



# The Messenger

April 21, 2021  
Volume 45, Issue 16

*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## Creatureliness

Earth Day is upon us, reminding me of an insight shared by Abraham Heschel, a beloved humanitarian and Jewish theologian living in the last century. Heschel was once asked what he felt was most lacking in humanity in our time. He paused and reflected, and then, making up a word as poets and theologians sometimes do, he said, “Creatureliness.”

That word holds many meanings within it—humility, human fragility, solidarity with one another, and with nature. It suggests both awareness of a life source within us, and of the life source within every other creature, no matter its position in the food chain. It invites us to understand the delicate status all humans share with each other regardless of position in life, ethnicity, beliefs, or belongings. Maybe most of all, *creatureliness* suggests how vulnerable we are, and how reliant we are on both nature and each other. Our vulnerability as a species is something so much easier to understand now, with a virus having threatened us in such harmful ways over the course of this past year. We are not, perhaps, after all the regal inhabitants of this castle called earth, but guests, keepers, stewards in intricate covenant with all things living now, before, and beyond our time.

Several months ago in a worship service Jason Davis mentioned that the birds’ singing seemed more vibrant during the “Covid quiet” of that time—or that humans were creating less of our usual noise from industry, commerce, and transportation.

Since he made his observation the world has grown louder again as vaccinations and Covid fatigue conjoin to bring us closer again to our usual full propulsion. But as things grow louder can we bring with us from our Covid experience something of the awareness of our own fragility, and that of every other person on the planet? Can we bring with us a deeper sense of the gift of nature to our own lives, and our utter reliance upon the planet earth for our own existence? From there, it seems it would be another short step to praising the Creator for all creatures great and small.

Grace and peace.



*Paul*



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

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



**In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary**

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

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

Masks are required and social distancing

The service will be live streamed at 11 am on [the church website](#) and Facebook and will remain available to view afterward.

**Sunday School Classes begin this Sunday, April 25**

**10 am to 10:45 am**

**Children: Gym**

We will be using a one-room-schoolhouse model in the gym for pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We will gather, hear a story together and then participate in some enriching activities. At this time, we are not offering feast/snack to the children. Please pick up your child or children by at 10:45.

**Junior and Senior High Youth: Youth Lounge Room 321**

Serhat Guven and Marisa Parker will be leading them.

**Believers' Class: Room 305**

**Epworth Class: Room 212 Parlor**

**Pathfinders Class: Room 214 Dining Room**



At this time, we are not offering nursery care, but hope to in the near future. Please feel free to attend the children's Sunday School class with your child, if you'd like! If you are interested in utilizing the nursery for your little one in the weeks ahead, please let me know.

Grace & Peace & Sunday School!

Laura Healy

210-364-7206



As we return to worship in the sanctuary, we will also be returning to activities for children and youth. Are you ready to volunteer? Most of us have seen our Safe Gatherings certification expire during the pandemic.

Check <https://safegatherings.com/> and see if you are still certified and if you're not, get your recertification process started today. With VBS and Project Transformation on the horizon there will be lots of wonderful opportunities to engage with the children and young people in our care!

Questions? Contact Laura Healy



# Come and See



*We are incomplete without  
**Rest.***

Have you experienced the Come and See worship video and podcast for April? The theme this month is *rest*. What does resting in God mean for you? Spend some time with Marisa Parker, Aubrey Reichman, Clyta Coder, and many others exploring our relationships with God and rest.

Visit [www.laurelheights.org/come-and-see](http://www.laurelheights.org/come-and-see) to share in the fruits of this labor of love.

## **SAVE *the* DATE** **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** **JULY 12-16**



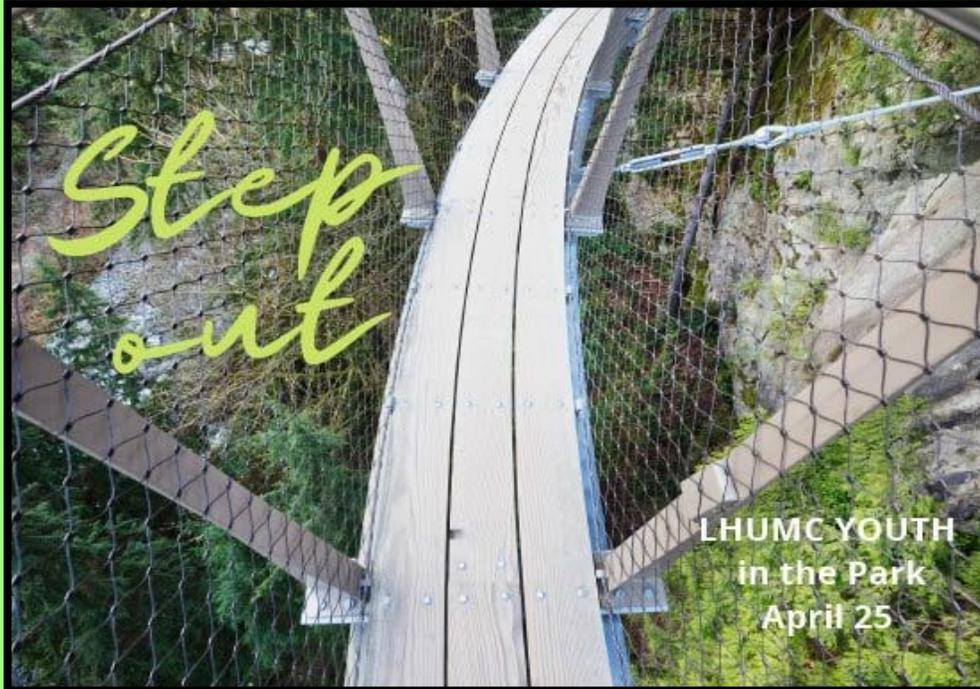
Limited registration.

Please register by July 1st

Questions? Email [Meaghan Rohlfs](mailto:Meaghan Rohlfs)

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





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

LHUMC Youth will gather at [Hardberger Park](#) at 1:00 p.m. at the picnic tables at the West entrance 8400 NW Military. To find us turn into the West entrance and then take the first right into the parking area. We'll be at the picnic tables just past the playground and next to the basketball courts. We will hike to the new Land Bridge and Sky Walk, so wear comfortable shoes, bring your water bottle and wear a mask.

Contact Marisa Parker [marisa@rc-co.com](mailto:marisa@rc-co.com) Cell# 210-391-0685  
Contact Wyndee Holbrook [wyndee@interfaithsaa.org](mailto:wyndee@interfaithsaa.org) Cell# 859-200-9880



### **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](mailto:ejackson@mylhumc.org)



## Thursday, April 29 – SUPER ADULT DAY

We're having great times on the Woodlawn Parking Lot  
–Masks and Distancing – doing our part.



10:30 am– BINGO!! A big success last month. Bring those White Elephants (more than one if you have them) and a board to put the cards on. Some people brought TV Tables.

11:00 am—LUNCH is served and we'll be treated to a special program with a Fiesta Flair from UTSA Music Department – The Steel Drum Ensemble! Always GREAT!

Menu for this April Lunch is:

Dilled Peas    Deviled Egg    Ham Salad

Relishes    Strawberry Cake

Cost for Lunch \$6.00

Please make reservation by calling 210-872-8031.



### Super Adults on their Bluebonnet Ramble last week



## Wednesday Prayer Gathering

April 21

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...*

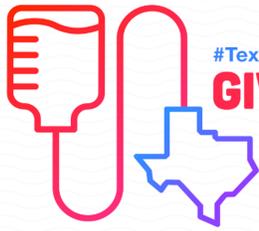
Click on this link: <https://www.zoom.us/j/130214408>

OR

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



# Missions Corner



#TexasStrong All Day Long.  
**GIVE BLOOD**



**Laurel Heights**

**United Methodist Church**

Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

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](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](mailto:dawnsilvius@gmail.com).

*You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. Corinthians 2:9-11.*



**Let's Make Tea: A THANK YOU from the Laurel Heights  
United Methodist Women  
By Muriel Manchester, Laurel Heights UMW**



A Chinese proverb states that “a true warrior, like tea, shows its strength in hot water.” We can all agree that the past year has been filled with all kinds of worry, uncertainty, pressures, fear of the unknown, and few options in dealing with our “new normal.” One might say that we have been in “hot water” and have proven ourselves to be “warriors.”

Many of us have lost a tremendous amount of time with loved ones, been kept inactive from the daily routines that give us life, and some have even lost hope. In the midst of these trying times, our search for normalcy has taken creative measures.

As an organization, Laurel Heights United Methodist Women, (not exempt from the events surrounding us), continue to provide hope, encouragement, and inspiration to a community, city, state and world. With our commitment to the enrichment of the lives of women and girls everywhere, in the midst of such difficult times, a “cup of tea” warms the spirit, soothes the soul, and calms the worried mind as the flavor is savored.

The Laurel Heights UMW sent out requests for engagement and participation in a STAY-AT-HOME VALENTINE'S TEA to raise funds on behalf of the many mission projects supported by our group. You responded with great generosity and enthusiasm, and we have already begun to disperse funds to our missions. In this way we celebrate 152 years of service by the United Methodist Women worldwide. We thank you tremendously for your unselfish giving. Our appreciation is beyond measure.

THANKS...You are blessed! The United Methodist Women of Laurel Heights UMC

*“Life is like a cup of tea. It's all in how you make it.”*



*Ann Wheeler, Karon O'Ferrall, and Janice Clayton  
prepare to mail the invitations to the  
UMW Stay-at-Home Tea February 2021*



## Laurel Heights Weekday School Fiesta Auction

Laurel Heights Weekday School fundraiser is a Fiesta Silent Auction

The Fiesta Silent Auction is live now and will close at 8:00pm on Friday, April 23, 2021.

This is the link for the auction: [www.32auctions.com/LHWS](http://www.32auctions.com/LHWS)



Featured items on the first page and items handmade by students will be sought after by the parents of each individual class...there are other fun themed baskets for the kids and grandkids!

## 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 23—April 30

4/23

Luke Campen

4/24

Deb Spading

4/25

Sam Guven

4/28

Norma Balderas

4/29

Laurie Morton

*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, Ted Bouteri (*Mark Doty*),  
Judy Davis, Cheryl Dean (*Joe McMullen*),  
Vicki Ferguson, Marvin Gregory (*Carrie Clemens*),  
Larry Howard, Jon Lowry, Lucien Manchester,  
Shelley McMullen, May O'Neal,  
Alex Padgett (*Laurel Welch*), Richard Parrigan,  
Doug Semmes.

**Those Who Mourn:** for the family of Penny Viola,  
on her 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)

