



The Messenger

February 10, 2021
Volume 45, Issue 6

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Show Us the Way ...

The season of Lent, which begins next week with Ash Wednesday, seems redundant this year. It feels as though Lent has been our reality since about the middle of March 2020 when we first closed the church's outer doors in response to a pandemic. It seems fitting then, that "Show Us the Way" would be our theme for the season. Borrowing from a book title by Henri Nouwen, *Show Me the Way*, the brief prayer is for God to guide us through yet another phase of a global ordeal that has been trying for all of us, traumatic for many, and tragic for too many others.



Lent, the church has always said, is at once a wilderness and "the springtime of the soul." It is the season that is at once austere and abundant—revealing the mystery and paradox of the ways in which God's grace meets us in sustaining and nourishing ways particularly in the midst of disturbing or disheartening circumstances. The cross and empty tomb toward which the season of Lent leads us are the emblems of that transformative work of God in the world, in our lives, and in our life together. If we are in a pandemic, then deeper runs the hope and promise of creation delivered, humanity healed, life renewed. Already we see signs that point toward overcoming the Covid-19 virus. How do we get there from here? Lord, show us the way . . .

The labyrinth is the image we choose for this Lenten journey. Different from a maze, which would steer us in arbitrary directions, a labyrinth guides our journey, even its twists and turns, toward center, toward self, toward God; then out again, with more zigs and zags and circuits and reversals, gently, trustably leading us toward a place of stepping into life again, perhaps with an insight, a decision, something surrendered, something understood.

The Laurel Heights labyrinth will be in place in the gym during Lent, accessible by reservation on Sundays from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. Surrounding the labyrinth will be images of journeying; nearby will be a shelf on which to place a stone representing something let go of, or accepted; a wrong forgiven, a faith renewed.

Where is grace at work to reveal the springtime in the wilderness? Where will our journey lead us? What will be the lessons learned, the burdens lifted, the trust engendered, as we travel this labyrinthine path together? Of this we can be assured: we do not travel alone, or unguided. God is with us, to shepherd our souls to life.

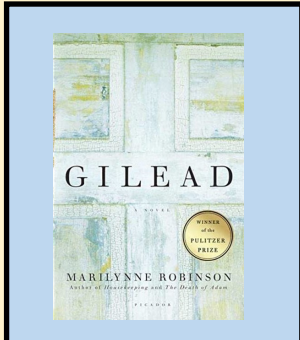
Grace and peace.

Ash Wednesday services:
Wednesday, February 17th
in two 25-minute formats: online throughout
the day; by Zoom at noon and 6:30 p.m.
(during the regularly scheduled Prayer Gathering)

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



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.

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/98154876717>

Meeting ID: 981 5487 6717

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,98154876717# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 981 5487 6717

Read for discussion:

Feb. 14: Pages 1-61

Feb. 21: Pages 62-123

Feb. 28: Pages 124-185

March 7: Pages 186-247

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

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.





Ash Wednesday

February 17

Noon and 6:30 p.m.

On Zoom

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

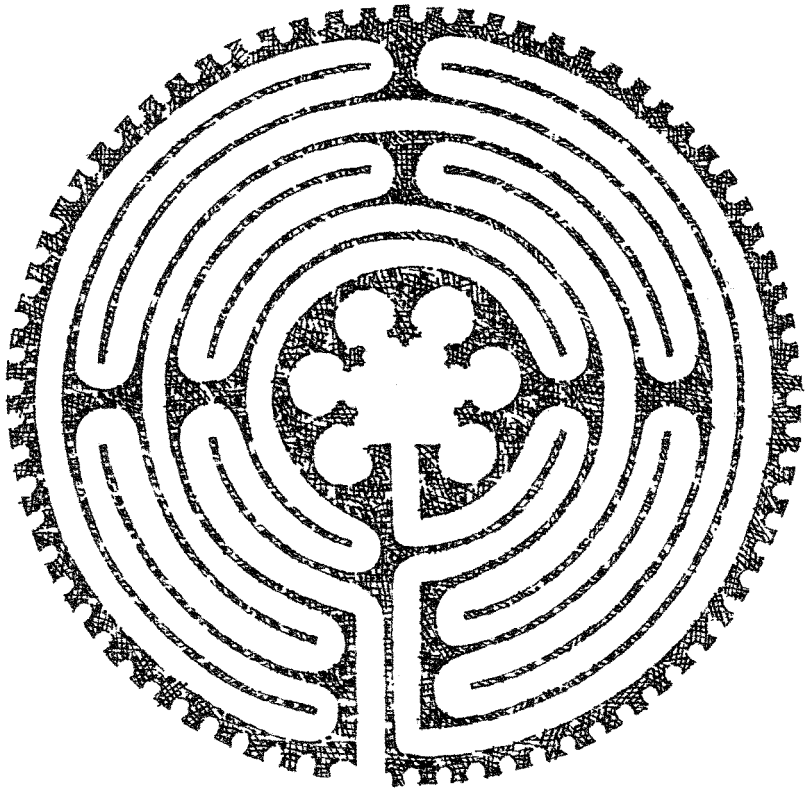
OR

Call (346) 248-7799, and when prompted,
enter the Meeting ID: 130 214 408

There will be a pre-recorded service that will be available
all through the day on our website.

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during Lent,
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images of journeying;
nearby will be a shelf on
which to
place a stone representing
something let go of,
or accepted;
a wrong forgiven,
a faith renewed.



Wednesday Prayer Gathering

February 10 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.



A time to pray

for one another and the world...

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



Laurel Heights UMC Children's Ministry

Green & Growing Drive Through



Sunday, February 14th
9:30-11:30AM
227 W. Woodlawn Ave.

Friends! Join us for a celebration of the green and growing days, as we approach the season of Lent. Drive through the Woodlawn entrance and measure how much you've grown (masked and physically-distanced, of course) and pick up your Lenten bag, made to companion you and your family through the season of Lent – from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week!

Your bag contains a visual representation of the six weeks of Lent and suggestions for marking this getting-ready-time as a family. There will be an opportunity to gather and share your Lenten journeys each Sunday afternoon at 4pm (beginning Sunday, February 24th) on Zoom.

Come and show us how much you've grown!

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).



Thursday, February 25 – SUPER ADULT DAY

Another day in the Woodlawn Parking Lot. Bring a chair to put in front of your car (or we will provide one) as we practice social distancing and wave royally to Super Friends. We will continue our celebration of the Valentine Season. There will be special Valentine cards on which to write notes of appreciation to Front Line Workers in the fight against Covid 19. We will deliver them to Methodist Metropolitan Hospital.

Come at 11 a.m. to receive cards for writing and lunch delivered to your car – “Super Adult Curb Service.”

Enjoy your lunch which today is: Green Salad with Love Apples, Chicken with Artichoke Hearts
Love Knot Rolls, Chocolate Covered Strawberries Cost \$6.00

Call to make your reservation at 210-872-8031



The program for the day will be a Sing Song of Valentine Fun Songs and traditional songs, i.e. “By the Light of the Silvery Moon,” “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” and others, and a reading of love poems. Name one and you’ll get an extra strawberry.

Bring a jar of Peanut Butter to add to food bags being collected by the Faith Convening Group for distribution to area schools for students who might otherwise go without during Spring Break.

General Fund

In memory of
Ginna Lynd

Given by Bert and Janice Clayton

In memory of
Marjorie Parrigan

Given by Bert and Janice Clayton

Memorial Gifts

Music Fund

In memory of
Marjorie Parrigan
Given by May O’Neal

General Fund

In memory of
Sam Dibrell Sr.
Given by Nancy and Richard Dugger

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.



February 12—February 18

2/15
Bobby Ojeda

2/16
Joseph Montano
Ellen Myers
Preston Rohlfs

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Tony Arredondo, Norma Balderas, Betty Benson, Whit Birdsong (*Kitty Grantham*), Jeanne Coder, Jim Crews, Judy Davis, Gena (*Thad Dorsey*), Marvin Gregory (*Carrie Clemens*), Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, May O’Neal, Doug Semmes, Bob Walden.

Those Who Mourn:
Family of Mary Alphin on her death;
Paul Escamilla and family on the death of his uncle, Paul Delaplain.

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.



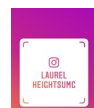
Lord, in your mercy, hear our PRAYER

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