



The Messenger

March 29, 2023
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Once Upon a Time...



Don't you just love those four words? As soon as I read them my heart skips a beat in anticipation. "What will come next" my mind wonders. Surely there will be a prince, a regal celebration, laughter, tears and an evil force bent on bringing danger, ruin or disaster to the plot. We all know how the story ends. Almost every story that begins with "Once upon a time..." ends with "...and they all lived happily ever after." So, if we know the beginning and we know the end, do we need the middle? Well of course we do! It is the action in the middle that causes us to appreciate those familiar words at the beginning and end.

This strikes me every year while thinking about the many worship services during Holy Week. It is so easy to fall into the habit of attending church on Palm Sunday singing "Hosanna" and waving palm branches only to return the following Sunday to greet the risen Christ with choruses of "Alleluia". But in doing so, we miss the heart of the story and the beginning and ending become familiar, happy, sweet words with diminished meaning. My joy on Easter Sunday is exponentially multiplied by participating in the Holy Week services that remember the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the crucifixion on Good Friday. These two services set the mood for full celebration and appreciation of Easter morning.

Let's read the whole story together this year. Ash Wednesday was our "Once upon a time..." Palm Sunday promises a parade and celebration suitable for the Prince of Peace. On Maundy Thursday we will pause to remember the night Jesus shared communion with his disciples for the first time. Good Friday Tenebrae Service will bring a time for solemn reflection of the selfless sacrifice God made for each of us. On Easter morning when, together, we have reached "...and they all lived happily ever after..." we will never want to read the beginning and end of this story without the action in the middle.

During our Holy Week journey this year, you are bound to experience laughter, tears, joy, and heartache. But the best books on my bookshelves, the ones I reach for time and again, are the ones that have touched my heart and stretched my mind. This year may the story of Holy Week bring all this and more to you.

In Christ-

Pastor Lisa

Super Adult Day

Thursday, March 30

10:30 a.m. Bingo

11:00 a.m. Lunch

Menu: Fresh Green Salad, Macaroni & Cheese Soufflé,
Episcopal Green Beans, French Bread & Lenten Apple Cake

Cost \$7.00 per person



2023 Easter Lily Order Form

We invite you to purchase Easter lily plant(s) to decorate and beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

Number of Lily Plant(s) _____ \$15.00 each

Total Amount \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

Pay by check: payable to Laurel Heights UMC "Lily" in the memo line.

Mail this form along with your check to LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn, SATX, 78212.

Pay online:
www.laurelheights.org/give

Please submit no later than April 2, 2023.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

April 2, 2023

9:00 am Come & See Service

&

11:00 am Traditional Worship

LHUMC Sanctuary



Maundy Thursday Dinner Church

Thursday, April 6 @ 6:00pm

Laurel Heights UMC Gymnasium

HOLY WEEK

GOOD FRIDAY: TRE ORE

The Tre Ore service will be held from noon to 3 p.m. on Good Friday, April 7, 2023. Tre Ore literally means three hours. The service, is a vigil a church keeps during the time that tradition says Jesus hung on the cross. This year the service is lay-led, meaning most of the work for the service is planned and carried out by lay members of the church.

The structure of the service this year will follow a format the church did in the service in 2016. There will be a hymn, a Gospel reading, a spoken meditation and then a silent meditation period, first with music and then with silence. At the conclusion of the service, a tower bell will ring 33 times representing the 33 years tradition holds Jesus lived on earth at the time of his death on the cross.

The following people the Bible says were part of the Good Friday story will be subjects of the meditations: Peter, Herod, Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, Roman Soldiers, the two thieves crucified beside Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus and, finally, Jesus himself. Those giving the meditations will be Thomas Sanders, John Shaw, Alice Gannon, Rayen Dennis, Rachel Goeres, Jason Davis, Mark Doty, Muriel Manchester and Mitch Holbrook.

Not everyone comes for the whole three hours. Many people come for only part of it, depending on their schedules and their preferences. Some people come with things to read during the meditation times and some bring pen and paper to write thoughts and prayers. Some people just come. It is a quiet, contemplative time, unlike most any other service of the year.

The Tre Ore service is not meant to replace the 6:00 p.m. service. Most of the people who worship during the Tre Ore service also attend the evening service which is always lovely and meaningful.

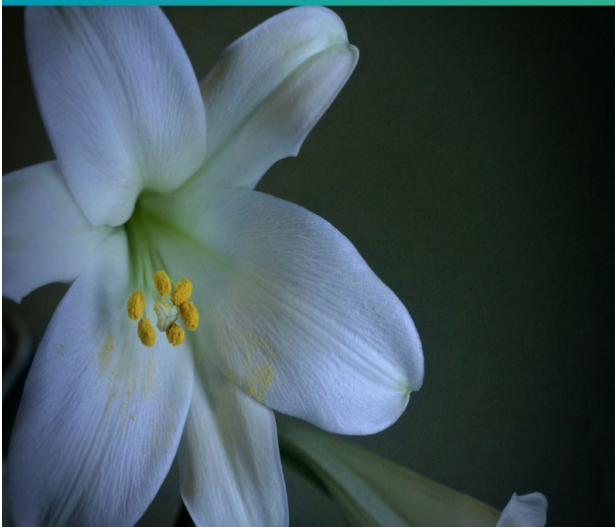
If the Tre Ore service speaks to you, come when you choose and are able and stay as long as you choose and are able.

HOLY WEEK

Good Friday: Tenebrae

Tenebrae comes from the Latin word for “darkness”. A Tenebrae Service is traditionally held in the evening.

This service will happen on Friday, April 7 from 6-7pm in the LHUMC Sanctuary. The service will tell the story of the betrayal, arrest, and the crucifixion of Jesus through scripture, hymns, and choral anthems.



EASTER MORNING Sunday, April 9

Sunrise Service 7am Rowe Plaza
Come & See 9am Sanctuary
Traditional Service 11am Sanctuary



Interfaith Iftar

featuring.

Intro to Islam



Dawah Booths



*Fasting
crashcourse*



Iftar and Dinner



**Sat,
April 15**



nicsatx



nicsatx



ADMIN@NICSATX.ORG



(832) 813-9259

**7: 15 PM to
9: 00 PM**

21003 ENCINO COMMONS STE 110
SAN ANTONIO TX, 78259

RSVP to Wyndee Holbrook @ wyndee@interfaithsaa.org

Church Calendar

Wednesday, March 29

- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class
- 4:30 p.m. Pickleball - *Gym*
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner – *Fellowship Hall*
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 30

- 9:00 a.m. Church Mice
- 10:30 a.m. Super Adult Day/Bingo - *Gym*
- 11:00 a.m. Super Adult Day Lunch & Program
- 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi Class - *Room 312*

Friday, March 31

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

Saturday, April 1

- 1:00 p.m. Tier 1 Neighborhood Assoc. - *Gym*

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Come & See - *Sanctuary*
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship - *Fellowship Hall*
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School – *Fellowship Hall*
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - *Sanctuary*
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class - *Parlor*

Monday, April 3

- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 312*
- 7:00 p.m. Safety Task Force Mtg. - *Parlor*

Tuesday, April 4

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 5

- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class – *Room 312*
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – *Choir Rm.*

Thursday, April 6

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

Friday, April 7

- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 312*
- 12:00 p.m. Tre Ore – *Sanctuary*
- 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae – *Sanctuary*

Last Lenten Dinner

Wednesday, March 29
@ 6:00 p.m.

RSVP to Heather at
210-733-7156 or email
heatherw@mylhumc.org





Sunday Worship Services



Fellowship Gathering

9:30am to 10am

Fellowship Hall

Coffee, Tea & Light
Refreshments

Thank you Kairos/Shalom Class for providing snacks & refreshments for fellowship time on Sunday, April 2.

**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.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Lucien Manchester
Jerry Geerdes, Spencer Fuller (*Kay Carter*)
Sonny Landers (*Landers Family*)
Hannah Marina Campen
Richard Parrigan
Natasha Garza
Harper Shaw & Family
Jill Caldwell
Richard & Elizabeth Jackson
Annalynn Jackson

Prayers for Director of Young Family Ministries
applicants and search team.

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/>

Happy Birthday

March

3/29

Jackson Hedgepeth
Abigail Reed

April

4/1

Judy Geerdes
Eric Ramirez

4/2

Larry Aguilar
Cynthia Cowles

4/3

Gemma & Oliver Pearson

4/4

David Bailey
David Gannon
James Hollerbach
Nixon Trainer

4/5

Tony Garcia
Natalie Pearson

*Are we missing your name
on the birthday list?
Please notify the church office
at 210-733-7156 so we can update*



Church Office Hours

9:00am to 4:30pm
Monday through Friday

Contact Us

210-733-7156

Rev. Lisa Straus
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