



# The Messenger

October 21, 2020  
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## **Giving Hope: A Light to the World**

Rev. Paul L. Escamilla

*“You are a city set on a hill . . . Let your light shine . . .”* Jesus, in Matthew 5.

When we commit to give financially to Laurel Heights in a deliberate and growing way, our giving is an expression of confidence in the church, to be sure—a sign of our trust in the goodness and integrity of our church’s programs and ministries. Our giving also becomes an expression of devotion to a God who has given us so much, and now gives us grateful hearts as well. Finally, our giving is an essential part of living out Jesus’ vision for us to be a light to the world. We offer hope for a living—inviting the world in a thousand ways to notice and share in the good and gracious realm of God among us. “Thank you for being a beacon of hope for the rest of us,” a colleague recently said to me about our congregation. “You are the flagship of social justice and faith formation,” a layperson in San Antonio remarked last week.



Living as emblems of hope in a hope-hungry world is a deep investment. We choose it, practice it, and live it by determining to weave financial generosity into the fabric of our shared life in Christ. To give is to believe—and to begin to believe; to give is to hope—and to seek to hope; to give of our personal treasure more and more generously is to define ourselves as a part of a community that lives our life together by the assurance that God is still speaking, working, mending, healing, reconciling, redeeming the world God loves.

On Sunday we will celebrate next steps for each of us in living more hopefully, loving God with deepening devotion, and connecting those two dots with a third: supporting our church’s mission financially, so that we be about the hopeful, life-giving work together. **Pledge/Estimate of Giving Cards for 2021 have been sent in the mail, and will also be provided in worship and at the Woodlawn drive-through from 10 am to 11 am and 12 pm to 1 pm for us to share as our offering that day.** To see a version of the Laurel Heights pledge card [click here](#). Beginning Sunday, our website will also provide an option for pledging for 2021 online.

Will you take a hopeful step with me this year, and with your church family? Perhaps that entails a prayerful decision to give more generously, or to make a first-time pledge to Laurel Heights. Thank you for living this life together so generously, so hopefully. God is gracious to give us such abundance to share.

Grace and peace.

Hear Barbara Miller’s message of hope at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church on Facebook at

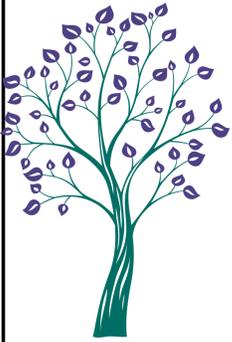
<https://www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC/videos/1245304275833378>

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. 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 drums located on each side of the sanctuary and back wall 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@mylhmc.org](mailto:acaldwell@mylhmc.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 Panadería Jiménez.

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

Notes from the  
Faith Journey



Welcome! Notes from the Faith Journey is a new feature of the Messenger. It will be written by members of our congregation. This is a beautiful opportunity to share our faith stories and to strengthen the circle of faith here at Laurel Heights.

This will be a place to share our journeys and tell our stories. It will be a place to celebrate where we are and who we are, where we've been and where we might be going.

Each week a member of our community will share a note from their journey. It could be a favorite bible verse or hymn, a book they have found formational or a quote they have taped to their refrigerator!

This will be a place for sharing faith stories or doubt stories or I'm not really sure stories. It will provide an opportunity for us to get to know each other through the dispatches we send from our personal walk with God.

I know I am looking forward to seeing what unfolds in the sharing.

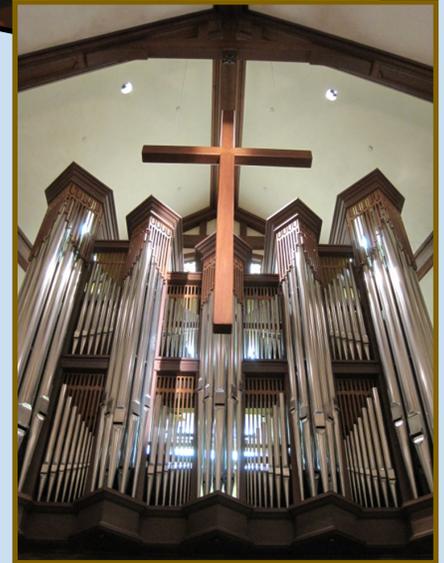
*Laura Healy*

Donate Blood



You are welcome to participate in a  
Blood Drive on Sunday, November 8 from 9 am to -12 pm  
at Coker United Methodist Church  
231 E North Loop Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216

Yvonne Garcia, RN, our Wesley nurse will be present at Coker UMC for the Blood Drive.  
Call Coker UMC at 210-494-3455 for a space and walk-ins are welcome!  
Please call Yvonne at 210-272-7921 if you have questions.



## You Are Invited !

We are worshipping in person in the Laurel Heights UMC sanctuary on Sunday, October 25 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 21 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.**

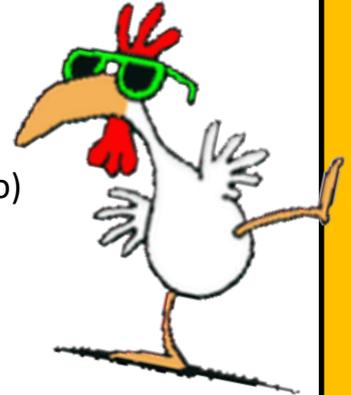
**Good News!! A Super Adult OctoberFest.**

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**

# CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Contact Judy Davis or Katie Myers for more information.

## 2020 CROP WALK

We will have a virtual gathering via Zoom at 2:00 p.m. on November 1.

Each individual, family or group is encouraged to walk on their own in the neighborhood, yard or park of their choice. You may walk anytime before November 1 or within a few weeks after.

The link for the Laurel Heights UMC Team page for the CROP WALK is:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/sanantoniotx/Team/View/140914/Laurel-Heights-UMC>

Donations can be made to the general team on the link. They can also join the team and collect their own donations that go toward the team total. You can be a physical walker or a virtual walker (i.e. someone who is raising funds only). You can also make a check out to the church and in the memo line write CWS/CROP.



FIND  
YOUR MISSION



There are so many ways to serve God in our community! Here are some of the opportunities for service available this week.

### **MAGDALENA HOUSE**

Opportunities range from child care to lawn care, repair work to event work, play days to paint days! Volunteers are also needed for their once a month family meals.

You can find details here: <https://maghouse.org/get-involved/volunteer.html>

### **SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK**

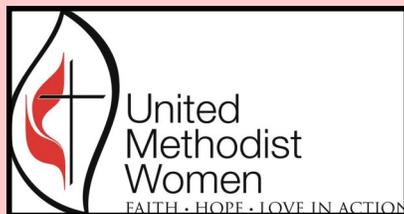
The SA Food Bank welcomes donations but is in particular need of volunteers, both groups and individuals, as they prepare to serve our neighbors during the coming holiday season.

<https://safoodbank.org/ways-to-help/give-time-opportunities/>

### **CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES**

CAM is gearing up for their annual emergency Christmas Store. You can purchase toys or volunteer to help with decorating or setting up. Help is also needed to assist families as they shop.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054caeab28a7fb6-2020>



**Patrice Law** was honored by the United Methodist Women of Laurel Heights for her work with the UMW Lenten Luncheons. Pictured with the UMW service pin, Patrice was nominated for this award by treasurer Annalynn Jackson. The funds generated from the UMW service pin go to missions.



# 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 26—November 1

**10/26**

Ford Gannon

Harvey Gannon

**10/27**

Cheryl Crowsey

**10/28**

Judy Davis

**10/29**

Melissa Nardi

**10/30**

Bonnie Scott

Betty Hughbanks

**10/31**

Luke Campbell

Jim Carr

**11/1**

Spencer Furber

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Deanna Adams (*Shirley Carter*), Refugio Campos, Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Juanita, Larry Howard, Gracie Huron, Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, Ellen Myers, May O'Neal, Doug Semmes, Nora Winkler.

**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

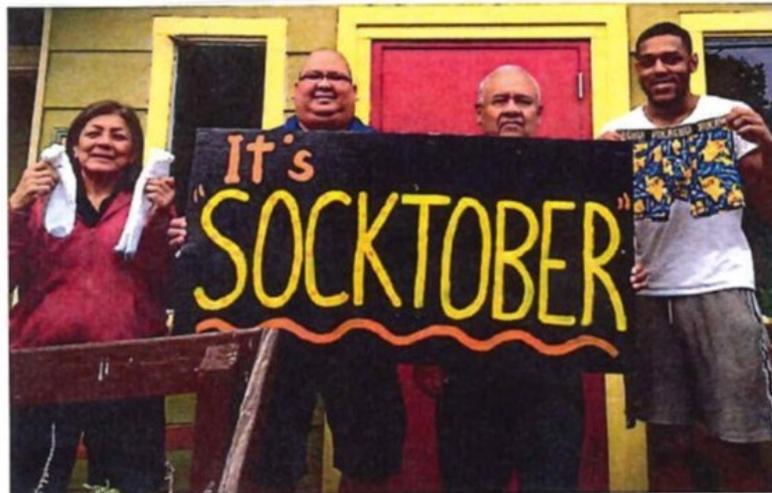
**NEW SOCKS & UNDERWEAR drive**

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)