this ministry and service to our community. The initial box received a great amount of use and support leading the Mission Committee to commission the building of a larger one. The box is not only sustained by members of the APC community, but the larger Atascocita/Humble/Kingwood community as well.



## **SUGGESTED ITEMS INCLUDE: FOOD & PANTRY**

- Canned proteins, Beans & Vegetables
- Grab-and-go Snacks, Easy Mac
- Canned Pastas
- Dried milk, Rice, and Cereal
- Spices

## **TOILETRIES & CLEANING**

- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Feminine hygiene products
- Soaps & Shampoos
- Dish detergent & Laundry Pods



February was a wonderful month for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, with APC volunteers helping build and deliver beds to children in our community who are currently sleeping on the floor.



Our next build and delivery day is Saturday, March 7, and we'd love to keep the momentum going.

One of the best ways to support this ministry right now is by donating Beds-in-a-Bag (twin-size comforter sets). Each bed we deliver goes out with fresh, cozy bedding, and our supply is running low. Your donation helps ensure every child receives not just a bed, but a warm and welcoming place to sleep.

Wow!  
**Thank  
you!**



**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER



**Thank you to everyone who came out on February 22 for our meal-packing event. With your hard work and joyful spirit, we packed 10,152 meals for neighbors in need. We are grateful for every volunteer who helped make this incredible impact possible.**

**6 Meals per Pack**

**36 Packs per Box**

**47 Boxes = 10,152 meals**



# CELEBRATION FUND



# SPECIAL OFFERING

Celebration Funds during the first quarter of 2026 will go to support the Family Promise of Lake Houston, a ministry that helps families experiencing homelessness find stability, dignity, and hope.

To learn more about Family Promise and the work your gifts support, visit their website: [fplh.org](http://fplh.org)

April through June, Celebration Funds will go toward the Houston Food Bank!



Each Lent, Presbyterians join together in One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering that brings hope to neighbors facing hunger, disaster, and systemic poverty. In 2026, our gifts will continue supporting Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Through this offering, we share Christ's compassion in practical, life-changing ways—because when we each do a little, it truly adds up to a lot.

## February 2026 Attendance & Offering Summary

2026 Worship Attendance and Offering Summary		
Date	Attendance	Offering Total
Feb 01	87	\$8,243
Feb 08	102	\$1,137
Feb 15	96	\$3,039
Feb 22	108	\$13,932
Total Offerings for Year-to-date		\$69,176
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date		\$55,591



A NOTE FROM THE

## *earth care team*

**March brings that gentle shift toward Spring meaning longer days, softer breezes, and a renewed sense of possibility! It's a wonderful time to refresh our care for God's creation in simple, meaningful ways. As the weather warms, consider opening windows on mild days to reduce energy use, tending native plants that support pollinators, or checking irrigation systems for leaks before summer arrives.**

**This is also a perfect month for a mindful home reset. As you clear out closets, drawers, and storage spaces, remember that caring for the earth includes extending the life of the things we no longer need. Gently used clothing, household items, and small appliances can be donated to HAAM, where they are shared with neighbors who can put them to good use. Donating keeps usable items out of landfills and strengthens our local community at the same time.**

**Whether you're planting something new, reducing waste, or passing along items that still have life left in them, each small act is a step toward a healthier, more hopeful world. March invites us to begin again with gratitude for creation and a commitment to care for it well.**

# HANDS IN SERVICE

This past month, the Hands in Service ministry blessed our family in an extraordinary way. Tommy, serving as part of the Hands in Service team, built a beautiful new deck and ramp at my home for my mother. As many of you may know, I live in an RV, and after my mother fell and broke her hip in November, navigating the steps became nearly impossible for her. She has been living with me since her fall, and the lack of safe access made daily life incredibly challenging.

Before this, I had explored having a ramp built through outside vendors, but the cost made it completely out of reach. Thanks to Hands in Service, the labor was offered freely, and I only needed to cover the cost of materials — making something possible that otherwise would never have happened.



Tommy's craftsmanship, care, and attention to detail transformed a difficult situation into one of comfort and security. The new deck has already made a tremendous difference — giving my mother steady footing, easier access, and a safe place to move about with confidence. It is sturdy, thoughtfully designed, and truly a blessing.

And as a joyful bonus, my 10-year-old daughter and her friends love using the deck for their skateboards and scooters, filling the space with laughter and energy.

We are deeply grateful to Tommy for his hard work and to Atascocita Presbyterian Church for supporting ministries that meet real needs with compassion and skill. The deck is not only well built, but is a pretty addition! We absolutely love it, and it has brought peace of mind and delight to our whole family. With a truly grateful heart - thank you so very much!

With Love,  
Rhonda Blake

# February Highlights



The Blessing Box 🇺🇸❤️



Lent Begins



Empty Nesters Dinner at Los Jarritos!



Children's Moment



RISE Packing Event



The Chefs 🧑🍳 on Ash Wednesday Night Dinner!

MARCH

# Birthdays

Lorena Pritchett	Mar 1	Melissa Williams	Mar 13
Gwen Poirier	Mar 4	Russ Nipe	Mar 15
Karen Frye	Mar 6	Minerva Renteria	Mar 17
Scott Mayer	Mar 6	Daryl Muñoz	Mar 20
Laura Bennett	Mar 7	Steve Hlavaty	Mar 21
Roy Garcia	Mar 8	Lee Merrick	Mar 24
Ronald Morrison	Mar 8	Samuel Sheppard	Mar 24
Forrest Craig	Mar 9	Thomas Hedgepath, Sr.	Mar 26
Carol Hedgepath	Mar 9	Bonnie Carr	Mar 27
Terri Parmerlee	Mar 10	Pete Nazarko	Mar 28
Elaine Morrison	Mar 13	Julie Rea	Mar 31



HAPPY  
Anniversary

Will & Adelaide Douglas

Mar 16