



# The Messenger

November 30, 2022

Volume 54, Issue 46

*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

Dear Church-

Every now and then I ask people to consider doing something, never anticipating where it might lead. As the staff and worship committee began discussing Advent this year, someone suggested we ask church members to bring in their nativity pieces that go with the character we would be discussing that week. Last Sunday, a few Mary's came in before worship and we put them on the communion table. I invited people to bring theirs forward during the prelude and a couple more of you added yours. One person, Paul Bishop, confidently came forward with his piece and later I heard the most wonderful story about the origination of his nativity set! Paul wrote: "My wife suggested I carve a nativity set because we want something special, and we are just starting out as a family. We had some wood and supplies laying around and I studied art at SMU under a great narrative painter named Barnaby Fitzgerald. In my head, Mary and Joseph are exhausted and alone. It's cold so they are compact. My wife is often exhausted after working at the hospital. So I modeled Mary after her, sprawled out on the couch with her arm on the shoulder rest. There's also some inspiration from Caravaggio (reclined exhaustion, as in the *Nativity*) and JL David (shoulders leaning over toward the audience over a ledge, as in the death *Death of Marat*), which do a phenomenal job of capturing the narrative of exhaustion. I started by praying and sitting in silence. Then, after being still, I drew a few drafts of the Holy Family around the manger on a yellow legal pad. One of the keys to the design was to create something stable, which required a strong structural angle - hence, the dramatic legs.

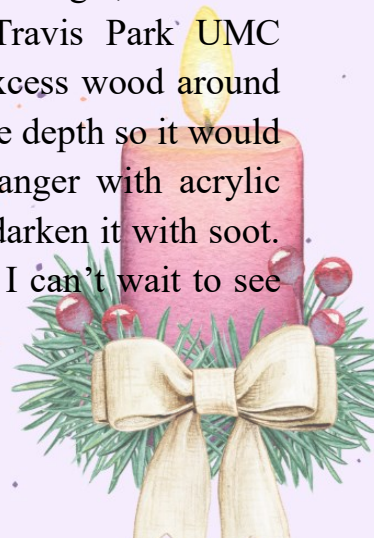


Once I had a profile and frontal view drawn, I transferred the drawing to a half-inch-thick plank made of white oak. I used a dremel tool to carve Mary, the manger, and Jesus into a relief, like that one on the Travis Park UMC building, downtown. Then, I cut out excess wood around the forms - making sure to keep the base depth so it would stand upright. I painted all but the manger with acrylic paint. I took a match to the manger to darken it with soot.

I'm going to make a Joseph this week." Paul has shared a picture of Mary and I can't wait to see his Joseph as well!

I can't wait to see ALL your Josephs!

Blessings - Pastor Lisa



# Midweek Dinner, Worship & Activity

Fellowship Hall - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

November 30 - Advent Festival

Menu: Chili, Salad, & Dessert

December 7 - Jesse Tree

Menu: Baked Potato, BBQ Pulled Chicken, Salad, & Dessert

December 14 - Blue Christmas

Menu: Baked Pasta, Salad, & Dessert

December 21 - Advent Spiral

Menu: Macaroni & Cheese, Ham, Salad, & Dessert

Please RSVP through Realm or by contacting Heather  
at [heatherw@mylhmc.org](mailto:heatherw@mylhmc.org) or 210.733.7156

Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 7pm in the Parlor.

Lessons & Carols

December 18 @ 7pm - Sanctuary

Reception to Follow.



# Reverse Advent Calendar

Find a box and add an item each day. Bring your completed box with you on Christmas Eve. We will be delivering our boxes to the San Antonio Food Bank.

- December 1 - Breakfast cereal
- December 2 - Peanut butter
- December 3 - Stuffing mix
- December 4 - Instant potatoes
- December 5 - Macaroni & cheese
- December 6 - Canned fruit
- December 7 - Canned tomatoes
- December 8 - Canned tuna/chicken
- December 9 - Dried beans
- December 10 - Applesauce cups
- December 11 - Canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - Cranberry sauce
- December 13 - Canned beans
- December 14 - Crackers
- December 15 - Rice
- December 16 - Oatmeal
- December 17 - Pasta
- December 18 - Pasta sauce
- December 19 - Soup
- December 20 - Canned pinto beans
- December 21 - Canned corn
- December 22 - Canned green beans
- December 23 - Canned carrots
- December 24 - Cookies

# Christmas Eve & Beyond

**December 24**

Three Christmas Eve Services.

Each service will have carols, communion, and candlelight:

**5:00pm**

An Interactive Service that is both family friendly and intergenerational.

**7:00pm and 11:00pm**

A retelling of the Christmas story through scripture and songs.

**Sunday, December 25**

Worship over brunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11am.

Children in PJ's are most welcome!

**Sunday, January 1**

Worship in the Fellowship Hall at **11:00am** and proceed to the Sanctuary. we will start the year with a Wesley Covenant Renewal Service.

**January 4**

Epiphany celebration from **5:15-6:30pm** called the **Feast of the Three Kings** in the gym that will include a feast!

LHUMC Young Adult  
Advent Gathering

December

**16<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 - 9:30 pm

Charcuterie &  
Conversation  
Friends are Welcome!

RSVP to Wyndee  
by 12/14



CONFIRMATION IS COMING!

INFORMATION MEETING  
JAN. 15, AFTER WORSHIP  
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

We will be gathering our 2023 Confirmation class soon. Any student in sixth grade or above is eligible to join as we learn what it means to be a United Methodist and a member of the church here at Laurel Heights.

We will meet after worship on the first Sunday February through May from noon to 3pm. (February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7)

If you have questions or are interested, please email Laura Healy [lhealy@mylhumc.org](mailto:lhealy@mylhumc.org)



# Sunday Worship Services

**Come and See...**

**Worship Experience**  
**The Second Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

**December 4, 2022**  
**Reflection: Wyndee Holbrook**  
**Songleader/Liturgist: Byrd Bonner**

## Fellowship Gathering

9:30am to 10am

## Fellowship Hall

Coffee, Tea & Light Refreshments

Thank you to the Believers Class for providing snacks & refreshments for Fellowship Gathering on Sunday, Dec. 4.

**Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:30pm**

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

Look for signs to various classrooms

**9:30am to 10:30am**

Certain Adult Groups

## Worship / 11am / Sanctuary

The 11 am service is live-streamed at:

<https://www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/>

and on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC>

Beginning at 11am.

**LAUREL HEIGHTS**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

*December 4, 2022*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
**11AM Worship - Sanctuary**  
*Rev. Lisa Straus*  
**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**  
*Shelly & Toby Kennerdell*

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

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### **Healing:** Lucien Manchester,

Daniel "Stump" Sowada and Nancy Jones,  
Jerry Geerdes, Spencer Fuller (*Kay Carter*),

Sonny Landers (*Landers Family*),

Nora L. Winkler (*Teresa Garcés*),

Michael McEnery (*Ann Wheeler*),

Lee Davis, Leanna Turbeville, Don Clark,  
Hannah Marina Campen

Kaye Muennick (*Jane & Rusty Manning*)

Juan Garcés (*Teresa Garcés*)

Corey Family (*Billie Arredondo*)

Jerry Crockett (*Vicki Ferguson-Crockett*)

Vicki Belcher (*Darla Peek*)

**Joys:** Jamie & Robert Chalk are expecting  
a baby girl, Dec. 20, 2022.

**God's Presence:** For those affected by the COVID-19 virus; 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.

## NOTICE

LHUMC 2022 Annual Charge Conference

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022 @ 2pm**

Oxford UMC

9739 Huebner Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78240

## 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/>

## Church Calendar

### Wednesday, November 30

- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - Room 312
- 5:30 p.m. Midweek Dinner, Worship & Activity
- 7:00 p.m. AA Monte Vista Group - Room 305
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

### Thursday, December 1

- 9:00 a.m. Church Mice
- 3:00 p.m. Church Under the Bridge
- 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi Class - Room 312

### Friday, December 2

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

### Sunday, December 4

- 9:00 a.m. Come and See Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship - Dining Rm.
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School - Various Rooms
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting

### Monday, December 5

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

### Tuesday, December 6

- 1:00 p.m. Stephen Leaders Meeting - Laurel Rm.

### Wednesday, December 7

- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - Room 312
- 5:30 p.m. Midweek Dinner, Worship & Activity

## PANCAKE STUDY BREAK

Students - come for the carb load!

Dec. 8, 7-9:30 p.m.

@ Laurel Heights United Methodist Church



Workers needed, contact Wyndee!  
wyndee@interfaithsaa.org

## THANK YOU

As you wander the rooms of the church you will notice that many hands have been busy getting the church ready for Advent! A special thank you to the entire Altar Guild led by John David Griffin who have spent weeks on the greens in the sanctuary. Another big thank you to Karon O'Ferrall who has masterfully brought a bulletin board to life on the first floor. She created a beautiful piece using fabric that depicts the light of the season spreading out into the world. And finally, a huge thank you to Joe and Anthony. Our custodians who have tirelessly assisted in all of these projects. If you see any of these folks, please express your gratitude to them. -Pastor Lisa



December 10:

4-7 pm

LHUMC Kitchen

Christmas Cooking

Come and

cook up some

tasty fun!

RSVP: Text  
Wyndee  
859-200-9880



# Happy Birthday

December 5– December 11

12/5

Juanita Souder

12/6

Juniper Mendez

12/8

Stephen Hall

Jocelyn Redd

12/9

John Largen

12/10

Byrd Bonner

David Shelden

Diana Philips

Steve Haney

*Are we missing your name  
on the birthday list?*

*Please notify the church office  
at 210-733-7156 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 or email.

**Rev. Lisa Straus**

**Senior Pastor**

[lstraus@mylhumc.org](mailto:lstraus@mylhumc.org)

**Rev. Laura Healy**

**Associate Pastor**

[lhealy@mylhumc.org](mailto:lhealy@mylhumc.org)

**Rev. Wyndee Holbrook**

**Pastor in Residence**

[wyndee@interfaithsaa.org](mailto:wyndee@interfaithsaa.org)

**Laura Marty, Music Director**

[lmarty@mylhumc.org](mailto:lmarty@mylhumc.org)

**Dr. Melanie Randall, Organist**

[mrandall@mylhumc.org](mailto:mrandall@mylhumc.org)

**Heather Weidenbach**

**Administrative Manager**

[heatherw@mylhumc.org](mailto:heatherw@mylhumc.org)

**Maria Robles, Bookkeeper**

[mrobles@mylhumc.org](mailto:mrobles@mylhumc.org)

**Susan Holloway**

**Super Adults Director**

[susanbholloway@gmail.com](mailto:susanbholloway@gmail.com)

**Wesley Nurse**

**Yvonne Garcia**

[ygarcia@mhmc.org](mailto:ygarcia@mhmc.org)

210-272-7921

