



# The Messenger

September 30, 2020  
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## **Giving Hope**

Rev. Paul L. Escamilla



This year a virus has enveloped our community, our nation, and our world, leaving many ill, unemployed, bereaved; closing businesses, silencing singing, muting celebrations. The familiar foundations of routine and normalcy have been shaken. We now know what has always been true, though perhaps often escaped our awareness: we are not invincible. In the face of that awareness we long not so much for easy fixes as for deep assurance; not for simple answers, but for a clear sense that God will provide. We do not really seek magic potions to cure all our ills; we yearn for something far more substantial, far more cherished: hope.

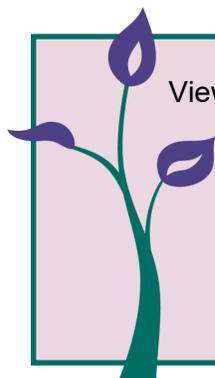
Hope is the gift God gives to us, and we to one another, that allows us to imagine a better day and work for a better world. Without hope, no other resource matters; no other efforts are credible; no other plan finally makes any sense. With hope, however, all things become possible.

Hope gives us eyes to see not only the many signs of disruption and disorientation, but also those of compassion and courage. In a Covid-19 year, Laurel Heights has been a community of faith in which such signs abound, and through which practices of love and welcome, prayer and worship are shared with the wider world.

During the month of October we will reflect together about financial generosity as one of those faith practices—that is, as an expression of hope. Our Stewardship Committee, with Susie Guven as chair, has been active for several weeks preparing for this time of reflection, commitment, and celebration.

The prayer of Jesus—what we know as the Lord’s Prayer—envisions the realm of God making its way into our history: *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven.* The prayer we pray week to week, month by month, year after year has its basis in a deep assurance that God is by no means through with our world. The Lord’s Prayer is an offering of hope. To offer our financial gifts week to week, month by month, year after year, is to extend that prayer into practice, into life, into reality. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace.



View the “During these trying times” video on our webpage.

[www.laurelheights.org](http://www.laurelheights.org) and facebook

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

**Giving Hope**

**Financial Offering 2021**

## JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED

Rev. Jim Carr, Minister of Pastoral Care

*Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman is best read meditatively and confessionally, taking time to reflect on what it is saying, and allowing for the challenges brought by new inner awareness. It presents an interpretation of Jesus, and it deals with fear, deception, hate, and love. It speaks to and on behalf of "...The masses of [human beings who] live with their backs constantly against the wall. They are the poor, the disinherited, the dispossessed." The question of the disinherited in every age is: "What must be the attitude toward the rulers, the controllers of political, social and economic life? This is the question of the Negro in American life." The book will speak for itself to each reader.



Of Jesus: "Here is one who was so conditioned and organized within himself that he became a perfect instrument for the embodiment of a set of ideals--ideals of such dramatic potency that they were capable of changing the calendar, rechanneling the thought of the world, and placing a new sense of the rhythm of life in a weary, nerve-snapped civilization."

Of Jesus' message: "His message focused on the urgency of a radical change in the inner attitude of the people....Again and again he came back to the inner life of the individual. With increasing insight and startling accuracy he placed his finger on the 'inward center' as the crucial arena where the issues would determine the destiny of the people."

With personal knowledge of the inward center to which he speaks, Thurman points to Jesus' words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor....The kingdom of God is within....You must abandon your fear of each other and fear only God....Hatred is destructive to hated and hater alike....Love your enemy, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Source: *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Thurman.

*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.

## Memorial Gifts

### General Memorial Fund

In memory of  
Reeves Smith  
given by Betty Booth

In memory of  
Beverly Smith  
given by Betty Booth

In memory of  
Bill Coker  
given by Nancy and Richard Dugger



# In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary on October 4 11 am

## Service Details

On October 4th the worship service will be in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am only. The service will be livestreamed at 11:00 am on [www.laurelheights.org](http://www.laurelheights.org) and Facebook and remain available to view afterward.

## Limited Seating

Seating will be limited to 50 people for the service and no assigned seating.

## Reservations Required

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.

If you reserve seating, you will receive an email from us at the end of the week with a confirmation of your reservation and additional details concerning Sunday morning.

Please be sure to use a good email address when you reserve your seats.

## Masks Required

Masks are required at all times in the building.

If you do not have a mask, we will have masks available for you.

## **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**via Zoom**

**Sunday, October 4**

**At 5 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

## 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.



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.

**September 30 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.



**Everyone had a great time at the  
Super Adults Picnic in the Park-ing Lot!**

**Join us next month  
for another fun event!**  
*(details to follow)*



**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.



**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](http://www.laurelheights.org)



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

# Laurel Heights Online

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

The livestream will be available for viewing at [LaurelHeights.org/online](http://LaurelHeights.org/online) and [Facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC](https://www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC)

Watch our archived services at [laurelheights.org/worship-service-archive](http://laurelheights.org/worship-service-archive)

## Sunday School

Children's Sunday school videos can be viewed anytime at [laurelheights.org/online](http://laurelheights.org/online)

Adult Sunday school classes meet by Zoom.

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



### October 5—October 11

10/5

Clare Laminack  
Margaret Parsons

10/8

Bruce Davis  
Liz Kromrei

10/9

Richard Dugger  
Lee Stock

10/10

Jason Davis  
Paul Edeler  
Keith Spading

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** April Blanco (*Bobby and Irene Ojeda*), Jeanne Coder, Janie and John Ervin, Graciela Galvan (*Anthony Castillo*), Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Abby Halim, Glynis Hayes, Larry Howard, Gracie Huron, Marvin Huth, Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, Jane Manning, Julie Mazel, Sandra Ojeda Medina, May O'Neal, Doug Semmes, Nora Winkler

**Those Who Mourn:** Keith Spading on the loss of his father, Fred William Spading, Sue Hall and family on the death of her niece, Gina.

**God's Presence:** firefighters in the western states and the people affected by fires, hurricanes and flooding, all workers helping with recovery efforts, 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.

