



The Messenger

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Grace Notes and Possibilities: Onward

*Ashley Landers, Chair of Evangelism
member, COVID-19 Response Team*



Many of you have already responded to the Grace Notes and Possibilities survey that was sent out recently. I wanted to share with you what I wrote as the possibilities I see for Laurel Heights moving forward. While I'll be the first to admit I need to see your faces. My kids need your hugs and encouraging words. Your laughter and smiles and welcome on a Sunday morning. In the Sanctuary, around a circle for Godly Play, or (my kids favorite part) eating snacks during fellowship time! I want to share the daily joys of them growing up with each of you. I want them to know that this church loves them, that their family is so much bigger than just who is inside of our home. Because that is what Laurel Heights is. It's you. Our resiliency is the people that come together in community to make disciples of Jesus Christ. That's what Laurel Heights has been for over a hundred years, and what it will be long after Covid, and long after each of us.

I had a chance to hear Bishop Schnase speak about two months ago. Per usual he was eloquent and assuring. He called the times we are in an "extraordinary disruption." But he shared those words through a lens of hope, saying if you look at how the church was able to change and grow throughout history, it was often in times of extraordinary disruption.

That's exactly what my hope is for Laurel Heights as we look ahead – growth. In particular, growing the physical symbols of God's presence outside of our church walls. In this season of loss, that has been my win.

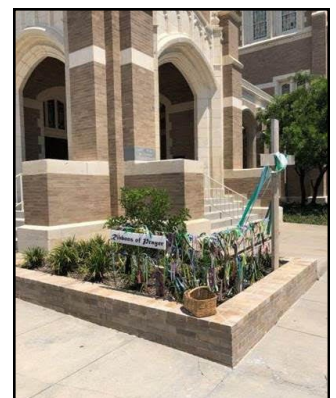
I love the ribbon prayer wall, I love the bells ringing every Sunday, and most recently, I love the signs that are out along Woodlawn promoting free WiFi access from the parking lot for neighborhood families struggling to choose between paying rent and keeping their kids in virtual school.

Church, we are the body of Christ, doing all the good we can, in all the places we can. When our bodies can't physically be together to do God's work, thank you for the symbols outside of our walls to remind everyone His grace and love prevail.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." -John Wesley



Free WiFi in the Woodlawn parking lot.



Ribbon prayer wall on the corner of Woodlawn and Belknap.

THE INVITATION

Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care

Jesus taught, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." (Matthew 7:24-25)

Some might say that this foundation is *archetypal*. It emerges into life from God as a transforming source of energy which redemptively unlocks the depths of the self and frees the self for new life. This is what Jesus did and does. He lifts the daily and the mundane into the Kingdom of God; he takes our finite lives into the forward, eternal movement of God's future; and his presence makes it possible to live through the most difficult of times. This is the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, and his work through the Holy Spirit. This is the dimension of meaning that God sees, and that we are given an opportunity to see and to live.

For Albert Schweitzer, "Jesus means something to our world because a mighty spiritual force streams forth from Him and flows through our time also. This fact can neither be shaken nor confirmed by any historical discovery. It is the solid foundation of Christianity."

Schweitzer ends *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* with this invitation: "He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside. He came to those men who knew him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is."



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

August 28-September 2

8/28

Chloe Frame
Lyle Lindquist
Nancy Dugger
Mary Frakes
Letty Jones
Sarah Darnell Stain

8/29

Terry Mergele

9/1

Nicholas Rodriguez

9/2

Shirley Carter
Victoria Hartson



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Dan, Mark and Lynn Dunn (*Jance and Bert Clayton*), Vicki Ferguson, Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Gina, and Mark, (*Sue Hall's nephew and his wife*), Larry Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth, Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, Jane Manning, Sandra Ojeda Medina, May O'Neal, Paul (*friend of Frank Healy*), Louise Rawlings, Donna Semmes, Doug Semmes, Stephanie (*niece of Dale Dorsey*),

Those Who Mourn: Family of William Coker, who died August 16; Byrd Bonner and family on the loss of his mother, Lou Jane Bonner; Danilea Kuylas on the loss of her brother.

God's Presence: Families, teachers, Sunday School teachers, Weekday School teachers, school custodians and administrators as they return to school, 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.

LIMITED IN-PERSON GATHERINGS TO RESUME

Laurel Heights will host two gatherings for up to ten people each in the coming week. One is a meditative setting in the sanctuary; the other is a sharing circle in the Parlor. *Reservations will be required.*

Reservations: Call 210-733-7156

Evening Prayer

Thursday, August 27

5 PM

Sanctuary

A Circle of Sharing

Sunday, August 30

5 PM

Parlor



Waiting lists will carry over to similar events in the following week. *Masks and physical distancing are standard for these events.*

Similar services are planned for the following week, contingent upon the continuation of favorable community metrics.

Again, a reservation is required for each of these gatherings.

Please check the church website and Facebook page in the coming days for further information.

Memorial Gifts

General Memorial Fund

In memory of
Lydia Powell
given by Dave and Joann Goeres

In memory of Beverly Smith
given by Joan Woodley

General Memorial Fund

In memory of
Henry Birdwell
given by Cash and Lou Beth Birdwell

In memory of Henry Birdwell
given by Bud and Mary Jane Morgan

A Study on Race and the Church

‘We Are the Church Together: Racial Justice in the Church’ will examine the stages and ways that the Methodist Movement has been faced with issues of race— sometimes impressively and sometimes not. We will navigate together schisms in the Church over race and examine ways that racism has caused stress in the Body of Christ and created opportunities for proclaiming justice. We will look at tears in the fabric of our denomination and annual conference. We will look into the mirror at our own congregation and finally into our own hearts. Don’t come expecting a ‘feel good’ experience but come expecting to be changed!



This study will be led by our own Byrd Bonner and held via Zoom on 4 subsequent Sunday evenings at 7pm beginning on September 6.

For more information, please contact Laura Healy @ lhealy@mylhumc.org

Drive-Through Super Adults! Thursday, August 27 from 9:00 - 11:30 AM



We are inviting everyone to drive through the Woodlawn Parking Lot and wave to Henry and Susan Holloway and the pastor, Paul Escamilla.

You may drop off grocery items which will be donated to Christ Episcopal for their Sidewalk Saturday event that distributes food for families in need.

Needed items: canned corn, green beans, soup, peanut butter and dry cereal. You can also make a monetary donation for purchase of items.

We will put books from the Super Adults library out on carts and you can get out of your car—one at a time—and find a book you would like to check out.

Wear your mask! Wave at your friends!
And collect a special gift.

Drive down Mistletoe and turn into the church parking lot.
Drive through to the Woodlawn Parking Lot.

Super Adults Book Discussion

Via Zoom

Monday, August 31

at 10 am

“A Bell for Adano”

by John Hersey

Call the church office to have the Zoom link emailed to you or call Susan Holloway for more details.





**UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN**

Faith • Hope • Love in Action



**White Ribbons for Gloria Sparkman
and Diane Boehme**

Wednesday, August 26, 2020, is the date that the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified in the United States. Methodist Women played an important part in the fight for equal voting rights for all. In 1904, Frances Willard, president of the Women’s Temperance Union, and Anne Howard Shaw, president of the National American Woman’s Suffrage Association, both Methodist women, led their followers forward to seek the right to vote.

Join the United Methodist Women of Laurel Heights UMC as we honor two of our dear departed members, Gloria Sparkman and Diane Boehme, both known for their love and care of others and their commitment to equal rights for all, by placing a white prayer ribbon on the LHUMC prayer wall, located at the corner of Woodlawn and Belknap. Place a ribbon on the prayer wall, commemorate the Nineteenth Amendment, and thank God for the lives of Gloria and Diane.

Monthly Service Opportunities

**Church Under the Bridge 3:00 pm
1st Thursday each month**



Members of the Body of Christ, even though a hands on service event is, for the present, not possible, we gather spiritually with hearts and minds to share God’s love.

CUB, (Church under the Bridge), an ongoing mission of LHUMC, serves 200 people daily at the feeding ministry located on Chestnut Street, San Antonio. LHUMC supports the ministry monthly by providing sandwiches, individually wrapped desserts, snacks and fresh fruit. Fruits most requested are bananas, tangerines, oranges, and other soft fruit such as grapes, peaches and plums.

The Church Mice provide sandwiches. You are invited to join the service by providing any donations mentioned above.. The donations are accepted by Julie Mazel in the Woodlawn parking lot by 3:00pm then delivered to CUB on Chestnut Street.

The next opportunity is Thursday September 3rd.

Thank you for your generous support of prayers, gifts and witness.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS TO SHARE WORSHIP WITH
ST. PAUL’S UMC HOUSTON ON SEPTEMBER 6**

On Sunday, September 6th, Laurel Heights will participate virtually in the online worship service hosted by St. Paul’s United Methodist Church Houston. St. Paul’s, a congregation with a worship liturgy similar to Laurel Heights, has graciously offered to welcome us to worship with their congregation. The partnership will provide the Laurel Heights worship team with a free Sunday following 24 consecutive weeks of transmitting online worship. Rev. Jeff Davidson, senior pastor of St. Paul’s, is pleased to welcome us to share in worship with the St. Paul’s worshipping community.

Wednesday Prayer Service

Though scattered, we are gathered in prayer in the name of the One from whose love nothing can separate us.
Today (8/19) 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 service:

Option 1:

Click on this link: <https://www.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

CONTACT US
Main 210.733.7156
Weekday School 210.732.6979

Clergy

Rev. Paul L. Escamilla, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. Tanya Campen, Deacon in Residence
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Laurie Miracle, Weekday School Director (210) 732-6979

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Aubrey Reichman, Communications Coordinator

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

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

CONTENT GENERATOR

The Messenger is 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 ejackson@mylhumc.org



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) 974-1834 to find out more!



FAREWELL PLANNED FOR LOUISE DUDLEY

After 23 years as the Laurel Heights UMC bookkeeper Louise Dudley will retire at the beginning of September. We will celebrate her tenure and express our deep appreciation with a love offering and other gifts. If you wish to participate in that offering, direct your gift online or by check with "Louise Dudley love offering" in the memo line. In the worship service on September 13, we will present Louise with a special gift.



Did you receive an email from Laurel Heights asking for your approval to share your contact information with others?

If not, please call Elizabeth at 210-733-7156.

Realm Connect is Here!

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 the church directory will still be available for members who request one.