



# The Messenger

June 1, 2022  
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## **FIVE GOLD CHAIRS**

**by Mark Allen Doty**

Perhaps it was all of the media attention surrounding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As anyone in Great Britain can tell you, next week will mark the concluding festivities for the 70th Anniversary of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Not surprisingly, the preparations for these final events are at a fevered pitch in the United Kingdom. My sister and her husband live in York, England, and Marte has been filling me in on all of the details. You may not know that the winner of the National Competition for the Queen's Jubilee Pudding has just been named. Jemma Melvin's recipe has triumphed over 5,000 entries, and now her Swiss Lemon Roll and Amaretti Trifle will become the official dessert at Jubilee lunches served throughout the land!

So, it may have been that news item or perhaps all of the frenzied speculation about which members of the Royal Family would be invited to stand with the Queen on the Balcony of Buckingham Palace, I'm not sure.

But in any case, in recent week's I've been thinking of my first trip to England in 1961. I was then thirteen years old, and the eldest of three children born to a Methodist Minister and Homemaker. One day that Spring dad shocked my brother and sister and me by announcing that he and my mother had decided to mortgage our home in Indianapolis to take us on a six-week tour of Europe! Believe me when I say he could have told us we were going to the moon, as it had the same effect!

So almost before the five Dotys knew it, we were boarding an ocean liner in Montreal that summer. Our family traveled up the St. Lawrence Seaway and took the northern route to the British Isles. After we docked in Southampton, we made our way in a rented car to London. Being the children of a pastor meant that my siblings and I would always find ourselves in a worship service on Sunday morning. On so on that first Sabbath Day in England, we arrived just before service time at Westminster Abbey. The nave was packed with tourists, and it appeared there wasn't any empty chair.

And then an usher greeted us and said that there were only five seats left on the front row, no less which were normally reserved for the Royal Family. And when he added, "so let me to escort you there," I protested. I was flabbergasted that he had the idea that our family commoners in every way could even think about sitting there! And so, I spoke up and said, "OH NO! Those gold chairs are reserved for the Royal Family!" And then the usher looked at me and said, "do you see them here? They are for you!" And he promptly guided us the five "Catbird Seats," as we would call them in Texas.

I've never forgotten the beauty and pageantry of that service. But what I most remember is sitting in one of those GOLD CHAIRS! It was a reminder that has stayed with me all my life of the deep importance of the Royal Priesthood of believers, where ALL GOD'S CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!



# Sunday Worship Services

*Come  
and See...*

Sunday, June 5th  
Sermon: Rev. Paul L. Escamilla

Worship Sunday @ 9 a.m.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

June 5, 2022

Feast of Pentecost Sunday  
11am Worship/Sanctuary

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

*Why we mask in Come  
and See...*

Why are we still masking during Come and See,  
when masks aren't required elsewhere?

I asked for input recently and want to share with you  
the heartfelt appreciation shared by parents with  
critical concern for their young children.

Parents want their children to interact with their  
church family, but the very you still need protection.  
Little ones recognize our smiles behind our masks,  
and Come and See parents are grateful for the  
gathering that provides the greatest protection  
with an abundance of loving interaction.

Thank you, one and all, for your gracious care for  
"the least of these" by continuing to wear a mask  
during Come and See.

Blessings, Rev. Wyndee

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

Coffee, Tea & Light Refreshments

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

Look for signs to various classrooms

**Certain Adult Groups 9:30am to 10:30am**

**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

## 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, Jerry Geerdes,

Phil Hall; Dimity and Steve Hall (*Sue Hall*),

Trish Moss (*Genny and Nick Campbell*),

Cheryl Fulcher (*Kay Carter*), Mary Sandoval

Peggy Wiggins (*Blanche Birdsong*),

Blakeley (*Landers Family*), Sonny Landers

Stanley Schoenbaum, Ed Stanley (*Wyndee Holbrook*),

Shelley McMullen (*Clyta Coder*) Elizabeth Jackson,

Tom Morton

Victims & Families of Uvalde

### **For those who mourn**

Karen Hogan and Lucian Smith

on the death of her mother and his grandmother.

**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](mailto: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 6:00PM

To join the Weekly Prayer Gathering via Zoom simply 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/>

## A Tribute to the Victims and Families of the Uvalde Tragedy



This wall of reflection is located along the Woodlawn hallway, next to the entrance to Scott Chapel. Created by Karon O'Ferrall, the display honors the lives of those who died in the tragedy last week at Robb Elementary school in Uvalde.

## Responding to Uvalde

As we all struggle to find ways to respond to the mass shooting in Uvalde, the United Methodist Church offers these resources for networking with others to affect change for the prevention of gun violence.

You can explore them here:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-united-methodist-position-on-preventing-gun-violence>

The United Methodist Church Justice offers a 3 session study called Kingdom Dreams: Violent Realities focused on Micah 4:1-4

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/resource-kingdom-dreams-violent-realities-bible-study>



# A season of farewell and welcome

*Paul & Liz Escamilla*

*Lisa & Jim Straus*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH  
NOON**

**JOIN US IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
TO SAY FAREWELL TO  
PAUL & LIZ**

LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC  
210-733-7156

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH  
NOON**

**JOIN US IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
TO WELCOME  
LISA & JIM**



## 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 then end of June we have a few opportunities to express our appreciation for Paul and Liz's faithful service.

**Farewell Reception: Sunday, June 19th at 12:00p.m. in the Dining Room**

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

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

# LHUMC June Mission of the Month



## OUR MISSION

Meeting the changing needs of asylum seekers, refugees, and at-risk immigrants in collaboration with others.



**Volunteer**



**Travel Benevolence**



**Backpack  
Outreach**

More information to come!  
To learn more, please visit their website:  
<https://interfaithwelcomecoalition.org/>



## UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery

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/>



## *The Mary Blackford Academic Fund Committee*

**Extends its Congratulations to our Fall Semester 2022 Recipients**

*Carly Herron*

*Zandrea Evans*

*Isabella Halteman*

Mary A. Blackford served as a missionary for the Methodist Church in China for 41 years. In 1957 she joined in membership with the congregation of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. Upon her death in 1978, an endowment was awarded to help further the education of all people. Since that time, the United Women of Faith (United Methodist Women) have awarded \$116,865.00 in grants to students.

We encourage donations, memorials and honorariums. Please contact Ann Wheeler, Treasurer or Patrice Law, Chairperson for information on how you can make a difference.

## Altar flowers needed!

Flowers are needed for  
**July, August and September!**

Please call Heather Weidenbach  
the church at 210-733-7156  
to place orders.



Laurel Heights United Methodist Congregation  
are cordially invited to attend a luncheon  
to celebrate the baptism of

*Billy Moore*  
&  
*Max Gannon*

June 12, 2022 | 12:00 PM  
LHUMC Fellowship Dining Hall

# SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning on June 12th we will be celebrating summer with our one-room-schoolhouse Children's Sunday School in the gym. Sunday School for children from Kindergarten through 5th grade will be held in the gym while youth 6th grade and up will be helpers as we learn about God and the Bible together.

We will meet in the gym until Sunday, August 14th, when we will celebrate the new school year and return to our traditional Sunday School classrooms.

Join us on Sundays in the gym from 10:00 to 10:45!

JUNE 12TH - AUGUST 14TH

Vacation Bible School



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

June 6th to June 12th

6/6

Stacy Campbell

Katina Huron-Chaffin

6/7

June McManus

6/8

Bert Clayton

Amon Marrone

6/9

Benjamin Reed

6/10

Barret Galindo

Mary Sandoval

6/11

Rick Rodriguez

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

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

*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!*



## Follow Us On:

