



# The Messenger

June 14, 2023  
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*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

By Karen Angelini

## THE LANDSCAPE HAS SHIFTED

Last week the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC held its Annual Conference meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. A number of Laurel Heights UMC Clergy and Laity attended, including Reverend Lisa Straus, Reverend Laura Healy, Reverend Tanya Campen, Reverend Wesley Craig, Byrd Bonner, Jason Davis, Melinda Hartson, Bill Myers, Kaci Boylan, Mary Howard, and Karen Angelini. Annual Conference is not only where the business of the church gets done, but also where hundreds of church representatives gather to participate in worship, prayer, communion, and teaching sessions. This year the teaching sessions were led by UMC Pastor Blair Thompson White. Here are a few of her observations about where we are today as a church.

In years past, Americans embraced affiliation, convergence, the “we” culture, and broadcast experiences. In other words, Americans wanted to belong to organizations; we wanted to have relationships; and we wanted to “sit and get”. The church met those expectations, so in 1999, 70% of Americans belonged to a religious institution. ***But the landscape has shifted!*** Today Americans embrace individualism, divergence, the “I” culture, and interactive experiences. So, by 2020, only 47% of Americans belonged to a religious institution.

It does not serve us well to rely on past patterns of success. The churches that thrive today are asking what the spiritual needs of people today are and determining how to meet those spiritual needs. The churches that thrive today are asking why we are doing what we’re doing and looking for more innovative ways to be the church. The churches that thrive today are asking what God’s dreams are for their churches and determining what are the next steps to making those dreams a reality. Focusing on God’s dreams for the church results in people wanting to be a part of that.

Pastor Blair told a story about the disciples becoming overwhelmed and telling Jesus they needed more Jesuses to do God’s work in the world. Jesus told the disciples to pray for more Jesuses. They did, and Jesus told them their prayers were answered. He pointed to them and said, “***You*** are the Jesuses!”

In order for our churches to thrive we need more Jesuses!

You can view the recorded events of Annual Conference online:

<https://riotexas.org/events/2023/6/8/rio-texas-annual-conference>





# Youth News

Summer Vacation Bible Camp is ALMOST HERE!  
There is still to time register to be a Superhero!

**SUMMER VACATION  
BIBLE CAMP...**



**JUNE 26-JUNE 30  
9AM-NOON**



**LAUREL HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.**

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/LHUMC2023VBC](https://tinyurl.com/LHUMC2023VBC)





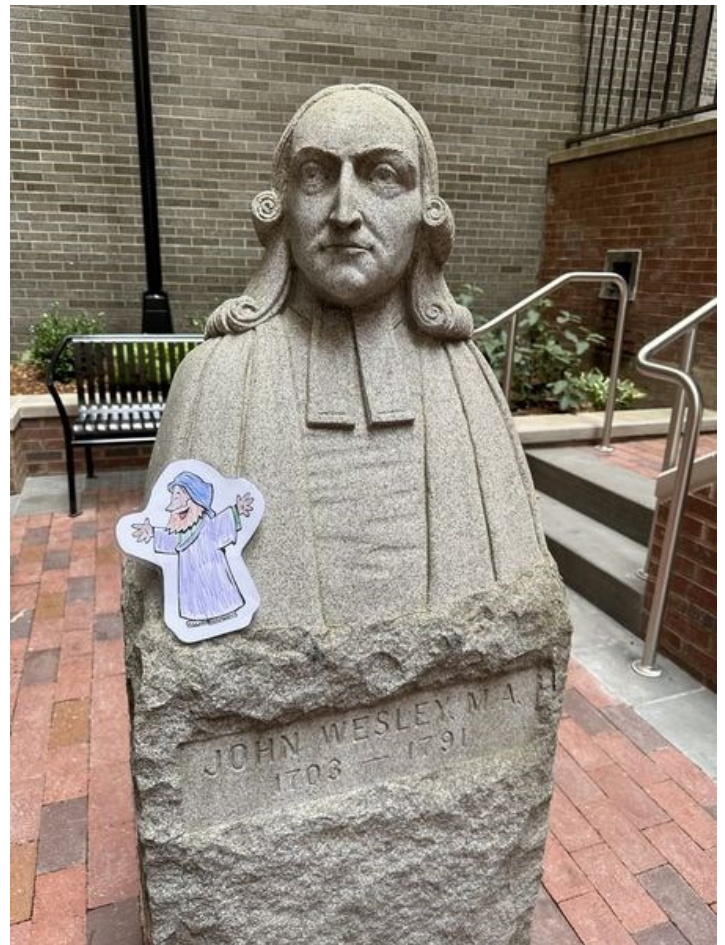


## LAUREL HEIGHTS FLAT JESUS PROJECT

Our hashtag **#lhumcflatjesus** will allow you to share the adventures of your Flat Jesus with the Laurel Heights online community.

Flat Jesus is enjoying his visit in New York City with his "family."

Remember to Keep Jesus in your heart and in your backpack this summer and share your adventures with us!



Photos provided by Byrd Bonner



# YOUTH FAMILY NIGHT @ COOL CREST MINI-GOLF

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 24  
7-9 PM**

**PLAY AND  
ENJOY LIVE MUSIC @  
SA'S COOLEST GOLF  
COURSE  
RSVP WYNDEE  
859-200-9880**



## Church Calendar

### Wednesday, June 14

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

5:30 p.m. Bible in 90 Days Small Group  
*Laurel Rm.*

### Thursday, June 15

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

### Friday, June 16

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

### Sunday, June 18

9:00 a.m. Come and See Worship  
*Sanctuary*

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Summer  
Sunday School - Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

1:00 p.m. Lively Spirits - Parlor Room

6:30 p.m. Bible in 90 Days - Zoom

### Monday, June 19

#### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

10:30 a.m. Bible in 90 Days Small Group  
*Laurel Rm.*

### Tuesday, June 20

10:00 a.m. Staff Mtg.

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg.  
*Parlor Rm.*

### Wednesday, June 21

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

5:30 p.m. Bible in 90 Days Small Group  
*Parlor Rm.*

Super Adult Day  
**June 22 - Gymnasium**  
10:30 a.m. Bingo  
11:00 a.m. Lunch



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



### Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation

July 7-9, 2023

Drury Plaza Hotel North Stone Oak, San Antonio

**Register Now!**

<https://www.umwriotexas.org/mission-u>

## A PINT FOR A PINT



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Donate blood & get an **H-E-B** coupon  
for a Pint of Creamy Creations Ice  
Cream & a Lucky Draw H-E-B Gift Card.



Scan QR code for  
an appointment.



South Texas  
Blood & Tissue

SouthTexasBlood.org



## H-E-B

EVERYONE RECEIVES AN  
**H-E-B GIFT CARD**  
CARD VALUES ARE FROM \$10-\$150



**Laurel Heights  
United Methodist**

Sunday, July 9  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**In the Gymnasium**

For further information,  
Yvonne Garcia at 210-733-7156





# Sunday Worship Services

**Come and See...**

**June 18, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Pentecost**

**9:00 a.m. Worship Experience**

**Sermon: Rev. Laura Healy  
Song leader/Liturgist: Katie Myers**

**Fellowship Gathering**

**9:30am to 10:00am**

**Fellowship Hall**

Coffee, Tea & Light Refreshments

Thank you to the Epworth Class for providing refreshments for Sunday, June 18.

**Intergenerational**

**Summer Sunday School**

**Fellowship Hall**

**10:00 a.m. to 10:35 am.**

**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)



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

**June 18, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Pentecost**

**11:00 a.m. Worship**

**Sermon: Rev. Laura Healy**

**Liturgist: Jeanette Morton**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Healing:** Lucien Manchester  
Sonny Landers (*Landers Family*)

Richard Parrigan

Natasha Garza

Jill Caldwell

Elizabeth & Richard Jackson

Annalynn Jackson

Gracie Huron (*Genny Campbell*)

Mike & Mary Davis (*The Morton Family*)

Donna Semmes

Jeanne Coder (*Clyta Coder*)

Maria C. Garcés (*Teresa Garcés*)

Francisco Banda (*Kitty Grantham*)

Frankie Mae (*Byrd Bonner's Granddaughter*)

Blanche Wallace (*Margot Duque*)

Sophia Ackers (*Terésa Garces*)

Bert Clayton (*Janice Clayton*)

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@mylhumc.org](mailto: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

**6/14**

Axle Cipollone  
Leo Shaw

**6/16**

Lynda Byrd  
Savannah Ricks

**6/17**

Erica Medellin

**6/18**

Joshua Adams  
William Beuhler, Jr.

**6/19**

Joel Dixon  
Olivia Sadler  
Rachel Webb

*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

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

Rev. Laura Healy, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Wyndee Holbrook, Pastor in Residence

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Susan Holloway, Super Adults Director

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Yvonne Garcia, Wesley Nurse - 210.272-7921

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

