

# The Messenger

April 14, 2020  
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## ***Easter's Promise***

*Rev. Paul L. Escamilla, Senior Pastor*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, with a hymn written for the tune to which we normally sing, "The Church's One Foundation," has given us a way to express both the heaviness and the hopefulness of this Easter moment.

*This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.  
We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.*

...

*With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place  
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.*

*Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room,  
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.  
Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see—  
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.*

*In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:  
Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.  
Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!  
Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.*

*We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be  
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.  
In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,  
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.*

Grace and peace.

*Paul*



Festive ribbons representing our many prayers will lift to the breeze, defying the darkness. In the coming days and weeks, as you walk the neighborhood or seek a sacred space, bring your ribbon and add to the wall your prayer of joy or concern. The Laurel Heights congregation will hold these expressions in our prayers each day, offering both our hurts and our hopes to God as we live into the hope of new life in the Easter season.

**Corner of Belknap & Woodlawn**



## Moments That Define Us

Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care



Recently I heard an interview with David Brooks, a columnist for the New York Times. He said two things in relation to the COVID-19 events that caught my attention. The first thought is, "**These are moments that define us.**" How we respond makes a difference. But as we respond, some things we do offer an opportunity to **redefine** ourselves. For example, how we reach people is being adapted: the use of Zoom, online media, the phone tree, and more. Tech savvy younger members are shaping and guiding many of these efforts. Young and old are being called to work together with a common purpose. It is hard work, creative work. If we truly use this time to

learn how to thrive rather than just survive, we will learn an invaluable lesson in how to be resilient in the new world that will emerge from these times. We will not be the same on the other side of this.

The second thought is, "**It's time to be an aggressive friend.**"

The way I understand this is that:

- 1) we pay attention,
- 2) we move toward anxiety and not away from it, and
- 3) we reach out in caring ways.

Jesus did this in stories that are so familiar to us that they have become a part of our Christian DNA. In Luke 18:35-19:10, Jesus comes to Jericho as he is on his way to Jerusalem, and the cross. Going into town, he encounters a blind man (in Mark, he is named Bartimaeus). Jesus restores his sight. In Jericho, he reaches out to a man named Zacchaeus and transforms his life. In both cases, Jesus paid attention, moved toward the greatest need in each person's life, and reached out to them in caring ways.

In these days of social distancing and sheltering-in-place, we cannot allow ourselves to withdraw from the world, and to be numbed to the human needs that are emerging around us. I will not even try to list them; there is too much and too many. This is why "It's time to be an aggressive friend" grasped my heart. It says pay attention, turn toward pain, reach out. This is the way of Christ. It is who we are called to be. And, just as we are learning to redefine ourselves as church, we must seize the means we have to be present to others. This too will stretch us beyond accustomed ways of caring.

We can either retreat from this time and allow it to destroy us, or we can embrace it, learn from it, and be recreated in the image of Christ—as a new creation shaped and equipped by the Spirit . . . what Easter is about.



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### CONTENT GENERATOR

For the time being, *The Messenger* will be published weekly on Tuesday afternoons. Submission of content for *The Messenger* will be due by 5 p.m. each Friday prior to publication. Please email submissions to [aubrey@mylhumc.org](mailto:aubrey@mylhumc.org).

## God's Glory in Creation

### Mission of the Month April 2020: Creation Care

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the denomination's policy-making body, has historically upheld a strong commitment to God's creation. Within the Social Principles of the United Methodist Book of Discipline are several statements guiding United Methodists in cultivating the creation God has gifted human kind.

Below you will find several statements that are "*call to all members of The United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice*" when it comes to the environment, as well as a paragraph citation directing you to the deeper context within the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

#### **The Book of Discipline calls United Methodists to be caretakers of God's Creation:** (160 Preamble)

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.

**On Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, and Plants:** (160 A) We support measures designed to maintain and restore natural ecosystems.

**On Energy Resources Utilization:** (160 B) We support and encourage social policies that are directed toward rational and restrained transformation of parts of the nonhuman world into energy for human usage and that deemphasize or eliminate energy-producing technologies that endanger the health, the safety, and even the existence of the present and future human and nonhuman creation.

**On Global Climate Stewardship:** (160 C) [We] support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions.

### Music Time with Mr. David!

Check out what's new with Mr. David! Click on Mr. David's photo below, or go to [www.laurelheights.org/online](http://www.laurelheights.org/online) to watch!



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### *Healing:*

William Beuhler, Diane Boehme, Estelle Hogan, Gracie Huron, Jane Manning, Dean Pearson, Kami Powell, Doug Semmes, David Bebinger, Marilyn Cook, Beth Rankin (*Ann Wheeler*), Armando Diaz (*Sandra Ojeda Medina*), Dianna Buxkemper, Shirley Melennyzer (*Teresa Garces*), Darlene Shirey (*Wendell Davis*), Elden Stalnaker (*Roxane Darnell*).

### *For Those Who Mourn:*

Carolyn Hierholzer and family, on the death of Mal Hierholzer; Eva Bennet, her sons and grandsons, on the loss of Wilhelm Bennet.

### *God's Presence:*

Those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their families, as well as for the caregivers and researchers working to treat those affected and combat the spread of the disease; homebound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.

You can submit a prayer of gratitude or concern by emailing [prayers@mylhumc.org](mailto:prayers@mylhumc.org), through [Facebook Messenger](#), or calling the church office (210) 733-7156.

## Staying Healthy



### Wellness Check-Ins

Our Wesley Nurse, Yvonne Garcia, will be available by phone only to take appointments until further notice. Please email [YGarcia@mhmc.org](mailto:YGarcia@mhmc.org) or call (210) 272-7921 to set up an appointment.

### Sit and Be Fit on KLRN

If you've been missing the Moving On exercise class, tune in Monday through Friday at 11:00 a.m. to the Sit and Be Fit exercise program on KLRN San Antonio. Contact KLRN for on-air program information (210) 270-9000.

### Fall Prevention in Older Adults

Click [here](#) to download a PowerPoint that was put together by Aixa L. Alvarez, MD for our Super Adults Day.

Click [here](#) for a diagram of 11 low-impact exercises you can do from home.

## Wednesday Evening Prayer Service

While we are physically distant from each other, our Laurel Heights community is discovering ways to be spiritually and relationally present to one another. One important way that we are staying connected in Christ is by continuing to share in the work of prayer. Tomorrow (Wednesday 4/15) from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. we will have a time to gather by Zoom to pray for one another and the world. Paul Escamilla will guide our gathering.

There are three ways to join the prayer meeting:

**Option 1:** Click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/130214408>

**Option 2:** If you use the Zoom app, click Join Meeting and enter the Meeting ID: 130 214 408

**Option 3:** Call (346)248-7799, and when prompted enter the Meeting ID: 130 214 408

Though scattered, we are gathered in prayer in the name of the one from whose love and belonging nothing can separate us, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Grace and peace.



## LHUMC Scholarship Deadline: May 7, 2020

Thanks to the generosity of caring donors, the Laurel Heights UMC Scholarship Committee has scholarship funds available for the 2020-2021 school year. Scholarship applications are being accepted now through May 7, 2020 from anyone seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree. Church membership is not required. Scholarships are *not* auto renewing; current scholarship recipients must reapply. Contact Elizabeth Jackson for an application: [ejackson@mylhumc.org](mailto:ejackson@mylhumc.org)



### Giving to Laurel Heights

**Online Gifts:** Please visit our website, [www.laurelheights.org/donate](http://www.laurelheights.org/donate)

**Text to Give:** Please text "LHUMC" to 73256. For illustrated step-by-step online and text giving instructions, click [here](#).

**Checks:** Please mail to LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn, SATX, 78212.

Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting Laurel Heights through this challenging season. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

-The Finance Committee

## Christian Assistance Ministry In Need

Below is a list of various ways you can help Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) continue to serve through the COVID-19 pandemic:

**Click [here](#) to make a monetary donation to CAM** so they can purchase the necessary food items, baby items, hygiene items, and safety items to protect their staff and volunteers while they continue their work.

**Consider pre-packing grocery bags or hygiene kits** filled with essential items needed for families. Click [here](#) for a list of what goes in the grocery bags and hygiene kits. Contact [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org) for bag drop-off information.

**If you or anyone you know has large outdoor fans, misters, or any type of a temporary air unit** they can place underneath a canopy, contact [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org). CAM is providing services outside, and it's starting to get very warm out. We need to keep our staff and volunteers cool as they work outside in this heat and humidity.

**SLICED BREAD, SLICED HAM, CHEESE SLICES**

Every morning CAM provides sandwiches for the sack lunches for San Antonio's vulnerable. Consider purchasing and donating these three sandwich ingredients to aid CAM in this work.

**If you have any questions, please contact CAM Director of Development, Sarah Kory, at [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org).**

Although our doors are physically closed for this time to maintain responsible social distancing,  
we remain steadfast in our Wesleyan tradition of

*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

Office staff will be available to answer phone calls and emails.  
Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us during this time.



What staff meeting looks like for now . . .

We are all fast becoming Zoom video-conference aces!

We miss you all, and are working hard to be sure that Laurel Heights continues to serve  
as the hands and feet of Christ. May God bless and keep you all.

## CONTACT US

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