



The Messenger

April 14, 2021
Volume 45, Issue 15

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

The next chapter

I have long imagined that the end of Covid 19 would be something like turning the page in a chapter book, the last page of *that* chapter disappearing from sight as the new chapter presents itself. What we've seen, of course, is that for the time being, at least, our experience is more like the J.B. Phillips New Testament Gospels I own, in which the pages in the middle of the book are mistakenly glued in place upside down. One has to turn the page over right about the moment of resurrection in Luke, flip backwards through the pages to the beginning of the upside down section, finish Luke and begin John, all the while advancing toward the rightside up place in the book you had earlier departed, and which would now be upside down when you arrived there, at about the middle of Jesus' raising of Lazarus in John 11. At that point you had to turn the book over, skip the upside down section you had just read, and resume reading the remaining upright portion all the way to breakfast on the beach at the end of John.



Come here. Stay back. Resurrection. Disruption. Open the doors. Remain closed. Proceed. Alter course. Enjoy the freedom, but exercise caution. Get together, but without handshakes; we're happy to see each other, but there are no hugs to prove it. Read a while. Stop. Turn the book over. Flip back through the upside down pages. Read. Flip over. Skip. Read. Breakfast on the beach. But not indoors. Yet.

It turns out that turning the page on the pandemic requires about as much patience, persistence, improvisation, and innovation as has been necessary throughout this disheveled year. Our path forward is not altogether clear; our gatherings, indeterminate.

For now, this is how the chapter book reads:

1. We will worship in the sanctuary Sundays at 11 *by reservation*. Masks required; double masking encouraged; physical distancing in place. We will not sing in person . . . Yet - we are assessing that possibility month to month; nor will we share refreshments just yet.
2. Sunday worship will be livestreamed for off-site participation at 11 a.m. and reposted on the church website later that same day.
3. Small groups, including children's Sunday school, will gather on site beginning Sunday, April 25th. Committees and other groups are also welcome to meet on site. Hybrid (Zoom/in-person) options are available in some instances.
4. Plans for early Sunday morning outdoor worship opportunities are underway.

The Apostle Paul once wrote, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). I think by that he meant at least in part that when we don't have everything figured out and put in place, and some of the pages are glued in upside down, we have the opportunity to tap into a deeper source of strength and steadiness, what Fulton Sheen called "invisible means of support." For a year we've summoned each other to draw from those deeper sources of our life together with God; and now again! Whatever else the next co-Covid/post-Covid chapter holds, it will hold God, and God will hold us.

Grace and peace.



Sunday April 18 in the sanctuary at 11 am
Sunday April 25 in the sanctuary at 11 am

by reservation at 210-733-7156 or click on
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c49afad23a64-lhumc1>

Last summer Laurel Heights engaged in a period of active listening for the prompting of the Holy Spirit that we called Grace Notes and Possibilities. The entire congregation was invited to participate in this time of sharing and reflection on what 6 months of living in a COVID-world had taught us. I invite you to view [this brief video](https://vimeo.com/487295726) for a short overview of what we discovered: <https://vimeo.com/487295726>

As the new year began, Paul, Sue and I, with the coaching of Tanya Campen, began to explore how the church might continue to respond to what we learned through Grace Notes and Possibilities. We began by reflecting on the values we sensed emerging in the ideas and conversations we had shared. Our thoughts are captured below.

Open Doors:

- Hospitality as a partnership
- The walls of the church are not limits or barriers
- Not barriers, but passages through which the church goes into the world and the world comes into the church

Discipleship/Growth:

- Through service, use of gifts, action, community
- Following God through service beyond our congregation, use of gifts, and action in the community
- Growing in faith through service in the world, use of gifts, prayer and study
- Service in the world, friendship, study and prayer
- Prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness, hospitality and friendship

Family:

- Community as a family, relationships within the community
- We want you to feel like Laurel Heights is your family. Relationships within our congregation are like family
- The faith community as a place of love, warmth, respect and safety
- Coming together in all configurations to love and support and cherish each other

Worship:

- Center piece of our lives together
- Joyful gatherings in which we sing and praise God and pray and listen and then go forth

Tradition:

- Where we have come from
- Where we have come from matters
- Holding on to that in our past which has served God well

This Saturday April 17th at 10AM, the Administrative Council will be meeting and will consider what values reflect who Laurel Heights is and wants to be and how we believe God is calling us to live more deeply into those values. Like all Administrative Council meetings, this is open to the entire congregation and you too are invited to participate in the conversation.

As we began our long journey a year ago, I wondered in a reflection what seeds might spring up from the disrupted soil of our lives together. Just as we can see in the landscape all around us this time of year, I believe within our church we can see signs of life – of resurrection – in the budding of beloved perennials, the reinvigorated growth of things pruned back, and the tender new shoots of things that have just been planted. I look forward to sharing this growing season with you.

LHUMC Administrative Council meeting Saturday, April 17 at 10 am.

Join Administrative Council Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96059947261?pwd=NkRuamc2OE85QXU0azFFemNlcjg5UT09>

Or call church office 210-733-7156 for more information



Come and See



In our upcoming video worship we'll hear from Marisa Parker on the topic of "Rest."
Many of our Laurel Heights family have contributed to this worship experience, and you're invited to share in the fruits of this labor of love.

Visit www.laurelheights.org/come-and-see

Rest

Catch the premiere

April 17

6:00 PM

SAVE *the* DATE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 12-16



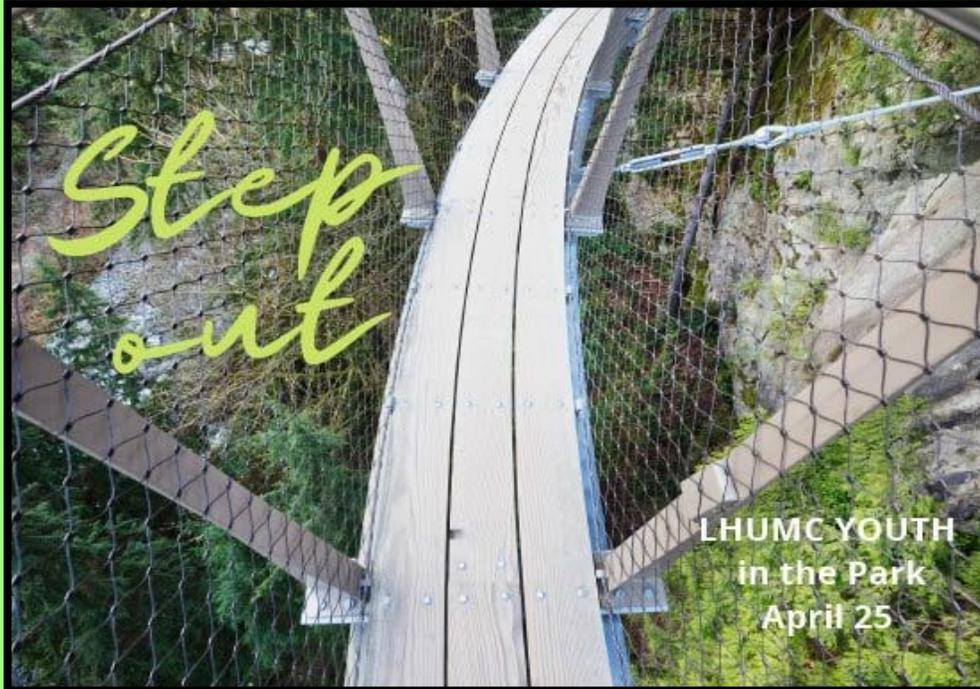
Limited registration.

Please register by July 1st

Questions? Email Meaghan Rohlfs

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Ephesians 6:10





**LAUREL HEIGHTS
UMC
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
@ HARDBERGER
April 25
1-3 PM**

See you at the West Entrance Picnic Area 8400 NW Military HWY.
Bring some water and be ready to hike the new Land Bridge and SKYWALK!

Contact Marisa Parker marisa@rc-co.com Cell# 210-391-0685



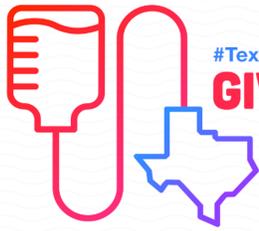
Deadline to apply for LHUMC scholarships is May 15

We are accepting scholarship applications for the 2021-2022 school year through Saturday, May 15, 2021. Anyone seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree may apply. Scholarships through the church are not auto-renewing, which means current LHUMC scholarship recipients **must re-apply**.

For an application, contact the church office at 210-733-7156
or email ejackson@mylhumc.org



Missions Corner



#TexasStrong All Day Long.
GIVE BLOOD



Laurel Heights

United Methodist Church

Sunday May 2nd

9a.m. – 2p.m.

Inside the Bloodmobile on Woodlawn Parking Lot

This is by appointment ONLY

https://donor.southtexasblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/129357

Click the link above to schedule an appointment or

Call 210-731-5555 to schedule an appt by phone



Mission of the Month

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is dedicated to stand with communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a new normal is established after a crisis. UMCOR responds to disasters that overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Relief is holistic in nature, offering preparedness training, essential relief supplies, long-term support in rebuilding efforts and assisting communities as they adapt.

For an array of ways to give and serve,
please go online to: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor>

There is a special initiative now to help welcome and provide for juvenile migrant travelers.

For more information on this, please contact Paul Escamilla, Laura Healy
or call the church office.



Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) provides migrant families a food bag to keep them nourished during the long bus rides. Most pass through the San Antonio bus station on their way to their sponsors around the country.

The food bags are provided by our volunteers who purchase the supplies, assemble the them, and deliver them to a designated volunteer who brings them to the bus station on their scheduled day.

If you would like to gather a group together to provide this loving gift, please contact Dawn Silvius at 210-559-6453 or dawnsilvius@gmail.com.

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

April 14

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
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

Flowers are a wonderful tribute to the special people and times in our lives and help add beauty to the sanctuary. The flowers may be taken home by you or left to be delivered to homebound members.

Altar Flowers needed for

April 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

If you would like to provide altar flowers,
please call 210-733-7156 or email Elizabeth
ejackson@mylhumc.org



Arrangements can be made
for you to pick them up the
next day, if needed.
Thank you!

Memorial and Honorarium Gifts



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of
Mary Alphin
Given by Tom Kurtz

In memory of
Gena Lewis
Given by Tom Kurtz

In memory of
Bob Walden
Given by Tom Kurtz

In memory of
Glen Hecox
Given by Tom Kurtz

Y-T-D 2021

Budget Receipts:	March	Y-T-D
Contributions Received	\$54,129.03	\$129,635.85
Other Receipts	\$5,913.09	\$18,008.09
Total Budget Receipts:	\$60,042.12	\$147,643.94
Total Budget Expenses:	\$66,163.07	\$182,890.21
Ahead (Behind):	(\$6,120.95)	(\$35,246.27)

Trustee Loan -2018		\$75,000.00
Paid 1/1/19		\$20,000.00
Balance Due:		\$55,000.00

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.



April 16—April 22

4/16

Liz Bailey

4/17

Randy Pollock

4/18

Wyatt Clemens
Chris Welch

4/20

Jane Manning
Lindsay Welch

4/21

Esther Chalk

*We don't want to leave anyone out!
Please notify the church office if you
don't see your name on the birthday list.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Tony Arredondo,
Josh Benninger (*Susan Holloway*),
Betty Benson, Judy Davis,
Cheryl Dean (*Joe McMullen*)

Marvin Gregory (*Carrie Clemens*), Lucien Manchester,
Shelley McMullen, May O'Neal,
Alex Padgett (*Laurel Welch*), Richard Parrigan,
Doug Semmes, Penny Viola.

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,

*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

