



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



## Candlemas, Feb. 2, officially ends the season of Christmas

### Feast day honors Simeon, baby Jesus — and blesses the candles

By Scott Szabo | Presbyterians Today

Early in my ministry I learned that there were worship traditions foreign to the congregation I served and, while I yearned to stretch my “liturgical wings,” I contented myself by researching feast days instead — imagining how they might someday find expression in my pastorate. This is how I discovered Candlemas.

Observed on Feb. 2, Candlemas was traditionally the end of the Christmas season. Today, Epiphany, Jan. 6, is the commonly viewed end of Christmastide. But Candlemas is more than an end mark to Christmas. Simeon’s double-edged oracle of blessing and admonition, which stands at the center of the feast day’s reading from Luke 2:22-40, reminds us that the babe in the manger and the suffering servant are one and the same. Thus, Candlemas is a hinge between the Church’s celebration of Christmas and Easter.

For centuries, Candlemas was the day the Church emphasized Mary’s purification during its commemoration of the Holy Family’s visit to the Temple (Luke 2:22-40). More recently, the focus has shifted away from Mary’s purification to the presentation of the Christ child as told in Luke.

And then there are the candles that are reflected in the feast day’s name, recalling the long-standing presence of candles used on the day. Since at least the fifth century, processions by lamp or candlelight have been part of worship. Centuries later, parishioners would bring candles to church to have them blessed.

The feast’s namesake symbol also highlights the day as a unifying agent for the poles of the Christian year. As candles are carried in procession, we are reminded of the light of the world dawning at Christmas, and the new fire of the resurrection burning brightly on Easter. In this way, Candlemas presents itself as a microcosm of the Christian call, one that surveys the journey of life, death and new life that all undertake. For congregations that use a Paschal candle, the previous year’s candle can be lit on Candlemas, perhaps for the last time. Similarly, it would be appropriate to bless the new candle that will be put into service on Easter. Whatever the means of observance, the flames of Candlemas will burn brightest in communities that prayerfully discern how the feast can best illuminate their shared life.



Scott Szabo is the pastor of Oxford Presbyterian Church in Oxford, Pennsylvania. He is pursuing his Doctor of Ministry degree at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



### What's inside our latest issue

- Lenten Devotional from "Presbyterians Today"
- Faith Formation News
- Welcome Taryn!
- Preparing for Lent
- Happenings
- Congrats! Home Town Girl
- Missions
- Earth Care
- Covid-19 testing & vaccines
- Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayers

### Stay Connected!

Visit the APC website for more information and service schedules:  
[www.apchumble.org](http://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/>



The Way to Shalom  
A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness

PRESBYTERIANS TODAY | 2021 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

New online and printable Lenten devotional for 2021  
from Presbyterians Today



Lent is all about spiritual renewal. It is a sacred time of preparation for Easter and a time to reflect on what God has done to redeem us and how we can live a whole and full life as a child of God.

Many of us see Lent as a season of penitence, fasting, service and contemplation — but at the top of our list should be a prayer for the acquisition of peace. In our devotional this year, we invite you to reflect upon the gift of shalom, the Hebrew word with a host of meanings: peace, security, well-being, health, completeness. Our spiritual goal: *exploring how can we receive this gift of shalom and, in turn, bestow it upon the world.*

Now, more than ever, we deeply crave shalom. Our world is in desperate need of peace. The United States has just come out of a contentious election, a struggle with a global pandemic, and painful racial violence. Poverty, misery and despair fill many corners of the world. Yes, we desire peace. We need peace.

Every week from Ash Wednesday (February 17) through Easter (April 4), this year's devotional focuses on shalom — and what it can mean in our lives and how we can bring it to the world. We explore themes of justice, peace, healing, hope, repairing and reconciliation. You'll find Scripture readings along with beautiful meditations and prayers written by the director and staff of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in Washington: the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Catherine Gordon and Christian Brooks. You'll be challenged and moved — and hopefully, spiritually enriched.

**The Way to Shalom is online and free for download at the following link or print to your computer. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/>**

You're invited to use it, share it, excerpt from it, and make it your spiritual companion this Lent.

*"...those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31 nrsv*

Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 2 pm.  
Aaron Seay may be reached by email:  
[aaron@apchumble.org](mailto:aaron@apchumble.org)

#### CHURCH STAFF

Director of Youth Ministry.....Aaron Seay  
Office Coordinator.....Carroll Hebert  
Director of Music.....Joe Weir  
Pianist.....Carl Braden  
Interim IT Manager.....Forrest Craig

#### February Lectionary

##### **2/7 5th Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31 and Psalm 147:1-11,20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

##### **Transfiguration of the Lord**

2 Kings 2:12 and Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

##### **Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 and  
Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

##### **1st Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17 and Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 19:9-15

##### **2nd Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

## Children's Faith Formation is **ZOOMing!**

Children's Faith Formation continues to meet by Zoom every Sunday at 9:30 am. Go to the APC website ([apchumble.org](http://apchumble.org)) and click on the streaming page, and follow the instructions. We look forward to seeing your children!

Please feel free to contact Lisa Stacy with any questions or concerns related to APC Children's Ministries by email, [lisastacy3@yahoo.com](mailto:lisastacy3@yahoo.com) or home phone 281-852-2986.

## Youth News

Join Aaron and the youth group Sundays at 4 pm by Zoom. Also, keep an eye on social media and Remind texts for any activities coming up.

• • • • •

### **Looking forward to Conclaves Friday through Sunday April 9-11**

Conclaves is an amazing spiritual youth weekend conducted by the Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC) of the Presbytery of New Covenant. The retreat for students (6th-12th grade) is designed so that they can take a break from their normal schedules and connect with God and fellowship with youth from all over the presbytery.

Due to the concerns of staying overnight, Conclaves 2021 will start by being held virtually on Friday night. Saturday will be an all day event in person, but social distancing and other safety procedures will be practiced.

The retreat will end on Sunday morning with one last small group session on Zoom and an ending worship service that will be virtual. Sign-ups will be out soon!

## Adult Faith Formation

Pastor Shelley's Faith Formation class meets from 9:15 to 10:15 am by BOTH ZOOM online AND in person. Please make the choice that is right for you.



The class will discuss the scriptures being preached: Who, what, where, and when of the story.

We'll continue in our regular classroom (102) since there's plenty of room to be physically distanced. Bibles are available but you may want to bring your own.

Please wear a face mask. Hand sanitizers will be on the table.

Shelley's and Doug's Zoom classes now have waiting rooms when you first enter the meeting. The meeting host will release you from the waiting room and admit you to the meeting.

Doug Kennard's class will continue meeting 9:15 to 10:15 am through the Zoom invite <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83087066050> or from [apchumble.org](http://apchumble.org) live streaming page.

A new topic began on Sunday, January 17 that will last for about two months. We will read and discuss the relationship of philosophy, science, Christian theology, and aesthetic issues to inform art and literature.

The source for discussion is "*The Relationship of Philosophy, Theology and Science*" by Doug Kennard from within an academic society commissioned work, "*A Critical Realist' Theological Method*." Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2013. It was commissioned because I had been presenting a theological method (along with Alister McGrath from Oxford and Nancey Murphy from Fuller) that showed how theology and science could fit together.

We will read a chapter showing how philosophy affects theology, especially the doctrine of God, and then it is salted with how those same philosophies affect science.

## WELCOME Taryn!



Taryn Hemsing is no stranger to APC. She is a 2020 Graduate of Atascocita High School. She sang in the APC Chancel Choir as a scholarship singer during her senior year and currently sings with First Presbyterian of Kingwood. Taryn is taking classes at Lone Star College Kingwood while pursuing her Degree in Music Education. Taryn will assist in leading worship over the next few Sundays as Joe continues to heal and recuperate. Thanks Taryn!

### Lenten Prayer Times

We invite everyone to enjoy opportunities for quiet time in the sanctuary for prayer or meditation **during Lent every Thursday from noon until 1 pm.**

**Beginning Thursday, February 18, through Thursday, April 1** the sanctuary will be open for you to come and go as you like. A printed Lenten devotional will be provided for your use during prayers.

There will not be a formal worship service, this is just an alone time with each individual and God.

Please wear a mask.

### Preparing for Lent

Our season of Lent begins this spring with Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at 7 pm. Lent is a time of introspection and preparation for the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, April 4.

I share some thoughts from "Sanctified Art" as we make room for Jesus to come yet again to fill our hearts and call us into ministry:

*"This Lent will mark the one year anniversary of when the world as we knew it turned upside down. This Lent, we'll remember the shock and sting of the early days of the pandemic. We'll reflect on the ways our lives have been upended—again and again. We'll remember all that we've lost and count the ways we've adapted and pressed on. We'll continue traveling through this strange and disorienting wilderness—together.*

*"Again and again, we'll come to God with broken hearts and weary souls. And yet, we'll keep showing up—in the midst of uncertainty and isolation, bad news and glimmering hope. We'll come to God with the confidence that God comes to us first—no matter where we find ourselves."*

-----Shelley Craig

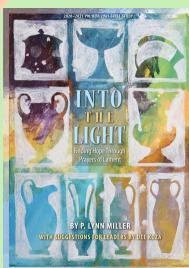


### Easter Lillies In Memory of or In Honor of Your Loved One

Easter lillies will be placed in the sanctuary beginning **Sunday, March 28**. You may purchase one or more to honor your loved one.

More details will be available soon when the price has been determined.

## Happenings



### Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The February meeting of the Horizons Bible Study will be via Zoom on Wednesday, February 10, from 11:00 am until noon. We will study Lesson 6: Lamenting Social Concerns, in the study guide, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. We will also discuss the 'Before You Begin' section, early in each lesson.

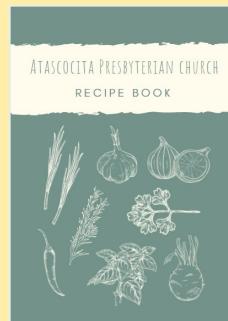
Lament usually leads to hope. And Hope to movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God.

For more information please contact Judith Anderson ([jla.lpc55@gmail.com](mailto:jla.lpc55@gmail.com)) or Doris Fisher ([abcdoris2003@yahoo.com](mailto:abcdoris2003@yahoo.com)).

### APC Cookbook

The committee is busy typing recipes before sending them to the publisher.

We will update the congregation when the cookbook is for sale. Thank you for all your recipes!



The teams are set for the Super Bowl and we are set for the **Souper Bowl!** APC Youth will be collecting non-perishable items Wednesday, February 3 through Wednesday, February 17 as a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive.

Two bins will be placed in the narthex - one for the Buccaneers and one for the Chiefs. (If you wish to drop off items during the week, please come between 9 am and 2 pm and Carroll will buzz you in the building.) Which team will get the most support?!

Our goal is to beat last year's collection of 345 items. Please help us meet that goal! Monetary donations will also be accepted. Click on the "Give Now" button on the website or checks can be made out to APC with "Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo line and mailed to the church.

Humble Area Assistance Ministries is the designated ministry for APC donations.

## PARTY INVITATION

APC SCHOOL AGED MEMBERS  
Come chill with your church buddies!  
NO SCHOOL OR LESSONS JUST PIZZA AND FUN TIMES!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 FROM 1-3 P.M.  
Atascocita Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Please bring: YOUR SMILING FACES!  
RSVP TO: THIS IS VITAL FOR SUCCESS  
Email [apc@apchumble.org](mailto:apc@apchumble.org)  
or call the church office  
281-852-8990

*Congratulations!*

## LAURA GRIFFIN!

### Home Town Girl Makes it BIG!



Laura Griffin, daughter of Allan and Janet Griffin, won an Emmy as Producer for the 2019-2020 season of Outstanding Variety Talk Series. "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver." The program regularly wins an Emmy, but this one has Laura's name on it!

Laura and her husband, Darryl Stein live in Brooklyn, New York. Laura has worked for John Oliver for many years, starting as a researcher for topics to be covered in the program, then advancing in positions to the present - Producer!

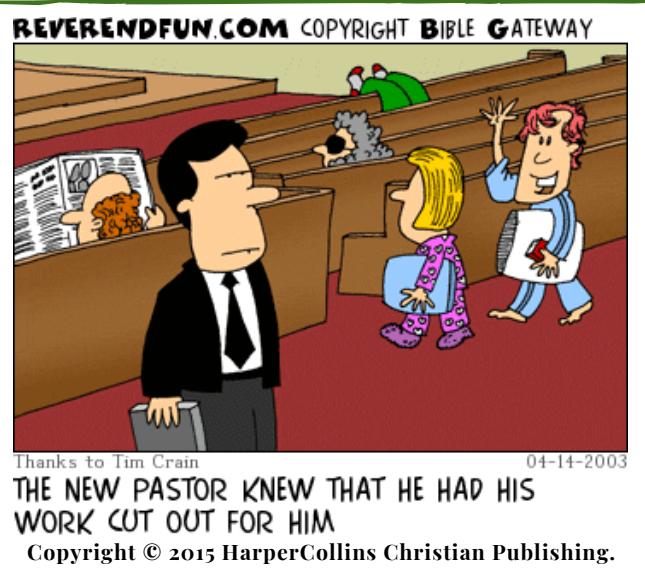
 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

The three programs supported by One Great

Hour of Sharing are: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. All work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Typically received during the season of Lent, your gifts will be accepted  
**February 17 through April 4.**

The Presbyterian Foundation has set up an additional option when clicking on the Give Now button on the church website. There is now a One Great Hour of Sharing fund option to accept your donation. All online giving is subject to a 2% transaction fee. Thank you for your generosity!





## APC Earth Care

### Styrofoam Recycle

The APC Earth Care Team had another successful recycling event, Sunday, January 17. Thank you to everyone who participated! We gathered another carload! Many thanks to Lisa Ryan for making the trip to Houston with our collection.



### Walk the Talk

Join Lisa Ryan and others who combine a pleasant walk with their concern for the environment by walking in Kingwood's East End Park **every Wednesday at 9:15 am**. Please contact Lisa ([lkwryan2@gmail.com](mailto:lkwryan2@gmail.com)) for more information on where to meet.



### Electronics Recycle

Drop off electronics for recycling in the church Audio-Visual room, just inside the front door on your left.

Acceptable items include: old phones, iPads, laptops, printers, cords, phones, small TV screens or monitors (Please do not drop off large items or appliances!).

Electronics recycling is also available on the first Saturday of each month at the Kingwood Park and Ride for City of Houston residents. For everyone else, items will be collected from the APC AV room on the first Friday of every month and transported to the Kingwood recycle. For more information please contact Lisa Ryan ([lkwryan2@gmail.com](mailto:lkwryan2@gmail.com)), Gayle Grubbs ([gaylegrubbs3@gmail.com](mailto:gaylegrubbs3@gmail.com)), or Forrest Craig [fraig3@gmail.com](mailto:fraig3@gmail.com).



## APC Earth Care

### Bluebird Nesting Season

If you are looking for a fun family activity, consider building a bluebird nesting box.

There are many how-to resources available on this topic. This Audubon article is a good place to start.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-bluebird-nest-box>

A good book on the subject is "The Bluebird Book: The Complete Guide to Attracting Bluebirds." by Donald and Lillian Stokes, Little, Brown and Company: 2007



This photo was taken about halfway through the nesting season. The pairs will have up to 4 clutches a year, with each new nest on top of previous nests.

Placement of the nesting boxes is important. The boxes need to be on free standing poles or posts with shields, away from trees and fences so that raccoons and snakes cannot get to the eggs and babies. The parents require an open area so they can see any dangers as they fly in or away. Refer to the bluebird book for proper orientation with respect to the sun and wind.

From Gayle Grubbs



Bluebirds eating on our porch. They "knock" on the window several times a day and I bring out a few live mealworms.

From Jean Treleaven



This is a photo of a bluebird nest box on a pole with a black shield on the pole to keep snakes and raccoons away. It seems to work well.

From Gayle Grubbs

## Harris County Public Health Dept Covid Testing

**Drive-through testing will be set up in the APC parking lot from 8 am until 3:30 pm, the week of February 8.** Dates are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. You will not get out of your car.

To sign up for testing, please register online at [covcheck.hctx.net](http://covcheck.hctx.net) where you are given a barcode that provides Harris County Health Dept with your information when it is scanned at the testing site.

Test results will be sent via email and may take around 1-4 days. It is completely FREE.

**Assistance is needed to keep the building open from 2 until 4 pm any of those days so that the technicians may come in to use the restroom. Carroll is in the office until 2.**

Security personnel is on site to assure that the people who come into the parking lot are only there to be tested and are not allowed to get out of their car. When Harris County has packed up and left the property someone would be required to lock the building and set the alarm. **If you would be able to help out, please call Carroll (281-852-8990).**

## Notification Links of Available Covid Vaccines

**Click2Houston app for phone:** <http://www.click2houston.com>

**ABC13KTRK app for phone:** <http://www.abc13.com/health>

<https://abc13.com/health/judge-hidalgo-announces-new-covid-19-vaccine-waitlist/10004275/>

**Harris County Public Health Dept:**

<https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information>

**Houston Health Dept:** <https://www.houstontx.gov/health/NewsReleases/houston-health-department-opening-new-covid-19-vaccination-appointment-slots>

**City of Houston Emergency Operations Center:** <https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-vaccines/>

**HCA Houston Healthcare:** <https://hcahoustonhealthcare.com/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information/>

**Channel 11 KHOU:** <https://www.khou.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/list-where-to-get-coronavirus-vaccine-near-me-houston/285-56626ecb-8b1b-4f91-af9d-712240fbe643>

**Texas State Health and Human Services Dept:**

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.asp>

## Birthdays

2/2	Lisa Ryan
2/2	Carroll Hebert
2/4	George Eynon
2/5	Jennifer Choate
2/6	Shanti Herrington
2/7	James Stacy
2/9	Janice McCormick
2/11	Carl Braden
2/11	Hunter McPherson
2/16	Lindsay Trepagnier
2/19	Meaghan Mumford
2/20	Russ Bixby
2/21	Brendan Borgers
2/21	Austin Cruz
2/21	Janna Hubbard
2/22	Ray Peregoy
2/23	Julia Ann Moffett
2/23	Aaron Seay
2/24	Garland McCarthy
2/25	Holly Griffin-Parker
2/25	Tom Hedgepath Jr
2/26	Ann Owen
2/26	Linda Andrus
2/28	Cathy Gerald

## Anniversaries

2/9	Kari & Ryan Lauer
2/10	Doris & Robert Fisher

## Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Those who are having to handle effects of Covid in hospital, at home, asymptomatic, or exposed by others.
- Safety for essential workers with increased exposure to Covid.
- New US government administration.
- The Mills family.
- Praise for Carl Braden back in worship with us.
- Joe Weir recovering at home from Covid complications.
- Praise for Ray Peregoy enjoying new vision after cataract surgery.
- Deondra, Ann Owen's granddaughter, and her young clients at CPS.
- Ellen & Russ Nipe's granddaughter, Maddy.
- Victor Horhath has died. Victor is the father of Sarah Carman's friend. (Sarah is Russ and Ellen Nipe's daughter, and Maddy's mother)
- Hugh Parry's mother, Diane.
- Karen Frye as she recovers from knee surgery.
- Karen Holliday, Linda Andrus' sister. Mazie Williams diagnosed with breast cancer, awaiting a treatment plan.
- George Clark in cancer treatment.
- Bart Baker with health concerns.
- Kep Kephart Susan, Gayle and Jim Grubbs daughter, is isolating after being exposed to Covid.
- The Landry family and their missing son, Jason.
- Julie Arnold in the hospital after taking a fall at home.
- Family Promise families at APC this week.
- The Kepharts, Bob Arnold, Bev O'Brien, and Sine McCarty.

The chat feature has changed in Boxcast. Please email **prayers to the church office** ([apc@apchumble.org](mailto:apc@apchumble.org)) by Friday for inclusion in Sunday's Prayers of the People.

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for February, Carol Cutshall, 832-541-5902.

## APC by the Numbers

Weekly Contributions  
through January 24

Actual	Actual	Budget
YTD	YTD	
\$7,707	\$18,699	\$24,429