



The Messenger

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A season of inaugurals

Raffi, a children's singer, performs a song from a child's perspective called "I Wonder If I'm Growing" in which the child doesn't see any signs that they are any bigger than they were the day before, the week before, the month before. Then, suddenly, mid-verse, a discovery: "Hey! I can reach the tap now for the very first time today!"

If we wonder if we're growing in our faith as we begin circulating again, here's the evidence: We gathered in person on Easter for the very first time. Two weeks later, we gathered in the sanctuary for the very first time. A few weeks later we hosted a midweek in-person gathering on the church campus for the very first time. Then we ate together for the very first time. By then it was June, and we sang together for the very first time. This coming Sunday we will welcome any and all—no reservation required—for the very first time. In the coming weeks we hope to reach even more firsts as we experience an increasing sense of safety and well being both in our congregation and our community.



In my prayers, in my ponderings, in my conversations with many of you, I have been wondering about this sequence of "firsts," this season of inaugurals. What does it mean, week after week, to achieve another new practice, reach another frontier in new-normalcy? I marvel at the grace of God empowering this beloved Laurel Heights community to *emerge*. I see new energy and hopefulness related to new expressions of ministry, such as Come and See and our online worship offerings. I am aware of the realities of fatigue, discouragement, and lament that are woven into these new-found energies and hopes. I also feel a concern about those still missing from the congregation's circle and the wider circle of seekers who may not know how to find their way to where we are, or we to them. It's like drinking from a fire hose—so many things to process and ponder, to act upon and respond to, to plan and imagine, to listen for and pay attention to.

"When God brought us back home from our places of exile," the psalmist writes, "it was as though we were dreaming." I can relate. Maybe you can, too. This season of inaugurals has been beautiful, surreal, shifty, incongruous, unsettling, heart-warming, familiar, strange. All the things that happen in dreams seem to be happening among us in real life. On Pentecost we read this together, maybe unaware how much we were describing ourselves just now: "The young and the old will see visions and dream dreams." It was all related to the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the church—back then and right now, courtesy of the inaugurating God, who makes all things new (Revelation 21:5). Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace.

Come and See Worship Gathering on Rowe Plaza
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Come and share worship in the open air.

Sanctuary Worship
11:00 a.m.
No reservations required.

**Come and See
Worship Gathering
on Rowe Plaza
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.**

Come and share worship
in the open air.

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

*Bring a lawn chair or blanket.
Extra chairs will be available.*



 **LAUREL HEIGHTS**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS



**LAUREL HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Sunday, June 13

**Sunday School
for All Ages
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
(9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
for certain adult groups)**
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

Sanctuary Worship at 11:00 a.m.

No reservations are required

(Masks are required.)

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



Rev. Wyndee Holbrook Pastor in Residence



In addition to the honor of serving Laurel Heights as Pastor in Residence for the current year, Rev. Wyndee E. Holbrook serves the Interfaith San Antonio Alliance as Executive Director. Her interfaith work may seem like a stretch from her sense of call to International Missions as a Southern Baptist growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, but God has been faithful throughout her ministry to use her gifts as an encourager and a student of people.

Wyndee met her husband of 36 years, Rev. Mitch Holbrook, in Old Testament class while both were in seminary working on their Master of Divinity degrees. She notes, "You just never know what you'll get out of the Bible." They have one married son and all of the Holbrook's moved from Kentucky to San Antonio in 2017. They were drawn to San Antonio to expand their world and cherish calling this beautifully diverse city, "home."

Wyndee's first decades in ministry were spent as a Baptist Student Union Campus Minister in Kentucky. She then left the Southern Baptist Convention, was ordained by a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Church in 2011, and shifted to non-profit leadership. Serving as Executive Director of the Academy of Preachers, an ecumenical organization committed to "inspiring young people in their call to gospel preaching," Wyndee broadened her ecumenical understanding and relationships. Her years of working with young adults taught her the vital role of mentoring to empower the voices of emerging leaders.

During this period she became well acquainted with several United Methodist clergy, preaching professors, and aspiring UMC ministers. Those friendships helped teach her a deep appreciation and a level of fluency in the ways of The United Methodist Church. Wyndee now serves Laurel Heights part-time in youth ministry support and as coordinator of our summer Come and See worship gatherings. She has found her connection with the Laurel Heights congregation through shared ministry and friendship deeply rewarding.

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

June 9

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





Super Adults Book Talk

Monday, June 14 at 10 am on Zoom

Today we discuss the delightful novel by Penelope Fitzgerald, The Bookshop, which is now a motion picture.

If you would like to join us, please call and let us know at 210-872-8031.

All are Welcome!



Thursday, June 24 – SUPER ADULT DAY

(Masks required except while eating)

We'll be meeting in the **Gym**. We're celebrating a little bit of Fiesta since it is in June this year. Wear your Fiesta Best. Come at 10:30 to play Bingo. Bring wrapped White Elephants for Prizes

Lunch today will again be served at your place at the table.

Menu

Guacamole Salad

Anticuchos

Chile Rice

Tortillas

Birthday Cake for all for dessert

Cost for lunch \$6.00

Reservation required. Call 210-872-8031.



The program today will be the sharing of something you have made or discovered during our enforced isolation. Perhaps something you've sewn or planted or painted or built. Bring it to "Show & Tell". Also, tell us about the books you've read, thoughts you've had, new habits (good ones) you have formed, etc.

Missions Corner



Mission of the month
for June



The Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) is a faith-based movement meeting the changing needs of asylum seekers, refugees and at-risk immigrants in collaboration with others.

- Respond to the needs as they present themselves and as they change.
- Provide basic support to people on their journey.
- Educate and advocate to change the systems that impact immigrants.
- Pray in community.
- Currently help many asylum seekers.

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition Outreach Programs are supported by & supplement the other outreach programs they run. The outreach programs provide a warm, comforting welcome and invaluable resources to migrants who have escaped unimaginable dangers in their homeland and have been released from American detention centers.

Visit their website for Volunteer Opportunities:

<https://interfaithwelcomecoalition.org/>

Bus Station Outreach

Airport Outreach

Accompaniment

Lunch Outreach

Backpack Outreach



An opportunity to show our commitment to loving children into literacy by volunteering and supporting Project Transformation in these exciting ways:

Reading Buddies are welcome at Westlawn United Methodist Church and Northern Hills United Methodist Church You can click this link to sign up.

<https://www.givepulse.com/event/registerShifts/230211>

Partner up with a friend or a small group and click here to **provide a delicious dinner** for the hard-working PT interns at their residence on Vance Jackson Road!

<https://www.givepulse.com/event/dates/227764>

SAVE *the* DATE

JULY 12-16



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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



If you would like to listen,
learn and enjoy
the VBS music before July,
click on the link below!



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9tsWmaf3GQ32ZXnznkGoah-boABf-vPc>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

Memorial and Honorarium Gifts



Super Adults

In honor of
Susan Holloway
Given by Holly Hoting



Fall Afresh on Me
Ven Sobre Mi

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Rio Texas Annual Conference

June 11 - 13

**Check out all the happenings
at Annual Conference online at**

<https://riotexas.org/annual-conference-2021>

*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.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Tony Arredondo, Judy Davis,
Ahmed Halim, Larry Howard, Josiah (*Thad Dorsey*),
Jon Lowry, Lucien Manchester,
Shelley McMullen, Bryan Myers (*Bill Myers*),
May O'Neal, 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 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.



June 13 to June 20

6/13

Alex Deras

6/18

William Beuhler

Richard Jackson

6/19

Joel Dixon

Rachel Webb

*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