



The Messenger

January 5, 2022
Volume 46, Issue 1

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

The second bracelet, the work of Christmas



In Gioacchino Rossini's operatic version of *Cinderella*, "La Cenerentola," it is a bracelet rather than a glass slipper that Cinderella leaves behind at the ball. As she disappears into the night, Cinderella gives this bracelet to the prince while keeping a second, identical bracelet for herself. She tells the prince he must find the first bracelet's match by finding her where she lives, before she will consent to marry him.

Why did Cinderella demand such a test of the prince, who on that very night was prepared to ask for her hand in marriage? Because she knew that the lovely mystery woman the prince met at the ball did not provide a complete picture of who she was—literally, a woman of ashes who took orders and endured insults for a living.

"Tonight," she explains to the prince as she gives him the first bracelet, "I am decked in beautiful things—everyone is raving about me. But come and find me where I live; come and find me at home. Then, if you still like me when you see me there, I will marry you."

We could say that Christmas is analogous to that magical night at the ball. There's something of a dreamy quality to our contemporary depictions of Jesus' birth, an atmosphere which seems to compel shepherds, magi, livestock, and people like you and me to behold the beauty of it all in wonder and admiration. We find there a Jesus "decked in beautiful things," with everyone adoring him.

If we leave the ballroom, and follow Jesus further into the gospel story, we will discover that there is more to his person than swirling angels and swaddling cloths. It is as though at Christmas we have been given the first bracelet; to find the second will require our seeking Jesus "where he lives"—going forward in the gospels to observe his teaching, healing, prophesying, serving life, as well as his abandonment, suffering, death, and resurrection.

To mark the end of the Christmas season we will gather this evening for an Intergenerational Epiphany Celebration (5:30 to 6:15 p.m. on the church lawn) and meet online tomorrow (Thursday at 7 p.m. on Zoom) to chalk our doorways as a sign of our readiness to follow Christ beyond Christmas and into the world of a new year with courage and compassion. When we gather tonight we will share a classic Howard Thurman poem, "The Work of Christmas," printed below, which speaks to the church's quest to join the second bracelet with the first. I look forward to sharing that quest with you.

Grace and peace.

Paul

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,*

*When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,*

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

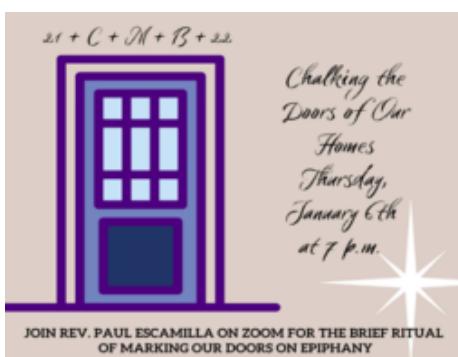
To bring peace among the people,

To make music in the heart.

Intergenerational Epiphany Celebration

Tonight, January 5th at 5:30pm

**Celebrate the visit by the Magi
to the Christ child**



Intergenerational Epiphany Celebration

Tonight, January 5th at 5:30pm

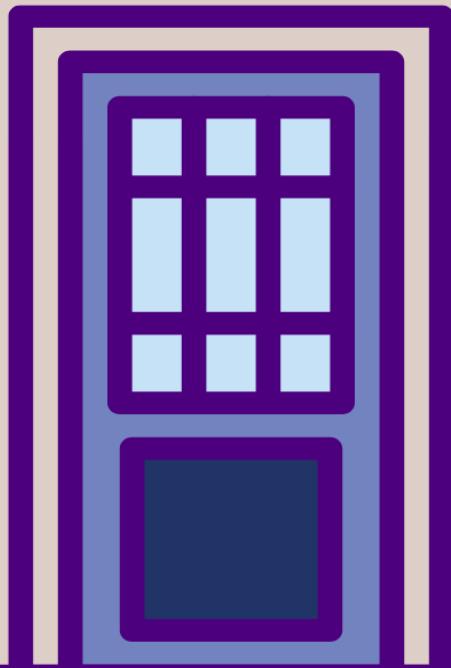
Celebrate the visit by the Magi to the Christ child

This 30 minute gathering will be held on the church lawn

Boxed King Cake will be available
to carry home and enjoy!

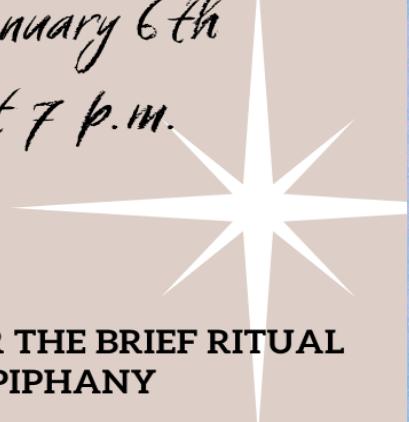


21 + C + M + B + 22



*Chalking the
Doors of Our
Homes*

*Thursday,
January 6th
at 7 p.m.*



**JOIN REV. PAUL ESCAMILLA ON ZOOM FOR THE BRIEF RITUAL
OF MARKING OUR DOORS ON EPIPHANY**

Meeting ID: 844 5754 6245 Passcode: 702652

One tap mobile +13462487799,,84457546245# US (Houston)

Or call the church at 210-733-7156 for Link

Come & See Live
January 9, 2021

9:00am – 9:30am Sanctuary

Reflection: Paul Escamilla

Song Leader: Mark Doty

Music: Geoffrey Waite



Join us for worship!

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Sunday at 11:00 am

Sanctuary

The service will be
live-streamed at 11 am
laurelheights.org/online-worship
and our Facebook page at 11am.

It will remain available for later viewing
until the following Sunday.

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

Sunday School for All Ages
10:00am to 10:45am
(9:30am to 10:30 for certain adult groups)

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

Look for signs to various class rooms.

Fellowship 9:30am to 10:00am

Fellowship Hall



Important

WOMEN'S RETREAT NOTICE!

Due to concerns amid rising covid numbers, the Women's Retreat has been cancelled.

*There will be no Wednesday Prayer Gathering this evening,
January 5th
Prayer Gathering will resume
next Wednesday*

**Wednesday Prayer Gathering
January 12 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
Women**
FAITH•HOPE•LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women
will not be meeting
January 2022.
They will resume
in February .



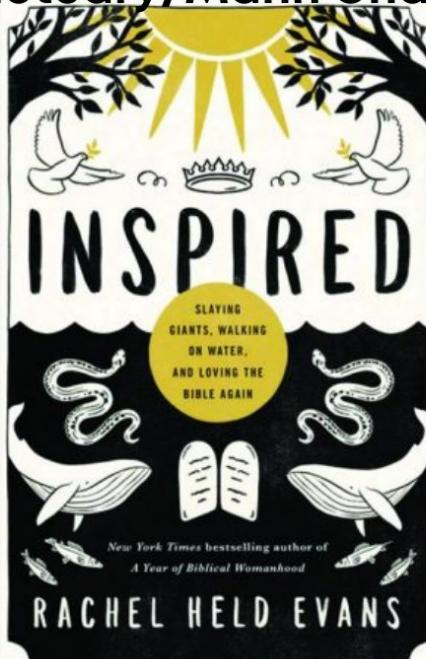
HAPPY
new year!
JANUARY 8, 2022

Reservation deadline
JAN 6, 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

NEW IN '22
YOUNG ADULT CLASS
Sunday Morning Book Club begins
Jan. 30, 10 a.m.
@ Laurel Heights UMC
Sanctuary/Mann Chapel



Please contact
Rev. Wyndee Holbrook
with questions at
wyndee@interfaithsaa.org

MLK

THE DREAM CONTINUES...YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

35th Annual
City-wide Interfaith Worship Service
Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Live stream only at:

Catholic Television: <https://fb.me/e/2hDvJYVDX>

TVSA: www.sanantonio.gov/tvs

Temple Beth-El: <https://www.beth-elsa.org/live-streaming>

Hosted by:
The MLK Commission of San Antonio

JANUARY OF THE MONTH



UMCOR Tornado Relief

Follow this link for information in giving!

<https://umcmision.org/advance-project/901670/>

UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

By giving through the Advance, 100% of your donation
reaches your chosen mission project or ministry.

Advance #901670



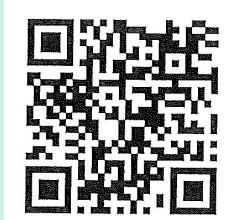
**Memorial
and
Honorarium Gifts**

Pastor's Discretionary

In memory of
Judy Davis
Given by
Franklin and Jeanne Redmond



General
In memory of
Judy Davis
Given by
Jason Davis



***Give through
our church QR code***

Text to give:

"LHUMC" to 73256

Checks: Please mail to LHUMC
Attn: Bookkeeper
227 W. Woodlawn
San Antonio, TX 78212

**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.



January 18 to January 25

1/18
Wesley Nye

1/19
Frances Campbell
Jennie Galindo

1/20
Paul Bishop

1/21
Frank Healy

1/22
Sarah Bodner
Jim Moffett
Ron Rardin
Douglas Semmes

1/23
William Dugger

1/24
Beeper Smith

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*)

Robbie Harris and Norma Baldwin (*Kitty Grantham*)

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

Tommy Schwarz (*Annalynn Jackson*),

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

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;

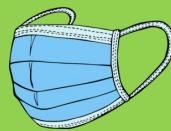
homebound members; the incarcerated;

and women and men in our military.

With the highly transmissible COVID-19 omicron variant circulating widely, masks are just as important as ever.

To continue to maintain the safety of our Laurel Heights family and friends, we are requiring you to remain masked while in the church.

Thank you!



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

