



The Messenger

February 3, 2021
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Waiting for the Lord

Isaiah has often been referred to as “the fifth gospel” for its eloquent expression of a vision of the world redeemed, a people restored, a community reunited. If Isaiah is the fifth gospel, then Isaiah 40, addressing an exiled people longing for home, is its poetic centerpiece. We know so much of the language of that one chapter from various contexts and references:



Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom.

Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket.

The closing words of this hope-filled chapter are as intriguing as they are inspiring: “Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Reading these beautiful words, I am left wondering what it means to “wait for the Lord.” Maybe you are, too. Let’s explore that idea in our online worship on Sunday. I’ll hope to see you there.

Grace and peace.

Staff Love Offering and Notes of Appreciation

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is inviting the congregation to offer gifts of appreciation to our tremendous church staff. Through a year of extraordinary challenges and obstacles they have continued to guide us in worship, learning, serving, and witness with patience, determination, energy, and creativity.

Gifts can be made to the church online through a designated "Staff Love Offering" option in the pull-down tab on the giving page (<https://onrealm.org/LaurelHeightsUn/-/give/now>), or mailed to the attention of Amy Caldwell, bookkeeper.

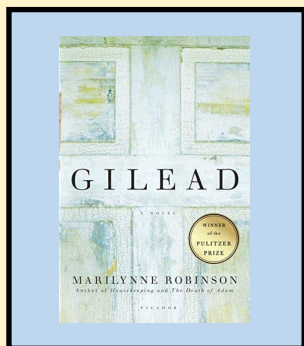
Financial gifts will be received between now and Sunday, February 14th, Valentine's Day, and will be presented to the staff the following week. You're also encouraged to send cards or letters of encouragement and gratitude during this same period.

Thank you for sharing in this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those who work so very hard to serve and lead the Laurel Heights congregation.

Ann McGlone, SPRC chair



ZOOM BOOK STUDY ON "GILEAD" TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 14 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.



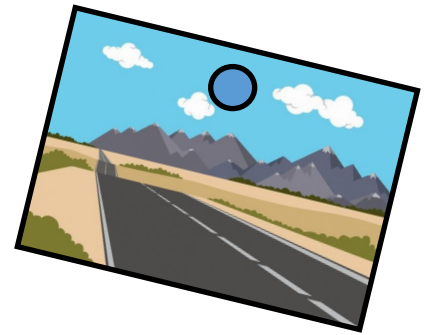
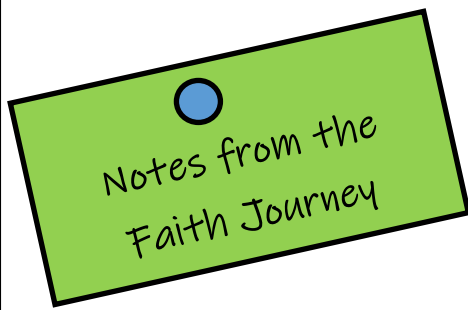
Plans are underway to launch a Zoom book study at Laurel Heights on four Sunday nights, beginning on February 14. The Rev. Dr. Mark Doty, who served three congregations in the Rio Texas Conference before his retirement, will lead the study of Gilead, the Pulitzer Prize winning novel written by Marilynne Robinson and published in 2004. Gilead is the first of four novels in a series which details the history of a pastor's family. The Zoom class will meet from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM on each of the evenings.

Mark moved back to San Antonio last summer and united with LHUMC, having served Jefferson UMC in the late 80's. His Ph.D. in English from Indiana University specialized in 20th century American literature. Mark had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Robinson at his church in Maine in 2005 and regards her as one of our finest writers. She has become a good friend of President Barack Obama and was awarded the National Humanities Medal by him in 2012 for "her grace and intelligence in writing."

Copies of Gilead are available through local bookstores or by ordering from Amazon. In order to register for the Zoom class, please call the Church Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Healy lhealy@mylhumc.org.

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First week
Discussion



Among the many things that I am and have done in my lifetime, genealogy has been an interest of mine for the last 22 years. It started when my mother passed away and I asked a relative if she knew where my middle name "Ellis" came from. It was also the middle name of my grandfather and my mother's brother, so I've always thought it must have some significance to my mother's family...but no one knew what it was.

As I got into genealogy, I was amazed how many people were connected to my family history. The best I could tell, my mother's side of the family came into the US through Maryland and Virginia and were likely in the Revolutionary War. They mostly settled in Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois as a result of land grants to the soldiers after the war. I have over 30,000 people that I have found connected to my family. Not a single other person had the name of "Ellis." The mystery continues.

It's amazing to think that we are connected through the past to so many people. We can't see them, but they are there. They help make us who we are. On All Saints Sunday I was reminded of all the people I was connected to in our church and my family that worshipped there. When I am in the sanctuary, I look at the pew where I sat between my grandparents. Also my folks sat there along with some Aunts and Uncles. I look at those pews and it still feels like they are sitting there. I can look all around the sanctuary and look at almost any seat and remember someone who sat there. I can see them in my mind and still feel a connection to them. Its very comforting to me.

We live in a time where its hard to feel connected to others because of the pandemic. We try to keep a distance from others to keep them safe. But in truth, we are not separated. Deep inside, we all know that. Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it is not there. Every time I look at or think of those certain pews, I remember I am not alone. Thanks be to God.



Richard Jackson

FOOD DRIVE

Neighborhood Faith Convening is collecting food items to distribute to our area schools for families with food insecurity before Spring Break.

We have been assigned jars of peanut butter and canned chili as our collection items.

You may drop off your donations in the basket just inside the Woodlawn door or you can leave your donation on the bench outside the door and we will bring it inside for you!



We will collect through March 1st.



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Monday, February 8 – 10 a.m. Book Discussion by Zoom

Today we discuss Chaim Potok's *The Chosen*. This novel, first published in 1967, explores the tensions and conflicts within the small Hassidic community of Jewish Orthodoxy. The story follows two boys who start out as enemies and end as friends and defines the difficulties of raising children in such insular societies.



Wednesday, February 10 – 10 a.m. Steering Committee by Zoom

Watch for your invitation via email.



LHUMC Mission of the Month - February 2021

Wesley SA/Campus Ministries

The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio is the Methodist Campus Ministry for San Antonio College (SAC), Trinity University, and UTSA (main) campuses.

We earnestly seek to create intentional and authentic Christian communities in and around those Campuses. We engage with students in order to live out faith on campus as well as in mission efforts and worship opportunities. We seek to create a culture of change and growth through empowering and equipping student leaders.

This past year, as we all know has been a challenging one; yet we adapted having Bible Study and Prayer time on Zoom since students were mostly online, and a few Movie Nights with a limited number of masked students. Then we turned our attention to the staff on campus, The Campus Ministry became a drop off point for SOCKtober (underwear collection point) in cooperation with SAC's Student Life Office. In November through December, we hosted the Annual Angel Tree for SAC faculty and staff; collecting gifts and providing a place for them to wrap those gifts for all Pre-k to 5th grade that were delivered to Briscoe Elementary school.

We were even able to do a work project for Urban Faith Mission SA, installing floor trim in their facility so they are ready for when the children and youth come back.

Quite simply, we exist to make disciples for Jesus Christ! Although the struggles are real for our college students. We need your continued support and prayers as we Recharge Spirits through Zoom Bible Study, mission, and outreach projects.

Your donations will go towards purchasing needed masks, gloves and any other materials needed to protect students whenever we engage in a work project like Habitat for Humanity. And when it is safer to stay together as a group, we provide scholarships to students to participate in UM Army (participants pay to work in home repair and maintenance needs for low income, elderly and disabled homeowners; fee covers meals and supplies for staying a week at a location working, praising and fellowshiping with other participants from around the Rio Texas Conference)

At this moment we need: your continued prayers, and donations. For more information, please contact Rev. Valerie Vogt – Campus Minister, Brenda Meneses- Ministry Administrator, or Alex Ruiz – Program Coordinator at (210-733-1441) or visit our website <http://saumcm.org>.

Thank you for being a loyal friend of this Campus Ministry throughout the years.

The Wesley Foundation of San Antonio
102 Belknap Pl.
San Antonio, TX 78212
saumcm.org
(210) 733-1441 office
(due to Covid-19 we are currently working mostly from home.
Email office@saumcm.org (preferred method).



Wednesday Prayer Gathering

February 3

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.

Click on this link: <https://www.zoom.us/j/130214408>

OR

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...*



Communion Sunday Via Zoom

Each household will be encouraged to bring elements to this 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

**Sunday
February
7
5 p.m.**



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.



February 5—February 11

- 2/5**
Karen Hogan
Richard Parrigan
- 2/7**
Clyta Coder
- 2/8**
Allie Jackson
- 2/9**
Archer Hemingway
- 2/10**
Madelyn Furber
Reid Hartson
Barbara Miller

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Betty Benson, Whit Birdsong (*Kitty Grantham*), Jeanne Coder, Lee Davis (*Mary Verette*), Gena (*Thad Dorsey*), Bettie Goodkin (*Mary Verette*), Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, David and Deborah Milligan (*Kitty Grantham*), May O’Neal, Cythnia Regalado, Kaitlyn Rodrigue (*Kitty Grantham*), Doug Semmes, Bob Walden.

Those Who Mourn:

The family of Edna Peterson on her death this past month; Dean Pearson and family on the death of his brother, David Pearson; James Verette and family on the death of his cousin, Bennie Bennett.

Traveling mercies for:

Kathy Chandler, as she begins a new chapter in Frisco, Texas.

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; home-bound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.

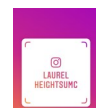


Lord, in your mercy, hear our PRAYER

You can offer a prayer of gratitude or concern by emailing prayers@mylhumc.org, 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