



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



Taking care of God's Creation in Lawrence, Kansas

by Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

Friday, April 22 was the official day that many people celebrate Earth Day. But being good stewards of God's Creation is a year-round priority for members of First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, Kansas.

The church is an Earth Care Congregation (ECC) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and has an EcoTeam whose mission is to further the Earth care education and advocacy in the church and beyond. Churches that commit to PC(USA)'s four-part Earth Care Pledge and complete eco-friendly activities and projects tied to worship, education, facilities, and outreach are eligible for ECC certification from the Presbyterian Hunger Program. APC also has the same ECC status.

"Every year you go back and you check what you've done, and you're looking to what you might do; it's a good discipline," said Thad Holcombe, EcoTeam moderator at First Presbyterian Church in Kansas.

The church's activities have included planting 14 indigenous trees and working to return a portion of the lawn back to native prairie landscape. It also has a pollinator garden and holds educational forums on Earth care topics, such as moving to green energy and improving lawn care.

The work stems from a recognition that the Earth is sacred and that salvation is not just about saving individuals but healing the whole planet, Holcombe said. The team also recognizes the importance of biodiversity and addressing the needs of more than just humans, from bees and butterflies to bluebirds. "We've got to move Earth Day to 12 months a year," he said.

FPC in Lawrence, Kansas has demonstrated their commitment to living out the Earth Care Pledge: "Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

The APC family has continued to pursue several aspects of being an Earth Care Congregation even though a formal committee has not met in several months. If you would like to get together with others who are looking for additional ways to maintain our ECC status, please contact the church office (281-852-8990) to express your interest.



What's inside our latest issue

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Stay Connected!

Visit the [APC website](#) for more information and service schedules.

Make sure you are subscribed to *The Communicator* newsletter and Narthex News email.

Check us out on Facebook!
facebook.com/AtascocitaPresbyterianChurch



Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:1-2 NRSV

Serving the Lord's Supper

The elements will be offered by both intinction and individual prefilled communion packets.

An elder will be standing on either side of the communion table holding a tray from which you will pick up your bread or prefilled elements as you place your offering in the plate provided, also on the communion table.

Easter Season Midday Prayer Service

The sanctuary will be open **Wednesday, May 4 from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm** for anyone who wishes to spend a few quiet minutes with God in prayer for healing and issues for which we have concerns. We also have plenty of blessings that we may want to express our thanks.

May Lectionary

5/1 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) and Psalm 30 or Isaiah 61:1-3 and Psalm 90:13-17 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

5/8 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43 and Psalm 23 or Isaiah 53:1-6 and Psalm 114 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

5/15 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18 and Psalm 148 or Leviticus 19:9-18 and Psalm 24:1-6 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

5/22 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15 and Psalm 67 or Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 109:21-31 Revelation 21:10, 22 -22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

5/29 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34 and Psalm 97 or 2 Kings 2:1-15 and Psalm 2 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Richard Kleiman
Parish Associate.....Rev Shelley Craig
Director of Youth Ministry.....Aaron Seay
Office Coordinator.....Carroll Hebert
Director of Music.....Joe Weir
Pianist.....Carl Braden
Interim IT Manager.....Forrest Craig

Pastor Richard is in the office Monday through Thursday.
Pastor Shelley is in the office Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am until 1 pm.
Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 2 pm.
Aaron Seay may be reached by email: aarone@pchurchumble.org

Children's Faith Formation

Children in Kindergarten through fifth grade meet in **the orange classroom, at 9:30 am.**

The nursery is open on an RSVP basis. Any parent or grandparent of a child under age five may contact Lisa Stacy or Terri Thomson (apcchildrenscommitte@apchumble.org) to let them know the child will be attending.

Please feel free to contact Lisa Stacy with any questions or concerns related to APC Children's Ministries by email (apcchildrenscommitte@apchumble.org).

Youth Faith Formation

Meet for fellowship in the Youth Director's office **Sundays at 9:30 am.**

Meet with Aaron **Sundays at 11:45 am** in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided. Want reminders via a "Remind" group text? Send a text to 81010 with the message @apcyouthco.

Lunch is being provided to youth and their adult leaders on Sunday mornings by generous people like you. Please volunteer to help by emailing Traci Hlavaty (trh@entouch.net).



Butterfly Release

The butterflies were not out of their cocoons by Easter Sunday so we had to wait one more week for their release.



Their "feast" in their habitat after coming out of the cocoon.



Adrianna and Valerie set them free.



Adult Faith Formation

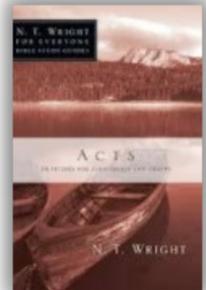
Pastor Shelley's class meets at 9:20 am in room 102.

Interested in the "who/what/where/when" of the scripture Richard will preach in worship? Join Shelley and others to consider the biblical "story of the day."

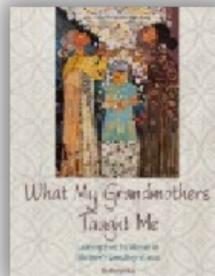
Then, enter worship with the background ready to receive the meaning and reflections on this story for us today. All are welcome regardless of biblical background.

Doug's class meets at 9:15 am in the library.

Currently studying the book of Acts by reading the scripture and the book "Acts," by N.T. Wright as a study guide.



Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study



The Presbyterian Women group will meet **Wednesday, May 11, at 11:30 am** in the fellowship hall for a **potluck** lunch followed by the Bible study from noon until 1 pm.

Please join us as we explore the last chapter in the Horizons Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus." The women in Jesus' family tree have backstories that are exactly the kind of story you can imagine hearing while sitting spell-bound as your grandmother reminisces about her early life.

In September we will begin the 2022-2023 PW/Horizons Bible study, "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight," by Carol M. Bechtel. Carol has written a study about Sabbath, or more particularly, God's gift of Sabbath to God's creation.

For more information please contact Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com).

Faith Formation Teacher of the Month - Terri Thomson

The Christian Growth and Nurture Committee will feature one teacher each month in *The Communicator*.



We posed a few questions to Terri to help you get to know her.

Number of years teaching Faith Formation (Sunday School) at Atascocita Presbyterian Church?

3 years

What does prayer mean to you?

A constant conversation with God. Sometimes to thank him for all the wonderful things he provides. Sometimes to seek guidance. Sometimes just to tell him how much I love him. Sometimes just to visit with him and Jesus.

What is your favorite worship song/hymn? Why?

No favorite. I appreciate all of them. Depending on where my heart is, they speak to me differently each time I hear and sing them.

Who is your favorite person in the Bible? Why?

Jesus because He is everything.

What are three things you believe about God?

He makes everything okay as long as my faith is steadfast. He is always with me and all of us.

**Terri is a co-chairperson of the Christian Growth and Nurture Committee and one of the children's Faith Formation teachers.

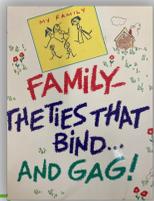
Library Corner

Come visit the APC library for inspiration, knowledge, and fun! From self-help to children, youth, and family life to adult christian education and contemporary authors, there is something for everyone. It's time to curl up with a good book to read!

Here's a couple of titles that recently caught my eye.

A flash from the past - "*Family-The Ties that Bind...and Gag!*" by Erma Bombeck. Erma was an author of several books that took a humorous route through family life. She also had a syndicated newspaper humor column describing suburban home life from 1965 to 1996. Erma died in 1996 and left her books that continue to have us take a light-hearted look at our families.

Also well known to television viewers, Erma was a regular on ABC's Good Morning, America for eleven years.



Children's Book Corner

A more current book available is *Malala's Magic Pencil*, written by Malala Yousafzai. She writes about her experiences growing up in Pakistan. You will read that her day-to-day experiences are a lot different from what a child in Humble Texas may have to deal with.



And puzzles! All skill levels available.

upcoming events

You Are invited:

A farewell open house will be held for Pastor Richard and Elsa **Sunday, May 29, from 2 till 4 pm.** Drop in to say goodbye and wish them well at the Craigs' home, 20523 Riverside Pines Dr, 77346.

Witness and Outreach Committee Presentation

The Witness and Outreach Committee has arranged to have a presentation, **Wednesday, May 4 at 6:30 pm** in the fellowship hall. Dr Marcy Lim will be speaking to us about how blood pressure works and how to manage it.

Dr Lim is a cardiologist with Vital Heart & Vein. She currently serves as the director of Chest Pain Committee at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital.

Work Day at APC

Don't let the title scare you. More hands makes lighter work so we need all able-bodied (or semi-) persons who enjoy (or at least somewhat) doing some odd jobs around the church. Join us **Saturday, May 14 from 8 am until noon.**

The facilities committee has a hopeful agenda of painting the kitchen, pulling weeds in the flower beds, cleaning the glass doors, and, you never know, something else might pop up.

Bring appropriate tools for the job you would "like" to do, a hat, sunscreen, a 6' ladder (could use a couple more), and anything else you can think of that will be useful.

If you have any questions, please call the office (281-852-8990).



Yoga for all!

Meet Monday mornings at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. Bring your exercise mat.

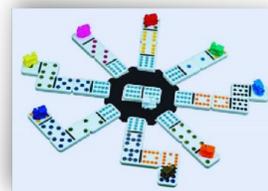
Seniors and Friends

Meet for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of the month. Join us **May 19 at 11:30 am** at a restaurant to be determined.

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com) so she can get a head-count.

Game Day for Grownups

Need a spring tonic? A little excitement in your life? Join us **Thursday, May 26, at 11:30 am** for a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and stay to play Mexican Train or Bingo. It's fun, it's easy, spiritually



uplifting (possibly!) and it's still fun. Prizes are supplied by attendees bringing a white elephant gift. Not sure you'll want them, but nonetheless...

Empty Nesters

Empty Nesters gather on the second Tuesday of every other month for dinner at a local restaurant. Please plan to join us for our next outing **June 14 at 6 pm.** The location will be announced in the coming weeks. Also, watch for a sign up sheet in the narthex.

For more information, please contact Ann Owen (832-724-7331).

Ancient Mariners

Ancient Mariners is a Senior group organization with APC for those who are age 55 and over.

Join us for a trip to Lake Jackson on **Friday, June 17.**

Tour museums (free!) for interesting local exhibits. Lunch (your only expense) will be at a German restaurant. A Harris County precinct bus provides the transportation and will **depart the APC parking lot at 8 am.** Enter your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Linda Andrus (harley3064@aol.com) for more information.





Pentecost Special Offerings

April 18 - June 5, 2022

Building God's Household with Children, Youth, and Young Adults

At Pentecost, we celebrate that God offers more than we can possibly plan. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect us with God's plans for our future, supporting ministries with children, youth, and young adults by building lives of faith.

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

Funds received through Pentecost Special Offerings are used as follows:

- 40% stays with APC to develop and support programs for young people in our church and community.
- 25% to young adult volunteers serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.
- 25% supports youth ministries like this year's Presbyterian Youth Triennium The event inspires and guide youth as they grow and walk with Christ.
- 10% provides advocacy that protects children at risk and education that nurtures our children and youth.

Since the Pentecost Special Offerings are focused on children and youth, what better way to get your child involved is for them to fill a coin box with coins they collect themselves to assist these programs.

Giving envelopes and brochures are provided in the pew pockets for your use and additional information.



MIGHTY WATER SUMMER CAMP

For children entering 1st grade
through 5th grade

at

**Atascocita
Presbyterian Church**
19426 Atasca Oaks Dr Humble TX 77346
281-852-8990

Tuesday through Thursday

9:30 am until 2:30 pm

JUNE 7, 8, 9 - ART



JUNE 14, 15, 16 - MUSIC



JUNE 21, 22, 23 - SCIENCE



\$60 per week with a 10% discount
for multiple children in one family.

Adult volunteers needed as teachers,
teacher helpers, and snack makers.

For more information, please contact Lisa Stacy or
Terri Thomson (apcchildrenscommittee@apchumble.org)

Creative Learning Center Summer Program will
coincide with APC Summer Camps for children
18 months to those entering Kindergarten.
Contact Cathy Gerald (281-852-4832).

Mission Market Place

Mission Market Place is open in their new location!



Mission Market Place features handmade items for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, or "just because." Stroll among the home décor items, seasonal décor, jewelry, and greeting cards.

Items in Mission Market Place are the work of creative crafters who take discarded or unused items and transform them into beautiful one-of-a-kind gifts. The Mission Crafters appreciate donated items that are always welcome for making more projects. See a full list in the store.

In order to show appreciation for faithful patrons, Mission Market Place has started a "**Frequent Fliers**" program. Pick up a card in the store when you make your next purchase and present the card each time you make a purchase of \$10 or more. When the card has 10 punches receive 25% off one item and 10% off the remainder of your purchase.



Our group of passionate creators welcomes anyone to participate in the projects on Tuesdays at 10 am in the APC crafters' workroom. No experience required.

All proceeds go toward missions supported by APC, including Wounded Warrior Project and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Clothing & Food Donations:

HAAM's Resale Store, 1302 First St, Humble, and the Black Cat Junction Resale Boutique, 22310 Loop 494, Kingwood are accepting donations only on the days and hours noted -Thursday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm.

Food items needed: mac & cheese, canned fruit, cereal, canned tuna, and canned chicken. Please place your bagged donations in the HAAM box in the narthex.

The HAAM box in the narthex is for non-perishable food or specially requested items ONLY! Please bag all donated food items. Books, toys, clothes, etc. must be taken to HAAM by the donor.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Food Pantry: Duties are filling baskets with food items for the families and replenishing the shelves.

Meals on Wheels: Drivers needed. HAAM volunteers for Meals on Wheels delivered over 12,000 meals in the first three months of 2022!

HAAM, in partnership with Interfaith Ministries and Meals on Wheels of Greater Houston and Galveston County, needs volunteers to deliver hot meals Monday through Friday to homebound seniors as we prepare to transition from weekly delivery to daily delivery in July. HAAM currently has ten routes in the Humble, Kingwood, Huffman, Atascocita, and Summerwood areas.

Please contact Cathy Schrof, HAAM Volunteer Coordinator, at 281-446-3663, ext 120 if you are interested and need more information.

Thanks for your continued support of HAAM.
George Williams
Michael Burgos



Birthdays

5/1 Adelaide Douglas
 5/3 Robert Frye
 5/4 Charis Nees
 5/4 Jan Kennard
 5/5 Cathy Vance
 5/6 Valerie Phillips
 5/7 Mazie Williams
 5/9 Vicky Eynon
 5/10 Connie Brown
 5/12 Anne Wallace
 5/16 John Peterson
 5/18 Rhonda Skaggs
 5/18 Mary Ann Kaminski
 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 Patty Williams

Anniversaries

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

| Worship Attendance and Offering Summary | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Date | In Person | BoxCast Live | Facebook Live | Total Viewers | Offering Total |
| 27-Mar | 72 | 19 | 1 | 92 | \$2,815 |
| March Stock Gift | | | | | \$14,963 |
| March End of Month Credit Card Receipts | | | | | \$4,561 |
| 3-Apr | 83 | 17 | 15 | 115 | \$4,438 |
| 10-Apr | 83 | 60* | 21* | 164 | \$2,593 |
| 17-Apr | 189 | 11 | 17 | 217 | \$21,113 |
| Total Offerings for Year-to-date | | | | | \$123,164 |
| Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date | | | | | \$94,383 |

* Service interrupted by power failure at 10:38 AM;
 Remote attendance numbers are suspect

Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine.
- Pastor Nominating Committee
- Sandy Lee's cousin
- Emma Michie, Christina and Daniel's daughter, has health issues.
- James Nesrsta, 8 year-old grandson of Pastor Richard and Elsa, in ICU treatment. Prayers of strength and faith for the family. Wisdom and knowledge for James' caregivers.
- Bob Fisher, Doris' husband, fell and has broken bones in his back. Not a candidate for surgery, Bob will be cared for at home.
- Sine McCarty

Please email prayer requests to the church office (apc@apchumble.org).

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for May, Lisa Stacy, ph: 281-627-1970.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Please pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee that has been selected for a most important task.

From the session: Marilyn Friedersdorf, Traci Hlavaty, and Will Nees.

APC members from the congregation: Michael Burgos, Cathy Gerald, Allan Griffin, Claudia Nelson, and Tom Olson.

You will be hearing about updates from them as they go through the process of making a recommendation for an installed pastor.