



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 most diverse representation of global Christianity imaginable. Jewish and Muslim leaders also attended and brought greetings, along with the new President of Germany and the Archbishop of Canterbury. I was one of ten voting delegates representing our denomination-bishops, lay, clergy.



The United Methodist Church was made up of (from left to right in the photo): Mr. Byrd Bonner (Texas), Bishop Harald Rückert (Local Advisor, Bishop of Germany), Bishop Gaspar Domingos (Bishop of Angola), Rev. Ann Jacob (Washington), Mr. Paul Gomez (UMCom), Bishop Mary Ann Swenson (WCC 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) and Rev. Dr. Connie Semy Mella (Philippines).



We began each day 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.

cont. on page 2

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

LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC

Potluck Picnic

Food
Fellowship
Fun

Rowe Plaza &
adjacent parking lot



Potluck
Brunch and
Outdoor
Games

Bring a
dish or
activity to
share!



Sunday,
September 18th

9:30-11:00am





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



**LAUREL HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

**11a.m. Worship/Sanctuary
Rev. Wyndee Holbrook**

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.



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.

Wednesday

Weekly Prayer Gathering

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

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/>



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.

FALL
YOUTH
EVENTS



WE NEED
YOU TO
PLAN AN
OCT.
YOUTH
EVENT!

PICK A SATURDAY
IN OCTOBER &
CONTACT
WYNDEE

SEPT. 24-HABITAT
NOV. 12-BLACK
HISTORY TOUR
DEC. 10-COOKING
CLASS

Super Adult's

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 lmarty@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

Laurel Height UMC



**Get a
Flu Shot
Sept 29th**

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.



A SPECIAL NOTE TO LAUREL HEIGHTS

It is with heartfelt emotions, that I announce my resignation as a staff member from Laurel Heights UMC. I came out of retirement to be of aid through the end of the pandemic and transition back into normal times and we are here! AMEN!

My time has been one of true enjoyment everyday in your presence. You show the true heart of servants of Jesus Christ in all that you do. This is a remarkable gift to all that find there way here! I have grown to love this dear congregation and will cherish all the love you afforded me. I will miss the daily laughter, the sharing of life, and the mission that will continue here.

Because I know you, I have been changed for good.

Sincerely,
Shelly Kennerdell

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49A8AB29A5F94-laurel>

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/>



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.

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!*

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

Heather Weidenbach

Administrative Manager

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Maria Robles, Bookkeeper

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Shelly Kennerdell

Administrative Assistant (PT)

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Susan Holloway

Super Adults Director

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Wesley Nurse

Yvonne Garcia

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