



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



Connect to the work and life of Fred Rogers on 'Mr. Rogers' Day' March 20

by Tammy Warren | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE – It's nearly time to celebrate "Mr. Rogers' Day" in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and what better day to do so than March 20, the birthday of one of the most well-known ordained Presbyterian ministers of all-time, everyone's neighbor – Fred McFeely Rogers (1928–2003). "In the 1980s the Peacemaking Program worked with Fred Rogers himself, and then again in the 1990s, with the producer of his television program 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood,' to create resources for Presbyterian congregations and families," said the Rev. Carl Horton, coordinator for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. "Those resources, though dated, are still available and as timeless and relevant today as is the wisdom of Fred Rogers."



It was Rogers himself who said, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." Rogers also said, "Real strength has to do with helping others."

When Rogers was a child and would see scary things in the news, his mother would say, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." He took comfort in knowing that especially during times of disaster, there are still many caring helpers. "As a young child in a rural area that didn't have preschool, Mr. Rogers was my first teacher," said Stephanie Fritz, mission coordinator for Christian Formation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. "Looking back, I think he was also a first pastor for many children as he embodied the Christian life in a way children connected to."

"We are excited to encourage faith communities to connect to his work through 'neighboring well,' Fritz said. "In order to live out the Matthew 25 vision, we should learn about the communities we are in and how we are called to join God at work in the neighborhood."

"The neighborhoods in which our Presbyterian congregations reside today are still Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood – places that need us to be good neighbors, offering hospitality and welcome to all, and breaking down the long-standing structures and barriers that divide neighbor from neighbor," Horton said. "I'm thrilled that the church is setting aside this date and remembering the lessons of Fred Rogers. I'm going to put on a cardigan sweater and sneakers on [Saturday] March 20 and try to channel as much of him as possible."

What's inside our latest issue

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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/>



True Good Sports Here!

Shown here are Will Nees, Jasper Stanley, Forrest Craig, and David Gerald. (Not shown Dave Leyshon) During the Big Freeze of February, 2021 these fellows checked on the church building to find that electricity was on at the time but a water pipe was frozen at the valve near the street.

They set about thawing it, which was a long process. The last detail was placing bags of mulch (pictured lying nearby in the snow) around the protective cage to block some of the cold.

When it was done, they opened the building, sent the word out to the congregation that a hot meal would be prepared and served to anyone who wanted to *carefully* make their way to APC and be filled with food, hot coffee, and fellowship. Joe Weir was our chef for the evening.

Many thanks go out to this impromptu crew of the faithful for the risks encountered in protecting the building before it got worse.

Many prayers go out to all who were affected by the Big Freeze. Prayers also lifted for swift and successful repairs.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)

March Lectionary

3/7 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 10:1-17 and Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

3/14 4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 and Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
1 Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

3/21 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Psalm 51:1-12 or
Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

3/28 Palm Sunday

Palms: Mark 11:1-11

John 12:2-16 and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 4:1-15:47 or

Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Psalm 36:5-11

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7 and Psalm 71:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 70

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 and

Psalm 116-1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 -53-12 and Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9

John 18:1 -19:42

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

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

Got a Project for You

The APC office has been gifted with all the components to make Easter baskets.

The original intention for the purchase was to make baskets that could be delivered to some of our shut-ins who are stuck at home and may need a little boost to make them smile. Also, to let them know that we care about our church family even though some of us aren't able to visit.

If you are interested, please contact Carroll in the church office (281-852-8990).

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) 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 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. Aaron can be reached by email (aaron@apchumble.org).

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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 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.

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, now 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.



Come Join in the Fun!
Join the Children's Committee at APC
as we celebrate Easter,
Sunday April 4 at 9:30 am.
There will be an Easter Egg hunt,
crafts and snacks.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Please join us.



Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

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!

Celebrate Palm Sunday March 28

In celebration of Palm Sunday, APC has partnered with the Presbyterian Hunger Program to use Eco-Palms - a branch truly worthy of celebration.

Congregations now have the option of purchasing responsibly harvested Eco-Palm branches for Palm Sunday. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem.



The palms are to be used in a Palms processional slide show made up of families waving their palms as the children have done in the past in the sanctuary.

Families are encouraged to drive by to pick up palms (today I don't have a specific date but I'll let you know as soon as I can), take them home, create a brief video, and email to youbelong@apchumble.org. The videos will be collected and put together to make a unique palms parade that will be shown during Palm Sunday worship, March 28.



Easter Lilies In Memory of or In Honor of Your Loved One

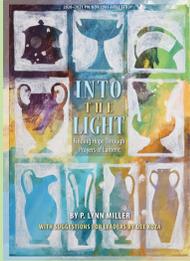
Easter lilies will be placed in the sanctuary in time for Sunday worship **March 28.** You may purchase one or more to honor your loved one.

Lilies are available for purchase for \$10 each.

The Presbyterian Foundation has set up an additional option when clicking on the Give Now button on the church website. In addition to the General Fund option (used for offerings and pledges), there is now an Easter Lily Fund option for payment. All online giving is subject to a 2% transaction fee.

To designate your flowers in honor of, or in memory of your family or friend, please call the church office (281-852-8990) or send an email (apc@apchumble.org) to indicate your wishes. Lilies may be taken home after the Easter worship service.

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study



The March meeting of the Horizons Bible Study will be via Zoom on Wednesday, March 10, from 11:00 am until noon. We will study *Lesson 7: 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 Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com) or Doris Fisher (abcdoris2003@yahoo.com).

Shot Shuttle

The Spiritual Fellowship Committee has a new program that was born out of need during the current Covid-19 crisis. As vaccinations are becoming available, the need was identified within our congregation for transportation to and from the vaccination sites.

After you receive notification that you have an appointment for a specific time and place to get vaccinated, you



can call the "Shot Shuttle" and we will see that you get to your appointment. Don't miss your appointment just because transportation is an issue.

Call the church office (281-852-8990) to let Carroll know if you need a ride and she will contact a driver. Volunteer drivers - please email Carroll.

APC receives rewards from Kroger and Amazon

If you participate in Kroger Community Rewards or Amazon Smile, some of the cost of your purchases are supporting APC. During 2020, we've received \$100.46 from Kroger and \$137.96 from Amazon as part of their rewards programs.

Want to participate in one or both of these no-cost-to-you programs that benefits APC? Here's how:

Kroger Community Rewards –

1. Go to Kroger.com and log into your account.
2. Click on your name in the upper right corner and choose "My Account."
3. In the left column, choose "Community Rewards."
4. If you haven't already chosen an organization to support, click on "Choose Organization" and search for "Atascocita Presbyterian Church." If you've already chosen an organization and want to change your selection, click on "Change Organization" and search for "Atascocita Presbyterian Church."



AmazonSmile –

1. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from their list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time.
2. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
3. From your desktop, go to "Your Account" from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to "Change your Charity." Or, from your mobile browser, select "Change your Charity" from the options at the bottom of the page.
4. Select Atascocita Presbyterian Church to support.



Missions



From the desk of HAAM Executive Director, Millie Garrison



HAAM Executive Director
Millie Garrison

This has been a difficult and challenging week for many of us. The Houston area has been hard hit by COVID, job loss, hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, and now a dangerous winter freeze. For thousands of families coping with the hardships from COVID-19, an unexpected ice storm can push their resources and resolve beyond the breaking point. It's during trying times like this, one thing can always be counted on - the Lake Houston community is strong and unites to help each other. We are nothing if not resilient living in southeast Texas. At HAAM, we believe in our mission of help and hope. Let's work together to restore our community and encourage our neighbors. We are all better together.

Ways to Help

Check on your neighbors. Call them OR knock on their door. They will thank you.

Your donation of any of these items is appreciated at this critical time:

Bottled Water	Sponges
Nonperishable Food	Gloves
Diapers	Paper Towels
Baby Food	Napkins
Bleach	Paper Plates
Disinfectant	Plastic Cups

Donations may be dropped off at 1302 First Street, Humble, TX 77338 Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am-4:00 pm. You may also drop off any items at APC (Monday through Thursday 9 am until 2 pm or on Sunday) that can be transported to HAAM.

Online donations are welcome through their website: www.haaministries.org
281-446-3663



On behalf of the families, Board of Trustees, and myself, I would like to thank you for your generous donation to Family Promise of Lake Houston! Your generosity reflects all that is wonderful about the passion and commitment to this program by you and our community! We thank you so much for being a champion for local children and families, your support is immensely valued!

Family Promise of Lake Houston provides shelter, food, and comprehensive counseling to homeless children and their families in our community. Each family receives classes in Budgeting, Parenting, and Life Skills that build a financial foundation as well as an educational base that will lead them to self-sufficiency and accountability. We offer GED Certification, Employment Skills, Higher Education Opportunities, and Housing Resources, to name a few. Many of our families enroll in college or a local training school to help combat the root causes of family homelessness. We are accomplishing an 84% success rate among our graduates for maintaining their housing, education, employment and staying on track with their budget. We have over 2,800 volunteers who work with our families, and many will become long-term mentors in our After Care Program.

We are so pleased to accept your donation and are so thankful for your generosity to the program. It is because of community-minded people such as yourself that this organization can reach so many in need.

In peace, Jessica Penney, Executive Director
Family Promise of Lake Houston
111 S Avenue G, Humble TX 77338
support@fplh.org
281-441-3754



APC Earth Care

The Earth Care Committee meets on the third Monday of the month at 12:30 pm via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Go to the live streaming page on the APC website. Click on "Earth Care Committee," enter the password, and join the meeting.

A "Trade a Potted Plant Day" is being planned for Sunday, March 28.
More details soon!

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) 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), Gayle Grubbs (gaylegrubbs3@gmail.com), or Forrest Craig (fcraig3@gmail.com).

Birthdays

3/1 Lorena Pritchett
 3/4 Tom Olson
 3/4 Gwen Poirier
 3/6 Betsy Gould
 3/6 Karen Frye
 3/6 Scott Mayer
 3/6 Aaron Mooney
 3/7 Laura Griffin
 3/7 Laura Bennett
 3/8 Ronald Morrison
 3/9 Carol Hedgepath
 3/9 Forrest Craig
 3/13 Jan DeLargey
 3/13 Melissa Williams
 3/14 Henry Kepeden
 3/15 Russ Nipe
 3/16 Ellen Taylor
 3/17 Marilyn Henderson
 3/17 Minerva Renteria
 3/20 Linda Purves
 3/20 Daryl Munoz
 3/21 Steve Hlavaty
 3/22 Johnathan Martin
 3/22 Glen Boudreaux
 3/24 Samuel Sheppard
 3/24 Lee Merrick
 3/26 Thomas Hedgepath Sr
 3/27 Bonnie Carr
 3/28 Pete Nazarko
 3/31 Jessica Buchanan
 3/31 Julie Rea

Anniversaries

3/16 Adelaide & Will Douglas

APC by the Numbers

Weekly Contributions
 through 02/21/2021

Actual	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
\$3,670	\$49,543	\$48,858

Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Those who have contracted Covid-19 and for the many families who have lost loved ones.
- Front line and essential workers with increased exposure to Covid.
- Patience as many of us deal with damages to our homes and the workers we count on for repairs.
- Churches going through the same.
- Fifteen churches in Presbytery of New Covenant received damage from the freezing weather last week, including First Pres Sugarland which experienced extensive damage.
- Those who are having difficulties getting food and water.
- The Mills family.
- Deondra, Ann Owen's granddaughter, and her young clients at CPS.
- Maddy, Ellen & Russ Nipe's granddaughter.
- Diane, Hugh Parry's mother.
- Karen Frye as she recovers from knee surgery.
- Mazie Williams diagnosed with breast cancer.
- George Clark at home in cancer treatment.
- Bart Baker with health concerns.
- The Landry family and their missing son, Jason.
- Julie Arnold in Fall Creek Rehab.
- Nominating committee and their decisions.
- David Lasinsky experiencing neuropathy and side effects from chemo.
- Praise, Ray Perego's second cataract surgery was successful.
- Family and friends of James Easterling, son of Clint and Trish (former APC church secretary) Easterling, upon his death after battling Covid-19.
- Sine McCarty has been moved to hospice.
The Kepharts, Bob Arnold, and Bev O'Brien.

The chat feature has changed in Boxcast. **Please email prayers to the church office (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 March, Susie Shelton, phone 832-483-6120.



A link for THESE DAYS Devotional booklet for March will be available in a few days.