



# The Messenger

December 28, 2021  
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*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*



## *Hitch Your Wagon to a Star*

A star has long been a symbol of aspiration, a designation of greatness. There are rising stars and movie stars, rock stars and star athletes. There are five-star restaurants, hotels, and generals. There are shining stars, and when things don't go for the *wunderkind* according to promise, falling stars. "Hitch your wagon to a star" is one of the best known sayings of 19<sup>th</sup> century poet Ralph Waldo Emerson. The phrase has become the rallying call of upward mobility, of rising to greatness.

Enter magi from the East, hitching their wagon to a different sort of star (Matthew 2:1-12). It was a star that would lead them not upward, but downward; not to a place of prestige, but to a scene of humility; not to a position of prominence, unless we consider knee-bent and body-bowed a position of prominence.

Every year, right around the turning over of the calendar, the seasons of the gospel lead us to this regal story of downward mobility. Perhaps the overlay of New Year's and Epiphany serves as a reminder to the Christian community, a rallying call all its own. For among the many things that may hold promise for us in the new year in the way of accomplishment, achievement, or accolades, this will surely be the truest measure of our success: to have found our way together, through study, reverence, and the giving of our very finest offerings, to earthly encounters with Jesus of the sort that humble and hearten and enlarge us all at once. May it be so.

Grace and peace.



Home for Christmas

Laurel Heights UMC

*Come & See Live*

January 2, 2021

9:00am – 9:30am Sanctuary

Celebrate Epiphany with a message  
in song and word from Byrd Bonner  
Song Leader: Anaiah Lupton Montaña



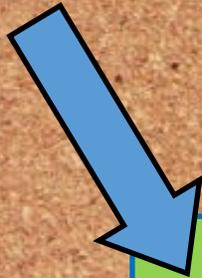
**Join us for worship!**  
**Feast of Epiphany Sunday**  
**Sunday at 11:00 am**  
**in the sanctuary!**

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

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



**NEW times**



**Beginning Sunday,  
January 2nd,  
NEW times  
for Fellowship and  
Sunday School!**

**Sunday School for All Ages  
10:00am to 10:45am**

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

**Fellowship Time  
9:30 to 10:00 am  
Fellowship Hall**

**NEW times**

***Wednesday Prayer Gathering***

**December 28 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





# ALL ABOARD LHUMC YOUTH!

JAN. 8, 2022

HAPPY

*new year!*

**JANUARY 8, 2022**

## **Youth Family** Boat Ride

- 11:45pm – Buy Your Lunch @ La Gloria (Pearl) – optional
- 1:15 All Aboard! Go Rio River Cruise @ La Gloria, courtesy of LHUMC, (please bring cash to tip the boat driver)
- RSVP required by 1/6 – [wyndee@interfaithsaa.org](mailto:wyndee@interfaithsaa.org)



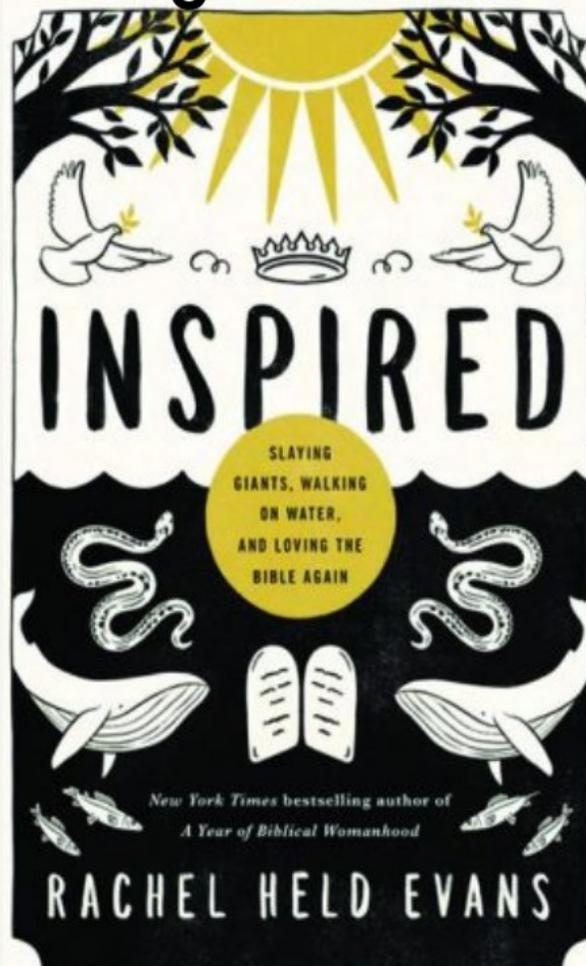
**NEW IN '22**

**YOUNG ADULT CLASS**

**Sunday Morning Book Club begins**

**Jan. 16, 10 a.m.**

**@ Laurel Heights UMC Sanctuary**





*There is still time to register!*

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

Use this link to register!

<https://www.laurelheights.org/event/womens-retreat/>

Please contact Laura Healy for more information.

lhealy@mylhumc.org

# JANUARY



## OF THE MONTH

This month, Laurel Heights will begin the process of becoming an Afghan Community of Welcome.

You can join in the work of the Missions Committee as we partner and support an Afghan family! Please contact Laura Healy or Missions Chair, Jason Davis, if you'd like to be a part of this ongoing partnership.

lhealy@mylhumc.org or jason@funkcentral.net

*Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our PRAYER*

You can offer a prayer of gratitude or concern by emailing [prayers@mylhumc.org](mailto:prayers@mylhumc.org), through [Facebook Messenger](#), or calling the church office (210) 733-7156.



**January 10 to January 17**

**1/10**  
Eloise Campbell  
Thad Dorsey  
Ed Mergele

**1/11**  
Christian Campbell

**1/12**  
Jane Jacobs

**1/13**  
Paul Beuhler  
Christopher Furber

**1/15**  
Jedi Morton  
Mixson Oleson  
Marisa Parker

**1/16**  
Logan Deras

**1/17**  
Mikayla Mendez

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

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Josh Beninger (*Susan Holloway*),

Lucien Manchester,

Doug Semmes, Bryan Allen Myers (*Bill Myers*)

Shirley Carter and Marvin Huth,

Robbie Harris and Norma Baldwin (*Kitty Grantham*)

*Doug Summit, Lina Sardar Khil (Vicki Ferguson),*

*Tommy Schwarz (Annalynn Jackson),*

*John Purnell, Mike Notin, (Nancy Shelden)*

**Those who mourn:** The family of Teresa Garces on the death of her sister, Irene Alfaro.

**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;

## 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](http://www.LaurelHeights.org)

