



The Messenger

November 4, 2020
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They could only go forward

Rev. Paul L. Escamilla

Recently Laura Healy shared with me some of the language of one of the Godly Play creation stories. In reference to Adam and Eve, newly banished from the Garden of Eden for having disobeyed the Creator's instructions, the storyteller says, "They could only go forward, and they did."

I write this article on Monday, November 2nd; it will be published on Wednesday, November 4th. In between, as though you need reminding, has been an election day—perhaps one of the most momentous in our country's modern history. As of today, the election's outcomes may be clear, or muddled. There may be a national sense of relief, or heightened tensions. Regardless, this is certain: We can only go forward from here.

What does going forward mean in this instance? For people of faith, it means what it means in every time and circumstance: seeking pathways of reconciliation, compassion, and understanding; and by such means, bearing witness to God's love and grace in Jesus Christ in a world longing for good news.

Our congregation began this pandemic year by turning to a specific psalm that held a verse of assurance so appropriate for that moment of upheaval, displacement, and concern. That very same verse has remained our companion through spring, summer, and now autumn of our Covid year. Today, on the day following election day, its message means more than ever:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Adam and Eve could only go forward, and they did. Likewise, as a nation, as a congregation, and as individuals and families, we can only go forward, and with God as our refuge and strength, we will.

Grace and peace.



"They could only go forward, and they did"

Notes from the
Faith Journey

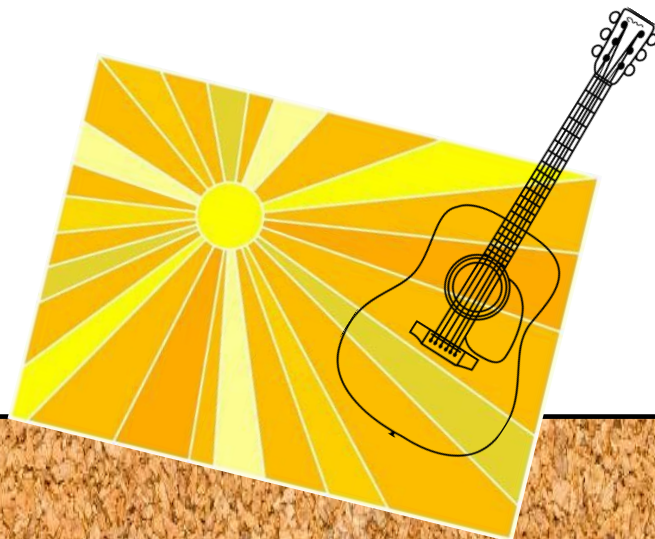


I have been working on a song with the Laurel Choir in my “virtual rehearsal” videos titled “Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam.” I love this song because of its central image of each of us as sunbeams. As I’ve been teaching the kids the song itself, I’ve tried to explain how each of them has a light inside themselves and what that means. To me, shining your light means embracing who you are as a person and using your gifts to help those around you.

The song talks about being a sunbeam “at home, at school, at play.” No two people are exactly alike, so it is our task to discover what strengths we possess and then use those strengths to serve others. Our service can be done in any place, to any person, whether it is our own family, people we interact with often, or even strangers we may meet.

Another lyric that draws my attention is “Jesus wants me to be loving and kind to all I see.” As we know, the greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves. How powerful and relevant this ancient prescript still is! Would that we all could find it in ourselves to follow it more often. I find strength and hope in trying to communicate this sentiment to our fantastic Laurel Heights kids.

David Lindquist



Giving Hope Yields Extraordinary Response

Giving Hope, our fall financial stewardship emphasis, culminated on October 25th with a consecration of our gifts and commitments for supporting our church's ministries in the coming year. On that morning and in the days since, the Laurel Heights congregation has generated 84 commitment cards for 2021 amounting to a total of \$ 455,541.80. Of those 84 cards, 40 represent an increase in financial support over the current year. In addition, 5 pledged their prayers, and have committed to giving financially as they are able.

Thank you for an extraordinary show of solidarity and support during a very challenging time. Your steadfastness and generosity will bear fruit through the many life-giving ways we are in mission and ministry at Laurel Heights in the coming year.

Link to the 2021 Estimate
of Giving/Pledge Card:

[Click Here](#)



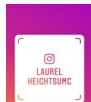
Contact Us

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



*Lord, in your mercy,
hear our PRAYER*

You can offer a prayer of gratitude
or concern by emailing
prayers@mylhumc.org,
through [Facebook Messenger](#),
or calling the church office
(210) 733-7156.



You are welcome to participate in a combined

Blood Drive

Sunday, November 8 from 9 am to –2 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!

If you want to sign up prior to arrival to donate blood, here is the link

https://donor.southtexasblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/118891

Please call Yvonne at 210-272-7921 if you have questions.

Did You Know?

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church has served the neighborhood for many years as an election site.

This year, several people from LHUMC showed hospitality to our neighbors by giving out cold water, hand sanitizer, snacks and masks.

All with a smile

(under their masks, of course!)



John David Griffin, Andrea Knight, Sue Hall and Barbara Miller
November 3, 2020



**NOVEMBER
MISSION OF THE MONTH
CROP WALK**

What a year this has been! Yet, God calls us to be faithful in giving to provide for the needs of others. That is why **San Antonio Crop Walk is Laurel Heights' Mission of the Month for November.** Crop Hunger Walks are interfaith events that raise funds to end hunger around the world. The **SAN ANTONIO CROP WALK 2020** will go on, albeit in a new form.

Laurel Heights' goal for the Crop Walk is \$1,500 and San Antonio's goal is \$15,000.00.

This year 25% of the money raised will go to the following local organizations:

- The San Antonio Food Bank Daily Bread Ministries
- Creative Kids SA (a ministry of Temple Beth El)
- A.R. Nelson Outreach (a ministry of Bethel AME Church)

The rest of the money will go to support Church World Service development projects and disaster assistance globally. Your participation impacts individuals in more than 35 countries where many people walk up to six miles a day to get food and water. **One in nine people worldwide lacks access to clean water and a healthy diet.**

You may walk with your family or a few friends in your neighborhood or a park of your choice, before November 1 or in the weeks after that date. A Laurel Heights UMC Team page for the CROP WALK has been set up.

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

Donations can be made to the church team on this link or you can join the team and collect your own donations that go toward the team total. You can also make a check out to the church and in the memo line write CWS/ CROP.

Also, walkers are encouraged to take videos of their group to be posted on Facebook or whatever media platforms they are on. Two recorded meditations on the Crop Hunger Walk will be posted on the Crop Walk facebook page on Sunday November 1. This is instead of a virtual walk on Zoom.

I have been privileged to support the San Antonio Crop Walk to end world hunger by walking with fellow Laurel Heights' members since about 2004. It has always been a joy to know that I joined thousands of fellow Christians around the world in being the hands of Christ. When I was unable to physically join the walk, I have participated by praying and giving and have always been blessed by doing so. I believe you can't outgive God.

One of my greatest blessings has been reading about wonderful people like Nestor Montes who lives in one of the driest parts of Argentina. He works among the Wichi indigenous people. He learned how to build cement cisterns through a CWS sponsored program and now helps others build rooftop rainwater catchment systems. He also helps solve or prevent inter-ethnic conflict between peoples. He says, "when it comes to water...there is no difference between us."

Clyta Coder

Please join us in this year's San Antonio Crop Walk to help not only those in our own community but dedicated workers like Nestor, to provide clean drinking water and nutritional sustenance to people around the world.

Worship on Sunday, November 8

Our 11 a.m. service of worship will be livestreamed
on our website and Facebook page ONLY.

Due to a rise in new cases of Covid-19 in our community we will not be gathering in person this Sunday. Please see our website <https://www.laurelheights.org/> for details regarding the Laurel Heights UMC surveillance metric.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and vigilance.

Wednesday Prayer Service

November 4 from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

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



*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

Giving to Laurel Heights

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

Text to Give:

Please text "LHUMC" to 73256.

Checks: Please mail to

LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper 227 W. Woodlawn, SATX, 78212.



Marisa Parker led a group of youth and adults on a CROP WALK at Hardberger Park Saturday, October 31

Donations can be made to the church team on this link or you can join the team and collect your own donations that go toward the team total. You can also make a check out to the church and in the memo line write CWS/CROP.



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

Volunteer

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.

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (CAM)

Our neighbors at Christian Assistance Ministry have many opportunities to participate in their work. You can find details here: <https://christianassistanceministry.org/how-you-can-help/>

MEALS ON WHEELS

Working with Meals on Wheels Families throughout the greater San Antonio region, you are doing much more than meal delivery. You are providing moments of personal connection – a smile, a heartfelt nod, a brief respite from the countless hours alone. Covid-19 precautions are in place.

<https://www.mowsatx.org/volunteer>

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity is currently building homes and there are many different opportunities to get involved with this good work. <https://www.habitatsa.org/get-involved/>

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!



November 12 — November 18

11/13

James Aderhold Sr.
Barbara Shortt

11/14

Magen Shearrer

11/15

Celina Montoya

11/16

Marina Gonzales

11/17

Caitlyn Hughes-Gallegos
Sandra Webb



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Deanna Adams (*Shirley Carter*),
Billie Arredondo, Nathan Gaddis (*Bert Clayton*)
Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Larry Howard,
Annalynn Jackson, Mary Grace Ketner (*Janice Clayton*),
Lucien Manchester, May O'Neal,
Marjorie Parrigan, Richard Rocha, Doug Semmes,
Bill Shepard (*Janice Clayton*), 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. Please call Elizabeth Jackson @ 210-733-7156 or email ejackson@mylhumc.org for more information.

There are also videos on the church website to assist you.

