



The Messenger

July 29, 2020
Volume 44, Issue 26

A publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Laurel Heights UMC Grace Notes and Possibilities

Rev. Wyndee Holbrook

Hello new friends!

I look forward to our getting to know each other in August during LHUMC's Grace Notes and Possibilities conversations. Thanks to the creative curiosity of your pastor and your exceptional leadership team, LHUMC is doing what so many congregations are wondering how to do. You are leaning in to living through COVID as an opportunity instead of being on-hold. LHUMC is embracing the now instead of allowing anxiety to rule. This is a bold action and will evoke fresh ideas and mutual needs.

We'll have the opportunity to share together on Zoom about how God has been present in your lives during these challenging months and your vision for what lies ahead. I will be your facilitator for groups of about twenty persons per meeting to explore what is being learned in this unique time. Another option will be to express yourself through a survey that will ask similar questions.

Perhaps you're wondering who I am and why I'll be joining you. My name is Rev. Wyndee Holbrook and I've been working with faithful folks for most of my life. Currently, I coordinate Interfaith San Antonio Alliance and am the interim pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in Garden Ridge. I am committed to helping bring out the best in God's people through the call of hospitality. As Christ followers we are wooed by the grace of Christ Jesus to see the best in each other. This includes carrying each other's burdens when the load is too heavy, and likewise, we are to rejoice with each other at every opportunity. This season of Grace Notes offers space for both through survey and conversation.

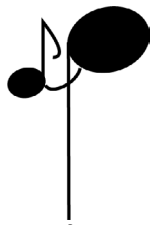
In preparation I encourage you to read Jeremiah 29: 1-14. This passage is part of Jeremiah's pastoral letter to those who were in exile from Judah to Babylon. It was extremely difficult to be so far from home and under Nebuchadnezzar's authority. They longed for the way things had been and wanted nothing more than to return to "normal." But when the long years of captivity were over, many lessons were learned that changed the course of their history and what became the Judeo-Christian tradition. The most vital was discovering their God was not a national deity confined to their ruined temple in Jerusalem. No, the Great God Almighty was found everywhere they went and was to be worshiped in their hearts before worship in any building could occur.

May we all embody this lesson in our current state of "exile."

Until August,

Rev. Wyn





Grace Notes & Possibilities: A Time of Congregational Sharing

We invite you to attend one of six Zoom gatherings to share what have been your “yeses” in this “no” season and your hopes and yearnings for our congregation as we move forward through this challenging time and beyond:

Tuesday, August 4th
@ 2PM

Thursday, August 6th
@ 7PM

Saturday, August 8th
@ 10AM

Monday, August 10th
@ 8PM

Tuesday, August 11th
@ 7PM

Friday, August 14th
@ 10AM

Click on these buttons to view video tutorials on setting up and personalizing your Realm Connect account!



More videos to come!

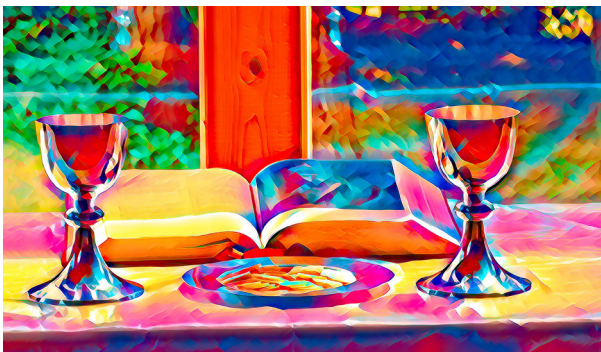


Create Your Account

Manage Passwords, Payments, and Notifications

Edit Your Profile and Privacy Settings

The Moveable Feast Celebrating Holy Communion by Zoom



Sunday, August 2 at 5:30 pm, each household will be encouraged to bring elements to that gathering—bread, and juice or wine—and to partake of these during the time of table sharing, each in our own location. There will be three ways to join the service of Holy Communion:
Option 1: Click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/98525289724>
Option 2: Use the Zoom app, click Join Meeting and enter the Meeting ID: 985 2528 9724
Option 3: Call (346)248-7799, and when prompted enter the Meeting ID: 985 2528 9724

Live-stream Lab I

The LHUMC Staff will be hosting a Live-stream Lab today from 1:30-2:30 PM.

We invite you to view the 1 hours worship walk-through and offer comments and critiques as they are going along. The staff will hold a couple of mock-up ‘Sundays’ to ensure a more consistent quality for our worship broadcast.

Tune in on the LHUMC [Facebook page](#), or the normal viewing location on [our website](#).



Looking for Jesus

Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care

I've been looking for Jesus. At first this seemed simple and straightforward. I could see that many people have taken up this search. For many, Jesus is at the center of an active, living relationship of love and trust with God. This is a gift that blesses.

But I have wanted to know the Jesus of Galilee. And so I started to look closer, and I raised the question about the historical Jesus. I found that many very capable and intelligent scholars and historians have discovered this to be more difficult and elusive than they first thought. It can be like working with a Rubik's Cube. So why would I even consider taking up this puzzle?

I have taken up this search because the presence of Jesus touches and influences so many different aspects of my life. What matters most are the people I love deeply, and the state of my heart and soul. In a world that is polarized by partisans, factions, true believers, and infallibles, I am looking for a kinder, gentler Jesus and the community that welcomes him.

I started searching for Jesus by looking for a path to follow for the journey ahead. What I have discovered is not a path, but a quest. On a journey there is a path to follow that has trail markers which show the way. On a quest, there is no path, but rather a wilderness which requires entering the unknown to discover the way through.

This is a deeply personal quest, but there are some discoveries I have made which I can share. In looking back, I can see where I have been. But the quest is not finished.



An Plea for Help from the Interfaith Welcome Coalition

Providing shelter to asylum seekers during the COVID season is happening in churches and community centers in other parts of the United States. It is time for it to happen in San Antonio and surrounding areas.

Please help us welcome the traveler—with, of course, strict CDC quarantine procedures.

Please read the attached document
and let us know if you can help:

Moon Sanchez Brand - Interfaith Welcome Coalition
(210) 325-6690 (please leave a text)

Jo Pendleton - Interfaith Welcome Coalition
(210) 478-8867 (please leave a text)

Click [here](#) to view the attached document.



Liz Escamilla is collecting masks again.

E-mail elcamilla96@gmail.com
if you are interested.

A graphic for a mask collection campaign. It features a central illustration of a person's face wearing a yellow and white polka-dot cloth face covering. The person has black hair and is looking forward. Surrounding the face are four dark blue circles, each containing white text: "New Cloth Masks" (top left), "New Bandanas" (top right), "New Scarves" (bottom left), and "New Handkerchiefs" (bottom right). Below the face is a yellow circle with "50,000 GOAL" in black. The background is a light yellow with a large red heart shape behind the face. Below the graphic is a red banner with white text: "Our San Antonio business community: Will you help us reach our goal of 50,000 new cloth face coverings? These will then be distributed to our neighbors most in need." Below the banner is a white box with a red border containing the text "DONATIONS FRIDAY MAY 8 10 AM - 2 PM". To the right of this box is a section titled "DROP OFF POINTS" with two location pins: "TriPoint, 3233 N. St. Mary's St., 78212" and "Claude W. Black Community Center, 2805 E. Commerce, 78203". At the bottom right are logos for the City of San Antonio and the Metropolitan Health District, along with the text "CITY OF SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT". At the bottom of the graphic, it says "For more information, call the COVID-19 Hotline: 210-207-5779".

Project Transformation

July 2020 Mission of the Month



An Update on Project Transformation's New Home

Project Transformation modified its summer 2020 program to be on-line and virtual, meaning there was no intentional community for the interns this summer.

This was ironic because the PT dream of a permanent home for their interns is coming true. The renovations on a building donated by St. Mark's UMC are nearing completion and the transformation is remarkable!

The immediate plan is to relocate the PT offices into two of the rooms in the Housing building, to continue their work anchoring in that neighborhood. The Afterschool Fellows will live there when it is safe to be back together physically.

They look forward to a building filled with summer interns next year!

You can contribute to the Capital Campaign to support the renovation, here.
<https://projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/get-involved/donate/capital-campaign>



St. Paul's UMC San Antonio recently gathered young adults in a panel discussion to reflect on the spiritual dimensions of their vocational choices to be in the work of social justice advocacy. Senior Pastor Rev. James Amerson introduces the discussion, titled "Crossroads, Christ, and Culture," a reference to Richard Niebuhr's seminal book, *Christ and Culture*. Tira Allen, St. Paul's member and UTSA student, hosts the round table discussion.

Click [here](#) to view the discussion on YouTube.

Celebration of Sanctuary Rehabilitation

On Sunday, August 9th, we will include in our worship service a celebration of the successful completion of the sanctuary exterior rehabilitation. The Laurel Heights congregation has fully underwritten this extraordinary endeavor in a most extraordinary way, and as of this month is it officially completed!

We will give thanks for this gift in a special litany of remembrance, gratitude, and hope.



Experience Our Worshiping Community Online

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

Though scattered, we are gathered in prayer in the name of the one whose love and belonging nothing can separate us from: Christ our Lord. Today (7/29) from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. we will have a time to gather by Zoom to pray for one another and the world.

There are three ways to join the service:

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

Option 2: Download 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

Birthday Blessings August 1-8

8/2

Nicki Marrone

8/3

Jacob Rocha

8/4

Tom Kurtz

Zachary Medellin

8/5

Shawna Flume

Deanne Trodden

8/6

Kara Lee

Emily Jones

Rosalie Gennero

8/7

Sebastian Hudson

Jordan Jopling

Abby Allison

Muriel Manchester

8/8

Sharon Rardin

Nicole Swientek

Lorrie Garcia

Serhat Guven

Meditation through the Psalms



Join us on Facebook or Instagram every Thursday as our Lay Leader, Katie Myers, leads us through a meditation on the lectionary Psalm for the week.

This week we will meditate on the words from Psalm

Join Rev. Paul Escamilla this Saturday at 4PM for a special Facebook Live.

Sermon Audio

Listen to the full sermon from here:

[This binding, unbinding love](#)



Memorial Gifts

General Memorial Fund

In memory of Dr. Tom Romo,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

In memory of Larry Thompson Sr.,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

In memory of Henry Birdwell,
given by Drew & Jay Sweet.

In memory of Larry Thompson Sr.,
given by John & Kelly Rainey.

In memory of Henry Birdwell,
given by Nancy & Richard Dugger.

In memory of Larry Thompson Sr.,
given by Nancy & Richard Dugger.

In memory of Larry Thompson Jr.,
given by Nancy & Richard Dugger.

In memory of Beverly & Reeves Smith,
given by Al & Mary Philip.

In memory of Beverly Smith,
given by Ann & Scott Horn.

Roof Fund

In memory of Charles Kerner,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

In memory of Dr. Reeves Smith,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Interiors/Furnishings Fund

In memory of Mrs. Beverly Smith,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Rev. Mal Hierholzer,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Church Mice

In memory of Truman Smith,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Church Under the Bridge

In memory of Diane Boehme,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Altar Guild

In memory of Henry Birdwell,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Missions Fund

In memory of Lydia Powell,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Choir Robe Fund

In memory of Dinah Tanner,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

In memory of Chad Ferguson,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

In memory of Martha Hamil,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Baskett Property Maintenance Fund

In memory of Beverly & Reeves Smith,
given by Paul & Trudy Kinnison.

Stephen Ministry Fund

In memory of John Evans,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

Bus Ministry Fund

In memory of Ann Schulze,
given by Janice & Wendell Davis.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Bob and Mary Best (Tom Kurtz), Ellen Evans, Vicki Ferguson, Concha Garces (Teresa Garces), Jerry Geerdes, Estelle Hogan, Larry Howard, Mary Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth, Lucian Manchester, Jane Manning, Julie Mazel, Sandra Ojeda Medina, Noe Medina, Ken Minter (Thomas Sanders), Tom Morton, May O'Neal, Dean Pearson, Doug Semmes, Kat Shapiro (Juanita Souder), Bonnie Surber, Nora Winkler

Those Who Mourn: The Family of Henrietta Hopper on her passing; Cindy Birdwell and family on the passing of her brother, Larry Thompson, Jr.; Ann Wheeler on the passing of her brother, Winn Alley; Alfonso on the passing of his wife (John David Griffin)

God's Presence: All friends and families of Laurel Heights (Melissa Nardi), Brent Key and daughter, McKenna (Sarah Groff-Bodner), 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 or calling (210) 733-7156.

Giving to Laurel Heights

Online Gifts:

Please visit our website,
www.laurelheights.org/donate

Text-to-Give:

Please text "LHUMC" to 73256.

For illustrated, step-by-step online and text giving instructions, click [here](#).

Give By Check:

Please mail to LHUMC,
attn: Bookkeeper,
227 W. Woodlawn Ave.,
San Antonio, TX, 78212.

Content Generator

With a weekly publication of The Messenger, please submit any content for print by 5 p.m. each Friday. Submissions can be sent to aubrey@mylhumc.org.

Contact Us

To reach the office staff by phone, please call (210) 733-7156. For an appointment with our Yvonne Garcia, RN, our Wesley Nurse, please call (210) 272-7921.

For a full list of staff email address, please visit our website: www.laurelheights.org