



The Messenger

April 28, 2021
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

From Lent to Advent

For over a year we've employed the liturgical season of Lent to describe our Covid experience—a wilderness journey that has involved sacrifices both chosen and imposed. Our “Lenten discipline” has consisted of solitude and separation, whether we wanted these practices to be ours or not.

Now we are coming back together to some degree—with an emphasis on *to some degree*. Many of us have experienced the freedom and newfound safety of having been vaccinated; others are further emboldened by a widening circle of friends and associates who have also received vaccinations. Many are ready to remove masks more comfortably, visit more proximately, shake hands or hug more freely. Many are dining out, meeting in person, opening up their homes to visitors.

Many are; but many aren't. Some of us are still cautious about public interactions with others, keeping our masks, keeping our distance (both of which are still required on the Laurel Heights campus), keeping our guard up. No no hugs, no handshakes; no mixing it up just yet.

This is our new reality. We have moved, figuratively, from Lent to Advent, the season of already-and-not-yet. In Advent we speak of a Savior who will be born to us, and yet who already inhabits our history and redeems our world. And so Advent yearns with expectancy for what is yet to be, even while savoring the once and future gift of the Savior. Normally our language during that season is metaphorical; in this moment, already-and-not-yet is very much our experience as we move from a Covid existence into a Covid-plus-safeguards existence toward what we hope will be a Covid-suppressed existence.

As we begin to find our way to Laurel Heights again for worship and other gatherings this means many things—including some uncertainty regarding how to greet one another when we gather for worship or other events, whether to attend in person at all, what protocols we can expect will have changed by next week, or next month. When can we all sing again? When can we shake hands? Pass an offering plate? Share Holy Communion? When can we enjoy refreshments and laughter in the Fellowship Hall?

When attorney Jerry Blackwell said earlier this week that “progress rolls like a brick” I immediately thought of our current process at Laurel Heights of seeking to move forward, but doing so in fits and starts, haltingly, tentatively, trustingly but guardedly, with a blend of enterprise and caution. I've said before that our seasons are wiser than we are. Perhaps that is in part because they train us in the dispositions so essential for living gracefully in awkward and challenging circumstances. In this case, observing the Advent season over the years will have shaped our hearts in an already-and-not-yet spiritual posture that promises to serve us well in an already-and-not-yet time. Welcome to a spring and summer of Advent. God is with us; and God is near.

Grace and peace.



Sunday May 2 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 May 2 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

Nursery care will be available from 9:30 am -12:30 pm

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 Sunday, May 2

10 am to 10:45 am

Children: Gym

We will be using a one-room-schoolhouse model in the gym for pre-school through 5th 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 312—starts at 9:30 am

Epworth Class: Room 212 Parlor

Everywoman's Class: Room 211 Laurel Room

Pathfinders Class: Room 214 Dining Room



Nursery care will
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to 12:30 pm

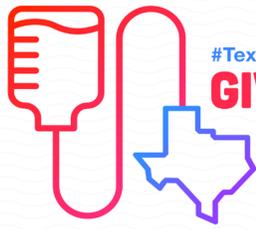


As we return to worship in the sanctuary, we will also be returning to activities for children and youth. Are you ready to volunteer? Most of us have seen our Safe Gatherings certification expire during the pandemic.

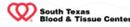
Check <https://safegatherings.com/> and see if you are still certified and if you're not, get your recertification process started today. With VBS and Project Transformation on the horizon there will be lots of wonderful opportunities to engage with the children and young people in our care!

Questions? Contact Laura Healy

Missions Corner



#TexasStrong All Day Long.
GIVE BLOOD



Laurel Heights

United Methodist Church

Sunday May 2nd

9 a.m. – 2 p.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



Our Mission of the Month is Church under the Bridge. On the first Thursday of each month, someone from Laurel Heights brings our food donations to CUB. Please have your sandwiches, fruits or cookies at the church by 3 pm. They will be collected and distributed that evening at the Church under the Bridge location. Contact Julie Mazel for more information at 210-319-0356. While financial contributions are always welcome, these items are always needed - new socks or undergarments for men and women (in all sizes).

Drop off your donations of socks or undergarments at the following location:

Church Under the Bridge

724 Chestnut

San Antonio TX 78202

Tues.,Thurs. and Sun. after 4pm.



GET YOUR SHOT



COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Free to All

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Thursday, May 20

9 am to 3 pm

The Laurel Heights Pharmacy will be offering the Moderna vaccination for covid-19 at the church. This is for everyone in the community. Please let your neighbors know if they are needing the vaccination. For more information or questions, please contact our Wesley Nurse, Yvonne Garcia at 210-272-7921.

Volunteers are needed to help folks fill out the paperwork.



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.





“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

Psalm 23 is the guiding text for the next
Come and See worship experience, **Restore**.

What special meaning does this Psalm hold for you?
Has it helped calm an anxious night? Has it carried you through
a time of loss in your life? What might change if we lived each
day shepherded by God?

[Watch a video created by Rachel Goeres](#) to see what “restore”
means to her and join us again in May for *Come and See . . . Restore*
worship video and a special podcast interview with Ryan Campen.

You are invited. Always. We look forward to worshipping with you.

*Come and
See . . .*



Restore
Coming in May

RELATIONSHIPS GROW

leaders emerge

COMMUNITIES CHANGE



Help us get ready for in-person

Project Transformation at Laurel Heights this summer!

Project Transformation begins June 21st!

[Connect with Laura Healy](#) to coordinate a drop-off time and learn about more ways to be involved with PT at LH!

CRAFT SUPPLIES

- Colored Pencils & Markers & Crayons
- Glue Sticks/Elmer's Glue
- Craft Paint & Paint Brushes
- Glitter/Glitter Pens
- Popsicle Sticks/Tongue Depressors
- Paper Plates & Food Coloring
- Fuzzy Craft Pom-Poms & Craft Feathers
- Crafting Pipe Cleaner & Yarn
- Crafting Gems & Stickers
- Play-Doh/Clay & Toothpicks
- Googly Eyes

OUTDOOR SUPPLIES

- Hula Hoops
- Sports Balls
- Jump Ropes
- Sand Pails
- Safety Cones
- Pool Noodles
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Reusable Water Bottles

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Updates

The Laurel Heights Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) met last week to determine staff configurations to best support resumption and expansion of various ministries at the church. Among their actions:

Jim Carr has announced his plans to retire from his part-time position as minister of pastoral care, effective June 1. The Committee will organize a special gathering to express our deep appreciation to Jim for his service to Laurel Heights.

Laura Healy, who currently serves $\frac{3}{4}$ time directing program ministries, will expand her responsibilities to include pastoral care and other administrative roles.

Shelly Kennerdell, who has been partnering with Elizabeth Jackson to provide onsite administrative and program support at 10 hours a week will expand her hours to 15.

Rev. Wyndee Holbrook, who guided the "Come and See" online worship services in December and January and is overseeing similar worship offerings in March, April, and May, will direct a weekly "Come and See" summer outdoor worship gathering on Rowe Plaza on Sunday mornings beginning in June.



SAVE *the* DATE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 12-16



Limited registration.

Please register by July 1st

Questions? Email [Meaghan Rohlf](#)s

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



Class of 2021

As the end of the school year draws near,
we are happy to recognize
Ella Sanders and Jason Salazar
as our graduating seniors for 2021.

If you would like to send a card or note to wish them well as they begin their next big adventure, please send them to the church office, 227 West Woodlawn San Antonio, TX 78212 to the attention of Laura Healy. We will gather up all your good wishes and congratulations and deliver them to Ella and Jason along with the traditional graduation gift from Laurel Heights!

Please send your notes and cards by May 26th for delivery!

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



Youth and leaders
at Hardberger Park last week.
They hiked the new Land Bridge
and Sky Walk.



**Communion Sunday
via Zoom
May 2 at 5 p.m.**

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.

Click on this link to join the service of Holy Communion
<https://zoom.us/j/98525289724>



Wednesday Prayer Gathering

April 28

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



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.



May 1—May 6

5/2

Audie Scott

5/3

Diane Halim
Jenn Vasquez

5/4

Shannon McFarland
Ronnie Watson

5/5

Sheila Sims
Brian Trodden

*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, Marvin Huth, Jon Lowry,
Lucien Manchester, Shelley McMullen,
May O'Neal, Alex Padgett (*Laurel Welch*),
Richard Parrigan, Doug Semmes.

Those Who Mourn:
for the family of Janie Groves,
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,
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

