



The Messenger

August 30, 2023
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Small Step Toward Racial Justice

What does it mean to work toward racial justice? We can all acknowledge the evils of racism and the impact it has had and continues to have on our country. It's another thing to take a careful look at our own lives and see the places where injustice has occurred and do something to change that.

The Laurel Heights UMC Chancel Choir recently did just that. They examined their practices around using works from the African American sacred music tradition, which has so richly blessed us. They decided that each time we use music from this tradition in worship, a donation will be made to a scholarship fund at an Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in acknowledgment of the ways that the original creators of African American sacred music have been denied credit and compensation for these works. (You can read their full statement *Music with a Mission* below.)

First UMC in Austin has taken note of this initiative and plans to adopt it. Pastor Lisa is working to bring this effort to the attention of others within our district and conference as well. You too can take part by making a designated gift online or in the offering plate. Thank you to the choir for leading us!

Music with a Mission

Music from the Black Church, which includes gospel and spiritual songs and hymns, is found in the United Methodist and other Christian hymnals. These traditional works are sung universally across Christian churches and have been mainstreamed for decades. Singing these pieces has multiple effects: maintaining appreciation for the genre; celebrating the many unknown Black composers and musicians who created the songs, (many dating back to the slave era); and preserving African American music in connection with other movements in global music.

Music of African descent provides the building block of all American music. When a choir or instrumental ensemble presents gospel or spiritual works, it is essential that they honor the style and context of the time-period from which the work originated and present the piece in the most authentic way possible, while respecting its origins and background story.

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The Laurel Heights UMC Chancel Choir strives to prepare authentic renditions, with the assistance of legitimate choral arrangers, to enhance the Christian experience via a Global Music Ministry perspective.

Unlike other hymns and worship music, songs from the Black Church were not published until after the names of their creators were long forgotten, if they were ever even known.

In recognition of this reality, whenever we sing gospel and spiritual songs and hymns at LHUMC, we will begin the practice of contributing ‘royalties’ in an offering that will support the development of young Black musicians.

For this season, these royalties will support the **Dr. Gloria Quinlan Endowed Scholarship fund at Huston-Tillotson University**, an HBCU in Austin, Texas that is affiliated with both the United Methodist and the United Church of Christ. Dr. Quinlan grew up in Houston and began sharing her musical gifts with churches there throughout her youth. She earned degrees from Texas Southern University (B.A.), Colorado State (M.Mus.), and the University of Texas at Austin (D.M.A.) While teaching at Huston-Tillotson, Dr. Quinlan remained committed to the Black Church and worked as the Minister of Music at Ebenezer Baptist.

If you wish to join LHUMC in contributing royalties, please use the envelopes in the pews and clearly mark your donation as a contribution to the Dr. Quinlan Scholarship Fund. You may also contribute virtually through the LHUMC website donation page <https://www.laurelheights.org/give/>.



United Women in Faith News

United Women in Faith will welcome Elmira Sellu, United Women in Faith Regional Missionary serving in Sierra Leone on **Tues., Sept., 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**



A native of Sierra Leone, Elmira I. Sellu and her family were forced to leave their home country during the civil unrest in 1997 and fled to neighboring Guinea.

Elmira is based in Sierra Leone and coordinates the United Methodist Women's Leadership Development for Women's Programs in the West Africa Central Conference and the East Africa Annual Conference. She has been a United Women in Faith Regional Missionary since October 2000, when the program was initiated.

Save THE Date

New Sermon Series

GIFTED



Sermon Series
begins Sunday, Sep. 3

Covenant Prayer Team Training



Join us Sunday, Sep. 10 at 12:15 in the parlor to learn how you can serve others through prayer. A light lunch will be served. Questions? Ask Pastor Laura for more information.

*Reception
Celebration!*



Welcome College Students
Pastor Wyndee Appreciation
September 10 @ noon

*Please bring salads, finger foods,
cupcakes, cookies*



Laurel Heights UMC Mission Committee

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (CAM)

110 MCCULLOUGH, 78215

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
SAT. SEPTEMBER 9

9:00 A.M.

Park between CAM & Grace Lutheran Church

Volunteers will gather at warehouse.

For more information or to volunteer,
please contact the church at 210-733-7156.



Save the Date

September 24, 2023

12:00 p.m.

United Women in Faith

presents

Courageous “Women of the Bible”
Fashion Show

Stay tuned for more information.





Sunday Worship Services

Come and See...

September 3, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus

Liturgist & Song Leader: Beth Thomas

Scripture - 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Fellowship Gathering

9:30am to 10:00am

Fellowship Hall

Coffee, Tea & Light Refreshments

Thank you Kairos/Shalom class

for providing refreshments

for Sunday, September 3.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m. to 10:45 am.

Worship / 11am / Sanctuary

The 11 am service is live-streamed at:

www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/

and on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC



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

September 3, 2023

11:00 a.m. Worship

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus

Liturgist: Tara Shaw

Scripture - 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Church Calendar

Wednesday, August 30

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

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

Thursday, August 31

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

10:30 a.m. Super Adult Day - Gymnasium

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

Friday, September 1

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

Sunday, September 3

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

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

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting - Laurel Rm

Monday, September 4

Church Offices Closed for Labor Day -

No Exercise Class on Mon., Sept. 4

Tuesday, September 5

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. Nominations Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, September 6

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

Thursday, September 7

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

3:00 p.m. Church Under the Bridge

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

Friday, September 8

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

Saturday, September 9

9:00 a.m. Volunteer Opportunity at CAM

Sunday, September 10

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

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

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Reception Celebration - Fellowship Hall

12:15 p.m. Covenant Care Prayer Team Mtg.-

Room 312

HAPPY
**LABOR
- DAY -**

WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.



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Family Fun Events

**Sat., Sep. 30 @ 5pm
Game Night**

**Tues., Oct. 31 @ 5pm
Trunk or Treat**

**Sat., Nov. 11 @ 5pm
Movie Night**

**Sat., Dec. 9 @ 10am
Letters to Santa**

**Sat., Jan. 27 @ 10am
Valentine-Making**

Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

Lucien Manchester
Sonny Landers
Richard Parrigan
Natasha Garza
Stacey Halim
Laurel Welch
Ellen Evans
Barbara Miller
Victor McLaurin
Kaylyn LeFevre
Benny Souder

God's Presence:

For those affected by the COVID-19 virus and 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.

Happy Birthday

8/31

Nicholas Bouza
Anaiah Montañó

9/1

Lea Gonzales
Nicholas Rodriguez

9/2

Shirley Carter
Victoria Hartson

9/3

Irene Ojeda

9/4

Debbie Regalado

9/6

William Moore

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

*Please notify the
church office
at 210-733-7156*



Follow Us On Social Media



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

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 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, Administrative Assistant (PT)

Susan Holloway, Super Adults Director

Yvonne Garcia, Wesley Nurse - 210.272-7921

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