



# The Messenger

October 14, 2020  
Volume 44, Issue 37

*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## ***Giving Hope***

*Robert Rohlf, member of the Stewardship Committee*

When Meaghan and I transferred our membership to our first United Methodist congregation after we got married, we committed to faithfully participate in its ministries by “our Prayers, our Presence, our Gifts and our Service.” (“Our Witness” came to be added later for those checking my work.) This commitment was not limited to just one, but rather to all these acts.

In the early years it was easy to Pray, it was easy to be Present and it was easy to Serve. However as a young married couple it was also easy to justify not participating with our Gifts and come up with many excuses like...“someone with more income/money can do that”; “we are just two people in the congregation so why does it matter”; or “we are doing the other three, that is 75% right?” Fortunately, through prayer and discussions, Meaghan and I committed to tithing to the Church from the beginning. It was important to us that we fully commit to what we agreed to as members of the Church body.

I would be a liar if I told you we started at 15% or even at 10% of our income; however, we started. We recognized the importance to each other and to our collective and individual Faiths that we appreciate the gifts God has given to us, and give to the Church in a way that the Church can provide those gifts to others. It was not always easy, however we were confident in our hearts with every dollar that we gave that we were doing what we were called to do.

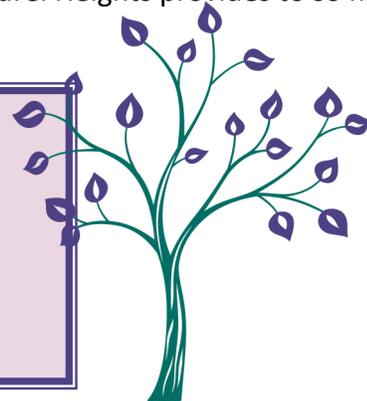
In Paul’s letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 9:7), Paul reminds us of not only the importance of giving, but also the importance of how we give. *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* It may not always be easy, however we must always give what is in our hearts to give.

Meaghan and I feel very fortunate to have called Laurel Heights our Church home for the past five years. When we give to Laurel Heights, we are giving to God’s body at work that provides hope to us and countless others through its ministries. I am very proud of the ministries of hope that Laurel Heights provides to so many, and thankful that our dollars can be used in such effective ways.

Hear Wesley’s story on giving through  
Laurel Heights United Methodist Church on Facebook at

[https://www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC/  
videos/664578184433638](https://www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC/videos/664578184433638)

**Giving Hope  
Financial Offering 2021**



***Giving Hope, Giving Financially: Practical Suggestions to Guide Our Giving***



This month we've been considering what it means to practice generosity in giving as a core dimension of our discipleship. On October 25<sup>th</sup> we'll be invited to offer financial commitments—estimates of giving—to the mission and ministry of the church in the coming year. For that purpose, I've created an FAQ that I hope will be helpful.

***How much should I give to Laurel Heights?*** Begin to answer that question by enumerating some of the things you appreciate most about your church. Then ask, "How can I best express my gratitude to God and others for the gift of being a part of the life and ministry of this congregation?"

***What defines a generous pledge?*** The Bible makes many references to a "tithe," or ten percent of one's earnings, as a giving standard, one many continue to find a useful goal or base line. Robert Rohlf's makes such a reference in his reflections above. Some work *toward* this mark, increasing their giving by a percentage or two over time; others work *from* it, gradually moving beyond a tithe in their giving practices. Listen for the Spirit's leading . . .

***How should I manage my personal finances in relation to my church giving?*** Giving to Laurel Heights should be part of a sustainable comprehensive household budget. Stretching beyond comfort or convenience to give to the church should not involve going into debt; it may instead mean forgoing certain other expenditures to make this commitment a priority. Strive toward the mark of King David: "I will not offer to God a sacrifice that costs me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24).

***What are the different ways I can make an offering or pledge?***

The church provides several options for making financial contributions: 1) Gifts of cash and checks can be placed in the offering plate on Sundays during worship, as well as mailed or hand-delivered to the church office; 2) Online giving at [laurelheights.org/donate](http://laurelheights.org/donate) allows you to set up a secure automatic draft (or make a one-time gift) from a debit or credit card; 3) Electronic funds transfers (EFT's) allow the church to securely draft a monthly amount from a bank checking account; 4) add a pledge in the giving section of the Realm app; 5) a text-to-give option allows for secure online contributions to be made with a smart phone (text LHUMC to 73256); 6) Transfers of stock, mutual funds, and other non-cash gifts are also options. You can contact our bookkeeper, Amy Caldwell, with further questions ([acaldwell@mylhumc.org](mailto:acaldwell@mylhumc.org) or 210-733-7156).

Laurel Heights has become an important part of Liz and my faith journeys, and many times I've heard the same about your own. The sharing of our lives—time, talents, and financial resources—is the best way I know for us to express our love for God and appreciation for a faith community that has meant so very much to us and to so many. May God guide each of us in the coming days in what I hope will be a prayerful and joyful time of discernment and spiritual discovery.

Grace and peace.

Paul Escamilla

Senior Pastor



Next Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> is our Consecration Sunday.

During in-person worship that morning we will offer these commitments of financial support for Laurel Heights. Before and after that service, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and again from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., we will have a drive-through opportunity for bringing commitment cards to the church without entering the building. All will receive a special gift from our local Panaderia Jimenez.

Whether in the sanctuary or the parking lot, we hope you'll plan to join in this celebration of hope!

## PAUL - ROMAN CITIZEN, JESUS - NOT A ROMAN CITIZEN

Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care

One of Howard Thurman's "chores" when he was growing up was to read to his grandmother Nancy, who could neither read nor write. As he read from the Bible, he noticed that she requested verses from the Gospels and the Psalms and Isaiah, but never from Paul's letters. When he asked about this, she said, "During the days of slavery, the master's minister would occasionally hold services for the slaves. Always the white minister used as his text something from Paul. At least three or four times a year he used as a text: 'Slaves, be obedient to them that are your masters..., as unto Christ.' Then he would go on to show how it was God's will that we were slaves and how, if we were good and happy slaves, God would bless us. I promised my Maker that if I ever learned to read and if freedom ever came, I would not read that part of the Bible." Thurman says, "Since that fateful day on the front porch in Florida, I have been working on the problem her words presented."



He presents the fruit of his search, and his insights, at the end of the first chapter of *Jesus and the Disinherited*, "Jesus--An Interpretation." His writing is carefully crafted and highly nuanced. Thurman wants it to be clear that he is presenting facts about Paul, and is not judging him. The truth of Paul is complex, and the context of his 1st century writing is different from 19th century America. The relation of Christians to these issues is also complex, since at times Christianity has been supportive of the oppressors rather than the oppressed. Thurman does not avoid this.

Simply stated, Thurman's insights were that **the apostle Paul** was a Roman citizen. "He was of a minority but with majority privileges." He had a sense of security which influenced his view of everything. **Jesus** was not a Roman citizen. "What stark insecurity!" "Unless one actually lives day by day without a sense of security, he cannot understand what worlds separated Jesus from Paul at this point." Thurman says this placed Jesus fully among the disinherited people of 1st century Palestine, and thus he is equally present among American Negroes and all persons who live with their back against the wall. In such an insecure setting, people need a message which gives them a sense of well-being. Jesus went deep. "The kingdom of God is within" (Luke 17:21). You are God's children. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor." (Luke 4:16-21).

Source: *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Thurman.

### LHUMC Scholarship Fund

In memory of  
Diane Boehme  
given by Cynthia Birdwell

In memory of Henry Birdwell III  
given by Cynthia Birdwell

In memory of R Larry Thompson Jr  
given by Cynthia Birdwell

In memory of R Larry Thompson Sr.  
given by Cynthia Birdwell

### General Memorial Fund

In memory of  
Fred Spading  
given by Tom Kurtz

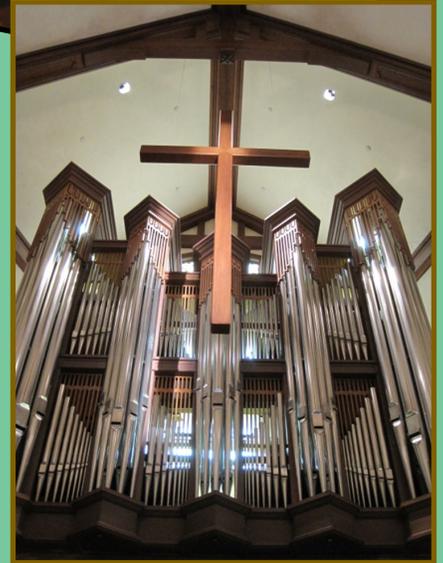
In memory of Gina Lewis  
given by Tom Kurtz

## Memorial Gifts

## Honorarium Gifts

### Music Fund

In honor of  
Bonnie Surber  
on her 99th birthday  
given by Jan Garverick



## You Are Invited !

We are worshipping in person in the Laurel Heights UMC sanctuary on Sunday, October 18 at 11:00 am. While we gather in person, others will share the worship experience online via a livestream broadcast on our website and our Facebook page.

To seat as many people as possible, we are requiring you to sign up in advance for the service. Please only reserve if you are certain you will attend.

To sign-up online visit <https://reopen.church/r/zB6FJ5Ki>  
If you cannot use the online reservation form or to cancel your reservation, email [ejackson@mylhumc.org](mailto:ejackson@mylhumc.org) or call 210-733-7156.



**Reserve**

**A**

**Place**

*Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our PRAYER*

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.

### Contact Us

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



[Www.LaurelHeights.org](http://www.LaurelHeights.org)

## Giving to Laurel Heights

**Online Gifts:** Please visit our website, , <https://www.laurelheights.org/give/>

**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.

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of  
Laurel Heights through this challenging season.  
Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

-The Finance Committee

### Wednesday Prayer Service

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

**October 14 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



### Mission of the Month

Magdalena House is a transitional neighborhood of homes in San Antonio that serves mothers and children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives by providing transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. We rescue the least and the lost, sharing hope for a new beginning.

**Magdalena House's Wish List:** The best and easiest in-kind donations are gift cards in low denominations (\$10) for Walmart and HEB. These gift cards allow us to meet specific resident needs and obtain objects as we have need and space. These can be mailed directly to Magdalena House at P.O. Box 692041, San Antonio, TX 78269.



**Thursday, October 29, 11 a.m.**

**Good News!! A Super Adult OktoberFest.**

Gather on the Woodlawn Parking Lot – wear your mask – after all it is nearly Halloween – practice Social Distancing – bring a chair or we will provide one and enjoy:

German Songs, Accordion Renditions, the Chicken Dance and Lunch.

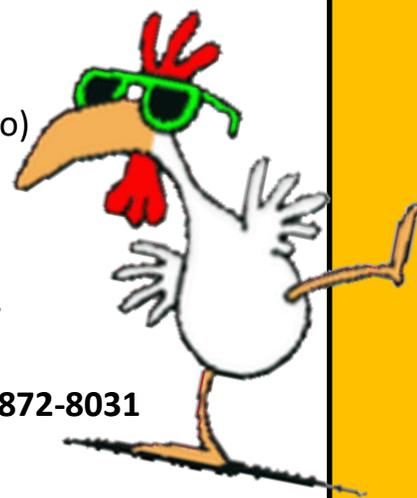
Wear your Alpine hat, dirndl, etc.

**Everyone is  
Welcome!**

On the menu is: Potato Salad  
Hot Dog OR Sausage on a Tortilla (Taco Polako)  
Sauerkraut OR Coleslaw  
Apple Strudel  
Cost: \$5.00

You can bring your own lunch if you prefer.

**Reservations are a must. Space is limited. Call 210-872-8031**



### **Nominations in Process**

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development continues its work of identifying and inviting partners and leaders for various church committees. If you have an interest in serving in some capacity with a board, committee, or work area, see attached for that listing for the current year, and reach out to the chair of the Nominating Committee, our senior pastor, Paul Escamilla, or the vice-chair, our lay leader Katie Myers. You can also contact Elizabeth Jackson, our administrative assistant, to share your interest.

Thank you for all the ways you say yes to following Christ  
in ministries of serving and leading.



# Laurel Heights Online

## Sunday Worship Livestream @ 11:00 a.m.

The livestream will be available for viewing at <https://www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/> and Facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC

## Sunday School

Children's Sunday school videos can be viewed anytime at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7425915/>

Adult Sunday school classes meet by Zoom.

Call (210) 974-1834 to find out more!



### October 19—October 25

10/20

Scotty Barrows

Mary Epstein

Alexandra Phillips

10/21

Andrew Gannon

10/22

Laura Beuhler

10/23

Alexandria Medellin

10/24

Tony Guerrero

Evelyn Oleson

10/25

Karon O'Ferrall

Webb Myers

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Deanna Adams (*Shirley Carter*), Billie Arredondo, Refugio Campos, Graciela Galvan (*Anthony Castillo*), Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Juanita, Larry Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth, Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, Jane Manning, Ellen Myers, May O'Neal, Doug Semmes, Chris Welch, Nora Winkler and 3 friends in Montana battling cancer (*Marvin Huth*)

**Those who Mourn:** Janie Ervin, on the death of her husband, John Ervin.

**God's Presence:** firefighters in the western states and the people affected by fires, hurricanes and flooding, all workers helping with recovery efforts, Parents, Teachers and Students - Elementary, Middle School, High School, College - face to face and remote, 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



Realm Connect allows church members to view church news and upcoming events, share contact information with other members, and manage your giving. 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. **We are asking for your permission to share your name, address, birthday (month & day only), phone number, and email address in the new church directory.** Please call Elizabeth Jackson @ 210-733-7156 or email [ejackson@mylhumc.org](mailto:ejackson@mylhumc.org) for more information. There are also videos on the church website to assist you.

San Antonio College  
Office of Student Life  
&

The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio

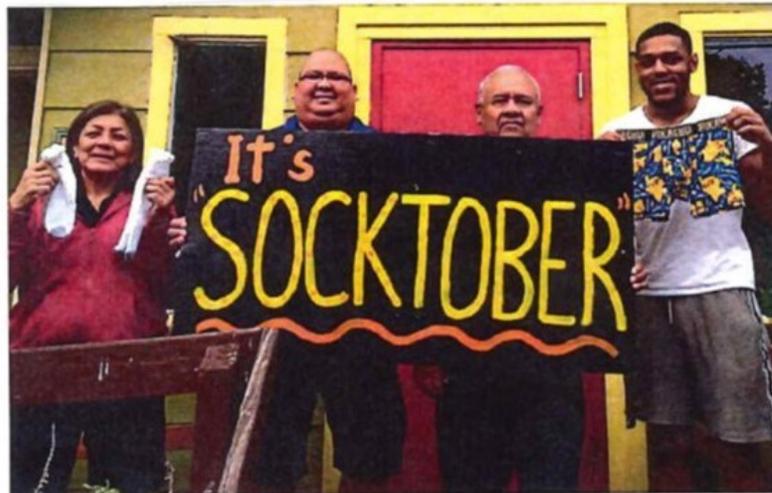
## **NEW SOCKS & UNDERWEAR drive**

Benefitting  
The Innercity Development Center

Drop off Site:  
The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio  
(Methodist Student Center)  
102 Belknap Pl.  
San Antonio, TX 78212

Open: Mon, Wed & Thur 10am – 5pm

**Deadline October 31, 2020**



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
JOSEPH LIEDECKE AT [JLIEDECKE@ALAMO.EDU](mailto:JLIEDECKE@ALAMO.EDU)