The Messenger

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My "Yes" Moments in this "No" Season

Jane Manning, Laurel Heights member

Jane Manning, and husband, Rusty. Members of Laurel Heights UMC.

Hello church friends,
My name is Jane Manning and I have been a parishioner at Laurel Heights for a little over two years. I am a real estate agent who helps companies place their new hires in rentals communities throughout the city. I love to volunteer with different organizations. Dress for Success is one of my favorites. I thrive by meeting new people, helping people and being around people.

My father passed away suddenly when I was 10 years old and life as I knew it was never going to be the same. My mother was an only child and my father had one sibling, a brother; my Uncle Bob. He worked so hard in trying to comfort his parents, who were devastated at losing a child, my mother, who had never balanced a checkbook, and us kids, who needed and wanted some kind of father figure. He and my mother never got along and hence I didn't grow up with his kids or see my uncle but about once or twice a year. I yearned for cousins and to know my father's side of the family .

In 2011 I had a reunion at my house with my Uncle Bob and his family. One of his children came with his wife and some of my distant cousins. We had a grand time, lots of great food, laughing, and all saying we were going to do this every year; my cousin was going to have it. Well, one year turned into two years and I knew we were all busy. Then, my cousin's son got married in 2015. Lots of beautiful pictures of beautiful people all over Facebook. My dad's kids were the only family not invited. I remember driving home from work maybe about 3 months after the wedding and I just cried and could not understand. Was I not good enough? Was it because I had a gay son? After that I had no contact with Uncle Bob. My sister would call and visit with him, but not me. I was very resentful and my sister would say, "They asked about you." Uncle Bob did not know why I wanted nothing to do with him.

Now it is 2020 and COVID-19 keeps us at home. I've got lots of time to think about my life and the people who mean so much to me and I sat reconnecting with old friends and family. My sister and I are getting closer. I'm feeling more reflective, not just on the go. My sister called me one day and said, "Uncle Bob has cancer," and I said, "Why didn't I know?" She said, "He doesn't even know *you've* had cancer. Remember you told me not to tell him."

I immediately called my uncle and we were able to talk about our perceived differences and to understand each other and settle feelings of being left out of family gatherings and we talked and talked and cried for all the lost time. We promised we would call each other every Sunday after worship. I felt God so much during all of this, and this is my "Yes" during these "No" times: Don't ever let things go unsaid. Knowing that I want to live without perceived differences in my relationships and always be open and working to improve. Leave nothing unsaid.

I'm missing personal contact and gatherings at church. I'm trying to be more computer savvy. I know we will all get through this time in our lives and come back together stronger and more eager to serve our wonderful Lord .

Blessings,
Jane Manning

Grace Notes & Possibilities: A Time of Congregational Sharing

We invite you to attend one of the five remaining 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:

Thursday, August 6th @ 7PM

Saturday, August 8th @ 10AM

Monday, August 10th @ 8PM

Tuesday, August 11th @ 7PM

Friday, August 14th @ 10AM

Email ejackson@mylhumc.org, put **GNP ZOOM** in the subject line and tell Elizabeth which Zoom gathering you plan to attend.

In addition to the Zoom gatherings, you are also invited to share your expressions with us on Facebook and Instagram. We will post a question each day in August for you to share pictures of what it means to picture loss, picture grace, and picture possibilities for our world and the church. Tag your pictures #LHGraceNotes to see them as a collection.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Current Level: Red

- Sunday worship and other gatherings will continue in online formats only.
- 12 step programs may continue at our discretion.
- The LHUMC Wednesday dinner is suspended until further notice.

We will review the current status weekly and update the congregation on Wednesdays. For a link to the full document for evaluating local COVID-19 activity to make decisions about congregational activities at Laurel Heights, please click here.

URGENT AND NECESSARY

A PLEA from the Interfaith Welcome Coalition

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." *Matthew 25:35*

Federal Judge Dolly Gee has ruled that children can no longer be held in U.S. immigration detention centers that have outbreaks of COVID-19. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is now releasing children with their families from the centers in Dilley and Karnes City. The families coming to San Antonio will be in quarantine for 14 days. Our compassionate city will provide housing, but volunteers are needed to help with the following ***NO CONTACT tasks***:

1. ***On-site volunteers***: text 210-325-6690, Moon Brand.
2. ***Food and Supplies***: dawnsilvius@gmail.com.
3. ***Laundry***: text (210) 325-6690, Moon Brand.

PLUS, there is ***need for an ON-SITE MANAGER***, a PAID position. Text Matt Neal at (210) 643-8326 . Families from Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, and Central America are among those sheltered in San Antonio.

Looking For Jesus: Revisited

Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care

After my article last week, "*Looking for Jesus*," I found myself dealing with regret and second-guesses. I think this is because my thoughts, when I saw them in print, seemed so out of context. There was a process of development that I suddenly realized I had not shared. But, after helpful comments from one of you, and realizing that these thoughts are prelude for more, I decided to revisit and to share what led to last week's thoughts.

Before Lent began, I asked Paul if there was something which would be helpful for me to work on, that could be presented and shared in a small group. He suggested the resurrection. So I started to work. Then COVID-19 happened and thoughts of presenting and sharing went away. But, I became intrigued with how the disciples moved with the human Jesus toward crucifixion, what happened to them during and after the crucifixion, and then the resurrection, followed by appearances, commissioning, ascension, then by the full presence of the risen Lord and the movement of the Spirit in the lives of the apostles and Christians in the earliest Christian communities.

I wondered how the human Jesus influenced people in such a way that they transformed into who they became in the book of Acts. Again and again, however, I found knowledgable people saying that Christianity emerged from the resurrection. Of course, the question of, and search for, the historical Jesus has a history. But, I am convinced that the resurrection is the key which makes us who we are. Awareness of the resurrection shaped everything in the consciousness of the early Christians, even the Jesus we meet in the gospels. So, when I become a disciple of Jesus Christ, I am following and learning from the risen Lord. More on this next week.

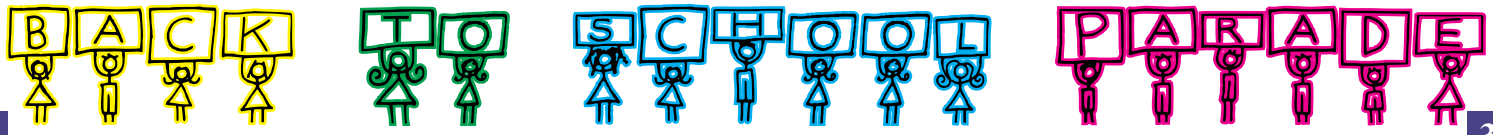
Celebration of Sanctuary Rehabilitation

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 this month the project is officially completed!

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

Back to School Drive Thru Parade!
Saturday, August 15th from 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Join us as we celebrate new beginnings and a new school year!
Drive through the Woodlawn parking lot (enter from Mistletoe)
and say hello to Ms. Laura and Pastor Paul!
We will have a bag of goodies for each child including a blessed backpack tag.
Start the new school year with a smile and a wave and a blessing!



United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Laurel Heights
United Methodist Women

by Karon O'Ferrall

To view the Laurel Heights UMW Newsletter, click here.

WHO ARE WE . . . The United Methodist Women of Laurel Heights is part of a world-wide organization of women who are turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world and in San Antonio. UMW at Laurel Heights is a community of women whose purpose is to know God, support one another and be in mission both locally and globally.

There has been a unit of UMW at Laurel Heights for many, many years. We have been involved in local missions such as Wesley Community Centers, Campus Ministry, Haven for Hope, Christian Assistance Ministry and other ministries too numerous to mention. We have supported UMCOR by providing flood buckets, hygiene kits and monies to support the center in Louisiana. We have supported projects that provide clothing for children in Africa and supported two of our members on a mission trip to Zimbabwe by providing sewing suppliles, hygiene kits and monies for the trip. The UMW at Laurel Heights is a very active, mission-oriented, supportive community of women. This is only a snapshot of the UMW at Laurel Heights. We are ever growing, ever loving and always open to new members.

WHAT DO WE DO AT LAUREL HEIGHTS . . . The United Methodist Women at Laurel Heights have a bake sale right before Thanksgiving each year. The proceeds from the bake sale go to support many mission projects.

Each year for the past 10 years the UMW has organized and provided Lenten Lunches. Every Tuesday in Lent, we serve soup and cornbread to members of the congregation and the community. We have a short devotional with each meal. This is a gift from the UMW and is free to those who attend. Other members of the congregation also bring soup sometimes. It is a great time for fellowship with others on our spiritual journey through Lent.

The Mary Blackford Scholarship Fund is another program supported by the UMW. This fund was established in 1981 through a gift from Mary Blackford. Ms. Blackford was a member of Laurel Heights UMC and the UMW. She was a missionary to China and Malaya for 41 years. Her gift and the generous donations from others for the past 40 years has enabled the Fund to support dozens of high school graduates and women in transition to further their education.

Karon O'Ferrall is pleased to announce that the Scholarship Committee has awarded six grants to aid students returning to their university studies this fall. The recipients are:

Ashley Beuhler, Sadie Cavazos, David Feagins, Victor Feagins, Abby Sanders, and Josh Sanders.

The UMW is proud of all the recipients and wish the best for them in the fall.

Liz Escamilla is collecting masks again.

E-mail elescamilla96@gmail.com if you are interested.

Laurel Heights Online

Sunday Worship Live-stream @ 8:30 a.m.

Following the live-stream, the service will be reviewed, repaired, and replaced to ensure a satisfactory viewing experience. The repaired service will be available for sharing and viewing on Vimeo, Facebook, and our website.

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will continue to be posted to Vimeo, Facebook, and our website Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School classes meet by Zoom. Call (210) 733-7156 to find out more!

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

Though scattered, we are gathered in prayer in the name of the One from whose love and belonging nothing can separate us.
Today (8/5) 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**

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 85:8-13.

Birthday Blessings
August 5-12

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

8/11
Sydney Davis
Drew Jackson
Sandra Ojeda-Medina
Charlotte Parsley

8/12
Abigail Sanders
Breanna Swientek
Reanna Swientek
Geoffrey Waite

Sermon Audio

Listen to the full sermon from here:
Communion in our hands

LAUREL HEIGHTSUMC

zoom

www.laurelheights.org *Facebook.com* *Vimeo.com*

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

REALM CONNECT
To Belong!

More videos to come!

Create Your Account

Manage Passwords, Payments, and Notifications

Edit Your Profile and Privacy Settings

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church
Finance Committee Update
Y-T-D 2020

Budget Receipts:	July	Y-T-D
Contributions Received	$53,588.34	$438,168.10
Other Receipts	$7,442.80	$55,673.47
Total Budget Receipts:	$61,031.14	$493,841.57
Budget Expenses:	$72,344.99	$505,228.51
Ahead (Behind):	-$11,313.85	-$11,386.94
PPP Loan Proceeds	$0.00	$101,074.93
Trustee Loan		$75,000.00
Paid 1/1/19		($20,000.00)
Balance Due:		$55,000.00

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Glynn (*nephew of Jill Caldwell*), Diane Halim, Larry Howard, Mary Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth, Annalynn Jackson, Lucian Manchester, Jane Manning, Sandra Ojeda-Medina, May O'Neal, Gloria Pittman (*Liz Escamilla*), Doug Semmes, Charlie Watt (*John David Griffin*), Debbie Regaldo and children, Javian and Malorie.

Those Who Mourn: Deb Spading on the loss of her father, Charles Dunford. Family of James Gardner on his passing (*Tony Arredondo*).

God's Presence: All teachers returning to school, Jeanne Coder, Ruth and Bobby Garcia, 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.

Memorial Gift
General Memorial Fund
In memory of Henry Birdwell, given by Jim Wynn.

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