



The Messenger

September 6, 2023
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SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Musical Gift by Wendell Davis

Pastor Lisa asked me when I first realized that God had given me a musical gift, my first thought was: *shouldn't I be farther down on her list of people to ask?* Attending church regularly as a child with my mother, music was extremely important to every worship service. So, my mother sang hymns enthusiastically and it was contagious. I might take a nap in her lap but was always ready to stand up and sing. After the age of about 8 years, I began to listen to other music than church hymns. My two older brothers had begun to listen to and sing Country Music in the late 1940s and they encouraged me to sing along with them. My brothers, several friends, neighbors, and family members said I had talent. Well, they thought I was good enough to sing on the radio, and it happened when I was 11 years old. That was in Cushing, Oklahoma in 1951 when I began to realize I might have a gift.

In 1952, our family moved to Bethany, Oklahoma, and this move allowed me to go to college. At Bethany High School I joined the choir, and although I never learned to properly read music, the choral experience taught me a lot about music and singing 2nd Tenor and Baritone. Several of us formed a quartet, primarily to sing Rock "n' Roll music like "Silhouettes on the Shade" and "Get a Job." From that I became lead soloist in the quartet and in talent shows. My Senior year of High School, I became more convinced of the gift when the Choir Teacher selected me for the Bethany High School "Vocal Music Award" trophy.

In college, I was not involved in organized music programs or groups. I did listen to and learned most of the "Golden Oldies" of the 1950s and early 1960s. My music interest in the late 1960s, 1970s, and most of the 1980s was limited to listening to Pop music and singing hymns at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. When our sons Jason, Zach, and Gabe were in Mr. Holloway's Youth Choirs and Youth Choir Shows, I became very interested and video-taped all the Youth Choir Show performances the Boys were in from 1983 to 1996.

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Spiritual Gifts cont.

During that time, Henry Holloway and I became good friends and in the late 1980s, he talked me into joining the Chancel Choir as a Baritone. Later, due to lack of a sufficient number of Tenors, Mr. Holloway assigned me to the Tenor Section. I began to learn singing to the “Glory of God” really was. My faith grew with my musical ability and the hymns and anthems reflecting the Holy Scriptures provided greater depth to my hunger for Spiritual growth through religious music. Then in the late 1990s, Mr. Holloway retired as Minister of Music. A year later, when Jerome Malik became Director of Music, I continued as a Tenor until 2007. When I returned to Baritone, I renewed my growth as a soloist in tone quality and pronunciation by finally applying what I had learned all those years with Mr. Holloway. To improve my singing ability, I began private singing lessons with Mr. Holloway. At a certain point, I thought I had become a much better soloist, and with some songs (such as “God Shall Wipe Away All Tears” and “My Lord, What a Morning”), it really felt like I had found a good baritone sound. There were two similar church services at Laurel Heights at that time, and since the Choir didn’t sing at the 8:30 service, Jerom began recruiting soloists for the early service. For a while, I was a regular soloist at the early service, and occasional weddings and funerals. But as the situation at Laurel Heights changed, soloists used less, and I continued to focus on singing Baritone with the Choir.

Recently, I realized that I should become a Tenor again because my low notes became less audible, and my high notes were still there. However, my love of music, especially religious music remains the same. I love rehearsal and learning new music. During my early years of Choir, I learned to love sharing my musical gift as I loved singing hymns and anthems. I have shared this gift because I love to sing and frequently become emotional. Music is a very important form of Worship for me these days. There are so many high points but never low points in music for me. I plan to continue sharing this gif in Worship and singing to the Glory of God because singing hymns in church means something.

Wendell Davis



Family Fun Night
Saturday, Sept 30 @ 5pm
in Fellowship Hall.

**Bring your favorite snack and
family card or board game.**



United Women in Faith News



United Women in Faith welcome Elmira Sellu, United Women in Faith Regional Missionary serving in Sierra Leone on **Tues., Sept., 12 at 2:30 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.

United Women in Faith September meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

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.



Covenant Prayer Team Training

Reminder

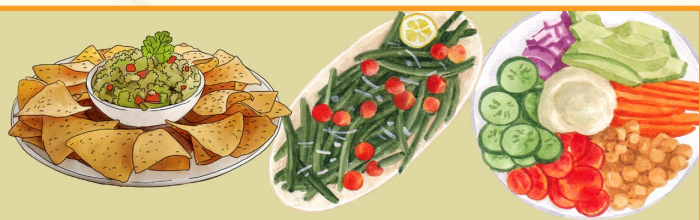


Join us this Sunday, Sep. 10 at 12:15pm in the parlor to learn how you can serve others through prayer. A light lunch will be served.

RSVP by phone 210-733-7156 or scan the QR code.



*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, please contact the
church at 210-733-7156.

Sign-up to volunteer

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49ABAC2AAA8-camsaturdays#/>

**Guests & Visitors
we invite you to
DISCOVER**

Laurel Heights UMC!!!

Join Pastors Lisa & Laura

Wednesday, Sept. 20 @ 5:30pm

LHUMC's Fellowship Hall

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by Sept. 19 to Heather 210-733-7156
or by email heatherw@mylhumc.org



Sunday Worship Services

Come and See...
September 10, 2023
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
**Fifteenth
Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus
Liturgist & Song Leader: Katie Myers
Scripture - 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Fellowship Gathering
9:30am to 10:00am
Fellowship Hall
Coffee, Tea & Light Refreshments
Thank you Altar Guild
for providing refreshments
for Sunday, September 10.

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 10, 2023
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
**Fifteenth
Sunday after Pentecost**
Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus
Liturgist: Jason Davis
Scripture - 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Church Calendar

Wednesday, September 6

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

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

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*

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

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

Monday, September 11

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

Tuesday, September 12

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith Meeting - *Parlor*

2:30 p.m. United Women in Faith Meet & Greet

Wednesday, September 13

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

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

Thursday, September 14

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

Friday, September 15

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

Saturday, September 16 - CHURCH CLOSED

CPS Energy Transformer Replacement.

Sunday, September 17

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*

1:00 p.m. Lively Spirits Meeting - *Parlor*



Safety Task Force Training & Information Session

Who:

**Led by Safety Task Force and open
to the congregation.**

What:

**Safety Task Force Training
& Information Session**

When: September 17 at 12:15

Where: Fellowship Hall

**Join us for a light lunch and a training
session on how we can all participate
in the safety of LHUMC and those
who use the building.**

**Pastor Lisa will present information on
“The Power of Hello.”**

**John Tenison will present
“If you see something, say something.”**

**And John Shaw will present some final
thoughts from the Safety Task Force.**

**RSVP by September 15 to Heather
heatherw@mylhumc.org**

Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

Lucien Manchester
Sonny Landers
Richard Parrigan
Natasha Garza
Ellen Evans
Barbara Miller
Kaylyn LeFevre
Benny Souder
Donna Semmes

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@mylhmc.org,
through [Facebook Messenger](#),
or calling the church office (210) 733-7156.

Happy Birthday

9/7

Jonah De La Rosa
Eloise Guggolz
Katie Lindquist
Brenda Stewart

9/8

Colleen Bailey
Melanie Randall

9/9

Fara Carvalhinhos
Max Hedgepeth
Trudy Kinnison
Kyle Ney

9/10

Kay Carter
Paul Kinnison

9/11

Mary Alvarez
Sarah Hudson

9/12

Zandrea Evans
Sarah Rodriguez

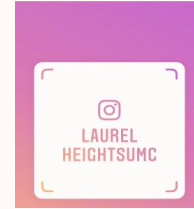
*Are we missing
your name
on the birthday list?*

*Please notify the
church office
at 210-733-7156
so we can update our
records.*

*We don't want to miss
anyone!*



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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