

The Messenger

November 17, 2021 Volume 45, Issue 46

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

2021 Lay Leader's Report to Church Conference

Jacob wrestling by the river Jabbok is one of my favorite Bible stories. You know the one where Jacob on the way back to see his brother Esau for the first time in decades, spends the whole night wrestling with "a man". As it gets close to dawn, Jacob says "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The first time I heard the story again as an adult, I was struck by the idea that a blessing is something that one could demand. Yet that is what Jacob does – it costs him – but in the end he receives it. But what is a blessing? What does it mean to demand one even if we are wounded in the process? The story makes room for a wonderfully rich field of wondering and imagining – where do we find ourselves in this story? What word does it speak to us?

It's an understatement to say that this past year has been hard. Even if you were fortunate enough to remain well or to not feel the shadow of death that so many have experienced, still it has been unspeakably hard. Unspeakably at least partly because in some ways we're not even sure what has happened to us. We just know that nothing seems right. There is a sorrow in us that we are just now beginning to see the contours of. As a church our losses are not unique to us but painful still – the death of beloved ones, the loss of a year and more of time spent building relationships, the loss of the presence of friends who are not attending for various reasons, the loss of programs and ministries, the loss of habits and rituals and milestones that give shape to our lives.

What would it mean for us as a congregation to wrestle, to contend, to struggle with this thing that has happened? What would it be like to continue to wrestle until we receive a blessing? What blessing would we receive? Surely not the Instagram-worthy, #blessed celebration of earthly benefits or prosperity or "the good life". Is it not instead the blessing of knowing and naming God's presence – real and enlivening – among us that we seek?

Reflecting over the past year, looking for the evidence of God's presence, searching for the blessing, I find it in the creative teamwork and collaboration with the entire congregation that went into our online Come and See worship series. God is there in the joyful togetherness as we made hundreds of manna bags on a Sunday morning in August. Surely God is there in the Jazz Brunch of just a few weeks ago. God is there in conversations happening right now about what we will do, about what is next, about how to bind up the wounds the past year has opened within us. In your own reflecting where do you see God's presence, God's blessing?

When Jacob picked himself up from the ground, he had a new limp, a new name, and a new blessing. He knew that somehow in the ordeal he had seen God face to face. Then he crossed the river uncertain what he would find on the other side – a new life or death? He found, against all odds of human expectation, the open arms of his brother and he says to Esau "for to see your face is like seeing the face of God."

If we see ourselves at all in Jacob's story, where are we? Still on the ground wrestling? Receiving a new name and a blessing? Dusting ourselves off, limping in the early morning light? Standing anxiously on the banks of the river, wondering what awaits us on the other side? Or looking around at each other and saying, "for to see your face is like seeing the face of God?" Perhaps we are at all those places at once but regardless may we know somehow through it all the blessing that God is with us.

Peace,

Katie Myers Lay Leader

Join us for worship! Sundays, 11:00 am in the sanctuary!

Come + See Live

in the Sanctuary
is an intimate & informal
30-minute
worship experience.

Children are welcome!

Masks required

November 21, 2021

"Reign of Christ Sunday"

9:00am — 9:30am Sanctuary

Leading: Beth Schleif

Song Leaders: Ananiah Lupton Montaño



Wednesday Prayer Gathering November 24th

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

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Call (346) 248-7799, and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 130 214 408



Children's Books!

For the holidays this year we will be collecting new children's books for the Christian Assistance Ministries Christmas Store.

They are hoping to collect 500 books by Sunday, December 5th.

You can donate new children's books to the church by dropping them in the baskets near the Woodlawn entrance.

For questions or other drop-off options, please contact the church office. 210-733-7156





ASSISTING AFGHAN FAMILIES

RAICES is looking for volunteers!

Volunteers should be prepared to unload food/ cargo, transport goods to apartments, furnish apartments, scan documents, greet clients, make boxes of food.

Please email:

Marisol B. Girela - <u>marisol.girela@raicestexas.org</u> for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED







Poinsettias in December



I/ We wish to make a donation of \$15 to help purchase poinsettia plants to decorate and beautify the sanctuary in December. This gift is given...

in honor of _____
in memory of ____

My name: ____
Phone: ____

Include this coupon with your check made payable to Laurel Heights UMC and mail to LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn, San Antonio, TX 78212.

Or pay online on our website: https://www.laurelheights.org/give/



Deadline: Tuesday, December 15, 2021



WEEKDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Qty	at \$55 - Tamale Package including
2	2 dozen pork tamales and
(Camila La Magica Makes Tamales book
(t	the supplier is only offering pork this year)
Qty \$	at \$15 - 1 dozen extra pork tamales Total
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Phone	the state of the s

To order call the Weekday School at:

210-732-6979

All orders MUST be received by Wednesday November 17th Orders will be available for pickup the first week of December.

You will receive a phone call from the Weekday School telling you when you may pick up.







The Annual Laurel Heights

United Methodist Women

Bake Sale

Meet us on Rowe Plaza Sunday, November 21st from 8:30am to 12:30 pm.





Have you ever wondered

who prepares the sanctuary for worship?

Who polishes the candlesticks or changes the cloths on the altar to the liturgical season color?

Are you curious to learn about liturgical seasons?



The Altar Guild would love to share their knowledge with you!

The upcoming workdays would be a great opportunity to learn more about the Altar Guild!

Call the church office @ 210-733-7156 for more information.

ALTAR GUILD WORK DAYS

Saturday, November 27 at 9:00 am:

clean sanctuary and polish brass

Sunday, November 28:

Altar Guild is responsible for Sunday morning fellowship time

Saturday, December 4 at 9:00 am:

set up tree and decorate with chrismons and inside wreaths

Friday, December 10:

poinsettias arrive at church

Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 am:

set up inside garland; set up outside wreaths

Sunday, December 12 at Noon:

after second service, place poinsettias on altar and choir loft for Lessons and Carols performance





Memorial and Honorarium Gifts

General Fund

In memory of Judy Davis given by Elizabeth Woods

In memory of Katherine Jenkins given by Jane Jenkins

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Gordon Roe given by Gina Campbell

In memory of Larry Howard given by Gina Campbell

In memory of Judy Davis given by Catherine & Charles Johnson

> In memory of Larry Howard given by Mark Doty





Give through our church QR code

Text to give:

"LHUMC" to 73256

Checks: Please mail to LHUMC

Attn: Bookkeeper 227 W. Woodlawn

Giving to Laurel Heights

Online Gifts:

Please visit our website,

https://www.laurelheights.org/give/



You are welcome to attend in person or watch on youtube.

The link to view:

https://youtu.be/oECv824NiBI

If you want to read the church conference packet, please email: ejackson@mylhumc.org

SUPER ADULTS ON THE Super Adult Program is a ministry of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church 227 W. Woodlawn San Antonio, Tx. 78212



Thursday, November 18
Super Adult Thanksgiving
& Long Life Celebration

Celebrate as we recognize those 90+
10:30am BINGO
11:00 am Lunch is served
Cost for lunch is \$7.00 per person

(reservations required)

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 colling the phyrob office.

through Facebook Messenge or calling the church office (210) 733-7156.



November 24 to December 1

11/24

Roseann Dixon
Day McNeel
Meaghan Rohlfs

11/25

Louise Rawlings

11/27

David McDavid

11/28

Karla Galindo Stacey Halim Mirasandra Madrigal

11/29

Jacob Dixon
Thomas Morton
Jason Salazar

11/30

Janice Davis Darla Peek

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Josh Beninger (Susan Holloway),
Jill Caldwell, Kay Carter, Clifton Henry,
Lucien Manchester, Doug Semmes,
Nora Winkler, (Teresa Garces)
Elaine Finch, Gail Sims (Kitty Grantham)
Mark Medley (Sue Hall) Kathy (Liz Escamilla)

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.

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