



# The Messenger

January 13, 2021  
Volume 45, Issue 2

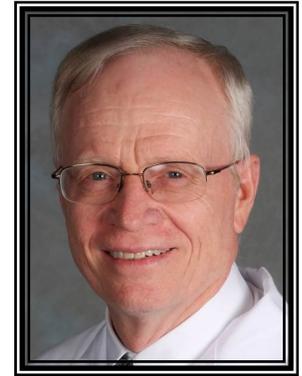
*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## “Water Washed and Spirit Born”

The symbolic act of baptism denotes a transformation from who we are to who we wish to become.

It is not a rite of initiation into an exclusive society.

Rather, it is an invitation to share in Jesus’ epiphany at the Jordan.



Steve Haney

When Jesus rose from the waters of the Jordan River,  
He knew himself to be beloved by God;  
not just the object of benevolent concern,  
but **beloved** – chosen and held dear.

What a powerful epiphany, that a human being  
can be of cherished significance to the creator of the universe.

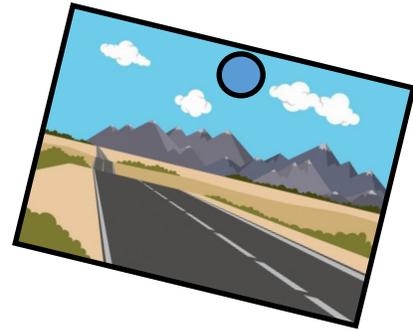
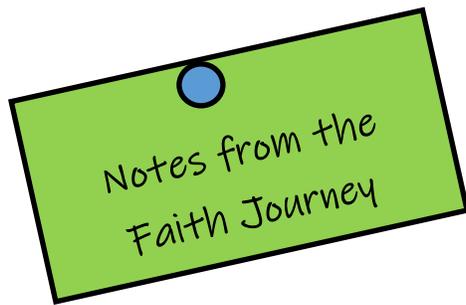
In his ministry of love, compassion, and justice,  
Jesus invited us all to create and experience  
the kingdom of God on earth.

Not a kingdom of Methodists or Baptists, Catholics or Jews,

Muslims or Hindus, Democrats or Republicans, Blacks or Whites,  
but a universal community of humankind ... the beloved of God.



*“We your people stand before you, water washed and Spirit born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!”*



### ***“Here I am Lord”***

This is the Hymn that stirs my emotions more than any other. It speaks to me in such an emotionally deep way that I get emotional every time we sing it as a Congregation. I can feel the love of everyone wrapped around me, and I can feel God’s presence more deeply. I also feel it is a calling for me to stay open to God’s plan for me and that I need to trust in where he is leading me. I know I am not alone in the emotions this Hymn summons, because as I look around the Sanctuary as we sing it I see others wiping their tears from their eyes.

I miss singing as a congregation more than just about anything else during this time. I look forward to the time when we will all be back together and sing with Joy this incredible Hymn.

Randy Pollock



### ***Welcome, Wyndee!***

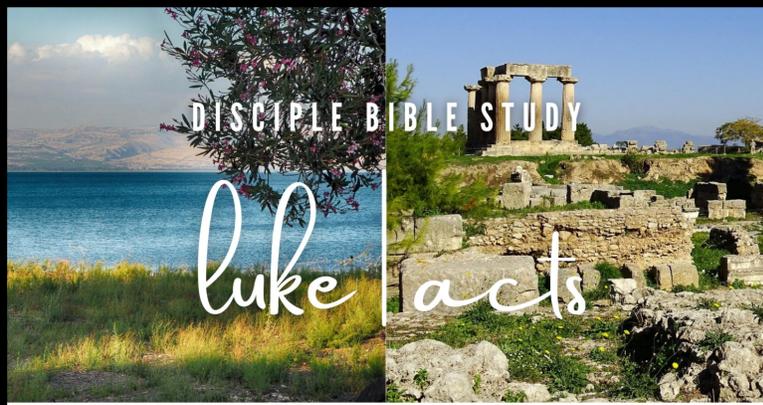


Rev. Wyndee Holbrook has been invited to serve as Pastor in Residence at Laurel Heights for the year 2021. Wyndee has worked with Laurel Heights in summer conversations (Grace Notes and Possibilities), ongoing discussions and programming related to youth ministry, and "Come and See" Advent/Christmas worship gatherings. The honorific title does not involve compensation, but recognizes Wyndee's contribution to our life together in ministry. Besides having previously served as a pastor in the Cooperative Baptist tradition, Wyndee is also the director of the Interfaith San Antonio Alliance, and works closely with the City of San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative. She preached in the sanctuary worship service in late December, and has also been a part of a fall Bible Study at Laurel Heights. Welcome, Wyndee!

### **In the News**

Laurel Heights member Esther Chalk, who suffered from polio during her childhood, recently received her first Covid-19 vaccination. She is featured here in a newscast:

<https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2021/01/06/seniors-may-be-eligible-for-vaccination-but-it-doesnt-mean-doses-are-available-in-bexar-county/>

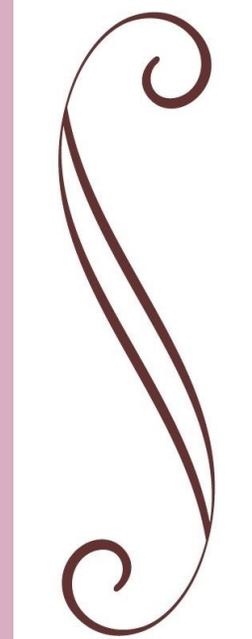


**TUESDAYS**  
**7:00PM - 8:30PM**

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



# MLK

THE DREAM CONTINUES... YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

34<sup>th</sup> Annual  
City-wide Interfaith Worship Service  
Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Sponsored by and simulcast on



TVSA  
[www.sanantonio.gov/tvsa](http://www.sanantonio.gov/tvsa)  
(Channel 21)



Catholic Television  
of San Antonio  
(Channel 15)

Hosted by:  
The MLK Commission of San Antonio



## Thursday, January 28 – SUPER ADULT DAY

As you may well expect there is not much in the way of gathering until we're rid of this pandemic. However, we can look forward to Thursday, January 28 for another meeting in the Woodlawn Parking Lot.

We'll gather at 11 o'clock to celebrate the Feast of the Three Kings. The traditional one in the gym was another victim of the "no large gatherings rule." Park your car on the lot, bring a chair to sit on in front of your car (do not congregate), or we'll have a chair for you. The Three Kings will circle the lot singing "We Three Kings." We'll all join in singing the refrain and the 1st and last verses.



Lunch will be  
Roast Beef Sandwich  
Relishes  
Chips  
King's Cake for Dessert  
Cost \$5.00



Even though, hopefully, we'll all have had our vaccine by then it will be necessary to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Please let us know you are coming so we have plenty of food.  
Call 210-872-8031.

## LHUMC Mission of the Month - January 2021

### Guillermo Berman, Missionary

Our Mission of the Month for January is Missionary Guillermo Berman. He directs the Manos Juntas Ministry which is a part of the Methodist Church of Mexico and ministers to people living near Reynosa and Matamoras. It is a multi-faceted ministry with ongoing projects to provide a better life for the people of Mexico.

Missionary Berman and Manos Juntas are supported by UMC Global Ministries and donations and volunteer teams from the United States and other countries.

You may donate to the Mission of the Month online at <https://www.laurelheights.org/give/>

Or mail to  
LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper  
227 W. Woodlawn, SATX, 78212



Laurel Heights United Methodist Church  
Finance Committee Update  
End-of-Year 2020

Budget Receipts:	December	Y-T-D
Contributions Received	\$100,646.42	\$768,084.88
Other Receipts	\$6,417.80	\$87,772.50
<b>Total Budget Receipts:</b>	<b>\$107,064.22</b>	<b>\$855,857.38</b>
<b>Total Budget Expenses:</b>	<b>\$75,822.47</b>	<b>\$837,445.58</b>
Ahead (Behind):	\$31,241.75	\$18,411.80
PPP Loan Proceeds	\$0.00	\$101,074.93
Trustee Loan -2018		\$75,000.00
Paid 1/1/19		\$20,000.00
Balance Due:		\$55,000.00

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

### 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.



January 14—January 21

1/15

Jedi Morton  
Marisa Parker

1/16

Logan Deras

1/17

Kathy Chandler  
Mikayla Mendez

1/19

Frances Campbell  
Jennie Galindo

1/21

Frank Healy

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Amy and Mike (*Aubrey Reichman*), Betty Benson, Whit Birdsong (*Kitty Grantham*), Jeanne Coder, Flavio Garcia, Gena (*Thad Dorsey*), Annalynn Jackson, Ginna Lynd (*Liz Escamilla*), Lucien Manchester, David and Deborah Milligan (*Billie Arredondo*) May O’Neal, Doug Semmes, Erin Vaca and family, Bob Walden.

**Those who Mourn:** Jane and Bernie Marrone on the death of her sister, Nancy Dunham, Family of Rev. David Semrad on his death

**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.



## 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)