

Atascocita Presbyterian Church

A word from the pastor....

It seemed like it was time to hear what is happening in the church these past weeks and what we are planning for May and beyond. First, I want everyone to be assured that we have not shut down. We actually have not really slowed down. We are blowing and going, or in today's words, we are streaming and steaming. I think what I personally miss the most is seeing your faces and getting your hugs. The faces will be back soon enough, as for the hugs, well, time will tell. Right now, Joe, Carl, Forrest, Jamie, Carroll, and myself are working on worship and the day-to-day of the church. When this is over, believe me, we will be looking to all of you for help. I thought I would make this an opportunity for you to think about your experiences these past few weeks. There are some terms with which we have become uncomfortably familiar:

Social Distancing: used to mean not socializing with individuals you did not like. Now it means not socializing with people you love!

Passing of the Peace: used to mean getting up and moving around the sanctuary greeting each other. Now it means putting words in the Chat function of Zoom.

Zoom: used to mean to go fast. Now Zoom means to slowly but surely learn a new way of being the church. Meetings, Bible Studies, Services, etc. are just *Zooming* along. Some faster than others.

The Virus: used to mean a friend was sick and it was usually a stomach flu of some type. Now, THE VIRUS is Covid-19; a new disease that we have yet to harness.

Swab: used to mean something you cleaned your ears with (even if we aren't supposed to). Now it is a key component of the testing for Covid-19.

Mask: used to mean something we wore on Halloween. Now it means something we wear every time we go out - preferably an N-95 - over our mouth and nose to keep others from catching "the virus."

Peak: used to be something you climbed for a challenging afternoon. Now Peak is something that challenges our health care systems.

Stay-at-home Orders: used to be something that our parents did when we were grounded. Now it is something our governments (local, state, and federal) asks us to do to keep us safe.

Second Wave: used to mean that surfers were waiting for a better wave to catch. Now, it means that we dropped all the things which have kept us safe these past few months and we find out it was too soon.

Flattening of the Curve: used to be something that would happen in math class and usually helped our grade. Now it is something that we pray for everyday as we look at the number of new cases of "the virus."

Hospital: used to be a building that we went to when we were sick. Now it is a ship, a convention center, or a tent, and we only send "the virus" cases.

Washing hands: used to be something we did when needed. Now it is something we do 20 or more times a day to the tune of our favorite 20-second ditty.

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May

Lectionary

5/3 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

5/10 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

5/17 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

5/24 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

5/31 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Stay Connected!

**Visit the APC website for more information and service schedules:
www.apchumble.org**

Make sure you are subscribed to the Newsletter and Narthex News email.

Check us out on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/AtascocitaPresbyterianChurch/>

A word from the pastor....(continued)

Hand Sanitizer: used to be something we used when we were not able to get to a place to wash our hands. Now it is something we use after we wash our hands and any other time we need it. Actually thought, that doesn't really matter because it is impossible to get.

Toilet Paper: used to be something we used when we went to the bathroom. Now it is something that is hoarded just in case, not sure in case of what, but from the looks of some individuals' stash, the apocalypse is coming and toilet paper will be the commodity of choice.

Freedom of Religion: used to mean that we could worship who, where, and how we want. Now it means we are going to gather in a room for a funeral or worship service no matter what the advice of experts are because, "oh I don't know, Jesus will protect us?"

The list is endless and please know that this was all meant in fun; they are not in any way a political statement. My friends, in these past weeks, the challenge has been to know that Christ is journeying with us to give us strength and patience. This trial in our lives, is not a plague sent by God, it is an extremely contagious virus. Be comforted in your faith and know that God is with us in all of this and the peace which passes all understanding will come through our faith.

The Session has voted to continue our worship services by live streaming only through May. We are hopeful that we can begin to meet in the sanctuary in June. But time will tell. As for now, see you at the church "house," that is on Zoom, every Sunday at 10:30 am. If you are not able to get to a computer, please call the church or Pastor Hannan (281)799-6693 and we will send you a copy of the bulletin and sermon for the week.

Thank you to the Worship Planning Committee

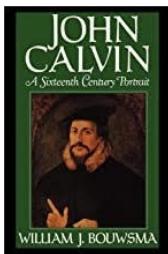
None of this would work if not for the people who are supporting me in the efforts each week to make Worship happen. Thank you: Joe Weir, Carl Braden, Jamie Hannan, Carroll Hebert, Shelley and Forrest Craig. The next time you see any one of them, thank them for going above and beyond what we needed to make this work. I personally could not do it without each of you; you are my team and I would not trade any one of you. Love and Grace to you all.

Mid-Week Devotional

OOPS! I almost forgot we are also live streaming "Devotions at the Beach" every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. It is 15 minutes of encouragement for the rest of our week.

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "Blessings" on top and "Jackie" below it.

Faith Formation



Doug Kennard's class will read a biographical book study, *John Calvin: A Sixteenth-Century Portrait*, by William J. Bouwsma. He will continue meeting in the library when the building is reopened.

Pastor Shelley's Faith Formation Class which discusses the preached/sermon scripture, will meet via ZOOM for the month of May from 9:15-10:15 am. Those interested in joining the class will find the ZOOM link on the church website (apchumble.org) Live Streaming page. Worship will begin shortly thereafter on this same link. We welcome all who would like to preview the scripture prior to worship.



Children's Faith Formation

Faith Formation activities are sent through the Remind Messaging Group each Sunday including children's activities to do at home. The lessons follow the lectionary and are drawn from "Illustrated Ministry," a faith resource for churches.



Plans for VBS/camps that were to have been held in June are on hold. We are hoping they may take shape later in the summer depending on the virus pandemic situation.

Youth News

Faith Formation activities are sent through the Remind Messaging Group every Sunday morning for our youth to do at home. The lessons follow the lectionary and are drawn from "Illustrated Ministry," a faith resource for churches. The information has been well received with good participation.

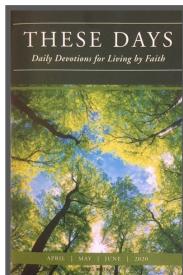
Youth are also welcome to join Jamie via Zoom on Sundays at 4 pm. The youth have asked that the session be continued and easily fill about 40-45 minutes with lively conversations. The group enjoys checking in with each other and sharing the "weirdness" of dealing with the way of life imposed by the virus pandemic that is going on right now.

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church, the host of our Colorado summer mission trip, has contacted Jamie about the upcoming mission trip. At this point, there is hope that since the trip is scheduled for the end of July, we may be able to do it, but we're playing it by ear. The Junior High Jubilee at Mo-Ranch is also on hold. Money will not be sent to Mo-Ranch until we hear that they will actually be able to host the conference.

Library News

Atascocita Presbyterian Church has a large selection of books, DVDs, and CDs available for check-out by members. While the APC Library is closed, you can still search the collection from the website to get reading ideas. Go to apchumble.org, click on Resources, and from the drop-down menu select Church Library. You may Search Inventory or Print an Inventory List. Books will be available for check-out when we return to the building. If you don't find what you're looking for, email: apc@apchumble.org.

The Houston Public Library System has a wide variety of e-Books available. Go to their website: <https://houstonlibrary.org/find-it/e-books-more>.



Strengthen your faith with *These Days*, an inspiring and uplifting daily devotional!

Watch for a link for May's readings in Narthex News!

Presbyterian Women Horizons Day Circle and Bible Study

Horizons Day Circle and Bible Study will be live streaming Wednesday, May 13, at 11 am. More info will be sent before the meeting. We will study Lesson Nine: *Words of Love: Don't Fixate on What You Don't Have*, in *Love Carved in Stone*, the detailed study of the Ten Commandments. Zoom in and see you then! Contacts are Judi Anderson and Doris Fisher.

We Miss You!

- ⇒ **Sunday Lunch for Singles**
- ⇒ **Seniors and Friends**
- ⇒ **Ancient Mariners**
- ⇒ **Empty Nesters**
- ⇒ **Game Day for Grownups**
- ⇒ **Yoga.**

Check out the newly designed website

The apchumble.org website has been re-designed and includes some new information, all in a completely new presentation. In addition to the public section showing information for visitors, announcements, the church calendar, photo and video archives, highlights from our Facebook page, and a variety of other information, there are password-protected (Members Only) pages with pictorial and printable directories, birthday and anniversary lists, historical Annual Reports, Session records, access to the Church Library catalog, and more.



If you're not able to access the Members Only pages using your email address and birthdate, it's probably because we don't have your full birthdate on file. Please send your birthdate (month, day, and year) to youbelong@apchumble.org and we'll get you set up for Members Only access.

Let us know (at youbelong@apchumble.org) if you find any errors or have suggestions about how to make our website more useful.

Do you have photos to add to the church's archives?

If you have photos or videos to add to the church archives, please email them to youbelong@apchumble.org. Have a lot of photos or don't know how to email them? Let us know and we'll make arrangements to help you make the transfer. If you have hard copies, please loan them to us. We'll scan them and return them to you.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Atascocita Presbyterian Church

During these difficult times, your continued support of the work of Atascocita Presbyterian Church is vital. Despite the community-wide shut-down, most of our monthly bills are unchanged. Our payroll continues and our support to mission agencies, even more important than usual with the enormous number of people struggling with job loss, continues each month.

Although we're not meeting in person for a while longer, you can continue your support in several ways:

1. Use the "Give Now" button on our website (apchumble.org) to make a donation using your checking or savings account or your credit/debit card.
2. Use your bank's online bill pay system and they will, generally with no fee, mail us a check.
3. Mail a check to us at:

Atascocita Presbyterian Church
19426 Atasca Oaks Drive
Humble, Texas 77346



We appreciate your support!

Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) NEWS

HAAM is designating Tuesday, May 5, 2020, as #GivingTuesdayNow.

#GivingTuesdayNow is your chance to extend help and hope to those who need a safety net during the COVID-19 crisis.

During these unprecedented times, HAAM is continuing to serve community members who need help. HAAM needs financial assistance because it is no longer accepting food donations and the two resale shops are closed. HAAM is doing everything it can to continue helping meet the needs of our neighbors during this current crisis. For the first quarter of this year HAAM provided food for over 13,000 individuals through its food pantry, food fairs, mobile deliveries, etc.

As we all come to terms with how COVID-19 has changed our lives, the families served by HAAM are being hard hit, and organizations like HAAM need and want to remain on the front lines. Now more than ever, the services HAAM provides must be available to our neighbors who were already living on the brink and struggling to make ends meet before the outbreak of the virus, including those who find themselves seeking assistance for the very first time.

Our neighbors in Humble, Kingwood, Atascocita, Porter, Huffman, Conroe, and Splendora need help. They need help with food, rent/utilities, prescription medications, and clothing. They need help with accessing non-cash benefits and mental health services. And they need help applying for jobs and finding new work.

We need your help to help them!

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, HAAM's major source of income, its resale shops, are closed. Plus, its other two funding sources, the annual Pillars of the Community banquet and the ClubCorp Charity Golf tournament, hosted by the Kingwood Country Club, were cancelled. Let's come together Tuesday, May 5 and show the spirit of generosity for which our Lake Houston area and East Montgomery County communities are known.

To donate, go to HAAM's secure website haamministries.org. Of course, donations are accepted at any time.

HAAM REPRESENTATIVES

The church's liaison persons for HAAM are Ray Peregoy and George Williams. If you have any questions please contact them. Ray at 832-788-8654 and George at 281-772-4706.

Thanks for your continued support of HAAM!

Family Promise

Thank you to everyone who has ever cooked, provided dinners, and slept overnight.

Thank you to the following people who will provide dinners when families return Sunday, May 3 through Saturday, May 9:

Jean and Tree Treleaven, Ann Owen, Margaret Pagnotta, Stella and Gary Hancock, Rick and Vicki Stansifer, Rick and Kathy Kirk, Susie Shelton, Ann Owen (again), Judith Anderson, Carol Cutshall, Ellen Nipe, Linda Shafer, Susan Sheridan, Sharon Sessions, Claudia Nelson, and last, but not least, Jane and Gary Frieders for always cooking a gourmet breakfast.

In these troubling times, if you would like to donate to Family Promise, you can go to their website: www.FPLH.org. Since their fundraisers have been delayed, donations would be very much appreciated.

How Green Is Atascocita Presbyterian?

Earth Care Corner

APC's Earth Care Committee has been educating and encouraging our green/Earth care habits. Now, let's paint a picture of how our congregation has responded with new efforts of "recycling, re-using, reducing."

I invite you to submit ONE new habit you're cultivating that indicates your care for this earth that we'll leave to our children and grandchildren. For example, I attended the composting class, offered during *Wednesdays@APC*, and now my plantings are much healthier and happier with my new habit. A side benefit is that I've involved my granddaughter in our composting.

If you'll email Shelley Craig **ONLY ONE** new effort that's becoming a habit for you, I'll paint a picture of just how green we're becoming. It will be anonymous (NO NAMES ATTACHED) in a future newsletter article. Perhaps **your** new habit will encourage another member. Let's acknowledge how concerned we are with the health of our planet. Let's pat ourselves on the back when we see the scope of our efforts. I look forward to hearing from you.

Grace and Peace, Shelley Craig
pastorshelleycraig@gmail.com

The application for recertification of APC as an Earth Care Congregation has been accepted and approved making it official that we are an Earth Care Congregation for 2020. Thank you all for your work and dedication to ensure we earned the certification for this year. I appreciate all of you and the energy and enthusiasm you bring to this work.





Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Day to April birthdays and anniversaries that were missed!

Birthdays

5/1 Adelaide Douglas
 5/3 Robert Frye
 5/4 Charis Nees
 5/4 Jan Kennard
 5/4 Guylaine Kepeden
 5/5 Cathy Vance
 5/6 Valerie Phillips
 5/7 Mazie Williams
 5/9 Vicky Eynon
 5/10 Connie Brown
 5/10 Mindy Butler
 5/12 Anne Wallace
 5/15 James Moser
 5/16 John Peterson
 5/18 Rhonda Skaggs
 5/18 Mary Ann Kaminski
 5/18 Tom Mahone
 5/19 Kristi Stanley
 5/21 Kelly Shelton
 5/22 Brent Borgers
 5/24 Bob Arnold
 5/24 Bart Baker
 5/25 Laurie Coleman
 5/26 Bradley Clark
 5/27 Heather Pritchett
 5/27 Alexandria Cruz
 5/30 Carol Bixby
 5/30 Patricia Williams
 5/30 Derek Munoz

Anniversaries

5/1 Susie & Jonathan Akrong
 5/11 Mazie & George Williams
 5/18 Susan & John Sheridan

Prayers

- Prayers of strength and patience for all those who are separated by distance or quarantine.
- Prayers of peace and comfort for the Mills family.
- Prayers for Deondra, Ann Owen's granddaughter, as she continues her work at CPS.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for Sandi Lee's older sister whose treatment for brain tumors has been successful.
- Ellen & Russ Nipe ask for prayers for their granddaughter Maddy, whose lowered immunity means she is high risk in this pandemic.
- Prayers for Cari Ann Berbert who is a nurse with Covid 19 patients.
- Prayers of Christian love and sympathy for Linda Andrus upon the death of her father,
- Robert Wristen.
- Prayers of Christian love and sympathy to Patty Williams and family as her sister, Cindy McCune, has died.
- Hugh Parry's mother, Diane is quite ill.
- Tillery McGee has had a relapse and is back on the ventilator.
- Friends of Elisa Mahone who work with Covid patients and have families at home.
- Prayers of Christian love and sympathy to Kevin and Lisa Stacy, and their son James, on the death of Kevin's brother Kenneth.
- Continued prayers for Julie Arnold, the Kepharts, Esther Crosby, Bev O'Brien, and Sine McCarty.

APC by the Numbers

Weekly Contributions Through April 19

Budget	\$117,723
Actual	134,660

Weekly Attendance by Live Streaming

April 5 Palm Sunday	204
April 9 Maundy Thursday	69
April 10 Good Friday	45
April 12 Easter	271
April 19	156

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CANCELLED - CLC	2
3 Family Promise 9:15 AM Pastor Shelley's Class (live streaming) - Today's Sermon Scriptures 9:30 AM Children's Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 9:30 AM Youth Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 10:15 AM WORSHIP - LIVE STREAMED 4:00 PM Youth Group - LIVE STREAMED	4 Family Promise 5:00 PM Children's Ministry Committee	5 Family Promise 10:00 AM Worship Planning Team only - LIVE STREAMING	6 Family Promise	7 Family Promise National Day of Prayer 6:30 PM Mission Committee	8 Family Promise	9 Family Promise
10 Mother's Day 9:15 AM Pastor Shelley's Class (live streaming) - Today's Sermon Scriptures 9:30 AM Children's Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 9:30 AM Youth Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 10:30 AM Worship - LIVE STREAMED 4:00 PM Youth Group - LIVE STREAMED	11	12 10:00 AM Worship Planning Team only - LIVE STREAMING	13 11:30 AM PW Horizons Circle Bible Study Live Streaming	14	15	16
17 9:15 AM Pastor Shelley's Class (live streaming) - Today's Sermon Scriptures 9:30 AM Children's Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 9:30 AM Youth Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 10:30 AM Worship - LIVE STREAMED 4:00 PM Youth Group - LIVE STREAMED	18 10:30 AM Spiritual Fellowship Committee 12:30 PM Earth Care Committee Meeting - online 7:00 PM Finance Committee	19 10:00 AM Worship Planning Team only - LIVE STREAMING 7:00 PM Adult Christian Education Committee	20	21 7:00 PM Deacon Meeting	22	23
24 9:15 AM Pastor Shelley's Class (live streaming) - Today's Sermon Scriptures 9:30 AM Children's Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 9:30 AM Youth Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 10:30 AM Worship - LIVE STREAMED 4:00 PM Youth Group - LIVE STREAMED	25 Memorial Day	26 10:00 AM Worship Planning Team only - LIVE STREAMING	27	28 7:00 PM Session	29	30
31 Pentecost 9:15 AM Pastor Shelley's Class (live streaming) - Today's Sermon Scriptures 9:30 AM Children's Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 9:30 AM Youth Faith Formation - "Illustrated Ministry" curriculum 10:30 AM Worship - LIVE STREAMED 4:00 PM Youth Group - LIVE STREAMED						