



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



What Presbyterians Believe about the Resurrection

It's not about how the resurrection happened, but that it happened.

by Barry Ensign-George, Presbyterians Today

Amid the Easter celebrations, there are often questions about the resurrection. If we look closer, these resurrection questions begin even before we get to the Easter story. For example, in the transfiguration narrative, Jesus tells the three disciples who witnessed that event "to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean" (Mark 9:9b-10). Indeed.

Scripture is blunt about it: The resurrected Jesus has a body that is recognizably made of human flesh. Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples – sometimes known as "Doubting Thomas," though perhaps it would be more accurate to call him "Questioning Thomas" – is insistent on this point: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25b). A week later, Thomas encounters Jesus, whose body bears those very wounds that Thomas could indeed touch with his finger or hand, if need be.



Two questions arise persistently, though, for us: "How does this resurrection happen?" and "What chemical or other processes would make it happen?" These are questions of modern science. The power of asking and answering such questions is the stuff of our daily lives, vividly so in the development and discussion of COVID-19 vaccines. The problem for us is that Scripture is not interested in the "how" question. It is clear that the resurrection event is amazing (Luke 24:12) and perplexing (Luke 24:4). But the moment of resurrection itself happens offstage.

Scripture is, however, very interested in a different question: "Who?" Who is this, coming back to us, crossing the line between life and death so completely unexpectedly? In a moment of heart-stopping tenderness, Mary Magdalene goes to the place where she expects to find Jesus' body and finds it is not there: "She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus" (John 20:14).

Easter, with all its questions about the resurrection, is about who Jesus is – and it is also about us and about our loved ones. One of the gifts I received while pastoring congregations was the opportunity to lead worship in funeral

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www.apchumble.org

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services. At funerals, we stand at the boundary between life and death with a directness most of us do not experience otherwise. At funerals, we stand at that boundary, looking across at death, marking the passage of one across the boundary, going on before us. Here, resurrection is no theoretical matter.

What I found there was how little I could say to answer the "how" question - a question I think I often felt more acutely than those for whom I was caring. Gradually I realized that the question I could speak to is "Who?" Because of Easter, we know something about who it is that we face across that boundary, who receives this one whom we accompany to the boundary, who will eventually receive you and me when our time has come to cross over.

The one whom we see, when we look with the eyes of Easter, is Jesus Christ, the one who has gone before us - and a familiar face. It is a face whose shape and contours we have been coming to know as we are part of the Body of Christ, the church. It is the face of one whom we have praised, sung to and of whom we have studied, wrestled with, worshipped, doubted, believed, wondered about, failed, ignored and sought out. It is a face that looks like those who have loved us in ways that have embodied God's love and grace, a face that looks like those beyond the ones we know, beloved by Jesus Christ and therein part of Christ's love for us.

The question of how the resurrection occurred is valid and important. Answers to the question are being proposed, examined and countered constantly. Books on this question and the answers are steady sellers for publishers. But it is not the only question. The better question to ponder is not how Jesus was resurrected, but who this Resurrected One is for us. Who is it that we face at this boundary of life and death? Easter is the affirmation that it is Jesus Christ, the one who has gone before and is present now.

Barry Ensign-George is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serving as coordinator of Theology & Worship in the Presbyterian Mission Agency and staff liaison to the Committee on Theological Education.

".....But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."
Mark 16:6 (NRSV)

April Lectionary

4/4 Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

4/11 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35 and Psalm 113

1 John 1:1-2

John 20:19-31

4/18 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19 and Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

4/25 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12 and Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Shot Shuttle

Vaccinations are more readily available and we want to make sure those within our congregation will have transportation to and from the vaccination sites.

Call the Shot Shuttle when you receive notification that you have an appointment for a specific time and place to get vaccinated.



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.

Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 2 pm.
Aaron Seay may be reached by email: aaroneapchumble.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

Children's Faith Formation Meeting In Person

Beginning **Sunday, April 11**, Children's Faith Formation will meet at APC, room 102, every Sunday at 9:30 am. We look forward to seeing your children back at APC!

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

The youth group will **meet at APC Sunday, April 4, at 9:30 am** to assist the Children's Ministry activities.

Join Aaron and the youth group **Sunday, April 18** as they return to in-person meeting from 4 to 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

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 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 at 6 pm. Saturday will be at the presbytery office, 4803 San Felipe, Houston from 9 am until 6 pm. Social distancing and other safety procedures will be in place.

The retreat will end on Sunday morning with one last small group session on Zoom at 9 am and an ending worship service that will be virtual. Register with Aaron by email (aarone@apchumble.org).

Adult Faith Formation

Pastor Shelley's Faith Formation **class will not meet Sunday, April 4** but resumes April 11 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.

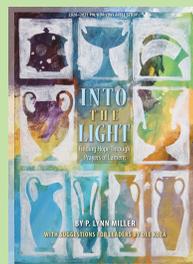
We will continue in the fellowship hall since there's plenty of room to be physically distanced. Bibles are available but you may want to bring your own. Please wear a face mask. Hand sanitizers will be on the table.



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 not meet Sunday, April 4** but resumes April 11 at 9:15 am through the Zoom invite <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83087066050> or from apchumble.org live streaming page.

Currently studying *Epistemology and Logic in the New Testament*, by Doug Kennard. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2016. 978-1-5326-0815-5 or ebook 978-1-5326-0816-2.



Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The April meeting of the Horizons Bible Study will be via Zoom on Wednesday, April 14, from 11:00 am until noon. We will study *Lesson 8: God Laments*, 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 leads 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).

Interim Pastor Search Committee Update

The Interim Pastor Search Committee met Tuesday, March 30. The members presented information gathered from Session members and other sources collected since the previous meeting. This data will be included in the Ministry Information Form (MIF) that will be used by the Presbytery to post the opening for our Interim Pastor position.

The Committee members were also given guidance by Julie MacLemore Wells, our presbytery transition assistant, including a manual on "Calling a Pastor" and a "Packet for Churches Seeking an Interim/Transitional Pastor."

The Committee will meet Tuesday, April 6 to finalize the MIF and move forward with submitting it to the Presbytery.

Summer Camps for Kids

The Atascocita Presbyterian Church will be offering a summer program to coincide with the Creative Learning Center program on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm beginning June 8 and ending June 24. Children entering first through fifth grades are welcome to participate.

There will be a week geared toward science, one for art, and one for music. We will be able to confirm those weeks after the second week of April, along with the cost for the camp, which is always very reasonable. At that time, we will also have a Signup Genius link available for registration.

Children may register for one, two, or all three weeks. Snacks will be provided, but children must bring their own lunches each day.

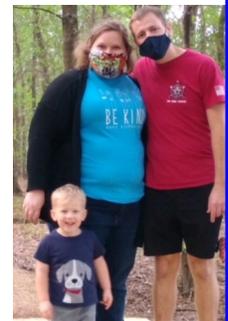
The Creative Learning Center will be offering concurrent programming for younger children during those times. Please contact CLC at 281-852-4832 for information about their programs.

Watch for more information in the next couple of weeks as we finalize these plans.

Wacky Wednesday March 31, 2021

SO MUCH FUN! There were 30 children along with parents and workers to enjoy the afternoon. The weather was with us, as the rain and cool front came in, then cleared out about two hours before we got started. Children were treated to games such as "Egg Race," "Scavenger Hunt," "Count the Jellybean's in a Jar," "Ring Toss," and others. We offered a coloring station, face painting, and hot dogs. Plus, the Easter Bunny was available for a photo op!

Mark your calendars because Wacky Wednesday will happen again April 28 and May 19. Watch for more information in the Communicator and Narthex News!





APC Earth Care

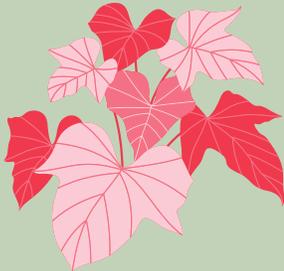
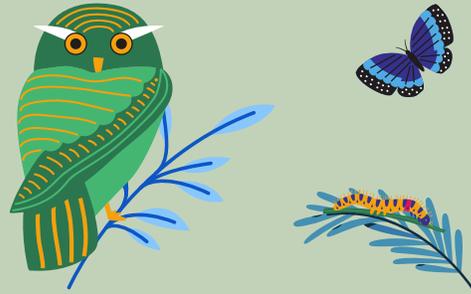
April 23 - Earth Day



The Earth Care Committee meets on the third Monday of the month (April 19) 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.

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.



Recycle Batteries

Drop your old batteries in the black recycle bucket to the right of the front door at APC and they will be sent to recycle.

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) or Forrest Craig (fcraig3@gmail.com).

Birthdays

4/5 Erin Rea
 4/9 Terry Harshaw
 4/13 Traci Hlavaty
 4/14 Mary Ann Sarver
 4/15 Sandra Berry
 4/17 Cathy Fovargue
 4/19 Doug Hebert
 4/19 Rachel Potts-Wells
 4/19 Larry Mooney
 4/20 Ron Spross
 4/22 Erik Jones
 4/23 Betty Jo Pruett
 4/23 Don Nelson
 4/25 Jane Church
 4/25 Kelly Munoz
 4/28 Linda Coleman
 4/29 Jerry Havlik
 4/29 Matthew Burgos
 4/30 Frieda Walker

Anniversaries

4/24 Sandra & Jeff Berry
 4/25 Mary Ann Kominsky & Ron Powell
 4/30 Lisa & Mike Ryan

APC by the Numbers

Weekly Contributions
 through 03/28/2021

Actual	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
\$7,388	\$81,980	\$79,394

Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Those who have contracted Covid-19 and family and friends of those affected.
- Frontline and essential workers with increased exposure to Covid.
- Migrant children at the border in overcrowded conditions, seeking a better life and the parents who felt it was their only option to let them go.
- The Mills family.
- Deondra, Ann Owen's granddaughter, and her young clients at CPS.
- Maddy, Ellen & Russ Nipe's granddaughter.
- 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.
- Nominating committee and their decisions.
- David Lasinsky experiencing neuropathy and side effects from chemo.
- Carol Hedgepath with health concerns.
- Richard Munoz with health concerns.
- Sandy Lee's cousin has gone to hospice.
- Carie Anne, Emily Murphy's daughter, medical testing.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Nina Clary, she passed away April 1.
- Dan Taylor, son of Mike and Ellen Taylor, has passed away after a tragic accident. The family requests no visitation at this time. Cards are welcome.
- Sine McCarty has been moved to hospice.
- The Kepharts and Bev O'Brien.

The chat feature has changed in Boxcast. **Please email prayer requests 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 April, Will Nees, phone 713-818-2941.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:1-3 (NRSV)