



The Messenger

September 29, 2021
Volume 45, Issue 39

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church



The Importance of Connections

Over the past few months, I've seen so many articles and podcasts on the importance of social connections for our mental health. During the pandemic, precautions like social distancing and limiting large events helped keep us safe physically but they took their toll on us emotionally.

Milestone events like graduations or weddings maybe still went on, but were scaled down and held outside, socially distanced. Families self-quarantined for two weeks before visiting a newborn baby. But what about the small, day-to-day events in our lives? Going to the grocery store turned into pulling up an app on your phone. School concerts were recorded and posted on YouTube. I missed talking to the cashiers at HEB and chatting with other parents at school events. While I love my family greatly, I needed someone else to talk to. I needed to connect with others.

My saving grace during the pandemic was church. Laurel Heights provided me with so many opportunities to connect with others on Zoom. My Sunday school class still met each week. I was able to participate in Disciple II Bible Study and a special study on Race and the Church. I served on the Stewardship Committee and helped out with the Come and See Advent series. All of these opportunities allowed me to maintain and strengthen connections to our church family and even make some new connections.

Now that my family is back attending Sunday services in person, it's been a blessing to see more church members and share worship in the sanctuary. I'm so grateful for these connections and hope that I never take them for granted. They are a gift that binds our church together in Christ—both in belonging and in service in the world.

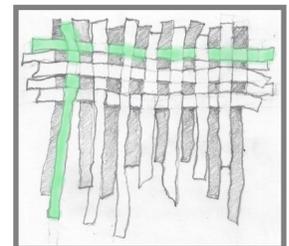
I know that everyone has different comfort levels with attending services in person, but I hope you can find opportunities at Laurel Heights to either make new connections or strengthen existing connections whether in person or remotely.

The church's Stewardship Committee is planning a month of reflection and celebration on the theme of *Connections: The Gift of Belonging*. Our series will culminate on Sunday, October 24 with a Jazz Brunch on the Plaza. We'll meet on Rowe Plaza from 9:30 to 10:30am and enjoy a light breakfast with jazz music. You can even stay in your car if you'd like or pick up a brunch box to go.

Laurel Heights continues to provide us with ways to grow in faith, friendship, and serving. I look forward to sharing these life-giving connections in these special ways during the weeks of October.

Susie Guven, chair

LHUMC Stewardship Committee



MISSION AND MINISTRY AT LAUREL HEIGHTS IN 2020 & 2021

Connections

mission and ministry together

Online Gatherings of Young Dads

private memorial services

prayer ribbons
& prayer wall

ringing the tower bells

THE GIFT OF BELONGING

Home-delivered Advent 2020 devotional bags

Online Gatherings of Young Moms

ONLINE WORSHIP OFFERINGS
12-step gatherings

COTTAGE CLASS FOR SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS

Come and See online worship gatherings

Home-delivered Lent 2021 devotional bags

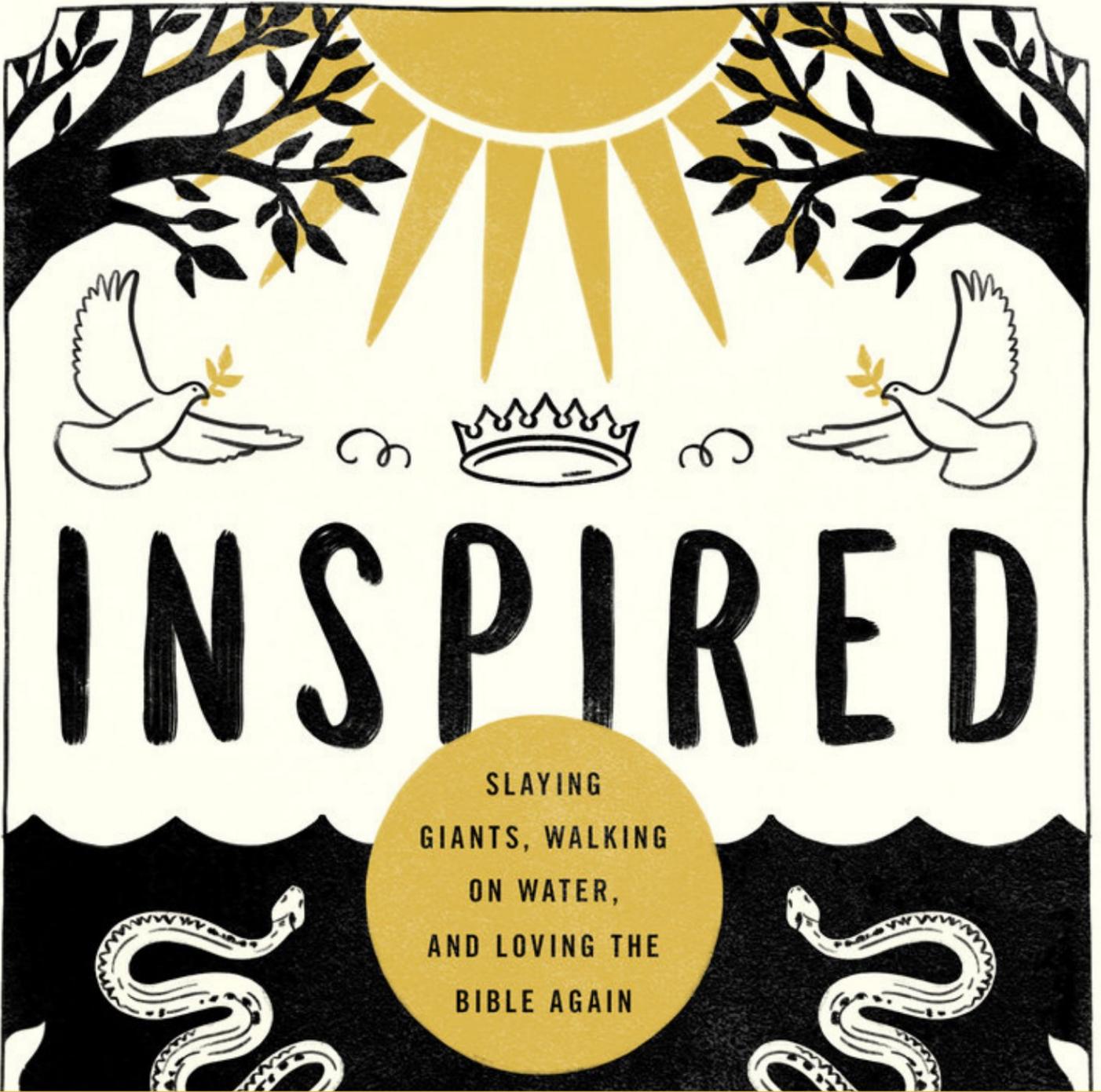
Come & See Live
October 3, 2021
9:00am - 9:30am
Sanctuary
Holy Communion

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

October 3, 2021
11: 00am Sanctuary
Holy Communion



Come and See has moved to a new home in the Sanctuary
Join us at 9 a.m. for 30 minutes of worship in song, prayer, litany and reflection.
Rev. Paul Escamilla preaching
Music led by Mitch Holbrook



INSPIRED

SLAYING
GIANTS, WALKING
ON WATER,
AND LOVING THE
BIBLE AGAIN

TUESDAYS 7PM – 8PM

@ LAUREL HEIGHTS

8-week study of *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans

Starts October 19th

Questions & Registration: lhealy@mylhumc.org

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

September 29

from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Though scattered, we are gathered in prayer
in the name of the One from whose love
nothing can separate us.



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

United Methodist Committee on Relief—UMCOR Support UMCOR'S Disaster Response

Hurricane Ida
Haiti Earthquake
Afghan Refugee Resettlement



You may give through the LHUMC website by clicking on the link below
and clicking on the Give Online option, use the arrow to find the UMCOR fund.

Gift Card Donation

*Catholic Charities are
asking for
donations of gift cards
to help meet the
immediate needs of
Afghan refugees
arriving in SA.*

Gift card donations to Walmart, Target, and H-E-B
can be dropped off at our main office,
202 W. French Pl., San Antonio, TX 78212
during our business hours of
8:30am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.



YOUTH PUMPKIN PARTY

CARVE YOUR OWN @ LHUMC GYM

10.3.2021 3-5 PM



You are not going to want to miss this!

Youth Pumpkin Party in the gym! There will be all kinds of pumpkin fun planned! Share a special time to reflect on "World Communion Sunday" as you sample food from another culture.

BE THERE!

LHUMC Youth Fellowship will meet at the Church on the first Sunday of the month for Oct., Nov., Dec. from 3-5 p.m.

October Mission of the Month



DIAPER DRIVE

We will be collecting diapers, pull-ups, and wipes to help replenish their supply of baby products. We will be collecting items in the basket on the bench, located right inside the entrance off Woodlawn Avenue. Sizes needed are as below.



- Diapers size 6 (girl / boy)
- Diapers size 7 (boy)
- Pull-ups size 2T-3T (boy)
- Bedtime underwear size s/m (boy)
- Bedtime underwear size l-xl (girl)

Magdalena House is a neighborhood of transitional homes in San Antonio that serves mothers and children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives by providing transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming.

Officially started in 2007 as an extension ministry of University United Methodist Church, Magdalena House has since become an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Based on the concept of covenant relationships, Magdalena House provides nurturing and safe places to stay, support services, and opportunities for those in their care to work towards their goals for education, parenting, and work.

**I wonder, how much do you know about Godly Play?
I wonder if you'd like to learn more?
We would love to have you join us
every once in a while in the circle on Sunday morning.
Contact Laura Healy for more information.**

lhealy@mylhumc.org



**Virtual
Reading Buddies
Needed**



Virtual Reading Buddies

Caring volunteers are needed to read with children in grades 1st-8th online via Zoom on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Volunteers can sign-up for one day or multiple days throughout the school year and no prior experience is needed! All Reading Buddy volunteers need to pass a criminal background check and will need to complete an online training prior to their first shift. If you were a summer and/or an online Reading Buddy last school year, training may be optional.

<https://projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/get-involved>

*Memorial
and
Honorarium
Gifts*

General Fund

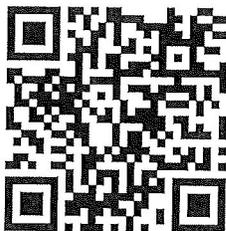
In memory of
David Adams
Given by
Genny & Nick Campbell

In memory of
George Frame
Given by
Genny & Nick Campbell

In memory of
Taylor Boone
Albert and Janice Clayton

UMCOR

In memory of
Taylor Boone
Given by Jerry Crockett



*Or give through
our church QR code*

Giving to Laurel Heights

Online Gifts:

Please visit our website,
<https://www.laurelheights.org/give/>

Text to give:

"LHUMC" to 73256

Checks: Please mail to LHUMC

Attn: Bookkeeper

227 W. Woodlawn

San Antonio, TX 78212

*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.



October 1 to October 7

10/1

James Anderson

10/2

Charlie Buehler
Abby Halim
Mary Verette

10/4

Justin Clemens

10/5

Clare Laminack
Margaret Parsons

*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:

Josh Beninger (*Susan Holloway*),
Jill Caldwell, Josh Garcia,
Denise Hillburn (*Tony Guerrero*),
Larry Howard, Linninia (*Melissa Nardi*),
Lucien Manchester,
Thomas McCoy (*Barbara Miller*),
Joe Palafos, Doug Semmes

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.

Welcome special gift of God!

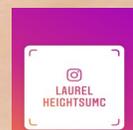
Atlas Alan Guzel

was born July 30th to
Cami Ratliff Guzel and Baris Guzel!
He was welcomed home by grandparents,
Dan and Nancy Ratliff

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

LAUREL
HEIGHTSUMC