



The Messenger

November 24, 2021
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Home for Christmas

Imagine yourself home for Christmas. You've probably pictured a place—somewhere on the map of these fifty United States, or perhaps elsewhere—that you consider your truest place of origins or identity or kinship. It may be where you grew up, or where you live just now, or somewhere in between. And when you get there, whether in your mind's eye or in reality, it is a good place to be, containing certain familiar features—landscapes, cooking, furnishings, sounds, and loved ones, or their memory.



The season of Advent that leads us to Christmas will have us exploring the question of what it might mean to be home for Christmas in a different sort of way. Are there ways in which we might make a home in a place that is far from our ideal geographical home, yet nonetheless close to God, and to our sense of spiritual groundedness? Many Christmas stories, including our originating story in Luke Chapter 2 about the first Christmas, recount experiences of people dislodged from home and “re-lodged” elsewhere; driven from home only to discover a different sort of home in an unanticipated context. Christmas, it seems, is an invitation to make a home wherever we happen to be, God's presence providing the only essential geography.

I look forward to our Advent journey together—toward home, and away, and then home again, wherever that may be.

Grace and peace.



Come & See Live

November 28, 2021

9:00am – 9:30am

Sanctuary



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

Join us for worship!

First Sunday of Advent

**Sunday at 11:00 am in the
sanctuary!**

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



Sunday School for All Ages

9:45- 10:30 am

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

Fellowship Time

10:30 – 10:55 am

Fellowship Hall

**Nursery care from
8:45 am -12:30 pm**

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

November 24th 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



THE PRAYER WALL HAS PLENTY OF RIBBONS DURING THIS WEEK OF THANKSGIVING SO THAT YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND OUR NEIGHBORS CAN COME BY TO TIE A RIBBON AND OFFER A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE.



Advent Festival

This year there will be two opportunities to join in the getting-ready fun as we celebrate the beginning of Advent! Join us in the gym during the **Sunday School hour on November 28th to make an Advent wreath** and pick up some ideas for marking the four weeks before Christmas with your family. We will conclude by carrying the Holy Family and their animals out to the manger.

OR...

On **Wednesday, December 1st at 5pm** there will be an additional opportunity to join in the Advent fun! **Come and make a wreath** and stay for Children's Choir with David Lindquist!



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 at 210-733-7156



Advent and Christmas at Laurel Heights



Sunday, November 28—First Sunday of Advent

9 and 11 am Worship
9:45 am Family Advent Festival

Wednesday, December 1

5 pm Family Advent Festival
5:30 pm Children's Choir

Sunday, December 4—Second Sunday of Advent

9 and 11 am Worship

Sunday, December 12—Third Sunday of Advent

9 and 11 am Worship
6:30 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols prelude
7 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 16

10:30 am Super Adults Christmas

Sunday, December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent

9 and 11 am Worship
4 pm Choral Society Christmas Concert
(tickets available through Choral Society)

Tuesday, December 21

2 pm Tuesday Musical Club Concert
(tickets available through Tuesday Musical Club)
7 pm Service of the Longest Night

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4 pm Carols and Candles
Family-friendly worship
7 pm Carols and Candles
Traditional Christmas Eve worship
11 pm Carols, Candles and Communion
Contemplative worship





RAICES

THE REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT CENTER
FOR EDUCATION AND LEGAL SERVICES

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 - marisol.girela@raicetexas.org
for more information.





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 at: <https://www.laurelheights.org/give/>

Deadline: Tuesday, December 15, 2021



***The Women's Christmas Retreat
is scheduled for
January 7th to 9th, 2022
Mustang Island!***





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 indoor wreaths



Friday, December 10:

poinsettias arrive at church

Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 am:

set up inside garland; set up outdoor wreaths

Sunday, December 12 at Noon:

Place poinsettias in chancel area for
for Lessons and Carols service that evening.





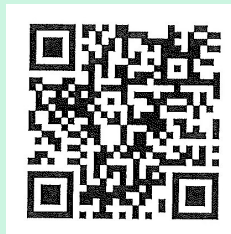
*Memorial
and
Honorarium
Gifts*

General Fund

In honor of
Juanita Souder
given by
Bert and Janice Clayton

Music Fund

In memory of
John Young
given by
Dr. Jan Garverick



*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/>

*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.



December 2 to December 9

12/2

Vicki Ferguson

12/3

Cole Ruiz

12/4

Susie Guven

12/5

Margarite Guggolz
Juanita Souder

12/6

Juniper Mendez

12/8

Stephen Hall
Holly Hoting

12/9

John Largent

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Josh Beninger (*Susan Holloway*),
Jill Caldwell, Tony Guerrero (*Sue Hall*)
Toby Kennerdell, Lucien Manchester,
Michelle, Doug Semmes,
Nora Winkler, (*Teresa Garces*)
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.

Welcome Maxwell Otis Gannon !

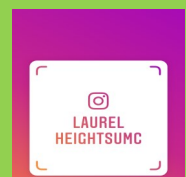
Born 11-16-2021 to Andrew and Ashley Gannon
and proud grandparents Alice and Dave Gannon



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

*Please notify the church office if you don't see your name on the
birthday list. We don't want to overlook any birthdays!*