

# The Messenger

September 14, 2022 Volume 54, Issue 36

## A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Tēnā Koe (pron.: teenah 'kōway).

In the closing worship in Karlsruhe, Germany where I was honored to represent the United Methodist Church earlier this month at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, a priest of Anglican Church in New Zealand and Polynesia shared that this Maori greeting literally translates "I see you" in English. Maoris are the indigenous people of that region and modern New Zealand does much to honor and

promote Maori culture in seamless ways. When used in greeting or departing Tēnā Koe takes on a much deeper meaning of seeing all that you are and have been, your descendants, your roots.

First a bit of context: With headquarters in Geneva, the World Council of Churches meets in assembly every eight years and is comprised of more than 4,000 voting delegates, advisors, participants and official representatives to elect leadership and draft position statements to guide the ecumenical movement in coming years. Participants included members of Anglican, Reformed, Evangelical, Methodist, various Orthodox expressions, as well as the Roman Catholic and Pentecostal churches. It was the broadest and diverse representation of global Christianity The United Methodist Church was made up of(from left to imaginable. Jewish and Muslim leaders also attended and brought greetings, along with the new President of Germany Domingos (Bishop of Angola), Rev. Ann Jacob (Washington), and the Archbishop of Canterbury. I was one of ten voting Mr. Paul Gomez (UMCom), Bishop Mary Ann Swenson (WCC delegates representing our denomination-bishops, clergy.





right in the photo): Mr. Byrd Bonner (Texas), Bishop Harald Rückert (Local Advisor, Bishop of Germany), Bishop Gaspar Vice Moderator), Rev. Joshua Swanson (Georgia), Rev. Dr. Jean Hawxhurst (advisor to the Delegation), Bishop Sally Dyck (Ecumenical Officer), Rev. Jessica Lowe (Louisiana), Rev. Sarah Bach (Germany), Mr. Roland Fernandes (GBGM) We began each day and Rev. Dr. Connie Semy Mella (Philippines).

with worship led

from around the world with music and prayers. Each morning service featured the Lord's Prayer in all of the world's languages simultaneously, scripture and song. Holy Communion/Eucharist was never shared in plenary, carrying its own message of our dividedness. Following worship each day was a different thematic plenary: climate crisis, racism and xenophobia, the war in the Ukraine, Middle East peace, global health pandemic and violence against women and children. Each thematic plenary was followed by assigned "home group" sessions of 30-35 persons, meeting each day to unpack and discuss the plenary panel presentations.

I was one of only two US voices in my home group, with others from across the globe. One member was a pastor from Myanmar (former Burma) who traveled 15 days to get to Karlsruhe due to civil war, visa concerns, cancelled and missed flights. Our sharing (and sometimes arguing) took on the proportions of a deep and abiding trust in and love for one another around that circle. After a business session each afternoon, all gathered in worship again led by a different confessional group: Orthodox, Evangelical, Pentecostal, Catholic, Protestant.

I came away from this rich experience pondering all that was shared not being quite sure whether these learnings were truly new to me, or things that I had chosen to resist or even ignore. They were certainly revealed to me in meaningful and challenging ways. Like the delegate from Thailand and native of Mumbai who, as a panelist, focused on causes of the global climate crisis rooted in greed, self-centeredness, and indifference to others. Patterns were shared that link global climate impacts to human wastefulness and apathy.

Another moment that resonated was the realization of racist implications in the proliferation of aid and support for

refugees from Ukraine in comparison to those from Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia, for instance. Special visas were obtained for representatives of Evangelical and Orthodox churches in Russia and Ukraine to be present. On the second day of the Assembly I happened to walk to a lunch line with Anatoly, a collared clergy new to me. As we talked about the preceding climate plenary I learned that Anatoly is Ukrainian from Kiev. When Russia began its invasion, he sent his wife and children to live with relatives in the Ukrainian countryside. He has stayed in Kiev where he serves a parish, is a military chaplain, delivers food and Bibles, and leads worship. As we broke bread I shared some about UMCOR's relief efforts in the Ukraine and then connected Anatoly with General Secretary Roland Fernandes, who was also one of our ten delegates. That seems to have resulted in a new pipeline of supplies and aid into Kiev and the region from the UMC.

In a panel on gender, race, disability and age discrimination and bias, the ecumenical movement was challenged to restore its character of justice relating to violence against women, greed and double standards. In pointing to the church's failure to see violence against women and children at the hands of one known to them as a pandemic, a past video was recalled titled "A Day without Mexico" emphasizing the vast impact on everyday life in Southern California USA if there were no persons of Mexican descent. It was posed that "A Day Without Women" might bring home the point.

Much more caught my attention, my heart and my imagination, like the Muslim woman from the UN who told the Assembly that she believes that Christ's love was surely meant for her. That caught the collective breath of the Assembly for its courage, sincerity and truth. It spurred many conversations in the days that followed about the importance and context for interfaith dialogue by Christians that is not salvific in goal. I will end with four words that made their way into several presentations and debriefings— "speak truth to power". The critical importance and cost of those four words astound. They are not new. Each word needs its own careful prayer and unpacking. They were perhaps at the heart of Jesus' ministry and are perhaps at the heart of ours. May it be so.

Tēnā Koe,

Byrd Bonner





# **Sunday Worship Services**

# Come and See...

Worship Experience Sunday, 9-9:30 a.m.

September 18, 2022 Reflection: Rev. Wyndee Holbrook Song Leader/Liturgist: Mitch Holbrook

# Mhy 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 you 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

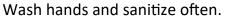
The 11 am service will be live-streamed at:

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.



Practice social distancing as appropriate.



#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Josh Beninger (Susan Holloway), Lucien Manchester,

Daniel "Stump" Sowada and Nancy Jones, Jerry Geerdes,

Spencer Fuller (Kay Carter),

Sonny Landers (Landers Family)

Othon Garces, Nora L. Winkler (Teresa Garces)

Michael McEnery (Anne Wheeler)

Greg Geerdes (Irene & Bobby Ojeda)

Gail Sims (Kitty Grantham)

Randal Bigelow & Family (Janice & Bert Clayton)

Jimmy & Christine Matheson

Gina Bernal, Maria Bustos (Leticia Vasquez)

"Gia" Julia Glick (Greyson Mitchell)

Veronica Pulido & Family, Stephanie Rosack & Family

(Janice & Bert Clayton)

**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.



Every Wednesday from 5:30PM to 6:00PM

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





### Our Life Together

#### Thursday, September 15

9:00 a.m. Church Mice - Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi - Room 312

### Friday, September 16

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - Room 312 2:30 p.m. Olmos Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary

### Saturday, September 17

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Olmos Ensemble Rehearsal - *Sanctuary* 

#### Sunday, September 18

9:00 a.m. Come and See Worship - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Potluck Picnic - Rowe Plaza

10:00 a.m. Sunday School - various rooms - look for signs

10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School Classes

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

1:30 p.m. Olmos Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary

## Monday, September 19

7:30 a.m. Weekday School Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - Room 312

5:45 p.m. Children's Choir of San Antonio - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. AA Big Book study - Room 312 and Zoom

7:30 p.m. Olmos Ensemble Concert - *Sanctuary* 

### Tuesday, September 20

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - *Parlor and Zoom* 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting - *Parlor* 

6:00 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting - Room 305

#### Save the Date

#### United Women in Faith

UWF Meeting, 9/14 @ 1:00 p.m.

#### **Education Committee**

Fellowship Potluck, 9/18 @ 9:30 a.m.

#### **Finance Committee**

Finance Committee Meeting, 9/20 @ 5:30 p.m.

#### **Missions Committee**

Missions Committee Meeting, 9/20 @ 6:00 p.m.

#### **Property & Building Committee**

Property & Building Comm. Mtg. 9/21 @ 10 a.m.

#### **Board of Trustees**

Board of Trustees Meeting 9/26 @ 5:30 p.m.

#### **Super Adults**

Super Adult Day 9/29 Bingo @ 10:30 a.m. Lunch and Program @ 11:00 a.m.





# Super Adults



September 14th | 10.00AM

Steering Committee Meeting

**September 20th | 8.00AM** Departure from Laurel Heights

Blissful Folly Farms in La Grange (Reschedule from July) Cost: \$94.00 includes charter coach bus, morning coffee all tours & entry fees, lunch, driver tip & guides.

> September 29th | SUPER ADULT DAY 9.30-11.30AM - Flu Shots

Walgreens will be in attendance to provide flu shots,

10.30AM - BINGO Bring "White Elephants" for prizes

11.00AM - Lunch: Quinoa Salad, Roast Beef Sandwich, Relishes Cream Puffs w/Chocolate Sauce & Whipped Cream Reservations Necessary. Call 210.872.8031 \$7.00 per person

# Chancel Choir

September is

"Come & Sing" month!

Anyone, whether you already sing or play an instrument or just loves to sing, is invited to join us every Wednesday night in the Choir Room from 7–8:30p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. to warm up for worship service.

For questions, regarding the Choir, please contact Laura Marty, Music director at Imarty@mylhumc.org

This is a great time to try Choir! Plus you will have fun, learn about signing, reading music and praising God through Song!

Laura Marty, Music Director

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## **Laurel Height UMC**



9:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

For more information, please contact Yvonne Garcia, Wesley Nurse at 210-272-7921

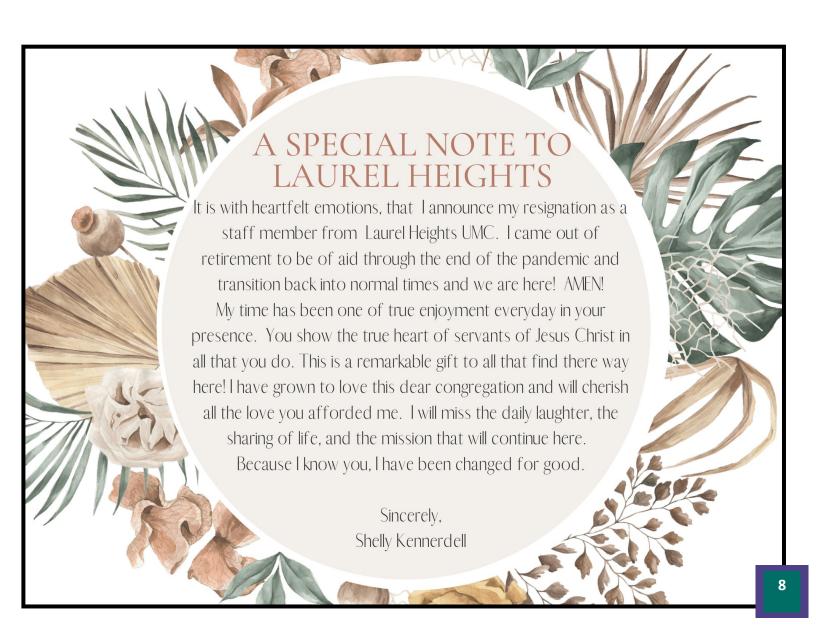


Laurel Heights United Women in Faith (the United Methodist Women) and Laurel Heights United Methodist Church hosted the Las Misiones District annual meeting of UWF on Saturday, Sept.10, 2022. With 100 women (and men) present, attendees renewed friendships, reported on mission commitments and projects, installed new officers, remembered and honored loved ones at the candle burning for missions, celebrated holy communion, and honored the scripture for the day: "So if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

LHUMC Pastor Lisa Straus blessed the event, and seventeen women of LHUWF served as hostesses. Dave Saylor catered the luncheon.

United Women in Faith/ Mujeres Unidas en Fe raises up to \$20 million each year to support local, national, and international missions. In San Antonio, Wesley Health and Wellness Center is one group among others that receives this support.





# SEPTEMBER Mission of the Month



Laurel Heights...Come build with Habitat for Humanity of SA!

We will be joining the Habitat Build in Von Ormy on **September 24th**. Anyone 14 and up can help; no tools or experience necessary.

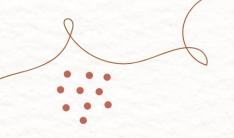
If you have questions, please contact Jane Manning at 210-859-1639 or Jason Davis at 210-414-7625.

To sign up, please use the following link <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49A8AB29A5F94-laurel">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49A8AB29A5F94-laurel</a>

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio, check out their website and Facebook page.

www.HabitatSA.org

https://www.facebook.com/HabitatforHumanityofSanAntonio/





## Happy Birthday

September 19th -25th

9/19

Rayda Porter

9/20

Willa Beuhler

**Jake Landers** 

9/21

**Beth Furber** 

9/24

Alexis Berain Marjorie Hagy Brook Rivas

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:





#### **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 or email.

> Rev. Lisa Straus Senior Pastor

lstraus@mylhumc.org

Rev. Laura Healy
Associate Pastor

lhealy@mylhumc.org

Rev. Wyndee Holbrook Pastor in Residence

wyndee@interfaithsaa.org

Laura Marty, Music Director lmarty@mylhumc.org

Dr. Melanie Randall, Organist mrandall@mylhumc.org

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Wesley Nurse Yvonne Garcia ygarcia@mhm.org

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