



# The Messenger

June 22, 2022  
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*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## *Sea change*



While our family lived in Heath, Texas (a suburb, rural suburb, of Dallas) a couple in the church I served there offered us their beachfront condominium on South Padre Island for a week every spring. It was a world away—except, of course, for telephones.

When the phone rang, Liz was up in the room, and I was down on the beach with our two children—either burying one of them up to their neck in the sand, working with them on a sand castle, playing in the surf, or searching for treasures in the receding tide. At the threshold of sea and shore—any threshold, really—adventure calls.

Liz hurried down to the beach to tell me my district superintendent was on the phone. Oh my. She took over with the children while I made my way back to the condo, picked up the phone and, breathless, greeted my superintendent. He proceeded to notify me that the bishop and Cabinet wanted me to move from the rural setting of Heath—where our son David’s first word was “moo,” a testament to the cow pasture across the street from the parsonage—to serve a church in the urban center of Dallas, a setting we anticipated would likely have a lower cow population. It would be a sea change.

The day after receiving this big news we visited UT’s coastal studies lab on the island—a science museum we thought the kids might enjoy. Little did I know it would be instructive for me, too—offering an insight into what was just about to happen in the life of my family and my church family.

The plaque at the lobster display read something like this: *Since the shell of the lobster is hard and inelastic, it must be shed periodically in order for the animal to grow. This process is known as molting.* As I read further I learned that the lobster *only grows while in transition* between one shell and the next.

I think we need a plaque to explain what the Laurel Heights congregation and two of its pastors are experiencing just now. It might read as follows: *Laurel Heights is changing senior pastors, in the course of which Lisa and Paul are both changing roles—which means of course, so is everyone associated with them. The maneuver is a risky one—fraught with uncertainties of all sorts, as well as a great sea of emotions. In the process of such change, and the soft vulnerabilities associated with it, all parties can expect to grow in ways they would not otherwise.*

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*Sea change (continued from page 1)*

That middle part—about emotions—doesn't appear on the lobster plaque, but it certainly belongs on ours! A whole range of feelings has accompanied this molting moment for us—among them fear, excitement, curiosity, sadness, anticipation, nervousness, wistfulness, grief, gratitude, even perhaps a muted joy, joy in the awareness of the essential goodness in things, perhaps seen in a new light through this realized eventuality. These past few weeks I have seen each of your faces even more dearly than before, and have shed more tears, and laughed more deeply, than in a long, long time. There is so much to express, so much to ponder, so much to celebrate, so much to sigh and pray over, so much to give thanks for, so much to surrender, so much to welcome . . .

How can we possibly live into and move through this molting moment, growing as we go along? If we were lobsters, it would, by some grace, simply happen. Though we're not lobsters, perhaps the same grace applies. Through our life together in Christ we grow to experience and trust what you've heard me say a hundred times—mostly to continue to school myself: It is the nature of grace that it enters empty spaces.

The God who loves us so will tend our hearts just now; will see to their stretching beyond capacity to hold all there is to hold; will furnish us the grace by which to love and let go and love again, perhaps even more generously than before. May it be so for Lisa and Jim, for Liz and me, and for each and every one of you, my beloved Laurel Heights family.

Grace and peace.

*Paul*



*On Sunday Pastor Paul shared with the children how with God's love we give and receive without always knowing who's giving, who's receiving. That morning the children proved his point, creating this farewell drawing for him.*

# farewell

REV. PAUL & LIZ ESCAMILLA





# Sunday Worship Services

*Come  
and See...*

Sunday, June 26th

Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus

Musical Offering: Anaiah Lupton Montaño

Worship Sunday @ 9 a.m.



*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 young 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.





# Welcome to Laurel Heights UMC

Rev. Lisa & Jim Straus

**JOIN US SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH @ 12:00 PM**

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



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Josh Beninger (*Susan Holloway*),  
Lucien Manchester, Doug Semmes, (*Bill Myers*),  
Daniel "Stump" Sowada (*Nancy Jones*),  
Esther Chalk, Jerry Geerdes,  
Phil Hall; Dimity and Stephen Hall (*Sue Hall*),  
Spencer Fuller (*Kay Carter*), Mary Sandoval  
Peggy Wiggins (*Blanche Birdsong*),  
Blakeley (*Landers Family*), Sonny Landers  
Stanley Schoenbaum, (*Wyndee Holbrook*),  
Shelley McMullen (*Clyta Coder*)  
Tom Morton  
Nora Winkler (*Teresa Garces*)  
Andre (*Nancy Shelden*)  
Yolanda Bundick (*Ann Wheeler*)  
Ukraine (*Cindy Birdwell*)  
Nathan Vasquez-Isin (*Leticia Vasquez*)

**Those who mourn:** Tony Guerrero in death of his father  
Tony Guerrero Sr. (*Sue Hall*)

**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](mailto: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:

"LHUMC" 73256

Or use our  
QR code



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

# Wednesday Weekly Prayer Gathering

Every Wednesday from 5:30 PM 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

# Vacation Bible School

It's not too late to register for Vacation Bible School!

June 27th—July 1st

9:00am—12:00pm

To register your Rising Kinder thru Sixth Grade child,  
please follow the link:

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

We need your help! We will be decorating for Vacation Bible School on Sunday, June 26th after worship service. If you have a few hours to help, we would greatly appreciate it. If you have any questions about Vacation Bible School, please contact the Church Office at 210-733-5156



THE PATHFINDERS INVITE YOU TO  
LHUMC

## FAMILY CAMP

SEPT. 2-5, 2022

PRIVATE ROOM FOR 4,  
MEALS AND ACTIVITIES  
\$500

INTERESTED?

CONTACT KILEY LANGE  
KILEYSHIPLEY@YAHOO.COM



The Pathfinders are making their way to Family Camp at Tejas Camp and Retreat Center in Giddings, Texas on Labor Day Weekend, September 2-5, 2022!

Each room must register individually and pay online.

<https://www.mytejas.org/labor-day-family-weekend/>

The cost for a private room for up to 4 people, 7 meals and all recreational activities is \$500. Bigger family? No problem-\$75 additional per person cost for up to 6 in the room. Children 3 and under are free.

On the registration form request lodging in the “Meadows-4 Seasons” section.

You can see pictures of the individual rooms on their website.

Please let Kiley Lange know once you’ve registered. All rooms are first come first selected, so register asap to get one of the 12 rooms in the 4 Seasons!

Questions? Ask Kiley Lange [kileyshiple@yahoo.com](mailto:kileyshiple@yahoo.com), or Wyndee Holbrook [wyndee@interfaithsaa.org](mailto:wyndee@interfaithsaa.org)



RELATIONSHIPS GROW

*leaders emerge*  
COMMUNITIES CHANGE



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To provide and serve dinner to our dedicated interns. After a long day serving children and churches, our young adults appreciate volunteers who come to serve them. This is a great opportunity to serve, encourage, and get to know the young people who are making a difference!

Sunday, June 5th - Wednesday, July 27th  
<https://projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/get-involved/>

## DONATE BLOOD

**Laurel Heights  
United Methodist**

Sunday, July 10  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**In the Gymnasium**



Scan QR Code  
to  
Schedule  
your  
Appointment

For further information, please contact  
**Yvonne Garcia at 210-733-7156**



## LHUMC June Mission of the Month

### How to Help

Laurel Heights UMC is accepting donated bottles of water for Interfaith Welcome Coalition for the month of June.

Donations may be dropped off at the church  
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact  
the church office at 210-733-7156

To learn more about how you can help please visit  
Interfaith Welcome Coalition's 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/>



## Happy Birthday

June 27th to July 3rd

6/27

Hal Guggolz  
Suzi Hines  
Ashley Landers

6/28

Nick Campbell (*correction*)  
Jennie Largent  
Ann Wheeler

6/30

Christian Morales  
Payton Seay

7/2

Colette Lanoux

7/3

Aleene Block  
Shelley McMullen  
Larhesa Moon

## 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.

## Follow Us On:

