



The Messenger

May 18, 2022
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Welcoming the Sojourner *by Katie Myers, Lay Leader*



It's about 9:30PM and a gusty wind has finally chased away the sweltering heat. We're standing in a park in the middle of downtown San Antonio waiting for the last bus to the airport.. The man gestures behind me and asks unexpectedly, "What denomination of church is that?"

"*Metodista*" I reply.

"*Yo soy metodista!*" he exclaims and tells me he was a missionary back in Cuba. He eagerly whips out his phone to share photos of his congregation gathered outdoors on wooden benches.

This journey has been long he shares but finally he's almost at his destination – his daughter in Florida – and 30 minutes ago the only thing standing between him and home was the cost of bus fare to the airport. And then he met a stranger in a park with baggies her pocket containing \$1.30 in change – exactly what he needed. The trip has been like that he says, "*Misericordia -- Dios es bueno.*"

In the years that I've volunteered with the Interfaith Welcome Coalition, greeting migrants as they journey through our city, I've learned that no matter what gifts I offer to people, I am blessed far more by them. And I don't mean that in an inspirational quote on a coffee mug sort of way. I mean blessed by an encounter with the Divine. These folks are often apologetic that they have no material way to repay me for the sandwich or the map or the phone call or the bus fare. And so they call down upon me God's blessing and upon my children and upon those I love. "*Dios le pague.*" These prayers are benedictions of exquisite and heartfelt eloquence. In the presence of such riches, I am humbled by my own paltry offerings, and, like Abraham, I am aware that God is here in the presence of these strangers. And through the reciprocity that defines God's kingdom, I think perhaps they feel the same way about me.

The Cuban man – the Methodist missionary – asks me to pray for him before he leaves. I tell him a bit awkwardly that I'm not sure my Spanish is up to the task and would it be ok to pray in English. He says, of course. And so I pray for his safe journey and joyful reunion with his daughter and for his wellbeing. "*Alleluia,*" he says. "*Amen.*" Then he shoulders his backpack and disappears across the park heading for the bus stop.



Immigration is so polarizing - the challenges so great - that it can be easy to get caught up in all of that. Yet standing in the park that night and the nights before and in the nights that come after, none of that seems important. Indeed, the park becomes holy ground, a sanctuary, and those of us there all jumbled up – guest and host, host and guest.

How blessed we are - the opportunity for these holy encounters is before us every day, right here in our community. God walks among us daily in the guise of the sojourner. Will we welcome him? Will we recognize her? May God give us such eyes, such hearts, such hands that we will.

Learn more: [Border Migration Response — Rio Texas Annual Conference](#)



Sunday Worship Services

*Come
and See...*

Sunday, May 22nd

Reflection: Katie Myers

Song Leader: Anaiah Lupton Montano

Worship Sunday @ 9 a.m.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

May 22, 2022

Sixth 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 (*Genny and Nick Campbell*),

Cheryl Fulcher (*Kay Carter*),

Peggy Wiggins (*Blanche Birdsong*),

Blakeley (*Landers Family*), Sonny Landers

Stanley Schoenbaum (*Wyndee Holbrook*),

Mary Sandoval,

Shelley McMullen (Clyta Coder)

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@mylhmc.org, through [Facebook Messenger](#), or calling the church office (210) 733-7156.

LAUREL HEIGHTS OFFERING

In addition to online and QR-code giving, morning worship now includes an offering opportunity with the passing of offering plates. Offering baskets that have been a part of our practice for several months will no longer be in use beginning in June. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to support the mission and ministry of Laurel Heights.



Wednesday
Weekly Prayer Gathering
Every Wednesday from 5:30PM to 6:00 PM
To join the Weekly Prayer Gathering via Zoom,
simply click on the link to join
<https://zoom.us/j/130214408>
or call 346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 130-214-409
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer
Romans 12:12



Sanctuary Offering


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


MANY WAYS TO GIVE AT LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC

Text to give:

"LHUMC" 73256

Or use our QR code


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



farewell

REV. PAUL & LIZ ESCAMILLA

Laurel Heights UMC has been richly blessed by the compassionate ministry and leadership of Pastor Paul Escamilla. During his four years as Senior Pastor, this congregation has grown to love and deeply appreciate the gifts and talents he has so selflessly shared with us. Earlier this year, Paul announced his retirement effective at the end of June. We are sad to say goodbye to Paul and Liz, but wish them only the best as they enter a new chapter of their lives. Between now and the end of June we have a few opportunities to express our appreciation for Paul and Liz's faithful service.

Farewell Reception: Join us **Sunday, June 19th at 12:00 noon** in the Dining Room to say farewell to Paul and Liz.

Love Offering: Please send your love offering gifts to LHUMC, **Attn: Maria Robles, Bookkeeper.**

Basket of Blessings: Please place your cards and letters of appreciation and gratitude in the basket located in the church office work room or mail them to LHUMC, **Attn: Heather Weidenbach.**

You are invited to take advantage of these opportunities to show Paul and Liz how much they are loved and will be missed at LHUMC.

MAY

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Church Under the Bridge



Did you know...that Church Under the Bridge (CUB-SA) is a 501(c)(3) not profit organization? Your financial donation is tax-exempt and its used for expenses to include food, education supplies, and monthly utilities. CUB-SA depends on the financial support from us to continue with their mission to provide to the Church Under the Bridge community. If you would like to make a tax-exempt financial donation, please make your check payable to:

**Church Under the Bridge
Attention Treasurer
PO Box 34421
San Antonio, TX 78265**



UMCOR

Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

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/>

Thank You

Thanks to all who helped to make our second Pancake Study Break a success. I am perpetually grateful for how readily our Laurel Heights family says, "Yes" to ministry opportunities. With Jo Mascorro arriving early and staying late to lead the cooks and Webb Myers faithfully washing every dish, a wonderful team of welcome joined in loving our students last Wednesday.

Our college student ministry is still developing, and I can't express enough how grateful I am for your continued commitment to our students. Whether they attend weekly or sporadically, they have claimed Laurel Heights as their home away from home because you have blessed their presence.

So keep up the good work! Greet them and stay interested. They really enjoy the interaction. College is filled with opportunities, but it is a bit of a silo. Church is the only place where multiple generations gather on a weekly basis, and you are the reason they feel at home at Laurel Heights. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,
Wyndee





thank you I would like to thank everyone who attended my recital this past Saturday. Laurel Heights has been incredibly supportive of me since the beginning of my time here. This is a community that has gotten to see and be a part of my upbringing, and I will be forever grateful. My growth in my faith journey as well as my musical journey would not be the same without all of you. Getting to perform in such a beautiful space for you is such a privilege, and I am lucky to have the opportunity. Thanks again for all your love and support! Max Healy

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

GET IN ON THE FUN - TEACH SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Now is your chance to get to share your love of God and get to know the children of the church! **Volunteer to teach for one Sunday (or two)!**

The children of Laurel Heights will be attending a One-Room Sunday School in the gym this summer, beginning June 12 through August 14th.

You will be provided the scripture focus for the day and if you'd like, some activity ideas. Every teacher will have at least one adult helper and the youth will be helping as well.

All Sunday School teachers must be approved through Safe Gatherings.

To check your status or begin the approval process click here.

<https://safegatherings.com/app/login/new-user>

If you have questions, please contact Laura Healy, lhealy@mylhumc.org

COME JOIN IN THE FUN FOR A SUNDAY THIS SUMMER!!

JUNE 14TH - AUGUST 14TH

Laurel Heights UMC

Vacation Bible School



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 23rd to May 29th

5/23

Henry Guven
Ella Sanders

5/24

Phifer Oleson

5/25

Julian Lopez

5/27

Bertha Basil
Nathan Garza

5/28

Glynis Taylor

*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!*

Church Office Hours

9:00am to 4:30pm
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:



**Church Offices will be closed Monday, May 30th, in
Observance of Memorial Day**

