



The Messenger

July 6, 2021
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Gratitude

I must acknowledge my pre-COVID presumption that the many-splendored existence I knew, occasional challenges and difficulties notwithstanding, would more or less remain in place for the duration of life. I could count on in-person human encounters; public gatherings for worship; a friendly hug with an acquaintance or parishioner; casual conversation with the next person in line; handshakes, smiles, group singing, a meal shared across a small table in a crowded restaurant. These were routines in my life and ministry that I assumed, expected, took for granted.



In the last year we have all seen these routines evaporate. And speaking for myself, as they have disappeared, they have become more precious than I ever regarded them before. Maybe you can relate.

In a little book that has been a spiritual companion through life, *Dewdrops on Spiderwebs*, Susan Classen makes this observation:

A grateful heart is a gift of grace, a gift that comes wrapped in struggle because struggle breaks through the greatest obstacle to appreciation—taking things for granted.

I am newly grateful this summer. As these simple, ordinary practices and experiences have slowly begun to return, I have regarded them with greater appreciation than ever before. Who would think a smile could mean so much? Only someone who has been unable to see a smile for what has seemed like an eternity. Who would have considered hearing a chorus of voices to be such a joyous thing? Yet every hymn we've sung in worship since we returned to congregational singing has stirred my heart. Perhaps you have felt the same stirring. A year of struggle has broken through our tendency to take treasured practices for granted, and gratitude has been the residual gift.

I believe the grateful heart always seeks expression in some act of thanksgiving. What will it be for you and me? A new sense of calling? A special offering? A decision to serve or lead in a new capacity? Releasing an old resentment, or offering a fresh gesture of forgiveness? Maybe it will be saying a great big "Yes!" to life—to joy and laughter and expressions of affection and appreciation; to faith and devotion and deeper encounters with God; to undertaking a perennially "some day" plan or project; to unearthing a long-buried gift; to risking, daring, leaping in faith.

As we gingerly find our way to a new normal, continuing with careful protocols and precautions, let this be for each of us a central feature of our emergence: a holy carelessness in the ways we love and cherish and delight and sing and befriend and embrace and surrender.

Grace and peace.





July 11

The casual, creative worship experience begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends 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 a new circle for study and friendship.

Nursery care

will be available

from

8:45 am -12:30 pm

Fellowship Time 10:30 – 10:55 a.m.



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

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

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.

Love Offering for Jim Carr

Through the many financial contributions of the Laurel Heights congregation to a love offering for Jim Carr upon his retirement, Jim was presented with a monetary gift of over \$5000. Jim is well loved, and his church family has expressed that deep affection in a wonderfully generous way.

Thank you, church!

THANK YOU

Your response to my retirement from the church staff has had a strong impact on my thoughts and feelings. The financial offering is beyond imagination, and your written and spoken expressions have touched my heart in profound ways. I am truly grateful for what I have received from you, and deeply thankful for your expressions of care.

This retirement is timely for me. It opens a way to devote myself to the personal and spiritual growth to which I feel called to in this stage of my life.

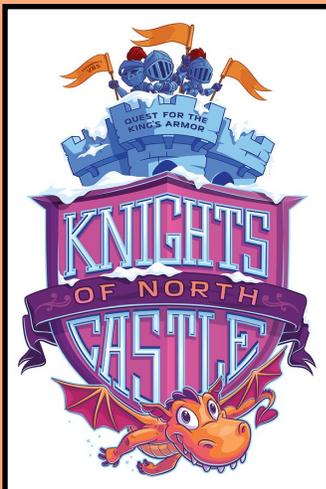
So, thank you, church, for your loving response.
You bless my life.

Grace, love, peace,

Jim Carr



It's time for
VBS at Laurel Heights!



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

[click here!](#)

Missions Corner



Mission of the Month for July

Project Transformation Rio Texas' mission is to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships, because our vision is of a world

that is rooted in love, pursues the equity of all people, and amplifies God's call on every life. This collaborative model of ministry harnesses the creative energy and leadership of college age young adults, who live in intentional Christian community, and lead summer and afterschool programs for children in overburdened neighborhoods while exploring their call. The programs are held at United Methodist churches thereby helping those churches connect in meaningful ways with their communities.

Ways you can help this summer:

One-to-One Reading Volunteers – Mon-Thu 10a-12p – June 23- July 28

Caring volunteers read with children in 1st-6th grade enrolled in PT's summer day camps. The literacy component of Project Transformation is an exciting opportunity for volunteers to interact with the children in a one-to-one setting. All volunteers must complete a background check prior to volunteering, must be vaccinated, and complete an online training. No previous experience is needed!

Locations:

Northern Hills Ministry Center, 4306 Naco Pass, SA, TX 78217
Westlawn UMC, 122 San Manuel Ave., SA, TX 78237

Provide Intern Dinners – Sun-Thu 6:00p-7:30p – June 8 through July 29

Groups and individuals are needed to provide dinner Sunday through Thursday for PT's Interns. This is a great opportunity to serve, encourage and get to know the young people making a difference!

Location: St. Mark's UMC, 1902 Vance Jackson Rd., SA, TX 78213

**For more information and to sign-up to volunteer or to provide a dinner
visit www.PTRioTexas.org or email info@ptriotexas.org.**



Annalynn Jackson, Judy Davis, and Clyta Coder are pictured with new friends, Jasmine, a student at Virginia Tech and student pastor Gabe. The Laurel Heights UMW provided a meal for eleven Project Transformation interns at St. Mark's UMC on Tuesday, July 6, 2021.

Mission u 2021
There's Far More Here Than
Meets the Eye
July 5 - 31

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





Laurie Miracle Weekday School Director



Laurie Miracle is the Executive Director of the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church Weekday School. She has served in this position for 5 years. Prior to being the Executive Director, Laurie provided staff development and parent seminars for the Weekday school as well as other pre-schools around the San Antonio area. Since graduating with her Bachelor's degree from Texas Tech she has worked in the field of Early Childhood or Special Education for the last 30 years.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Laurie has been familiar with the Weekday school for many years. She considers her service a great privilege to invest her time and energy in a school who has led the way in high quality early childhood education from the inception. As a follower of Jesus and a Pastor's wife in the community Laurie values the opportunity to serve families in our community. She believes that opening the doors of the school provides a safe and loving environment for children and a great way to serve the Lord and his church.

Laurie is active in her church, and she enjoys speaking at retreats and other venues to encourage people in their faith journey. She considers LHUMC her second church home and continues to develop close relationships with church staff, congregation, and day school families. When not at work, Laurie loves to spend time with her family to include her husband, three daughters and their families, and five grandchildren.

Memorial and Honorarium Gifts



General Fund

In honor of
Elizabeth Jackson
Given by Teresa Garces

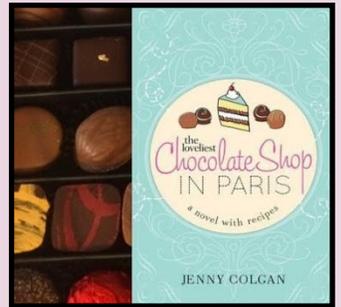
Music Fund

In memory of
Brenda Beebe
Given by Dr. Jan Garverick

Monday, July 12 – 10 a.m. Book Talk

The Loveliest Chocolate Shop in Paris

When Anna Trent, a supervisor in a chocolate factory in England lost 3 toes because of a freak accidents he had no idea what to do with herself until a new friend got her a job at a lovely elite chocolate shop in Paris, Le Chapeau Chocolat. She discovered there is a world of difference between chalky, mass-produced chocolate and the gourmet confections of her new boss. She expected to be discovered as a fraud immediately. Instead, the experience changed her life in many ways. She found a new career and a new love. There are even recipes you can try if you are adventurous. Join us by Zoom. **Call Susan for the Zoom link @ 210-872-8031.**



Volunteer Drivers Needed:

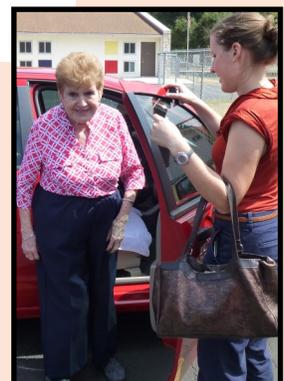
Volunteers are needed to drive older adults to routine doctor appointments. This is done on a one-on-one basis. Driver stays with client then returns them home. All clients live in northeast San Antonio.

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.**



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.**

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

July 6
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,
through [Facebook Messenger](#),
or calling the church office
(210) 733-7156.



July 8 to July 14

7/11

Sasha Mitchell
Donna Semmes

7/12

Robert Basil
Charlie Moore

7/13

Paul Campbell
Charlotte Morton

7/14

Sarah Adams
Mary Howard

*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: Alicia (*Joe Palafox's sister*), Cecilia,
Jared Colegrove (*Wyndee Holbrook*),
Roxane Darnell, Marvadean and
Ted Eves (*Kay Carter*), Judy Davis,
Phil Hall (*Sue Hall*), Ahmed Halim,
Larry Howard, Marvin Huth,
Raymond Johnson (*Shirley Carter*), Craig Kurtz,
Lucien Manchester, Bryan Myers (*Bill Myers*),
Doug Semmes, Nathan Vasquez (*Leticia Vasquez*)
Nora Winkler (*Teresa Garces*).

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; for the rescue efforts in Surfside, Florida and the families affected by the disaster, homebound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.

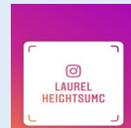
Contact Us

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



Alleluia