



# The Messenger

May 3, 2023  
Volume 55, Issue 18

*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## THE LAUREL HEIGHTS FLAT JESUS PROJECT

Are you and your family traveling this summer? Are you going on vacation or maybe to camp? Are you taking a trip to the public library or to the pool? How would you like to take Jesus with you everywhere you go?!

Flat Jesus is inspired by a national school project called Flat Stanley, based on a book written by Jeff Brown. Just as Flat Stanley has helped children with literacy and geography, Flat Jesus helps children stay connected to their faith and to their church family.

Beginning this Sunday (May 7<sup>th</sup>), we will have Flat Jesus packets available for the young (and young at heart)! They will include a cardstock cut out for you to color and laminating sheets to make sure Flat Jesus survives that trip to the beach!

Take photos of yourselves with Jesus—at the park, on vacation, at VBC, or just hanging around the neighborhood—as a reminder that Jesus is with us wherever we go.

Our hashtag **#lhumcflatjesus** will allow you to share the adventures of your Flat Jesus with the Laurel Heights online community. Any photos shared with us will be shared on the church's social media accounts and website. (If you'd prefer that your photos not be shared online, you can text or email them to Pastor Lisa or Pastor Laura.)

Stay connected to Laurel Heights even during the craziness of summer!

Keep Jesus in your heart *and* in your backpack this summer!



Reading the Bible in 90 Days  
(written and video recorded  
4/27/23; Chester, MD)

Hi! My name is Tricia Schneider and I am a member of the United Methodist Church today connecting from Kent Island, MD. A few summers ago, the pastor of our home church in Buda, TX, facilitated a bible study for our congregation to read the Bible in 90 days. The idea both intrigued and intimidated me greatly because, although I had joined classes and had been

studying the bible for over 20 years, I had never read the bible through from beginning to end. I had tried a few times but didn't get far. I knew there were some parts of the bible that I had never read and that I might not ever read. I had heard of other people reading the bible from Genesis to Revelation but always thought it was more than I could handle. And, to read every day in order to complete it in 90 days seemed like an overwhelming commitment.

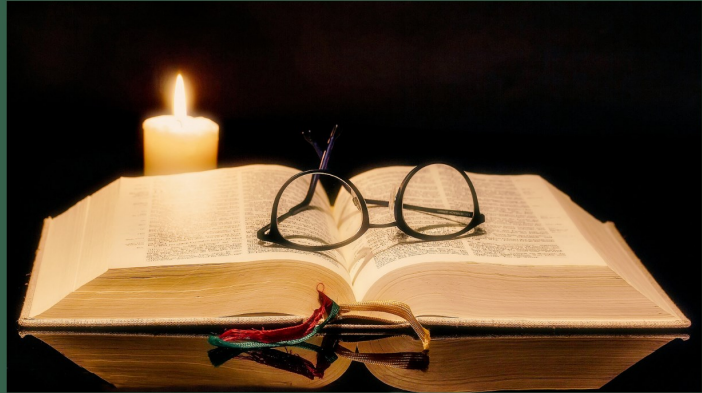
Well, the Holy Spirit nudged me along. It was indeed a big commitment and I signed up for the group. We independently read each day for about 45 minutes and then gathered for a weekly discussion. What I found is that, as I went along, the reading generally became easier. Because we covered many chapters and so much material with a brisk pace, initially I worried about missing details and not understanding connections. But, a bigger picture began to appear to me and my time with the bible became, not a study per se, but more of an experience. Not to be dismissive of details and in-depth study, there are very good reasons for those, but new perspectives emerged to me about God, about God's plan, about Jesus and the Holy Spirit and how the trinity is present throughout. I gained perspective that I would never have gained otherwise. Rather than short story arcs or a laser-focus, my eyes were opened to seeing the grand context of God throughout history.

Experiencing the Bible in 90 days was personally meaningful and I have retained that personal impact. I now have a deeper appreciation for God's love and God's pursuit of our love and I have a deeper understanding of God's passion for us in the kingdom of God. I am grateful for the opportunity, the support and guidance, for the nudge, and the experience of growing in my faith by reading the Bible in 90 days. It was an experience that I'm glad I didn't miss!

Be encouraged, be curious, be courageous, be blessed!

JOIN US THIS SUMMER AND READ

# THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS



Laurel Heights UMC

Laurel Heights UMC

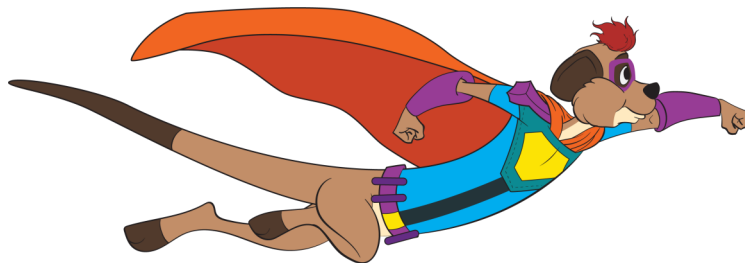
# VACATION BIBLE CAMP

JUNE 26-30, 2023

**HERO  
HOTLINE**

Called  
Together  
to Serve  
God!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Vacation Bible Camp Registration.

Camper Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/kCmmSGHDmJa7ZDXc8>

Volunteer Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/YXmKswMenncZjkNP6>



# United Women in Faith Meeting

## Wednesday, May 10 at 1:00 PM - Parlor



## Mary Blackford Scholarship Grant

The United Women in Faith of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church invite you to apply for the Mary Blackford Scholarship grant. These awards are given to students who maintain a 2.0 GPA while attending institutions of higher learning.

Mary Blackford was a missionary for the Methodist church serving 41 years in China. Upon her return to the United States in 1957, she joined the congregation of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. In 1978 an endowment was created in her name to help further the education of all people.

Since that time the fund has awarded in excess of \$120,000 to help students with books and supplies.

Our current grant is \$500.00. It is awarded twice during the academic year for the fall and spring semesters.

*If you wish to apply for the gift for the upcoming academic semester,  
please contact us at [maryblackfordfund@gmail.com](mailto:maryblackfordfund@gmail.com)*





## Church Calendar

### Wednesday, May 3

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

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - *Choir Room*

### Thursday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

3:00 p.m. Church Under the Bridge

6:00 p.m. Pancake Study Break - *Fellowship Hall*

6:00 p.m. Tai Chi Class - *Room 312*

### Friday, May 5

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

Saturday, May 6 - Election Day - *Choir Rm.*

### Sunday, May 7

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*

12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class

### Monday, May 8

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

10:00 Super Adult Book Discussion - *Zoom*

7:00 p.m. Safety Task Force - *Parlor*

### Tuesday, May 9

10:00 a.m. Staff Mtg.

### Wednesday, May 10

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

1:00 p.m. United Women in Faith Mtg. - *Parlor*

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - *Choir Room*



SAVE THE DATE  
LHUMC BLOOD DRIVE  
SUNDAY, JULY 9  
Stay tuned for more details.

MAY THE  
FOURTH BE  
WITH YOU...



## PANCAKE STUDY BREAK

MAY 4TH, 7-9:00 P.M.  
LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC  
STUDENTS WELCOME! WORKERS  
NEEDED!  
CONTACT: WYNDEE@INTERFAITHSAA.ORG



Thank you  
for your Altar  
Flower Orders!

AVAILABLE DATES  
JULY 30  
MONTH OF AUGUST  
& SEPTEMBER

To place your order, please call  
Heather at 210-733-7156



# Sunday Worship Services



## Fellowship Gathering

9:30am to 10am

## Fellowship Hall

Coffee, Tea & Light

Refreshments

Thank you Karios/Shalom class for providing snacks & refreshments for fellowship time on Sunday, May 2.

## 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:

[www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/](http://www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/)

and on our Facebook page

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

Beginning at 11am.



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Lucien Manchester  
Sonny Landers (*Landers Family*)  
Hannah Marina Campen  
Richard Parrigan  
Natasha Garza  
Jill Caldwell  
Elizabeth & Richard Jackson  
Annalynn Jackson  
Harper Shaw & Family  
Gracie Huron (*Genny Campbell*)  
Leah Engle (*Shelly & Toby Kennerdell*)  
Byrd Bonner & Family  
Donna Semmes

Prayers for the 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@mylhmc.org](mailto:prayers@mylhmc.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

5/3

Diane Halim

5/4

Shannon McFarland

Ronnie Watson

5/5

Brian Trodden

5/7

Lashyra Billick

Alice Gannon

*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

210-733-7156

## Laurel Heights Staff

Rev. Lisa Straus, Senior Pastor

Rev. Laura Healy, Associate Pastor

Rev. Wyndee Holbrook, Pastor in Residence

Laura Marty, Music Director

Dr. Melanie Randall, Organist

Heather Weidenbach, Administrative Manager

Debbie Cormier, Part Time Assistant

Susan Holloway, Super Adults Director

Yvonne Garcia, Wesley Nurse - 210.272-7921

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