



The Messenger

January 25, 2023
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Standing in the Gap

by Byrd Bonner

As I listened to Mark Doty's honest and confessional words on Sunday, I was taken back to moments in my journey in the UMC that have given opportunity for challenge, grief, change and healing. In the 22nd chapter of Ezekiel in the First Testament many translators and commentators use a phrase from this oracle to Jerusalem that often surfaces today. God laments a search for one to "stand in the gap" referring to a breach in a wall to save Jerusalem from ruin. He found no one. No one.

My journey as a United Methodist is unique, broad, rich. I have been given the gift to serve at every level of the church. I have been the first elected lay delegate to the policy-making General Conference and the last elected alternate to the bishop-electing Jurisdictional Conference. I have been chosen to preach about repentance and racial reconciliation in the Cleveland Convention Arena and I have privately sobbed in a basement hallway of a Cincinnati hotel at the realization that for denominations divided over race "unity" did not mean merger. I have been challenged about my faithfulness to scripture at policy-making tables and I have gotten to call the Church to accountability in matters of human rights in Somalia and the Sudan. I have petitioned corporate boards of directors to include women and persons of color at their tables and have gladly stepped forward for election to church offices over women and persons of color. As I look back God has presented me with a lot of gaps.

In listening to Mark's words of pain and rebirth, I again realized my comfort, in a way, in gaps. I have been asked many times in recent weeks about my "take" on the disaffiliation of United Methodist congregations. I realized in trying to piece words together that my greatest fear is that the UMC may no longer seek or have gaps to stand in--- at least not as before.

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Standing in the Gap cont.

In my political life in the UMC (a very accurate description), I have appreciated the support from those of many perspectives. When I entered that fray (also a very accurate description) I was young and I had visibility throughout the Church for my ecumenical and interfaith commitments. I was pulled into positions because I was young, a public speaker, and, truth be told, white. As the Conference looked for a 'next generation' to add to leadership, my uniqueness as a lay ecumenist presented the first gap. 'It's okay. He'll come around.' was the murmur around the room. I didn't. Next, my growing confession of white privilege and naming and confessing the sin of racism that still fractures our Church and world was a big gap. "It's okay. He'll come around." I didn't. Next, my unwavering tolerance and support for LGBTQI rights, leadership and legislation was a gap. The murmur around the room? Crickets.

I have sat elbow to elbow with top leaders and writers of the most progressive movements of the UMC and top leaders and writers of the conservative (even reactionary) movements of the UMC. I have listened to and have loved them, and they me. I have eaten and received sacrament with them. The UMC has been the host and catalyst for so many gaps. May that continue to be a source of her strength as God needs us all to stand, not on one side or the other but, in the gap. Creator God, May the gaps continue to be our comfort zones. Amen.

#BeUMC



**May Parish O'Neal
Memorial Service**

**Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 10:30 A.M.
Laurel Heights UMC Sanctuary.**

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.



**Alex Hooper-Shaffer
Memorial Service**

**Monday, January 30, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.
Laurel Heights UMC Sanctuary.**



Flavio Garcia

Rosary

**Monday, January 30th at 6:30pm
Castillo Funeral Home
520 N. General McMullen**

Funeral Mass

**Tuesday, January 31st at 10am
St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
119 Octavia**





Sunday Worship Services

Come and See...

Worship Experience
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday, 9:00–9:30 a.m.
January 29, 2023

Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus
Song Leader & Liturgist:
Anaiah Lupton Montano

Fellowship Gathering

9:30am to 10am

Fellowship Hall

Coffee, Tea & Light
Refreshments

Thank you Super Adults for providing
snacks & refreshments during
Fellowship time on Sunday, January 29.

**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](https://www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC)

Beginning at 11am.



**LAUREL HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

11:00 a.m. Worship

Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mark Doty

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Lucien Manchester,
Daniel "Stump" Sowada and Nancy Jones,
Jerry Geerdes, Spencer Fuller (*Kay Carter*),
Sonny Landers (*Landers Family*),
Hannah Marina Campen
Mary Beth Garay
Richard Parrigan
Natasha Garza
Bruce Davis (*Clyta Coder*)
Flavio Garcia Family
Jesse Fernandez
Aleene Block

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,
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/>

Church Calendar

Wednesday, January 25

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Rm. 312*
6:30 p.m. Financial Planning Course - *Parlor*
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*

Thursday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Church Mice
10:30 a.m. Super Adult Day - *Gym*
6:00 p.m. Tai Chai Class

Friday, January 27

9:00 Exercise Class - *Rm. 312*

Saturday, January 28

10:30 a.m. May O'Neal Memorial & Reception

Sunday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Come and See Worship - *Sanctuary*
9:30 a.m. Fellowship - *Dining Room*
10:00 a.m. Sunday School - *Various Rooms*
11:00 a.m. Worship - *Sanctuary*

Monday, January 30

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Rm. 312*
2:00 p.m. Hooper-Shaffer Memorial Service
5:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Mtg. - *Parlor*

Tuesday, January 31

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
2:00 p.m. Tuesday Musical Series - *Sanctuary*

Wednesday, February 1

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Rm. 312*
6:30 p.m. Financial Planning Course - *Parlor*
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*

Financial Planning Workshop

with UIW's
Dr. Tim Griesdorn
Wednesdays,
Jan. 11 - Feb. 8,
6:30-8pm
LHUMC Parlor

\$15 registration,
or \$10 for students.
Contact Wyndee

Make all you can.
Save all you can.
Give all you can.

John Wesley

Contact
wyndee@interfaithsaa.org



TUESDAY MUSICAL CLUB ARTIST SERIES

TUESDAY,
JANUARY 31, 2023
@ 2:00 PM

featuring

ELENA VILLAION,
SOPRANO

LHUMC SANCTUARY



LHUMC Pickleball

Thanks to everyone who helped make Saturday's Pickleball Launch Party a success!

Our players ranged in age from 7-70. Whether you were in the game or on the sidelines, it was a great day with lots of hot dogs, chips, pickles, and most of all - community.

Our next step is to staff Wednesdays 4:30-7 pm and Saturdays 10 am-noon with volunteer hosts in February and March. Ann and Mike McGlone have committed to Saturday, March 4. [Sign UP to host.](#)

Please know volunteer hosts are welcome to play. We just need to have someone in the space to help set up and take down the nets and make the paddles and balls available. There will be church staff on site at these times as well.

Blessings and thanks,

Wyndee

Pickleball Survey

Scan the QR code



LIKE TO SING? JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Now is the time to join the Music Ministry
by becoming a member of the
Chancel Choir!

We are a diverse group that embraces
many musical styles to celebrate
God's love for all!

Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7p-8:30p in
the Music Room,
Sunday warm-up at 10:30a in Sanctuary.

Questions? Ask any choir member, or
reach out to Music Director, Laura Marty,
after the 11:00a service or via email,
lmarty@mylhunc.org.



DONATE BLOOD SAVE LIVES

**12 FEBRUARY 2023
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

Laurel Heights UMC Gymnasium
227 W. Woodawn Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78212

For more information, call 210-272-7921

Happy Birthday

January 26 - 31

1/26

Laura Healy

1/27

Janice Clayton

Georgia Ferguson

1/29

Ilda Gennero

Nan Shelden

1/30

Peter Bowman

Ryley Garza

Anthony Mercado

1/31

Omar Medina

*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

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

heatherw@mylhumc.org

Debbie Cormier, PT Assistant

debbie@mylhumc.org

Susan Holloway

Super Adults Director

susanbholloway@gmail.com

Wesley Nurse

Yvonne Garcia

ygarcia@mhmc.org

210-272-7921