



The Messenger

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Grace notes and possibilities

Rev. Paul L. Escamilla, Senior Pastor

As we arrive at midsummer I'm reminded of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, from which comes an aphorism for the ages that definitely applies to this particular summer—and spring, and probably autumn: "The course of true love never did run smooth."

We can all agree that this year the course of love has not run smooth. We have, due to a viral pandemic, experienced detours, rough patches, storms, disturbance, and turbulence. Many of us have known job loss, income reductions, school closures, and other sorts of family pressures. Some have felt loneliness, anxiety, irritation, or depression. Some of us have experienced illness first-hand, and the loss of loved ones. Collectively we have shared the grief of a community, and of a nation, as we have mourned the loss of more than a hundred thousand Americans to the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, many voices of conscience have sounded a clarion call for greater equity and inclusion to our society. The course of love has not run smooth this year.



And yet . . . what a season of signs and wonders this has been for the Laurel Heights community. We have seen grace dancing in myriad ways, even as we've felt the sadness of our displacement and separation from each other, and the strain of social unrest. A prayer wall, the pealing of the tower bells, a telephone care matrix, a letter-writing ministry, hand-made mask production for church members, neighborhood friends, and the city of San Antonio, a wi-fi hotspot for the community, meals for Church Under the Bridge, new anti-racism resources for study and sharing, and on and on. Grace notes, we might say, in the score of a slow and somber—and for now unsingable—tune.

What have been your grace notes this year, your "yeses" in this "no" season? Where has "manna" been revealed during our wilderness wandering? How have you experienced God working in your life, and in the Laurel Heights church family, in these difficult times? And what hopes, dreams, and possibilities have emerged in the wilderness for what might be next for the church? August invites us to share our stories, our experiences, our learnings, our visions in a series of Zoom conversations and an online/mail-in survey. Rachel Goeres will be organizing and hosting these conversations, assisted by Rev. Wyndee Holbrook, a San Antonio pastor with experience in facilitating such gatherings. We are calling this exploration "Grace notes and possibilities," suggesting that the grace notes we've experienced may suggest possibilities for being the church in new expressions both now and in the future.

"Hymn of Promise" expresses our wilderness faith in two powerful phrases: "In our end is our beginning . . ." and "In our death, a resurrection—what it holds, a mystery . . ." Thanks be to God, who even in unsmooth courses reveals grace notes and possibilities.

Grace and peace.

Coming in August:

Grace Notes and Possibilities: A Time of Congregational Sharing

Realm Connect is Coming to Laurel Heights



The staff at Laurel Heights has implemented a new administrative software called *Realm Connect* to help run the daily operations of our church.

Now, it's time to share it with you.

Realm Connect allows church members to view church news & upcoming events, share contact information with other members, and manage their giving.

Realm Connect will be accessible on any PC, tablet, or smartphone.

Realm Connect will replace the paper church directory that's been distributed in the past. However, paper copies of a non-pictorial Laurel Heights Member roster will still be available for members who request one.

Please respond to the email or letter you should have received last week asking for permission to share your contact information with others.

Susie Guven will host a Realm Connect tutorial on Zoom on Tuesday, July 28th at 3 p.m.

Option #1

Click on this link

<https://zoom.us/j/95065176150>

Option #2

Use the Zoom app,
click Join Meeting and enter the
Meeting ID: 950 6517 6150

Option #3

Call this number (346) 248-7799,
and when prompted enter the
Meeting ID: 950 6517 6150

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](#).

Liz Escamilla is collecting masks again.
E-mail elcamilla96@gmail.com if you are interested.

COVERED WITH COMPASSION



All people 10 years or older must continue to wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place.

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.

**DONATIONS
EVERY
THURSDAY**
1 PM - 3 PM

DROP OFF POINT



TriPoint

3233 N. St. Mary's St., 78212



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT



For more information, call the COVID-19 Hotline: 210-207-5779

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 (7/22) from 6:30-7:00 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 Prayer Gathering:

Option 1:

Click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/130214408>

Option 2:

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

Holy Communion by Zoom

As a way of seeking to restore a sacramental dimension to our worship life we will be hosting a virtual service of Holy Communion the evening of Sunday, August 2nd.

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

Sermon Audio

Listen to the full sermon from Rev. Paul Escamilla here:

[Longing](#)



Project Transformation

July 2020 Mission of the Month

SIGN UP TO BE A
PT PEN PAL!

VOLUNTEER TO BE A
VIRTUAL READING BUDDY!



Click [here](#) to experience #PTAtHome Summer Fun with virtual field trips, weekly chapel, and wholesome activities for each age group!

¡Haga clic [aquí](#) para experimentar #PTAtHome con excursiones virtuales, capilla semanal y actividades saludables para cada grupo de edad!

Summer in the Story

Remember to tune in this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for a very special, and the final Summer Sunday School featuring the children of LHUMC telling the story of Joseph!

laurelheights.org/online
facebook.com/laurelheightsumc

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 105:1-11, 45b.

*O give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name, make
known his deeds among the
peoples.*

Psalm 105:1

Birthday Blessings July 24-31

7/24
James Moss
Enzo Marrone

7/25
Chris Heinrichs
Annalynn Jackson
Larry Thompson
Laurel Welch
Carly Bailey

7/26
Cece Adams
Brianna Gonzales



7/28
David Barron
Kent Ratliff

7/29
Erika Madrigal

7/30
Joshua Hudson
Maggie Mayer-Oakes
Camille Ratliff

7/31
Marley Wilkens

C.A.M. Call to Action Back to School 2020

Please join us in preparing 250 children for a year of learning! We are seeking "adopters" to purchase an appropriate backpack and school supplies from each child's school list. Sign up today!!!

[LOS DERECHOS
DE INMIGRANTES](#)

[IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS](#)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

Those Who Mourn: Cindy Birdwell on the passing of her brother, Larry Thompson Jr., Alfonzo on the passing of his wife (*John David Griffin*), the families of the policemen killed in a motorcycle wreck.

God's Presence: All friends and families of Laurel Heights (*Melissa Nardi*), Brent Key and his 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.

Memorial Gifts

General Memorial Fund
In memory of Larry Thompson Sr., given by Theresa Ponce Rankin and Phil Ponce.

In memory of Larry Thompson Sr., given by Jimmy Queeney and Nancy Garrett

Sanctuary Restoration
In memory of Beverly Smith, given by The Fenwick Club of San Antonio.

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