



The Messenger

February 17, 2021
Volume 45, Issue 7

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Show Us the Way . . . Snowbound

Beloved in Christ,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe, warm, nourished, and about the good work in whatever way that work presents itself at this hour. I am humbled, grateful, and deeply proud of the Laurel Heights congregation and staff—all of you who are busy today seeing who needs what. There's an old saying among upper Midwest farmers, who on a forbiddingly cold and wintery day would look out the window and say, "Nothing out today but crows and Methodists."



Methodists, mobilize in all the ways you can. Pray, check on neighbors, kin, church kin, strangers. And reach out if you need a hand yourself with warmth, water, or other provisions. The church office is receiving calls and emails, and the staff and lay leadership are ready to assist in every way possible through this precarious time.

This is an Ash Wednesday like no other. A year like no other surrounds this first day of Lent, and a storm like no other has enfolded us in its icy grip to usher us into the sacred season. The good news of the gospel emerges today as it does on every other Ash Wednesday—and every other day besides, and even in the night: God is faithful, and will provide. The cross of Jesus is the emblem of God's self-giving love, and becomes our source of power and purpose in the most arduous times.

John Greenleaf Whittier's epic poem, "Snowbound" has come to mind frequently during our "snowbound" week, but not only for the vividly appropriate image the title brings to mind. At the heart of the poem is a promise that has carried me through many "snowbound" moments in my faith journey: *And can it be with so much lost of life and love to still live on? Yet life is ever Lord of death, and love can never lose its own.*

I consider Whittier's words a paraphrase of Romans 8: *Neither death, nor life (nor COVID-19, nor snowstorms) . . . nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

I hope to share Ash Wednesday services with you today or later this week (see inset for details), and I look forward to the Lenten journey before us. Our theme and prayer for the season has this week become even more appropriate and poignant than ever: *Show us the way . . .*

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>



**URGENT NEED FOR SAN ANTONIANS
WITHOUT PERMANENT SHELTER:**

**WARM CLOTHING
BLANKETS
NEW COLD WEATHER GEAR**

**DROP OFF @ SAN FERNANDO HOMELESS
RESOURCE HUB**

**319 W. TRAVIS ST.
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
1-4 P.M.**

CONTACT: Billy Mahone III
BillyMahone@sarahomeless.org
(210) 876-0720 x 114



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

6:30 p.m.

On Zoom

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

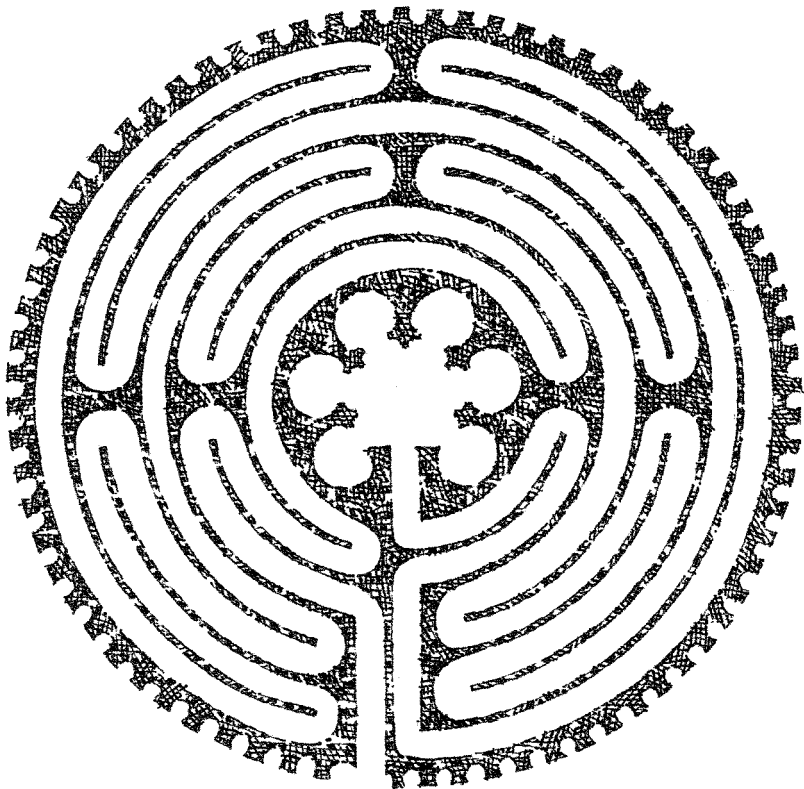
OR

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

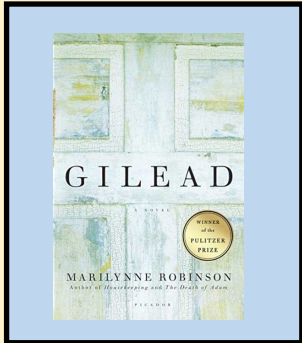
A pre-recorded service will be available
throughout the day on our website.

The Laurel Heights labyrinth
will be in place in the gym
during Lent,
accessible 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.



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

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).



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.

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.

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 19—February 25

2/19

Carolyn Hierholzer
Lucian Smith

2/20

Kelsey Shaw

2/22

Nina Morton

2/23

Teresa Garces

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:

Mary Verette on the loss of her aunt, Bettie Goodkin;

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.

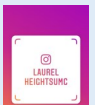


Photo Credit: Anthony Castillo, LHUMC Facilities Manager

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