



The Messenger

May 4, 2022
Volume 48, Issue 17

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

New Journey, New Friends: Laurel Heights Community of Welcome



As many of you know, we have been working in conjunction with Culturingua in partnering with three Afghan families as they make San Antonio their new home. We hosted them here at the church for the first time on April 23rd.

Thanks to your generous donations, we set up a “take-what-you-need” bazaar of beautiful household goods and practical kitchen items. We had tables of clothing, shoes, toiletries and even sunglasses!

When the families arrived, we welcomed them in the Fellowship Hall and, through a translator, introduced ourselves and shared what we had planned for the evening. Then, we asked the children if they wanted to come into the gym and play. Play! Their eyes lit up even before the translation. Play was a word they understood! They ran into the gym where several church members and our youth were waiting to play alongside them. The next hour was a blur of ping pong, crayons, markers, beads and soccer balls. The children sprinted from one activity to the next and back again!

One two-year-old boy carried a soccer ball back and forth across the gym floor. Occasionally he would set the *ball* down right in front of his feet and whisper ball, then pick it back up and set off again. The joy was palpable.

Meanwhile, the adults learned about the VIA transit system and were offered bus passes and a demonstration of the VIA app. Vital information for these families who are still discovering how to get from one place to the another in a new country and in a new language.

When the gathering of clothes and bowls and cups and dishes wrapped up, it was almost sundown and time for our Muslim guests to break their day-long fast and pray. Afterwards, we shared a lovely catered iftar dinner with our new friends. *Iftar is the designation for the meal eaten after a day of fasting during the holy season of Ramadan.* Our meal was supplemented with homemade bread and food our new friends had brought to share!

As we shared a table, we communicated with smiles and gestures that transcended our language and cultural differences. It was truly a feast!

And as they gathered up their new belongings, and we wished them well, and they wished us well, it was clear that our journey together had begun in a wonderful way.

May it be so.

Laura Healy





Sunday Worship May 8

Fourth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

*Come
and See...*

Sunday, May 8th

Sermon: Mitch Holbrook

Song Leader: Beth Thomas

Worship Sunday @ 9 a.m.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

11am Worship/Sanctuary

www.LaurelHeights.org

Fellowship Gathering / 9:30am to 10am / Fellowship Hall

coffee, tea and light refreshments

Sunday School for all ages / 10am to 10:45am

Look for signs to various classrooms

(9:30am to 10:30am for certain adult groups)

Worship / 11am / Sanctuary

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

The 11 am service will be live-streamed at:

<https://www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/>

and on our Facebook page at 11am.

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

Masks recommended

Self-select for symptoms or health risks.

Wash hands and sanitize often.

Practice social distancing

as appropriate.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Josh Beninger (*Susan Holloway*),

Lucien Manchester, Doug Semmes, Bryan Allen Myers
(*Bill Myers*), Daniel "Stump" Sowada (*Nancy Jones*),

Esther Chalk, Leona Coker, Jerry Geerdes,
Don Redmond; Mark Medley; Varuni Kumara; Gary
Meszaros (*Sue Hall*),

Trish Moss (*Nick and Genny Campbell*),

Cheryl Fulcher (*Kay Carter*),

Hallie Saylor (*Jo Mascorro*)

Peggy Wiggins (*Blanche Birdsong*),

Grandchild; Rob and Anne Sanchez (*Clyta Coder*),

Blakely (*Landers Family*),

Ed Speed (*Wyndee Holbrook*)

Joys: Alex and Luke Campbell on the birth
of Bennett Porter Campbell

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.

*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.

Sanctuary
Offering



Online
Giving

Please visit our website:
<http://www.laurelheights.org/give/>



MANY WAYS TO
GIVE AT
LAUREL HEIGHTS
UMC



Text to
give:

Or use our
QR code



<http://www.laurelheights.org/give/>



Wednesday

Weekly Prayer Gathering

There is no Wednesday Weekly Prayer Gathering
for May 4, 2022. Light a candle and continue to
pray for yourself and others.

We will resume next Wednesday on May 11, 2022
at 5:30pm via zoom.

Be joyful in hope. patient in affliction. faithful in prayer
Romans 12:12



MAY

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Church Under the Bridge



Church Under the Bridge is a church for the Homeless Community. Church Under the Bridge began in the Spring of 1997. The purpose was to not only bring the Gospel message, but also to provide meals, donated clothing and hygiene items to those in need.

Here at Laurel Heights UMC, our dedicated Church Mice members serve the Church Under the Bridge community on the first Thursday of the month. They have provided sandwiches, fruit and individually wrapped desserts. If you would like to get involved, or would like additional information regarding Church Under the Bridge, please contact Laura Healy at lhealy@mylhumc.org or by phone 210-733-7156.



Support the humanitarian response in Ukraine

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift to Advance #982450.

<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450/>

HAPPY
Mother's
Day

PANCAKE STUDY BREAK

Students – come for the carb load!

May 11, 7–9:30 p.m.

@ Laurel Heights United Methodist Church



Workers needed, contact Wyndee!
wyndee@interfaithsaa.org

LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC

Potluck Picnic

Food Fellowship Fun

Rowe Plaza & adjacent parking lot



Sunday, May 15th
9:30-10:15am

Potluck
Brunch and
Outdoor
Games

Bring a
dish or
activity to
share!



Laurel Heights UMC

Vacation Bible School

Presents



Join us this summer at Vacation Bible School!

**We are diving into Matthew 6:11 -
"Give us this day our daily bread."**

June 27th - July 1st

9:00am - 12:00pm

Rising Kinder thru 6th Grade

Kids Link: <https://forms.gle/Jqd8KjYNwMFsk5yy8>

Volunteers Link: <https://forms.gle/Qq4q2xBj57qd53uH6>



Happy Birthday

May 8th to May 15th

5/8

Catherine Geerdes
John David Griffin
Riley Lanoux

5/10

Roy Smith

5/11

Kiley Lange
Gerald Lee

5/12

Meadow Craig
Elizabeth Jackson

5/13

William Shearrer

5/14

Maddie Henry

5/15

Gina Campbell
Emily Carvalhinhos
Rebecca Castro
Thomas Guggolz
Jeanette Morton

Church Office Hours

9:00am to 3:00pm

Monday through Friday

Contact Us

To reach the office staff
by phone,
please call (210) 733-7156.
www.laurelheights.org

For an appointment with
our Wesley Nurse,
Yvonne Garcia, RN,
please call (210) 272-7921.

Follow Us On:



*Are we missing your name on the birthday list?
Please notify the church office
at 210-733-5156 so we can update our records.
We don't want to miss anyone!*