

The Messenger

December 1, 2021 Volume 45, Issue 48

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Home for Christmas

Karon O'Ferrall has once again graced us with a beautiful artistic gift for the season at hand. Her visual rendering for Advent can be found on the wall frame in the hallway leading to Scott Chapel and the Weekday School.





The blue field on which candles, stars, and a manger appear suggests to me the universal context for the Incarnation. Christ was born in a specific place and in a particular time, but Christ is also born in every place and in every time, and is "all in all" (Colossians 3:11). Luke's story of a child born in Bethlehem is localized, but also transcends time and space, allowing us to both imagine it across the centuries, and to experience it anew in our own time.

Perhaps to be "home for Christmas" is to grow more and more in the spiritual awareness that Christ is all in all. Christmas becomes an invitation to rekindle the sense of our belonging and blessing in the world—wherever we are, whatever our circumstance. To be known by God, claimed and loved by God, is our field of blue, our truest home.

This is one of the great mysteries of our faith—that Christ can become real to us at Christmas as though his birth has occurred in our very midst—in this season, in our church, in our homes, and in our hearts. May it be so.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us we pray!

Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;

O, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanue!!

Grace and peace.







Join us for worship!
Second 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 December 1 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.

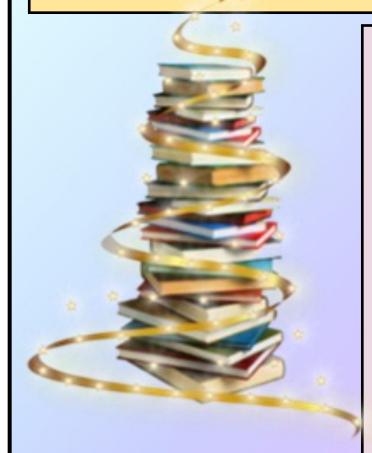
Click on this link: https://www.zoom.us/j/130214408

OR

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

GOAL: collect 500 Books by Sunday, December 5th!

We currently have 208 books...



Children's Books!

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

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.



Poinsettias in December

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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





FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 12

6:30 PRELUDE HANDBELLS, STRINGS AND HARP

7:00 SERVICE

LESSONS AND CAROLS IS A SERVICE THAT INCLUDES ANTHEMS, CAROLS, AND SCRIPTURE READINGS BASED ON AN EARLY 20TH CENTURY ENGLISH TRADITION.



Advent and Christmas at Laurel Heights

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 Candlelight Service
Family-friendly
7 pm Candlelight Service
Choir and Brass
11 pm Candlelight Service
Holy Communion

Prepare Ye the Way!



Thank you to Leon Flournoy and friend for designing and building a new Christmas stable for LHUMC!



On Sunday at the Family Advent Festival, the children helped bring out the figures for the stable.

DECEMBER

FIND YOUR MISSION





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@raicestexas.org



Since MCH was founded, friends like you have helped this ministry provide a loving, hopeful environment for children and youth. MCH annually serves more than 5,000 children from Texas and New Mexico through residential programs and transition services on our Waco campus and Boys Ranch, and through foster care and a variety of in-home and community based programs through MCH Family Outreach locations.

OUR VISION

We empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest.

OUR MISSION

We equip children, youth and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1111 Herring Ave. • Waco, TX 76708 • 254-753-0181 • 800-853-1272

MCH.org





Walk with Mayor Nirenberg!

SAN ANTONI® WELCOME WALK

<u>SATURDAY, DEC. 4, 2021</u> 8:00AM - 12:30 PM

AFGHAN REFUGEE RESPONSE COMMUNITY SPONSOR KICKOFF

FREE -- PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

REGISTER ONLINE AT: TINYURL.COM/SAWELCOMEWALK

San Antonio Medical Center Foundation Trail

1 mile family-friendly walk honoring the refugees' journey and he community's commitment to walk with them as they resettle.

Wear your traditional dress for this Parade of Nations!

HOSTS

SPONSORS













SUPPORTERS

Afghan Refugee Response Collaboration; Catholic Charities of San Antonio; City of San Antonio - Office of the Immigration Liaison and Office of the Faith Based Liaison; SA Food Bank; Saldivar Martial Arts; Students Of Service; RAICES



Wednesday, December 8 at 10 am

Super Adults Steering Committee on Zoom Susan will send you the link.

Thursday, December 9

Christmas Lights in the Hill Country Bus tour begins 4:30 and returns 10 pm



Super Adults Day

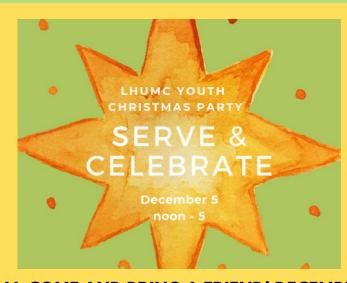
Thursday, December 16 at 10:30 am

Bingo—bring wrapped White Elephants for presents Lunch is served at 11 a.m. December birthdays will be celebrated! A delightful 4 hand piano program will be presented featuring "The Nutcracker Suite" Don't miss this!

Prizes for the quiz participation will close the day. If you don't arrive with the Christmas Spirit, you'll leave with it!

Contact Susan @ 210-872-8031 for reservations and more details





Y'ALL COME AND BRING A FRIEND! DECEMBER 5

Following worship, we'll eat, serve and hang garland. Once our work is done, we'll have big fun. Christmas Party in the Gym! Please let Marisa know you're coming. 210.391.0685 marisa@RC-CO.com









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



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? ALTAR GUILD 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, 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.





Laurel Heights United Methodist Church Stewardship Campaign Update

Week 1 -	2021	2022	Difference	% Change from 2020-2021
Cards Received with Pledge	67	71	4	6%
Total Amount	\$417,041.80	\$544,290.80	\$ 127,249.00	31%
Week 2 -	2021		Difference	% Change from 2020-2021
Cards Received with Pledge	17	3	(14)	-82%
Total Amount	\$71,650.00	\$9,200.00	\$ (62,450.00)	-87%
Week 3 -	2021		Difference	% Change from 2020-2021
Cards Received with Pledge	8	6	(2)	-25%
Total Amount	\$27,660.00	\$31,200.00	\$ 3,540.00	13%
Week 4/ Final	2021		Difference	% Change from 2020-2021
Cards Received with Pledge	11	16	1	9%
Cards Neceived with Freuge				
Total Amount	\$115,600	\$53,500	(\$62,100)	-54%

Statistics			
Change in Pledge cards	Week 1	Cards Received for 2022	
22	Remained the same	\$152,990.80	
27	Increased	\$325,440.00	
11	Decreased	\$26,300.00	
11	New	\$39,560.00	
7	No Pledge		
78	Total	\$544,290.80	

Change in Pledge cards	Week 2	Cards Received for 2022
	1 Remained the same	\$2,400.00
	2 Increased	\$6,800.00
	Decreased	
	New	
	No Pledge	
	3 Total	\$9,200.00
Change in Pledge cards	Week 3	Cards Received for 2022
	4 Remained the same	\$24,000.00
	2 Increased	\$7,200.00
	Decreased	
	New	
	No Pledge	
	6 Total	\$31,200.00
Change in Pledge cards	Week 4	Cards Received for 2022
	7 Remained the same	\$14,940.00
	5 Increased	\$28,600.00
	3 Decreased	\$7,560.00
	1 New	\$2,400.00
	No Pledge	
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Thank you,

Laurel Heights,

for your

faithfulness

in giving.

2021 - 2022 Pledge Summary				
Week Number	2021 Pledge Cards	2021 Amount Pledged	2022 Pledge Cards	2022 Amount Pledged
Week 1	71	\$417,041.80	78	\$544,290.80
Week 2	18	\$71,650.00	3	\$9,200.00
Week 3	8	\$27,660	6	\$31,200
Week 4	3	\$96,900	16	\$5,350
Final	5	\$18,700		
Total	105	\$631,951.80	103	\$638,190.80

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 10 to December 16

12/10

Byrd Bonner Steve Haney Diana Phillips David Shelden

12/12

Jed Dorsey Donald Redmond

12/14

Ginnie Herrera Hallie Saylor Elaina Taylor

12/15 Kenneth Henry

12/16 Marilyn McNeel

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Josh Beninger (Susan Holloway),
Dale Carver, Cliff Henry, Lucien Manchester,
Nilda and Irene (sisters of Teresa Garces), Doug Semmes,
Nora Winkler (Teresa Garces),
Mark Medley (Sue Hall), Kathy (Liz Escamilla)

Those who Mourn: Paul Escamilla on the death of his uncle, Greg Escamilla.

Nicki Marrone on the death of her father.

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

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