



# The Messenger

September 2, 2020  
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## **Grace Notes and Possibilities: Onward!**

Rev. Paul L. Escamilla



We have spent the month of August in holy conversations through a process we've called Grace Notes and Possibilities. The initiative invited us to share through Zoom, survey, pictures, and testimonials our experiences of life and life together in the midst of a pandemic. We have certainly shared many dimensions of lament and loss in these conversations. But comingled with our grief have been many expressions of gratitude, joy, opportunities to serve, and the deepening of faith. There have been tears and laughter, sadness and smiles, heartache and hopefulness. In all of it, we have shared with one another deeply and personally, and in so doing, have drawn closer to God and to one another, and more aware of how dearly we hold the world in our hearts. A conversation about grace has become an experience of grace.

Among our subjects for sharing, we have explored possibilities for how we might see the church, be the church, *imagine* the church in different ways while we're physically separated, and once we're together again. We've envisioned possibilities for different pathways of discipleship, new ways to worship, fresh expressions of community. This, exercise, too, has been a very rewarding exercise—and often quite intriguing as well.

As we complete our August and our emphasis on Grace Notes and Possibilities, know that this is not the end of these holy conversations. Our responses, shared in Zoom sessions or on Facebook or in the survey, will be carefully considered, synthesized, and shared with the congregation in the coming weeks as we continue to discern how we will move forward co-COVID and beyond.

In a video reflection about where we go from here, Tanya Campen shared her hopes and dreams for the future at Laurel Heights, that we might discover “new ways to connect, and to be in relationship with God and one another.” And with a hopeful lilt in her voice, she expressed her hope that we pay attention to . . . “what God is calling us to do *next!*” Amen!

Grace and peace.

*Paul*

*Grace Notes and Possibilities*



Click the link below to view the video reflections from Grace Notes and Possibilities

<https://www.laurelheights.org/gnp/>

## HOWARD THURMAN: MYSTIC, POET, PROPHET, VISIONARY

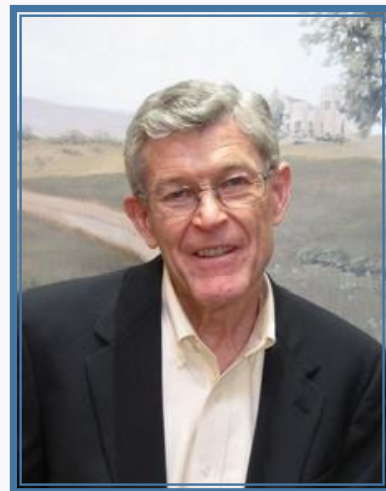
Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



Our senior pastor, Paul Escamilla, shares these words with us each year as we make the transition from Christmas to Epiphany. The person who wrote them, Howard Thurman, is worth knowing.

*Howard Thurman: The Mystic as Prophet*, was written by Luther E. Smith, Jr., Professor of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. Smith is a professor, author, and Senior Consulting Editor for the Howard Thurman Papers Project. The book uses biographical data as it relates to the content of Thurman's thought. The following words are found in the Preface to the First Edition (there have been at least three editions):

"Study a prophet and you study his people. The prophet's significance is the result of his relationship with his community. His message, shaped by history and destiny, seeks to restore the community's sense of identity and purpose. The more we know about the prophet, the more we know about his people.....In discovering more about Howard Thurman, we should know more about ourselves."

Next week, we will begin a series on *Jesus and the Disinherited* written by Howard Thurman. I believe we will learn about Jesus, Howard Thurman, his people, and about ourselves. It is a timely read for this time in which we live. We will discover in Thurman both a mystic, and a prophet.....and much 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.



## Sacred Space

Are you missing being in the sanctuary?

It will be open for a time of quiet prayer and meditation in a come-and-go format.

**Thursday, September 3 from 5 pm to 6pm**

## FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Are you missing the fellowship of your church community?

Come for a time of prayer & sharing in the parlor.

**Thursday, September 3 from 11 am to Noon**

**Sunday, September 6 from 5 pm to 6 pm**



**Social distance, Masks and Reservations required.  
Reserve your spot by calling 210-733-7156**

### Holy Communion by Zoom Sunday, September 6 at 4:00 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.

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



**General Memorial Fund**  
In memory of  
William Coker  
given by Stephen and Jackie Morris

## Memorial Gifts

**General Memorial Fund**  
In memory of  
William Coker  
given by Pam and Terry Brickerton

In memory of William Coker  
given by June Eubank

In memory of Reeves and Beverly Smith  
given by Jane Cheever

## 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 Byrd Bonner and held via Zoom on four subsequent Sunday evenings at 7pm beginning on September 6.

For more information, please contact Laura Healy @ [lhealy@mylhumc.org](mailto:lhealy@mylhumc.org)

### Free WiFi in the Woodlawn parking Lot

Have you noticed the signs along the Woodlawn parking lot? The Evangelism committee is publicizing the WiFi hotspot in our parking lot to our wider community.

The WiFi is set up to cover the Woodlawn parking lot and extends all the way from Woodlawn to Mistletoe .

A password, is not required. When connected to your device, it will take you to a page where it prompts you to push a button to connect. The hours of operation are 6 am to 10 pm.



Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97107168193>

Meeting ID: 971 0716 8193

One tap mobile  
+13462487799,,97107168193# US  
(Houston)

Dial by your location  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
Meeting ID: 971 0716 8193

**Monthly Service Opportunities**  
**Church Under the Bridge 3:00 pm**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.**  
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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.



**MISSION OF THE MONTH—Habitat for Humanity**

We have an opportunity to help Habitat for Humanity build a house on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. from 7:45am to 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. We can have up to 15 volunteers. All skill levels are welcome, transportation will not be provided by the church. If you would like to participate please call or email Jane Manning at 210-859-1639, janem@aptreloctr.com. I will then provide you with all the details. Volunteering together provides a way for us to have fun together while pursuing a common goal, strengthening our community and empowering Habitat homeowners to build a better future for themselves. Please note, Habitat for Humanity leadership team is closely monitoring the Covid – 19 outbreak and the precautions governmental agencies are suggesting limiting the virus' spread. There is a list of precautions that I will be providing to each person who would like to participate.



Call Jane Manning at 210-859-1639 or email: janem@aptreloctr.com.

### Wednesday Prayer Service

Though scattered, we are gathered in prayer in the name of the One from whose love nothing can separate us.

September 2 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

### Information Session on Weekday School Pilot Class

Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm, the Laurel Heights congregation is invited to learn about a proposed pilot class being developed by the Laurel Heights Weekday School. The class of three special education students has just successfully completed a three-week trial run, using room 105 as its primary classroom. Come and learn more about proposed plans for continuing this class through the 2020-21 school year. The proposal has been approved by the Board of Trustees and will be considered by the Administrative Council next week. Use the Zoom link below to join the information session.

Pilot Class Information Session

Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99450007851?pwd=eXdsL1N3Qlpwc3Qrb29mMINHeGJvUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 5000 7851

Passcode: 650446

### 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.

You can offer 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.



# 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!

### BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

#### September 2—9

9/1  
Nicholas Rodriguez

9/2  
Shirley Carter  
Victoria Hartson

9/3  
Irene Ojeda

9/6  
Liz Escamilla

9/7  
Brenda Lee Stewart  
Eloise Guggolz  
Katie Lindquist

9/8  
Colleen Bailey

9/9  
Trudy Kinnison  
Max Hedgepeth  
Fara Carvalhinhos



### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Jeanne Coder, Mark and Lynn Dunn (*Jance and Bert Clayton*), Janie and John Ervin, Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Gina, and Mark, (*Sue Hall's nephew and his wife*), Larry Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth, Lucien Manchester, Jane Manning, Sandra Ojeda Medina, May O'Neal, Paul (*friend of Frank Healy*), Doug Semmes, Stephanie (*niece of Dale Dorsey*), Nora Winkler

**Those Who Mourn:** Byrd Bonner and family on the loss of his mother, Lou Jane Bonner; Carol Coker and family on the loss of her husband, William Coker

**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.

### LHUMC Realm tutorial with Susie Guvens

Tuesday, September 8 at 3 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99272527281?pwd=OXFocHRxMmV3V01SMTVCMytCT0ZnQT09>

Meeting ID: 992 7252 7281

Passcode: 795125



Needing help with our new church database? We are offering a zoom tutorial to teach you how to use Realm. There are also some videos on the church website to assist you. Please call Elizabeth at 210-733-7156 if you have any questions.

## HANDS on Mission Service



**WHO?** You, individuals, small family/friends groups

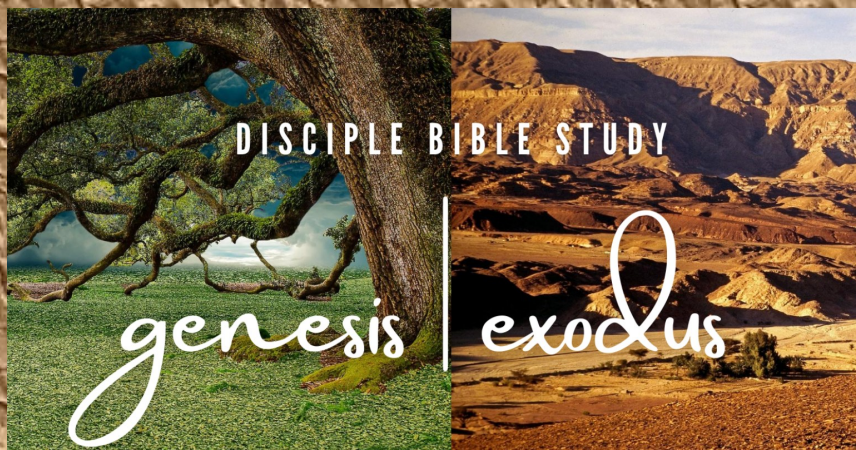
**WHAT?** Helping Hands work days to verify UMCOR Flood Bucket contents ready for delivery to Hurricane Laura survivors.

**WHERE?** Bishop Joel and Raquel Martinez Disaster open air warehouse, Kerrville, TX.

**WHEN?** 9:00 am Monday, September 14 to Saturday, September 19

Contact Judy Davis for additional details and to reserve a date for your mission work.

Judymdavis43@gmail.com      210-392-2282



**TUESDAYS**  
**7:00PM - 8:30PM**

via Zoom  
Sept 22 - Dec 15

Leaders: Tanya Campen & Katie  
Myers

Class Size is Limited.  
Registration & Additional Details:  
katiemyers@yahoo.com  
(210)587-5498