



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

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION

This Month from Pastor Wayne
Bicentennial...Plus Fifty

I am sure you are aware that 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, that momentous day that stands as the beginning of the United States of America. 50 years ago I joined in the celebrations marking the Bi-Centennial, including collecting a bunch of Bi-Centennial quarters. It was such a memorable time in the life of our nation, and I was fortunate to share in those exciting days. Now we come to our 250th anniversary. My hopes are high that this will be a year when we remember and revisit the vision that brought our nation into being.

The Declaration of Independence casts a vision for our nation that says, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Those seeds of promise, the hope that we would be a nation where all “men” are treated equally, have grown and expanded to an understanding that equality is a gift for all people, for men and for women. Through a hard fought Civil War we have worked for the day that no one should endure the slavery that was inflicted upon so many. Our life as a nation has been challenged and inspired by the prophetic words and imagination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, who called us to envision a day when every man, woman, boy and girl would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. Dr. King’s words truly were prophetic. He drew upon the passage from Isaiah that lifts our hopes of a world where justice and righteousness prevail, a world where every valley shall be exalted and every hill and mountain made low.

Around the time the musical Hamilton took Broadway by storm, our daughter Hayley handed me a book and told me I needed to read it. It was a biography about Alexander Hamilton. It was not a short book, nor was it particularly light reading. Somewhere in our discussions about the biography of Hamilton and the musical bearing his name, our daughter asked me if I had ever heard a particular passage of scripture. “They shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees.” I told her yes indeed I knew that passage. The prophet Micah fired the hopes of the people of God that one day the mountain of the Lord would be established. As the kingdom of God draws near, the prophet presents beautiful images of a world where people will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations will not lift up their sword against other nations, neither shall they study war anymore. The mountain of the Lord will be a place where everyone lives in peace and security, without worry of hunger or famine, which leads to the promise that they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig tree.

What’s Inside

Letter from Pastor Wayne

Worship in February

Upcoming Events

Blessing Box Update

RISE Against Hunger Event

HAAM Letter

Family Promise & January Donations Report

Earth Care Team Message

Celebration Fund Update

Save the Date - Men’s Conference

Tech Tip

January Highlights

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We the People
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence
and our Safety, promote the Progress and establish this Constitution

Article I
Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
Section 2: The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States.
Section 3: The judicial Power shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.

I did not see the Statue of Liberty in person until I traveled to New York City in 2007. I was 46 years old before I saw that flame that has lifted the hopes of so many. Even though I had never seen that national treasure until I was in my 40's, I knew the invitation extended by lady Liberty. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

And then there is the Liberty Bell. I hope the Liberty Bell is something that you will remember not only for the historical value it holds for our nation, but also for the way our congregation now shares a special bond with that famous bell. The Liberty Bell is inscribed with a passage from the Book of Leviticus. "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all inhabitants thereof." (Leviticus 25:10) What connection do we, the family and friends of Atascocita Presbyterian Church share with the Liberty Bell? Leviticus 25 is the chapter that calls on the people of God to celebrate a Year of Jubilee. We know about Jubilee at APC. This past year our Jubilee campaign helped us retire our debt, establish a fund for unexpected building maintenance and repairs, and a special mission fund that has already given us the privilege of bringing the healing and hope of God's love to a church in southern California that lost their building in a fire, to victims of flooding in Kerr County, and to families recovering from hurricane damage in North Carolina.

We face challenging times as a nation. We are struggling to determine what our nation values and honors and strives to be. May this celebration of our 250th year be a chance to recapture the values that drove our forefathers to establish a new nation, values like respect for all, equality for all, liberty for all, refuge for all, and the joy of Jubilee for all.

Jesus knew about justice. Jesus knew about righteousness. Jesus knew about equality. Jesus knew the importance of meeting the needs of those who hunger and thirst. And Jesus knew about Jubilee. When he stood up in his hometown synagogue, Jesus read verses that resonate with the promises of Jubilee. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

The 250th anniversary of our nation has yielded some bulky names, names such as the Semi-quincentennial, the Bi-sesquicentennial, and the Sester-centennial. Call it what you will, I am hoping and praying as we seek to follow Jesus faithfully in all we say and do that we might find 2026 is the Year of the Lord's Favor. Or as we pray each Sunday, "Thy kingdom come and thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

With the love of Christ,

Wayne



Messages for February

February 1

“Out of Egypt I have called my Son” | Matthew 2:13-23

February 8

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” | Matthew 3: 1-12

February 15

“The Son who trusted the Father” | Matthew 4:1-11

February 22

“The People who sat in darkness have seen a great light” | Matthew 4:12-17



**February in the United States
is the snowiest month.**



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

FEBRUARY EVENTS



Empty Nesters

Tuesday, Feb 3 at 5:30pm

Contact: Nancy Anderson at nancy.anderson56@yahoo.com

Location: Los Jarritos Mexican Grill
20669 W Lake Houston Pkwy, Humble

TUESDAY

3

FEB



Ancient Mariners

Friday, Feb 6 at 8:30am

Contact: Linda Andrus
harley3064@aol.com.

Location: APC Parking lot, to the First
Presbyterian Church of Orange, Texas!

FRIDAY

6

FEB



Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery

Saturday, Feb 7 at 8:30am

Contact: Rick Anderson, 713-859-
1695

Location: APC Parking Lot

SATURDAY

7

FEB



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, Feb 8

Please bring non-perishable items.

Contact: Gary Denmon

Location: Narthex

SUNDAY

8

FEB

FEBRUARY EVENTS



Donuts with Deacons

Sunday, Feb 8 at 10:00am

Contact: Steve Coleman

Location: Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY

8

FEB



Time Out for Men

Tuesday, Feb 10 at 12:00pm

Contact: Pastor Wayne

Location: Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY

10

FEB



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Thursday, Feb 12 at 11:30am

Contact Linda Andrus
harley3064@aol.com.

Location: Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY

12

FEB



Family Promise Graduation

Thursday, Feb 12 at 6:30pm

Location: Strawbridge United Methodist Church, 5629 Kingwood Dr.

All are welcome to come celebrate Keona and her family's graduation from the program!

THURSDAY

12

FEB

FEBRUARY EVENTS



Annual Meeting

SUNDAY

15

FEB

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 15 after worship service, with the purpose to review the Annual Report.



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb 18 at 5:30pm

WEDNESDAY

18

FEB

Location: Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

All are invited to a church Social & Supper, followed by Ash Wednesday Worship Service.



Seniors & Friends

Thursday, Feb 19 at 11:30am

THURSDAY

19

FEB

Contact Bonnie Carr,
bncrr1@gmail.com

Location: Marsalas Italian Grill
11747 FM 1960, Huffman



Empty Bowl Gala

Thursday, Feb 19 at 6:00pm

THURSDAY

19

FEB

Contact: Steve Coleman

Location: Nathaniel Center, 804
Russell Palmer Rd, Kingwood

FEBRUARY EVENTS



Rise Against Hunger

Sunday, Feb 22, After Service

Contact: Jamie Hannan

Location: Fellowship Hall
Please register with the QR Code

SUNDAY

22

FEB



Game Day, Grownups

Thursday, Feb 26 at 10:00am.

Contact: Terri Parmerlee
(tmparmerlee@gmail.com) or Linda
Andrus (harley3064@aol.com)

Location: Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY

26

FEB

The Blessing Box Reminder

The Blessing Box is available for anyone in the community—take what you need, leave what you can. Your generosity helps keep this ministry stocked and supportive for neighbors who rely on it. Non-perishable food items and basic essentials are always welcome!



Watch for these events coming in March!

March 7 - Sleep in Heavenly Peace

March 10 - Time Out for Men

March 12 - Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

March 19 - Seniors & Friends Luncheon

March 26 - Game Day for Grownups

March 28 - Ancient Mariners Trip

March 29 - Family Promise Week

WHAT'S
NEXT?

BLESSING BOX UPDATE

The **Blessing Box** continues to be generously supported by the community.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and helped spread the word about this ministry. While food items are often the focus, toiletries and other essentials are also greatly appreciated.

Donations may be placed directly in the box. If the box is full, items can be dropped off in the church office during business hours.

The box is checked regularly and restocked several times a week.

Items Always in Need

Food & Pantry

- Canned proteins (chicken, tuna, etc)
- Canned beans
- Canned vegetables
- Grab-and-go snacks (granola bars, baby food/applesauce pouches, chips)
- Easy mac
- Canned pastas (Chef Boyardee, Spaghettios)
- Dried milk
- Rice
- Cereal
- Spices

Toiletries & Cleaning

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Feminine hygiene products
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Dish detergent
- Laundry pods



Contact Jamie Hannan for more information at jameshannanjr@gmail.com.

Rise Against Hunger

February, 22nd At Atascocita Presbyterian Church!



FOOD PACKING EVENT!

for Families in Need

Let's serve together as a church family! After worship, we'll partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack 10,000 meals for communities facing food insecurity, with lunch provided. We'd love for you to be part of this meaningful time of service!

REGISTER HERE!



Let us know you'll
be joining us by
using the
QR code



HAAM Update

Humble Area Assistance Ministries

Thank you for your continued support of HAAM! Because of the generosity of APC members and our wider community, HAAM experienced a strong and impactful year in 2025, meeting essential needs for thousands of neighbors across Lake Houston.

Season of Sharing Impact

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season of Sharing, HAAM provided food to 1,172 households, supporting 3,517 individuals. At Christmas, they distributed toys to 1,907 households, bringing joy to 3,717 children who might otherwise have gone without a gift under the tree.

Year-Round Food Assistance

Beyond the holiday season, HAAM continued its vital work throughout the year. The Meals on Wheels program delivered an impressive 19,528 meals to homebound seniors, ensuring they received nutritious food and a caring connection. Additional food programs distributed 10,910 food bags, helping families bridge the gap during difficult times.

More Services to Highlight

Food assistance is only one part of HAAM's mission. They also provide employment services, financial assistance, senior support, and other programs that strengthen families and stabilize households. We'll be sharing more about these services in a future article so you can see the full impact of your support.

 Questions about HAAM? Contact George Williams at 281-772-4706.



Family Promise



Thank you to everyone who volunteered during our recent Family Promise host week! Your generosity—providing meals, serving as overnight hosts, donating supplies, and offering gift cards—helped create a warm, stable, and welcoming environment for the families in our care. It was a truly meaningful week, made even more special by the opportunity to welcome a new family into the program. Your hospitality continues to make a real difference in the lives of parents and children working toward long-term stability.

📅 Save the Date: Next APC Host Week

Our next Family Promise host week at APC will take place March 29–April 4. As always, we will need volunteers to prepare meals, stay overnight, and help with setup and support. More details and sign-ups will be shared as the date approaches.

🎓 Celebrating Keona's Graduation

We are delighted to share that Keona and her family, who stayed with us during our October host week, will be graduating from the Family Promise program. This milestone marks the beginning of a new chapter filled with hope, stability, and opportunity.

A graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 12 at 6:30pm at Strawbridge United Methodist Church, and all are invited to attend and celebrate Keona's hard work and perseverance. Your presence is a meaningful way to show support as she steps into this next season of life.

🍲 Empty Bowl Gala – Supporting Family Promise

The Second Annual Empty Bowl Gala, one of the major fundraising events for Family Promise of Lake Houston, will take place on Thursday, February 19 from 6–9pm at the Nathaniel Center, 804 Russell Palmer Rd, Kingwood, TX 77339. The evening features handcrafted bowls, delicious food, community fellowship, and stories of transformation made possible through Family Promise's work.

For event details and ticket information, visit:

www.FPLH.org/events/empty-bowl-gala/ (fplh.org in Bing)

Thank you for continuing to support this ministry with your time, compassion, and prayers. Together, we help families move from crisis to independence with dignity and hope.

January 2026 Attendance & Offering Summary

2025 Worship Attendance and Offering Summary		
Date	Attendance	Offering Total
4-Jan	99	\$13,226
11-Jan	101	\$4,326
18-Jan	111	\$18,282
25-Jan	11	\$0
Total Offerings for Year-to-date		\$35,834
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date		\$368,289



A NOTE FROM THE

earth care team

Be Energy-Wise on Cool Days

Even mild winter days can lead to unnecessary energy use. A few simple habits help reduce your footprint:

- Open blinds on sunny mornings to warm rooms naturally
- Layer clothing instead of adjusting the thermostat
- Unplug chargers and small appliances when not in use
- Switch to LED bulbs if you haven't already

These small shifts lower energy demand and support a healthier planet.

Earth Friendly Gardens

February is ideal for planning a garden:

- Choose native plants that thrive in our Gulf Coast climate.
- Add compost to enrich soil naturally.
- Avoid chemical fertilizers that wash into local waterways.
- Consider a small pollinator patch — even a pot of native flowers helps bees and butterflies.

Conserve Water as Spring Approaches

February is a great time to maintain water saving measures.

- Water only if needed — winter rains often provide enough.
- Check for leaks under sinks and around outdoor spigots.
- Shorten showers by one minute
- Run full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.

Caring for Creation

Earth care isn't about perfection — it's about intention. Every mindful choice reflects our gratitude for God's world and our commitment to future generations. Let's continue walking this path together, one small step at a time.

CELEBRATION FUND

Supporting Family Promise

We celebrate and thank everyone who contributed to the Celebration Fund in 2025! Your gifts honored birthdays, anniversaries, and special moments while also supporting meaningful outreach in our community.

As we begin a new year, we're pleased to share that contributions to the Celebration Fund during January, February, and March will go to support **Family Promise of Lake Houston**, a ministry that helps families experiencing homelessness find stability, dignity, and hope.

APC has partnered with Family Promise for many years, and your donations continue to make a real difference in the lives of parents and children working toward independence.

To learn more about Family Promise and the work your gifts support, visit their website: fplh.org

Thank you for continuing to celebrate God's blessings in ways that reach out and bless others.



SAVE THE DATE!

**2026 Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch
May 1-3, 2026**

The annual Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch is right around the corner, and we're excited to share the dates so you can plan ahead. This year's gathering will take place Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3, offering a meaningful weekend of fellowship, renewal, and spiritual growth in one of the most beautiful settings in the Texas Hill Country.

Mo-Ranch provides the perfect backdrop for rest, reflection, and connection — from early-morning coffee overlooking the river to evening worship under the wide Texas sky. Whether you've attended many times or are considering joining for the first time, this retreat is a wonderful opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily life and strengthen your walk with God alongside other men of faith.

More details about registration, lodging, and transportation will be shared soon, but for now, please mark your calendars and begin praying for a meaningful and spirit-filled weekend together.



We hope you'll be part of this special time of renewal and brotherhood.

STAYING SAFE FROM EMAIL SCAMS

What to Watch For & How to Protect Yourself



✉ Why Churches Are Targeted

Scammers often impersonate pastors, staff, or trusted leaders because church communities are built on kindness, trust, and generosity. Their goal is to create urgency so you respond before noticing something is wrong.

🚩 Common Red Flags

1. Strange or unfamiliar email addresses

The name may look right, but the address doesn't match the person's real church email.

2. Urgent or secretive language

Phrases like "I need a quick favor," "Please handle this discreetly," or "I can't talk right now" are classic scam tactics.

3. Requests for money or gift cards

APC leaders will never ask for gift cards, wire transfers, or financial help through email.

4. Odd grammar or unusual phrasing

Scam messages often sound slightly unnatural or generic.

5. Tone that doesn't match the person you

know. If it doesn't sound like them, trust your instincts.

🛑 How to Protect Yourself

- Pause before responding — urgency is a warning sign.
- Check the full email address, not just the display name.
- Verify by calling the church office or the person directly.
- Never send money, gift cards, or personal information by email.
- Delete suspicious messages without replying.

🏛️ What APC Will Never Do

APC staff and leaders will never:

- Ask for financial help through personal email
- Request gift cards or money transfers
- Ask you to keep a request secret
- Use unfamiliar or unofficial email accounts

Official communication will always be clearly identified church channels.

🗣️ If You Receive a Suspicious Email

Please notify the church office.

Your report helps us alert others and protect our congregation.

**TOGETHER WE CAN STAY INFORMED, STAY SAFE, AND CONTINUE
CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER WITH CONFIDENCE AND PEACE.**

January Highlights



Welcome 2026



The Good Shepherd!



Empty Nesters bring in the New Year



Crafter's ~
Culinary Creations!



1st Service of 2026



Take What You Need, Leave What you Can -
The APC Blessing Box



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lisa Ryan	Feb 2
Caroline Alohkese	Feb 4
George Eynon	Feb 4
Shanti Herrington	Feb 6
Ann Owen	Feb 6
Samantha Leone	Feb 8
Carl Braden	Feb 11
Hunter McPherson	Feb 11
Douglas Ingram	Feb 14
Meaghan Mumford	Feb 19
Austin Cruz	Feb 21
Ray Peregoy	Feb 22
Julia Ann Moffett	Feb 23
Garland McCarthy	Feb 24
Linda Andrus	Feb 26
Rob Arnold	Feb 28
Cathy Gerald	Feb 28



Ryan & Kari Lauer

Feb 9