



# The Messenger

June 30, 2021  
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*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## **Ups and Downs in Our Life Together**

On Sunday Tom Morton shared a word of witness in which he spoke of the deeply fulfilling experience of being part of the Laurel Heights church family for nearly half a century. What I found so wise was that he didn't describe that journey in completely glowing terms, but rather as a mix of experiences—joy and heartache; triumphs and challenges; ups and downs.



Bruce Feiler has written a book, *The Secrets of Happy Families*, in which he speaks of three different kinds of family narratives—the ascending (“We used to have nothing; now we have everything!”), the descending (“We use to have it all, then we lost it.”), and the oscillating, which Tom Morton put so very well: “It hadn't all been roses; there've been some challenges . . .” It is this third narrative, Feiler asserts, that makes for the strongest families. The shared story that includes ups and downs, challenges as well as victories, is the sort of story that strengthens our resilience and draws us into deeper relationship with each other.

The Laurel Heights congregation, as of the last year, has one more oscillation story to fortify and unify us. The Covid year has stretched and strained us in highly visible and also far more subtle ways. It has been for us a story of hardship and the overcoming of it, of moving through a valley of shadows and experiencing the grace and grit that have led us toward a level place.

On a personal note, I must say that serving as your pastor through this crucible time I have felt a tremendous level of support from you as a congregation, even as I sought to lead without knowing where we were going. I resonate with Tom's words: “It hasn't all been roses; there have been some challenges . . .” But as Tom emphasized about his own experience, I, too, have felt the love, the courage, the faith of a church family seeking to overcome, always looking for the grace notes and possibilities, wanting to widen our reach even while separated, seeking to trust God to provide at every step. The life of prayer we have known, together and apart, has been sustaining.

The oldest hymn in Christianity is called the *kenotic* hymn. Found in Paul's letter to the Philippians, it is a paean to an oscillating Christ, who was in the form of God, but became human, even unto death on a cross, before then being exalted. This is the Christ found in our midst as we gather in his name, and the pattern of our life together as Christians. Ups and downs, joy and heartache, triumphs and challenges are all part of God's redeeming work in and through the people of God at Laurel Heights.

Grace and peace.

**Come and See Worship Gathering in Fellowship Hall 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.**  
Come and share worship in an informal style. Masks required.

**Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.**  
Come and discover a new group for study and friendship.

**Fellowship Time 10:30 - 10:55 a.m.**

**Sanctuary Worship 11:00 a.m.**  
No reservations required. Masks recommended.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.**

**Sanctuary Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday, July 4**

No reservations are required  
*(Masks are encouraged)*

The service will be live streamed at 11 am  
on church website  
& Facebook and will remain available to view afterward.

**Fellowship Time 10:30 – 10:55 a.m.**

**Sunday School for All Ages  
9:45- 10:30 a.m.**

Join a familiar group, or discover a  
new circle for study and friendship.

Nursery care  
will be available  
from  
8:45 am -12:30 pm



Join us this 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend as we celebrate Come and See Live! with Holy Communion and a stirring word from Rev. Wyndee Holbrook, Laurel Heights Pastor in Residence.

In this casual, creative worship experience we will explore Mark 6:1-13 and the importance of knowing, and blessing, our roots, even if they were to reject us.

July 4 Wyndee Holbrook  
July 11 John Largent  
July 18 Rachel Goeres  
July 25 Alice Gannon

We begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m. followed by the option for coffee and donut holes. All ages are encouraged to attend. There is great joy packed into those 30 minutes, please COME AND SEE for yourself!

**Sunday School for All Ages  
9:45- 10:30 a.m.**

Join a familiar group, or discover anew circle for study and friendship.

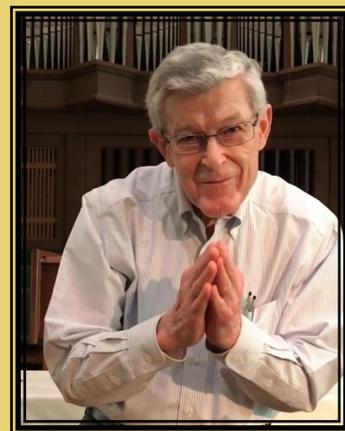
Nursery care  
will be available  
from 8:45 am -12:30 pm

**Retirement, no. Refreshing, yes.**

**Monday, July 5**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Interview with Rev. Jim Carr**



Subscribe to the Laurel Heights United Methodist Podcast to catch a very special interview with Rev. Jim Carr on his stories in ministry, life, and what is to come for him next.

VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL 2021

JULY 12-16  
9AM-12PM

# Hi Friends!

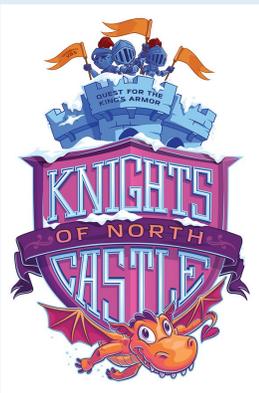


## It's time to register for VBS at Laurel Heights!

VISIT [LAURELHEIGHTS.ORG](http://LAURELHEIGHTS.ORG) TO  
REGISTER TODAY!

[Or click here to register.](#)

Questions? Email [Meaghan Rohlf](#)s



If you would like to listen, learn  
and enjoy the VBS music

[click here!](#)

# Missions Corner



## Great work, Laurel Heights !

Last Sunday, June 27, members, both young and old, assembled over **400 Manna Bags!**

Most of the bags will be delivered to CAM to provide a small gift of sustenance to those without a home.

### Volunteer Drivers Needed:

Volunteers are needed to drive older adults to routine doctor appointments. This is done on a one-on-one basis.

Driver stays with client then returns them home.

All clients live in northeast San Antonio.

If you know someone who has extra time on their hands who might be able to drive a person once a month, once a week or more, please tell them about NESAs and send them our way.

We are flexible.

If you are concerned about gas, don't worry. Mileage is reimbursed. And, we adhere to the CDC COVID-19 guidelines.

Most clients are vaccinated.

It is truly a fulfilling experience to be able to give back to the community and pay it forward...take a chance and try it out!

**Call us at 210-967-6372, M-F 9am-3pm.**

**Northeast Senior Assistance (NESAs),**

**2903 Nacogdoches Rd., 78217.**





United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## **AN OPPORTUNITY : 2021 Mission U**

The United Methodist Women of Las Misiones District invites you to a FREE, virtual study that will take place in July. There are three opportunities for study during the 2021 Mission U:

Finding Peace in an Anxious World

PUSH OUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in America

Bearing Witness for the Kin-dom (Taught in English or Spanish)

Each study will meet four times during July.

To register, please go to this link:

<https://www.umwriotexas.org/Registration>.

Any questions? Call or text Janice Clayton at 210-865-5917



## Yvonne Garcia Wesley Nurse



I was born and raised in San Antonio, the second oldest of 5 siblings. My dad was the provider and even though my mother was a nurse, she chose to stay home and raise her family. I come from a very spiritual family and was raised in the Catholic Church. I went to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, formerly known as Little Flower School, from 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. As a child, I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. After 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I went to Providence HS, an all-girls HS in downtown SA, and then went to San Antonio College before entering Nursing school.

I married my husband, Norm, at age 21(!), and this summer we will celebrate 43 years of marriage. We have 3 children - Josh, Caitie and Cami - and one grandson, Ethan. We raised our children with a strong faith and love for spirit. I have been a Registered Nurse for 39 years, and have done all types of nursing in my career, including working as a Med-surg nurse in a hospital, an office nurse, a home health nurse, a nurse reviewer for the state, and a prior authorization nurse for an Insurance company.

All my experiences have brought me to my "forever job" at Methodist Healthcare Ministries. I am grateful this brought me to Laurel Heights UMC as a Wesley Nurse, where I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with a lot of the congregation, staff, and community. I am grateful for such a rich life of blessings.

# CELEBRATE

Super Adults were back in the gym last week!



## 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

## Wednesday Prayer Gathering

**June 30**  
**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

*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.



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Alisia, Tony Arredondo, Cecilia, Roxane Darnell,  
Marvadean and Ted Eves (*Kay Carter*), Judy Davis,  
Phil Hall (*Sue Hall*), Ahmed Halim, Larry Howard,  
Lucien Manchester, Betty McCowan (*Billie Arredondo*),  
Bryan Myers (*Bill Myers*), Richard Parrigan,  
Doug Semmes, Nathan Vasquez (*Leticia Vasquez*).

**God's Presence:** For those affected by the COVID-19 virus  
and their families, as well as for the caregivers an  
researchers working to treat those affected and combat  
the spread of the disease; for the rescue efforts in  
Oceanside , Florida and the families affected by the  
disaster, homebound members, the incarcerated, and  
women and men in our military



### July 1 to July 7

**7/1**

Larry Howard

**7/2**

Marie Lanoux

**7/3**

Aleene Block  
Shelley McMullen

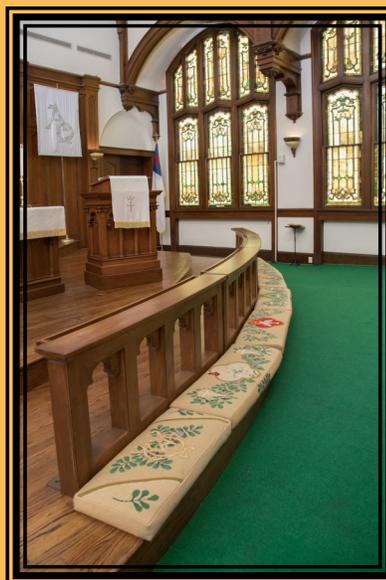
**7/5**

Ann Beuhler

**7/6**

Robert Barrows

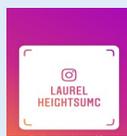
*We don't want to leave anyone out!  
Please notify the church office if you  
don't see your name on the birthday list.*



## 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)