



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



Tomorrow Brings Hope

by Chip Hardwick/Presbyterians Today June 24, 2022

The Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Helen Keller observed that "faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light." And John Calvin wrote faith is "the firm knowledge of God's benevolence toward us." While none of these definitions are fully complete, each gives us a glimpse of this Christian cornerstone, much like the beginning of Hebrews 11, which affirms that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for."

Now more than ever, it seems faith is important in our personal lives as we struggle to believe "when sorrows like sea billows roll." In this column, though, I want to focus on the importance of faith as we think about the future of our congregations.

Things are in such flux as we haltingly move beyond the pandemic into a new season where old patterns are questioned even more. It is natural to worry about what will come next.

Yet to have faith, as Hebrews tells us, is to hold on to the assurance of things hoped for. God's promises can be trusted even — and especially — when the church is unsettled. God still creates. Christ is still risen. The Holy Spirit is still on the loose. Of course, we do not know how the church will grow into this reality in its next phase, a fact the writer of Hebrews also acknowledges when writing that "faith is ... the conviction of things not seen."

It's much easier to follow the Spirit when every single step is obvious, but according to Hebrews, that's not faith. Faith is journeying obediently with Jesus Christ into the future that is not yet seen. I'm not sure there's a better way to describe the challenge of ministry in 2022 than this: stepping into an unknown future in which many are daring to do.

Recently, at a panel held in the synod that I serve, I heard stories that illustrated what stepping out in faith looks like today. One such example was the Rev. Bethany Peerbolte — known better by almost 300,000 TikTok followers as RevBethany. The associate pastor for youth and mission at First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Michigan, has created a following with her videos that preach the grace of God creatively, comedically and courageously. My sense is that the demographics of her social media flock are quite different from those in her congregation.

What will the church look like in its next season? We don't know exactly. But we do know this: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Thanks be to God!

The Rev Dr Chip Hardwick is the executive of the Synod of the Covenant. Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 is a lectionary text for Aug. 7, the ninth Sunday after Pentecost.

Faith gives certainty in life's uncertainties



What's inside our latest issue

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Stay Connected!

Visit the [APC website](http://apchumble.org) (apchumble.org) 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

Say Hello to the New Sound Booth Staff!



You may have noticed that there are some new faces in the sound booth on Sunday mornings. Please welcome, left to right, Rob Arnold, Ryan Lewis, and Nam Arnold. After several weeks of training, these three took over primary responsibilities, in early June, for a funeral and all Sunday worship services. They are backed up by a group of trained substitutes including: Kristi Stanley, Jasper Stanley, Adrianna Burleigh, Ron Powell, Steve Coleman, and Forrest Craig.

Volunteer crews in the sound booth work hard to complement the worship services provided by the preacher and the worship committee. Please us know if there is anything we can do to enhance your worship experience.

But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.
Job 12:7-10 NRSV

August Lectionary

8/7 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

8/14 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

8/21 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

8/28 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Serving the Lord's Supper

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

Elders will be standing on either side of the communion table holding a tray (from which you will pick up your bread) and a chalice for juice. Prefilled elements are also available on the communion table. Your offering may be placed in the plate provided, also located on the communion table.

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

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

Children's Faith Formation

Children's Faith Formation **will return August 7**. Children in Kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome to meet in the orange classroom.

The nursery will be open during the worship hour.

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

Youth Faith Formation

Meet with Aaron **Sundays at 11:45 am** in the youth room. 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 Aaron (aaron@apchumble.org).



Confirmation Classes

Confirmation is a time when youth (grades 9-12) begin the process in which they will publicly profess their faith before the congregation and become individual members of Atascocita Presbyterian Church.

Classes begin Sunday, September 11 at 9:20 am in the youth room.

Please RSVP with Aaron (aaron@apchumble.org) to reserve a spot.

Confirmation classes must also have the help from members of our congregation with a passion for helping youth. If you are interested in being a part of the confirmation journey with our youth, please contact Aaron.

Adult Faith Formation

"**Christian Chat**" meets at **9:20 am in classroom 102**. All are welcome to chat or just listen to selected discussions that could range from faith, the world, scripture, among others. Contact Terri Thomson (apcchildrenscommittee@apchumble.org) if you have questions or ideas about adult classes.

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

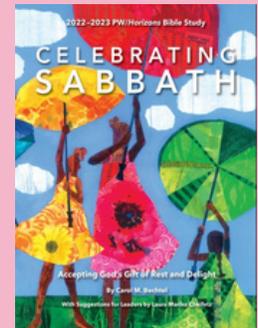


Currently studying "*Biblical Wisdom*

Literature," by Fr Joseph Koterski. June 5 we start discussing the video: *Great Course on Biblical Wisdom* by Koterski from Fordham University, *Introduction to Biblical Literature*. If you wish additional reading to join the video course, Doug recommends Leo G. Perdue, *Wisdom Literature of Brite Divinity School*, the introduction chapter, pp 1-14. 978-0-664-22919-1. May be obtained from Amazon.

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study 2022-2023

Carol M. Bechtel's *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*, has been chosen as the 2022-2023 Presbyterian Women Bible Study.



God's gift of Sabbath to God's creation is a whole day set aside each and every week for rest,

community, and faith. But how do we honor Sabbath in a 24/7 world? Ms Bechtel says, "As an Old Testament scholar at a seminary, I had plenty of opportunities to **study** the Sabbath, but never tried to **embrace** it as a way of marking time in my life." Through this study, she will share some of what she has learned by doing both.

APC PW summer meetings continue Wednesday, August 17 with a potluck lunch and a special discussion topic.

The Horizons Bible Study begins **Wednesday, September 14 at 11:30 am** in the fellowship hall. Price of the book is \$10 and may be obtained from Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com).

upcoming events

Backpack Blessings

Sunday, August 7 students and teachers are encouraged to bring backpacks (or satchels or notebooks) to church to be blessed during worship service.

Get the new school year off to a good start by carrying "blessed" materials with you every day.



Seniors and Friends

Meet for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of the month. Join us

August 18 at 11:30 am
at Iguana Joes, 18319 W Lake Houston Pkwy, 77346



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

Empty Nesters

Empty Nesters gather on the second Tuesday of every other month for dinner at a local restaurant. We will meet again **August 9, 6 pm at Humble City Cafe**, 200 E Main St, 77338. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or contact Ann Owen (832-724-7331).

Yoga for all!



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

Rooted in Faith at APC



The Liturgical Arts Committee hopes you have been thinking about our display for this season at APC. What does it mean to you? What analogy of a tree and our faith and our church do you draw from our presentation?

Our intention with using the tree is the Tree of Life, which is deeply rooted in Christ, the Living Water. While those roots go deep, they are not always seen but they hold the trunk up. The trunk is our faith and it is strong. The branches are all our governing bodies and leading committees and they are also strong. The leaves are the members. They are large and small, rough around the edges, thin, and not so thin - all with varying shades of color. All these parts are inter-dependent. God shines on this tree, Christ waters this tree, and all the other parts nourish this tree. The tree is not whole without all the parts.

We hope you noticed the small changes in this tree every week or so and that you have noticed the only color is the leaves. We are like that. We have been changing and will continue to change through this period; however, if we don't stay connected, the tree will not flourish.

Stay connected.

Kathy Gava

Live Nativity Program

Plans are well underway for the live nativity program **Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10 at 6 pm.** Don't hesitate to volunteer to be a part of this event in one or more roles!

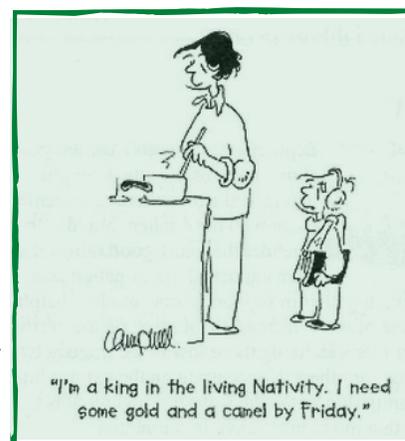
The program will last 30 minutes with an audience sing-along between scenes. Immediately after the program, everyone is invited to enjoy the lighted walking path through the GATE area featuring the following activities:

- coffee and hot chocolate will be served;
- cookies for sale;
- an acapella choir singing Christmas music;
- mission "manger sets" for sale;
- kids crafts and a petting zoo with two sheep and a donkey;
- Christmas photo booth;
- Santa's mailbox; and
- benches to sit and enjoy the music and other activities.

The event will be announced throughout the community as an invitation to APC neighbors. Parking is available at the church, and surrounding streets, with a train to transport attendees. The live nativity program will be an exciting event for APC and we look forward to seeing you there!

Watch for more details soon!

For more information, please contact Sandra Berry at 713-447-7719 or sanjef1993@gmail.com.



Mission Market Place



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. Located in room 101 in the narthex.

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.

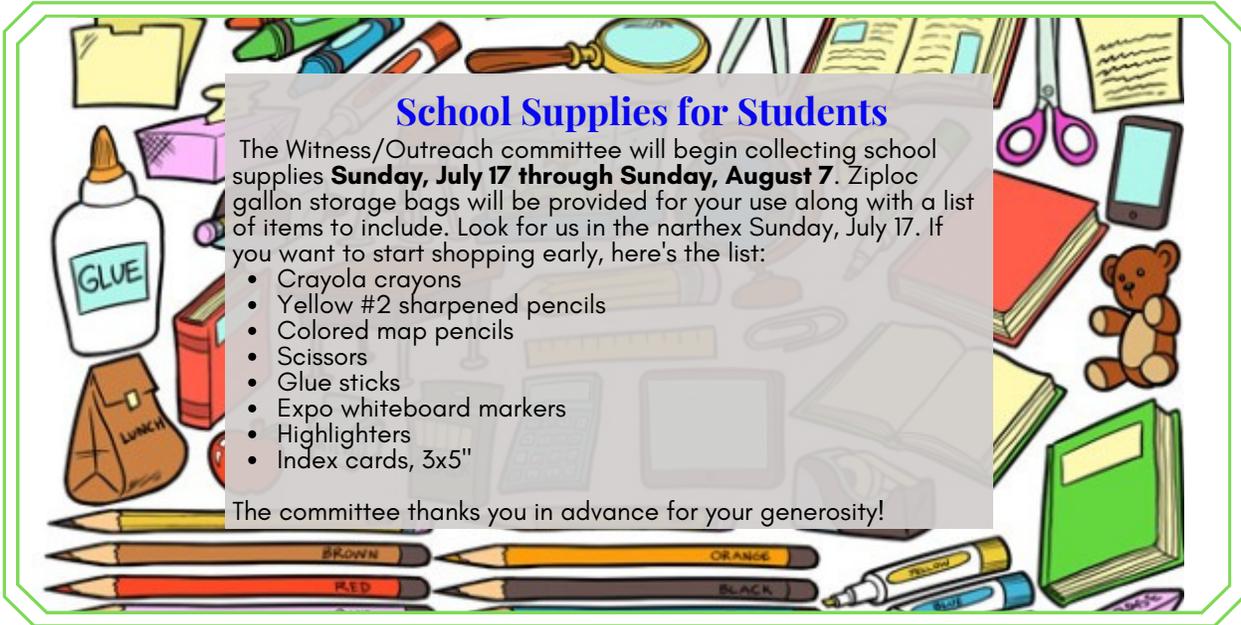


In order to show appreciation for faithful patrons, Mission Market Place has started a "**Frequent Fliers**" program. Pick up a card in the store when you make your next purchase and present the card each time you make a purchase of \$10 or more. When the card has 10 punches receive 25% off one item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



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





School Supplies for Students

The Witness/Outreach committee will begin collecting school supplies **Sunday, July 17 through Sunday, August 7**. Ziploc gallon storage bags will be provided for your use along with a list of items to include. Look for us in the narthex Sunday, July 17. If you want to start shopping early, here's the list:

- Crayola crayons
- Yellow #2 sharpened pencils
- Colored map pencils
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Expo whiteboard markers
- Highlighters
- Index cards, 3x5"

The committee thanks you in advance for your generosity!

School Days!

Humble ISD students return to classes Tuesday, August 9.



Creative Learning Center (CLC) begins the fall semester Monday, August 22 and Tuesday, August 23. CLC began as a mission outreach ministry of APC to the community and has served successfully in that capacity for more than 25 years. Classrooms have been repainted and floors freshly stripped and waxed. Teachers have been working on setting up the colorful environments to welcome new and returning students!



Please pray for the students and school personnel in Humble ISD and surrounding districts as well as the CLC, that they may have a safe and productive year of learning.

HAAM Stock the Pantry & Volunteer Opportunities



Pantry Needs:

Paper towels
Hearty soups
Protein bars

Please place bagged donations in the HAAM box in the narthex. The box is for non-perishable food or specially requested items only.

Thank you for your support!

*George Williams, HAAM Covenant Representative
for APC*

Volunteers for Food Fair at Deerbrook Mall:

HAAM has partnered with the Deerbrook Mall to bring FREE fresh produce and food items to those in need. One remaining food fair is scheduled for **August 3**. This is a drive-thru event located between Sears and Barnes Noble. Volunteers are needed for four one-hour shifts from 8 am until noon.

Volunteer Duties:

- Repackage large quantities (50-pound bags) into family-size bags, place loose lettuce, oranges, apples, etc, into bags and tie to close.
- Place food bags into trunk of cars
- Parking/traffic control

Volunteer Opportunities:

Food Pantry: Duties are filling baskets with food items for the families and replenishing the shelves. Shifts are 9 am until noon and noon until 3 pm.

Bilingual person(s): To answer phone calls from 2 until 4:30 pm each day.

Small Maintenance/Repair Helper: Minor repairs, changing air filters, light bulbs, etc.



Family Promise of Lake Houston Upcoming events

You are invited to the graduation ceremony for Wynter and Carlaa, August 4, 7 pm in the fellowship hall. They are in their own apartment now. House-warming gifts are appreciated!

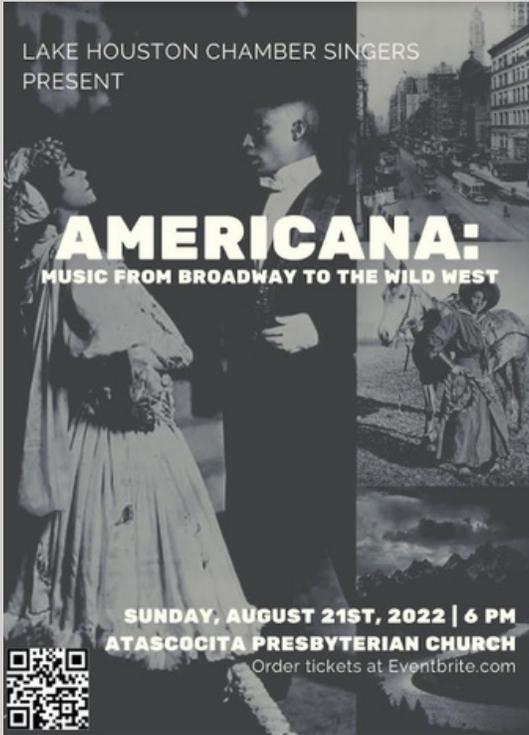
Special Event opportunities include the 12th Annual Chicks & Hogs BBQ and Brew-Off on Saturday, September 24. Volunteers are welcome to assist in hosting large fundraisers such as Chicks & Hogs. Details coming soon!

Are you invested in your community? Join Family Promise directors at a "Better Together Roundtable," Thursday, August 18, from noon until 2 pm at the United City Church, 19901 Townsen Blvd, 77338. The meeting will be located in the Growth Track Room. Representatives from several organizations gather to share new and exciting things going on in their respective groups as well as collaborating the best ways to support our community.

House Angels are always needed! A house angel is an individual who helps keep the day center and families stocked with essential household items. You can purchase these items at any time and drop them off at the day center. Our most current needs are as follows: gas cards, kitchen trash bags, smaller office trash bags, Cascade and Dawn dishwashing detergents, Swiffer Wet Jet pads, spray disinfectant, paper towels, and baby wipes.

For more information, please contact the co-director, Tiffany (tiffany@fplh.org).

**Lake Houston Chamber Singers
Concert
Sunday, August 21, 6 pm**



**Tickets \$15
at Eventbrite.com**

Birthdays

- 8/05 Rene Lemer
- 8/24 Rand Rea
- 8/30 Ron Lemer

**Prayers, Concerns, &
Condolences**

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Victims, families, and communities affected by gun violence.
- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine.
- Peace in the rest of the world.
- Strength and wisdom for our leaders.
- Children returning to school and college along with teachers, professors, administrators, and staff.
- Pastor Nominating Committee
- Carol Bixby, Joyce Olson’s sister and former APC DCE, is in hospice.
- Karen, Linda Andrus’ sister, in treatment for a blood clot.
- Dolores Walker, Frieda’s daughter-in-law, in treatment for breast cancer and experiencing depression.
- Michelle Ann McHenry, Elroy’s daughter, in treatment for a blood clot.
- Maggie Pritchett, thanksgiving for a safe return from Army Advanced ROTC Camp.
- Lorrie Pritchett, thanksgiving for safe return from study abroad in Cyprus.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett, going through a cancer crisis. The cancer is spreading so fast that chemo can’t keep up with it.
- Jeane Bakke, friend of Danny and Patty Williams, fell and suffered a broken arm and torn ligament.
- Jerry Sessions, Sharon’s husband, in hospital.
- Michael Burgos has an upcoming neck surgery August 2.
- Forbes Baker, member of Seafarers Ministry, in hospital for leukemia.
- Sandra Berry recovering from cataract surgery.
- Peace and comfort to Gary Denmon and family on the passing of his grandmother, Helen Padia. Gary’s father, Gary, Sr, recovering from surgery.
- Sandy Lee recovering from covid at home.
- Sine McCarty

Please email prayer requests to the church office (apceapchumble.org).

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for August, Libby Boyce, ph: 281-630-6347.

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.

Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
26-Jun	44	29	20	93	\$5,610
June End of Month Credit Card Receipts					\$4,621
3-Jul	50	21	27	98	\$4,713
10-Jul	45	18	21	84	\$1,400
17-Jul	54	20	19	93	\$1,811
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$177,896
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$171,069