



# The Messenger

December 9, 2020  
Volume 44, Issue 45

*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## **Watching for the Light: The Reciprocity of Light**

*Ashley Landers, Evangelism Chair*



When I was reflecting on Advent and our theme of “Watching for the Light,” I kept thinking about the reciprocity of light.

When I was a teenager I went on my first mission trip to Ecuador. It was a medical mission trip, and I went because I planned to study medicine and wanted the experience before college. That was my first memory of the light.

In my 20s, I went on many other mission trips to countries like Honduras, Peru and Mexico. The thing about mission trips is it doesn’t matter how many you have been on, or whether they are near or far, at least in my case I always went thinking I was going to bring the light to others. But every time, in different ways, I ended up receiving far more light than I could have ever given.

This month, for Jake’s end of year project at school, our family was asked to do a presentation on a country of our choice and how they celebrate Christmas. I’m curious which countries each of you would pick? Maybe that’s something to talk about with your family, or a fun exploration during Advent. Personally, I am always partial to Spanish speaking countries, but it was a story of the reciprocity of light that made us choose Haiti.

My husband Jeffrey’s grandfather was an ophthalmologist. Dr. Gardner Landers and his wife, Francis, went on their first medical mission trip to Haiti in 1977. While Gardner was performing eye surgeries, Francis met an Episcopal priest named Pier Jean-Albert.

As the story goes, the Priest told Francis very matter of factly, “If you want to help Haitians see, if you want to give them vision, then give them an education. Teach them to read.” She went to Haiti with a plan to share her light and came back with a light ten times brighter.

That reciprocity of light became the Haiti Education Foundation, an initiative that has built and maintains 40 schools in the mountain villages of Southern Haiti where there would otherwise be no option for learning to read, and no sharing of light.

As we begin this season of waiting and watching, these stories of the reciprocity of light remind me of both the simplicity of the light and the magic of the light. The simplicity: when we share it, we see it. The magic: how God, through the Christ child, gives us light, then when we share it, takes our light and makes it shine in ways we could never imagine. Surely this is at least part of what we mean by the phrase, “the miracle of Christmas.”

*Watching for  
the Light*



Sunday morning Worship  
11 a.m. livestreamed on  
our website and facebook

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Sunday, December 13  
At 7:00 p.m.  
on our website and facebook



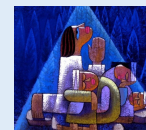
***Come and See What God Has Done***

*Saturday at 6:00 p.m.*

*Facebook and our website*

*Sunday at 8:30 a.m.*

*Zoom watch party*

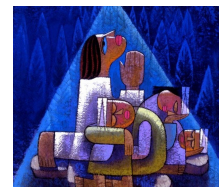


## Advent and Christmas at Laurel Heights



### Watching for the Light

Come and See worship gatherings  
Saturdays at 6 p.m. on our website and facebook  
Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Zoom watch party ,  
our website and facebook



Sunday morning Worship  
11 a.m. service of worship will be livestreamed  
on our website and facebook

Family Advent Gatherings via Zoom  
4 p.m. four Sundays in Advent

Saturday, December 12  
Placing a Poinsettia 12 to 3 p.m. by reservation

Sunday, December 13  
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
At 7:00 p.m.  
on our website and facebook

Monday, December 21  
Visiting the Manger on the Longest Night 4 p.m.-7 p.m. (outdoors)

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve  
Christmas Eve by Candlelight 4 p.m. -7 p.m. (outdoors)  
Christmas Eve worship online

*Come  
and  
See...*



**Come and See What God Has Done  
Journey Through the Advent Season**

Here are we again preparing for Christmas. Like everything else this year, the preparation seems to take a little more energy, more energy than you might have. Maybe this is the year, you don't send out Christmas cards or bake cookies for neighbors. And that's okay. I think we all deserve a couple of "free passes" this year.

However, I hope you don't take a pass on yourself this season. We all need to take some time for ourselves to draw closer to God. The new worship series called "Come and See What God Has Done" is a source that can help you on your journey. The episodes are short (less than half an hour) and filled with beautiful music and imagery. After watching the lastest episode on Sunday, I found myself surprised about how quickly the time passed and how much better I felt. I hope you feel the same.

*Susie Guven*

### Christmas Poinsettias December 2020

**Given By: .....In Loving Memory Of:**

Karen Angelini ... Dinah Tanner  
Blanche Birdsong.....Karen Birdsong  
Janice and Bert Clayton.....Gloria Sparkman  
Janice and Bert Clayton.....Marjorie Parrigan  
Kitty Grantham .....Dana Grantham  
Susan and Henry Holloway.....Talitha Holloway, our granddaughter  
Elizabeth Hughes.....Rev Bill Hughes  
Barbara Miller.....Mildred Donnell  
Morton Family and Rush-Morton Family.....Diane Boehme  
Morton family and Rush-Morton Family.....Marjorie Parrigan  
Morton Family and Rush-Morton Family.....Beloved Family Members  
Ann Wheeler.....Bill Wheeler and Winn Alley

**Given By: .....In Honor Of:**

Karen Angelini.....Aleene Block  
Karen Angelini.....Bill and Ellen Myers  
Blanche Birdsong.....Oran Birdsong  
Walter, Jan, Ashley and Hailey Buehler.....William and Willa Jo Buehler  
Janice and Bert Clayton.....Kitty Grantham  
Janice and Bert Clayton.....Richard Parrigan  
Kitty Grantham.....Thurl and Carolyn Sims  
Victoria Hartson.....Elizabeth Hartson  
Susan and Henry Holloway.....Isabella, James, Sarah and Henry, our grandchildren  
Elizabeth Hughes.....Loved Ones  
Hannah Hughes.....Elizabeth Hughes  
Ashley, Jeffrey, Jake and Birdie Landers.....Adi, age 6  
Barbara Miller .....Kathy Chandler  
Morton Family and Rush-Morton Family.....Charlotte Rush-Morton

*If you would still like to donate a poinsettia  
in memory or honor of someone,  
please contact the church office @ 210-733-7156*

## Notes from the Faith Journey



“Nana, did you know? Christmas is coming, AGAIN!” Those were words from my excited, sparkly eyed 4 year old granddaughter. Each year I try to relive and embody that excitement and wonder as I approach another Advent season. Did you know? Christmas is coming, AGAIN! This will be an Advent and Christmas like no other we have experienced. No traveling to visit family. No gathering at the table or under the Christmas tree, with extended family. No Lessons and Carols or Candlelight service. It seems the list of “noes” goes on and on.

But the good news is, Christmas is coming, AGAIN! So, I assemble my Advent wreath and set out the empty stable waiting for the Holy Family to make the journey to Bethlehem where Jesus is born. I gather my Advent and Christmas devotional readings and books. I sort through and collect music for the season. I look for movies and plan to cook some special treats. I make plans to ship gifts and write cards. I look for ways to serve and make special donations. I look forward to Zoom gatherings and online worship services.

This is an Advent like no other we have experienced.

But did you know? Christmas is coming, AGAIN!

Kathy Chandler



*Lessons and Carols service online*  
*Sunday, December 13 @ 7 p.m.*

This year's Lessons and Carols service will be offered as a pre-recorded on-line service, and will be posted for viewing by 7 pm on this coming Sunday, December 13th. The service will feature the traditional nine lessons and musical offerings, but with some necessary modifications because of the virtual format. Music will be provided by an ensemble of six singers, violin, cello, and organ, and every effort is being made to preserve the beauty and pageantry of a favorite Laurel Heights tradition. The service can be viewed from the church's website, and a link will also be emailed on Sunday afternoon.

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





**Laurel Heights  
donated 267 new children's books  
to Christian Assistance Ministries  
Christmas Store!**



Thanks to Karon O'Ferrall  
for her beautiful artwork for  
the bulletin board by Scott Chapel.

### **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.

*Thank you, Laurel Heights, for your faithfulness in giving.*

*From the Super Adults  
December Newsletter  
All are Welcome!*



**Monday, December 14 -Book Discussion**

This morning we'll discuss "The Women in Black" by Madeleine St. John. The women referred to in the title wear black to work in an upscale department store.

We follow the story of each woman as their lives are changed in various ways. It is a lighthearted story to take us into the holidays.

**January, 11 - "A Single Thread" by Tracy Chevalier**, a moving story of a woman coming into her own at the beginning of WWII.

Join us on Zoom for these exciting discussions. Let me know you want to participate and I'll send you a link.

**Thursday, December 17. 11 a.m.**

Super Adults Celebrate Christmas

This will be another Drive Thru. We are asking for gifts of food for the "Food Bank." The need is great! You can pause awhile if you like. Santa Claus will be there to distribute some gifts to all who participate. We'll enjoy keyboard music by Geoffrey Waitt and Carolers.



Please bring: Cereal, Peanut Butter, Tuna, Beans, Rice, mac & Cheese, Chili & Soups, Baby Food & Diapers, Canned Lunch Meats and Pop Top Food Items.

Pick up your boxed lunch to go:

Baked Christmas Ham  
Fruit Salad                      Marinated Green Beans  
Rolls  
Coconut Cake

Cost: \$6.00 - Reserve your plate or there won't be a lunch for you. (Sorry, times are tough.) Call 210-872-8031 to make a reservation.



## LHUMC Mission of the Month - December 2020

Every dollar donated will be directed to meet the daily needs of those in our care, such as:

- Essentials for youth residing on our Waco campus and Boys Ranch.
- Supplies and materials for students attending our University of Texas-University Charter School.
- Housing and counseling costs for young adults participating in our Independent Living program.
- Support group and resource costs for grandparents who are primary caretakers for their grandchildren.
- Classes and case management for foster parents and children.
- Family preservation education and services for communities served by our 13 MCH Family Outreach offices across Texas and New Mexico.

Your support makes a difference! The Christ-centered love and care we offer is made possible by your generous gifts. Thank you for helping transform lives and joining our call to this meaningful ministry.



### OUR VISION

*We empower all we serve to live life to the fullest.*

### OUR MISSION

*We equip children, youth and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support.*

## Wednesday Prayer Service

**December 9 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.

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



*A time to  
to pray for one another  
and the world...*



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

via Zoom  
Jan 12 - Apr 13

Leader: Katie Myers

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



# 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!

## Happy Birthday!

December 17—December 23

12/18

David Adams

12/19

Frank Galindo  
Laura Glick

12/20

Jill Sanders

12/22

Wendell Davis

12/24

Nancy Jones



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Adi (*Ashley Landers*), Billie Arredondo, Betty Benson, Whit Birdsong (*Kitty Grantham*), Chris Carr's family (*Jim Carr*), Jeanne Coder, Gena, (*Thad Dorsey*), Marvin Gregory (*Carrie Clemens*), Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, May O'Neal, Kim and David Parker (*Ashley Landers*), Margaret Persky, Doug Semmes, Bill Shepard (*Janice Clayton*), Bob Walden.

### Those who mourn:

Molly Walden on the death of her sister, Ellen Gunn, Cindy Birdwell on the death of her mother, Sidney Mae Thompson.

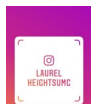
**God's Presence:** for our country, parents, teachers and students both face to face and remote, those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their families, as well as for the caregivers and researchers working to treat those affected and combat the spread of the disease; homebound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.



## 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](mailto:prayers@mylhumc.org), through [Facebook Messenger](#), or calling the church office (210) 733-7156.