



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



A word from the pastor...

It has now been over four months. It is time for me to return to facilitating the ministry rather than doing it all. There is something a friend of mine says that is just so fitting for this moment of my life and ministry: "You will never know less about [fill in the blank] than you do right now."

Sometimes it is silly, "Well, you'll never know less about vacationing with both sets of parents than you do right now!" And sometimes it is serious, "Keep breathing. You'll never know less about caring for a someone in the hospital than you do right now."

I find this phrase comforting because in the same breath it acknowledges real fear and anxiety while offering hope. I will never know less about ministry without in-person contact, than I do right now!*

Ministry during the global pandemic of COVID-19 has brought us face-to-face with so many of these moments. Overwhelming moments, when we fear that we don't know how to lead Sunday school online or preach to a camera or support isolated older adults. And I've found myself repeating often, "I'll never know less than I do right now about using Zoom worship, Zoom meetings, Zoom Sunday school, than I do right now."

Having said this, the session has decided that the position of Information Technology Manager needs to be a paid position. It is a part-time position and we have asked Forrest Craig to serve in that capacity as the interim. He has been working - and I do mean working - at least 20 hours a week to bring our equipment and recorded services up to a higher level. We received gifts to purchase the needed equipment and now it is a matter of getting it all installed. I could explain the intricacies of all of this but hopefully in the next few weeks the results will speak for themselves. Do know, however, we can only do all of this with reliable WIFI and that is something we are working with now.

So, if you see Forrest, or Jasper Stanley, or Kristi Stanley, be sure and thank them for all they are doing. Sunday would not be possible without them. They have dedicated themselves to this task and I, for one, am thankful they have.

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- Physically Distant but Socially Connected



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 from page 1)

As a result of the safety measures put into place these past few months, and into the foreseeable future, we will not be calling officers as we usually do at this time of the year. The pandemic has changed how we do so many things: yes, congregational meetings; calling deacons and elders, which is a face-to-face task; and installation and ordination of officers are a few of those things. We have a challenge before us that the Session felt would be difficult to hand off to a new group of deacons and elders. We have not put this off indefinitely.

The Nominating Committee will revisit the process in a few months. Lisa Ryan, Ron Tribolet, Carol Cutshall, and Marilyn Friedersdorf have agreed to stay on their respective boards for one year. Sharon Sessions has agreed to serve another term. I know this is highly irregular but the Session felt that continuity is most important right now. As I said, the Nominating Committee will begin meeting as soon as it is possible to do so safely. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions please send them to the church office or to Ann Owen, the moderator of the Nominating Committee, at annowen@suddenlink.net.

Trying times in so many ways but together Christ's Church will thrive, not just survive.

*Reengaging volunteer leaders for Digital Ministry, Sarah Bentley Allred



In the midst of all the changes, we have asked Jamie Hannan to stay on part-time to help with youth ministry until we are able to hire another Youth Ministry Director. We have begun advertising for a part-time Youth Ministry Director.

If you know of anyone who might be interested please refer them to our website where there is a link to the job description. If they are interested in further discussions, please contact Reverend Hannan or the church office.

When will we open?

At their meeting, Thursday, July 23, Session voted to reopen the sanctuary for worship on Sunday, September 13. The date is tentative and we will keep you informed. There are many factors to consider before this plan can actually be carried out. Every effort will be made to make the sanctuary safe. Other changes will have to be made in regard to expressing worship in ways that may not involve singing, and will not involve shaking hands. These examples may seem small, but they are significant concerns. The ushers will take on new responsibilities as we practice social distancing while remaining a united congregation. If you are interested in being an usher, please contact Mazie Williams (mswilli03@aol.com) or Carroll Hebert (apc@apchumble.org). If you can help with the reopening, please contact Reverend Hannan (jhannan@apchumble.org) or Carroll Hebert (apc@apchumble.org) to volunteer.

August Lectionary

8/2 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

8/9 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

8/16 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

8/23 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

8/30 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Adult Faith Formation

Doug Kennard's Adult Faith Formation Class meets via Zoom on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am through the Zoom invite <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83087066050>. You may also access the link on the APC web page under "View Scheduled Live Stream Gatherings." The class will begin discussion of the book by Douglas Kennard, *A Biblical Theology of the book of Isaiah*. Eugene: Wipf @ Stock, 2020. Paper 978-1-7252-5478-7 or ebook 978-1-7252-5480-0.

Pastor Shelley's Adult Faith Formation Class meets via Zoom on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am through August.

The class discusses the preached/sermon scripture. Those interested in joining the class will find the Zoom link on the church website (apchumble.org) under "View Scheduled Live Stream Gatherings."

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

Please watch for a weekly email from Lisa Stacy (Co-chair for Children's Ministry), about Faith Formation from APC. The email will include links you need for the summer curriculum activities. Please feel free to contact Lisa with any questions or concerns related to APC Children's Ministry by email, lisastacy3@yahoo.com or home phone, 281-852-2986. Please let Lisa know if you are not receiving the curriculum.

Youth News

Recently, a church-wide initiative, or group project if you will, has begun in sharing what's going on in our lives, "Physically Distant. Socially Connected" is what we're calling it. I like to think this is something the youth and youth committee members of our church have been doing since late March/early April.

Almost every Sunday at 4 pm, a group of youth and adults get on Zoom to check in and talk about whatever comes up in the conversation. When we started in the spring, we were talking about how weird it was for everything to shut down, cancellations of milestone events, like graduations and end of year concerts, and the fact that none of our annual conferences or the mission trip would be happening this summer.

As time has progressed, we've shared stories about our baking adventures, gardening, popular memes, video games, and hope for the future. We've also talked about how hard this is for everyone: family trips cancelled, missing friends and families, summer traditions upended, and so on.

A request I have is that we pray for them. They, like many others, are struggling with the unknown of a new school year, mental health, confusion, and concern in a lack of coming together to get through this pandemic, and they miss their church families.

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The 2020-2021 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* is a nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world.

One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment - the injustice, the loss still exists - the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope.

In the meantime, we will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month. August 12 will be via Zoom at 11 am. Please join us for fellowship. Question of the month: How did you come to APC?

The login is listed on the APC website (apchumble.org) under "View Scheduled Live Stream Gatherings."

Happenings

Mental Health Well-being Conversation via Zoom

On Saturday, August 1, at 2 pm, we will have a mental health conversation via Zoom. If you have been feeling the pandemic has left you without an anchor, the Spiritual Fellowship Committee would like to help. We are asking for your questions about how to cope with additional levels of anxiety and depression and other feelings you may be having as a result of Covid-19.

Based on the questions she receives, Judi Anderson, Licensed Professional Counselor, will discuss ways to increase your mental health and well-being using both a spiritual and self-care context. The questions Judi addresses will be those of general interest and not specific to an individual. Confidentiality will be protected. Questions must be submitted by Thursday, July 30, by 10 am to askjudith@apchumble.org.



Lucky 7 Bingo Night

On Friday, August 7, at 7 pm, please join the Spiritual Fellowship Committee and your friends at the first APC Friday night Zoom Bingo party. There will be prizes! Not to be inhospitable, but it will be BYOB and MYOHdO (Make Your Own Hors de Oeuvres).

The good news is you don't need a sitter and dress is casual, very casual. The caller will be our very own funny lady, Carol Burnett (actually Carol Cutshall).

Players should go to <https://bingobaker.com/cards> to print out their cards. Check the APC website (apchumble.org) to log in and register.

Invite a Friend to Worship Blessing of the Devices Drive-by Goodies for Kids & Youth

We are excited to announce that Sunday, August 16 will be "Invite a friend or extended family member to worship" Sunday. The weekly worship teams are planning great music, strong preaching, and other surprises.

Invite someone you know, who is not attending worship, to our church and let them see what you already know. We are a great family of Christians dedicated to worship and mission.

We will also have a blessing of the devices for teachers and students since it seems that on all levels our technology will be pivotal to learning. After church, at 1 pm, we will be giving out "goodies" like stickers for your devices and other fun things to share with all of our children and youth. Both the Children's Ministry Committee and the Youth Ministry Committee will be on hand to help your child or youth feel important. Come by in your vehicle and, while wearing a mask, the committee members will be bringing the bags to the cars.

Also, we will have a Kona Ice truck on hand to get a Kona Ice. You will go up as a family and get your ice. The ice truck will be there from 1-2 pm but we will have the committee members there from 1-3 in case you cannot get there early.

August 16 will be a great Sunday to share who we are as a congregation in the midst of a pandemic!

APC will host Family Promise August 10-16

Family Promise families will be staying at APC from Monday, August 10 through Sunday, August 16. Volunteers are needed to prepare meals. Please contact Steve or Linda Coleman at lilnannycelive.com.

Worship Live Streaming Improvements are Here!

Recently, we announced that, thanks to two anonymous donors, a grant from Presbytery, and Memorial Fund support, we've acquired new sound booth equipment and installed Boxcast, a professional live streaming application, to be used for worship services. ZOOM continues as the resource for committee and fellowship gatherings.

Now you'll see the benefits of this investment on Sunday Worship Services.

Here's how to get to all our online gatherings:

1. From the website home screen (apchumble.org) -
 - a. To view worship services - Click on the "Our Next Live Broadcast" link or anywhere on the picture with the count-down clock showing the time remaining to the start of the broadcast, and then go to Step 2.
 - b. To join online committee meetings or fellowship gatherings - Continue using the same procedures we've all learned since March.

2. When the play button appears in place of the count-down clock, click on it and the broadcast begins. Click on the red "HELP - How to View Boxcast" if you need assistance. Note that you can put the mouse cursor on the video (on a computer) or touch the video (on a phone or tablet) to show the control bar and from there you can enlarge the video to full screen, pause it, or adjust the volume. If you're a little late arriving or want to watch later, that's okay because you can view the entire broadcast from the beginning.

Use the chat screen to the right of the broadcast or email us (youbelong@apchumble.org) to let us know that you're watching or give us feedback.

If you would prefer to watch the worship service on your big screen TV and have a Roku, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire TV stick attached, you can add the Boxcast Channel, open that channel, and search for "Atascocita" to view the broadcast.

Physically Distant but Socially Connected

The Tuesday Morning Worship Planning Team has been looking for ways to be better connected during this time. We are asking that you send pictures each week with the corresponding theme. Only one photo please: send to youbelong@apchumble.org

This next week is the Celebration of the Lord's Supper so take a picture of your quiet place. In the following weeks, the topics will change. See the list below and make plans to be involved in this personal way.

"Physically distant but socially connected."

August 2 & August 9 (Deadline Friday, July 31 noon)

A picture of your quiet place

Mark 1:35 - Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

August 16 & Aug 23 (Deadline Friday, Aug 14 noon)

Picture with your good friend (Invite a friend to worship)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

August 30 & September 6 (Deadline Friday, August 28 noon)

Culinary creation

Ecclesiastes 9:7 - Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has long ago approved what you do.

September 13 & September 20 (Deadline Friday, September 11 noon)

Picture with your pet; stuffed animal or outdoor wildlife acceptable

Job 35:11 - who teaches us more than the animals of the earth, and makes us wiser than the birds of the air?



Worship Committee seeks ushers

The Session has been going through exhaustive planning to prepare our church for reopening. While we are planning for Sunday, September 13, any date we set is subject to review of statistics in regard to the pandemic at that time.

There will be a great need for ushers. The ushers will be a very important component of the reopening plan. Your responsibilities as an usher will not look like they once did. We would need six to eight ushers on any given Sunday to lead or guide attendees safely while we are dealing with the pandemic situation. New guidelines have been established to explain in detail what is needed. If you, your spouse, or other family members are interested in participating when we begin worship in the church building, a copy will be emailed to you. Please contact Mazie Williams (mwilli03@aol.com) or Carroll Hebert (apce@apchumble.org).

HAAM NEWS

School Supplies

Schools will open shortly so HAAM is using AMAZON for contactless donations. Please click on this link (or copy and paste into your browser) <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/23YN34D83VS5?&sort=default> to access AMAZON and HAAM's wish list for items to donate. Please use HAAM's street address to ship your donations - HAAM, 1302 First St, Humble, TX 77338.

Although contactless is preferred, you may use HAAM's wish list to purchase school supplies locally. Please bag your purchases and drop them in the HAAM container outside the front entrance of the church. The container will be checked each Thursday.

Season of Sharing

Even though July is past, I am sure HAAM would love to continue receiving gift cards for its Season of Sharing fundraiser.

HAAM is collecting \$25 Target and Walmart GIFT CARDS for its Season of Sharing fundraiser. To make shopping simple and contactless, you may order gift cards online from Target or Walmart and send the cards directly to HAAM, P.O. Box 14051, Humble, TX 77347. If you prefer, you may drop off the cards at HAAM Social Services, 1302 First St in Humble between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Thursday.

HAAM resale stores are open with limited days and hours. Both the Resale Store on First St in Humble and the Black Cat Junction on Loop 494 in Kingwood are open Thursday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm. Donations will be accepted during those hours only.

HAAM is also accepting donations of non-perishable foods Tuesday through Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm. Therefore, we will place the black plastic container outside the church's front door for non-perishable food or special requested items ONLY! The container will be emptied each Thursday. Books, toys, clothes, etc. must be taken to HAAM by the donor.

Please note that HAAM has removed the clothing bin that was on the east side of the church parking lot. The bins were being used for trash and junk at many locations so a decision was made to remove all of them. HAAM will revisit this decision at a later date.

Thanks for your continued support of HAAM.

APC liaison persons: George Williams, Ray Peregoy

Earth Care Corner



Conservation habits can be developed at a young age. Our own Mya Lauer shares her current project: I have always found composting to be such a cool system. The fact that you can take organic material and let break down into a rich soil is incredible.

It is great for the environment because you are giving rich soil back to the earth rather than throwing it in the landfill. In the landfill, all your scraps are doing is creating methane gas, contributing to global warming.



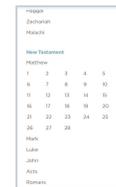
Have you ever wondered what's under your feet? Learn about the soils, rocks, minerals, and even potential fossils you can find in your backyard or along the highway on your next vacation. This educational phone app comes with plenty of information and maps to keep the earth detectives in your family busy!



Library News

Stuck at home? Tired of playing Scrabble? Use these Bible Apps to help guide your daily devotional life, learn scripture, and store notes for future reference! Great for kids who are learning about the different books of the Bible and Biblical locations too!1).

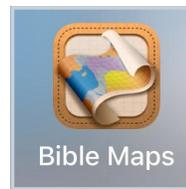
English Standard Version Bible App: Select a scripture passage, search for topics, or highlight favorite passages and take notes!



Search special topics and learn through guided devotionals and videos:
Daily Scripture App:



Bible Maps App:



#Bible App:



Birthdays

8/2 Garrett Clary
 8/4 Jeanne Wilkinson
 8/4 Jim Hannan
 8/5 Erica Mooney
 8/5 Rene Lemer
 8/6 Leslie McCormick
 8/7 Jamie Hannan
 8/9 David Lasinsky
 8/10 Lisa Cruz
 8/10 Sydney Boyenga
 8/11 Gary Frieders
 8/13 Grant Miller
 8/13 Porsha Berry
 8/14 Nancy LaNasa
 8/15 Lisa Clark
 8/15 Robbie Hubbard
 8/15 Dustin Inboden
 8/22 Lucy Ray
 8/23 Gene Andrus
 8/23 Elaine McCool
 8/24 Randy Rea
 8/27 Megan Vance
 8/28 Edward Cooke
 8/29 Bob Strader
 8/30 Ron Lemer

Anniversaries

8/9 Vicki & David Lasinsky
 8/10 Jan & Doug Kennard
 8/14 Linda & Tom Purves
 8/23 Julie & Bob Arnold

APC by the Numbers

Weekly Contributions
 through July 26

Actual 7/26	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
\$4,791	\$209,963	\$220,731

Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

- Prayers for our country and our medical and economic issues surrounding Covid-19 virus.
- Prayers for our African American brothers and sisters seeking justice.
- Prayers for our pastor who is struggling to keep everyone in the church hopeful.
- Prayers for the families of policemen killed on duty. Also, prayers for all the policemen and their families who risk their lives daily to protect us.
- Prayers for lawmakers making decisions that affect the economic well-being of a whole country, remembering many business owners are also trying to make life better for others.
- Prayers of peace and comfort for the Mills family.
- Prayers for Elisa de Serrano and Alfredo Serrano who just had their baby. Elisa is Katie Hannan's sister.
- Prayers for Mary Hughes, sister of Bob Pritchett. Prayers of thanksgiving for good news from test results and prayers of comfort and healing for surgery.
- Prayers for Elaine McCool's niece who is having serious heart issues.
- Prayers for David and Vicki Lasinsky as David's chemotherapy has begun.
- Prayers for Deondra, Ann Owen's granddaughter, and her young clients at CPS.
- Prayers of thanksgiving, for Emily Murphy's sister-in-law, Julie, who was able to "ring the bell" after finishing chemo.
- Prayers for the friends and family of local artist, Forrest Prince, upon his death.
- Prayers for Betsy Gould who fell and broke her clavicle and ribs.
- Prayers for Ellen & Russ Nipe's daughter, Sarah and her family. Sarah's husband, Chris, has tested positive for Covid-19. Prayers for Maddy and Rylee, their daughters. Maddy, whose lowered immunity means she is at high risk in this pandemic.
- Prayers for Hugh Parry's mother, Diane.
- Prayers of safety for Pete Kennard, son of Jan and Doug Kennard, an essential worker.
- Prayers for Julie Arnold who has gone home and prayers for Bob as her caregiver.
- Prayers for Elaine McCool's niece who is having serious heart issues.
- Please keep Maggie Pritchett in your prayers as well as the family of her roommate, Rebekah Wendt. Rebekah was killed in a car accident along with another classmate of Maggie's at Trinity.
- Please keep Rebecca Mayer and her team of biologists and engineers at Georgia Tech and Emory in your prayers as they work toward production of an at-home Covid test while Rebecca battles the virus herself.
- Prayers for Heather Sapon, Sharon and Doug Botkin's daughter, with Covid -19.
- Emily Murphy's son Todd's boss's son is home from college and living with him and has just been diagnosed with Covid. Pray that Todd and his boss stay healthy.
- Prayers for Ruth Bader Ginsburg as she is in treatment for cancer.
- Continued prayers for the Kepharts, Esther Crosby, Bev O'Brien, and Sine McCarty.