



The Messenger

September 27, 2023
Volume 55, Issue 37

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

For those who do not know me, my name is Anna Heikes. I'm a sophomore majoring in Geology at Trinity University, so if any of you have any cool rocks, you should definitely come see me after service. I've been attending Laurel Heights for just over a year now, ever since the beginning of my freshman year.

A very important fact about me: I am a P.K., a pastor's kid. My mom, Pastor Laura Heikes is a United Methodist minister currently at First United Methodist Church in McAllen. Because I was always in church growing up, I found myself, willingly or otherwise, put into several jobs: I was an usher, I helped in the kitchen, I worked sound and lights, I helped set up and clean up, but none of these tasks I felt *called* to do.

That was, until I started helping with Godly Play my junior year of high school in McAllen. My family moved to McAllen in June 2020, smack-dab in the middle of COVID. I was in a new place, at a new church, and I felt totally and utterly lost. When in-person service started up again, church felt like a chore. I dragged myself to a pew every Sunday and counted the minutes until I could leave. I felt no connection to God, and I was losing my faith.

One day, my mom dragged me with her to pick up something from the church office. I happened to meet the children's director, Lee Ann, and we started talking. I mentioned how I loved kids and babysitting, which I had been doing since my little brother, Asher, was born. Lee Ann asked me if I wanted to work in Godly Play with her, which happened concurrently with service. I said yes, mostly because I wouldn't have to sit in that pew.

But what I didn't know was that God sent Lee Ann to help me reconnect with him. By working in Godly Play, I started to form relationships with the church's kids and their families, and I began to feel at home in my new church and reconnect with God. I volunteered in Godly Play with Lee Ann until I moved away for college. Going into my freshman year, I knew working with kids was my spiritual gift. When I first came to Laurel Heights, the first question I asked was if Godly Play needed help teaching kids. I began working in Godly Play that next Sunday.

I love my Godly Play class. When I was homesick last year, adjusting to college, I knew the Godly Play room here was somewhere I belonged. Just last week, I walked into the fellowship hall, and Mia, one of our kids, ran up to me with this huge smile and gave me a hug. Another one of my kids, Wyatt and I both love Pokemon, and he always brings his Pokemon toys to show me during work time. Children never fail to make me smile and remind me of the joy God brings to our lives. Not only do I have the opportunity to teach our kids about God, but I get to be a role model for them on how to live as a Christian. I am so grateful God blessed me with the spiritual gift of working with children, and I wouldn't change it for anything else.

- Anna Heikes

Thank You



Jezebel (Vicki Ferguson), the Samaritan Woman (Muriel Manchester), and all of the Volunteers and Biblical characters of the LHUMC United Women in Faith fashion show and lunch extend great thanks and appreciation to everyone who attended and helped with the event.

Contributions are still being accepted to support the college students who are recipients of the Mary Blackford scholarships. Thanks and Blessings to all, United Women in Faith of LHUMC.



Chancel Choir New Robe Debut



Reminder!

LHUMC Presents

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Saturday, September 30

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Join us for great evening of fun and games!
Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!



Bring your favorite snack and family board game.



Sunday Worship Services

Come and See...

October 1, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Eighteenth
Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**

Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus

Liturgist & Song Leader: Sue Hall

Scripture - Galatians 3:26-29

Fellowship Gathering

9:30am to 10:00am

Fellowship Hall

Coffee, Tea & Light Refreshments
Thank you to Kairos/Shalom class
for providing refreshments
for Sunday, October 1.

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.

October 1, 2023

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Eighteenth
Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**

Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus

Liturgist: Sue Hall

Scripture - Galatians 3:26-29

Church Calendar

Wednesday, September 27

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

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

Thursday, September 28

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

10:30 a.m. Super Adult Day

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting - *Parlor*

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

Friday, September 29

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

Saturday, September 30

6:00 p.m. Family Fun Game Night - *Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, October 1

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. Covenant Prayer Team - *Fellowship Hall*

1:00 p.m. Monte Vista Annual Meeting

Monday, October 2

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

Tuesday, October 3

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. Altar Guild Meeting

Wednesday, October 4

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

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

Thursday, October 5

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

Friday, October 6

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

Sunday, October 8

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

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

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

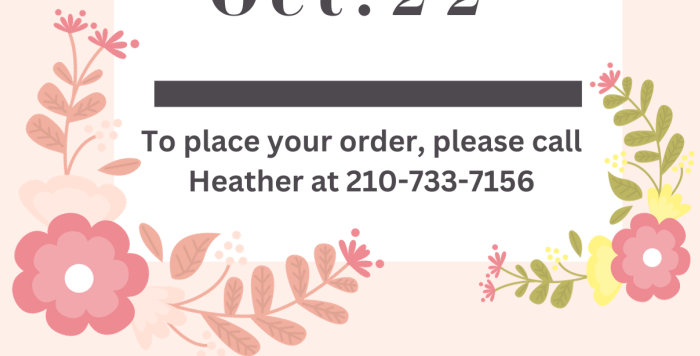
11:00 a.m. Worship Service - *Sanctuary*

12:15 p.m. SPRC Meeting - *Laurel Room*



Altar Flower
Request

for
Sunday
Oct. 22



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

Save the Date

Laurel Heights UMC
presents

**Trunk
or
Treat**

October 31

5:00 - 7:30 PM

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Laurel Heights UMC Mission Committee

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (CAM)

110 MCCULLOUGH, 78215

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SAT. OCTOBER 14

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.signugenius.com/go/10COA49ABAC2AAA8-camsaturdays/117670810#/>



Fall Festival

The Weekday School Annual Fall Festival is coming up on October 27th. We are looking for friendly volunteers to run fun activity booths and make sure the festival goes smoothly for the WDS families and staff.

Volunteer shifts are just one hour long between 5:30-8pm.

Help us make this year's Fall Festival the best one yet!

27 OCT
2023

CONTACT LAURA HEALY
TO SIGN UP!



Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

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

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

9/28
Gracie Huron
Lauren Kramer
Karen Michaelson

9/29
Arianna Galan
Chris Heye
Dyego Madrigal
Paul Oleson
Nancy Richter
Desmond Smith –
Howard

9/30
Carmen Hughes
Beth Keyes
Ryan Lopez
Mary Myers
Murray Pratt

10/1
James Anderson

10/2
Charles Beuhler
Abby Halim
Mary Verette

10/3
Karen Matson

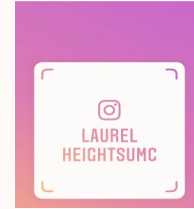
*Are we missing
your name
on the birthday list?*

*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/>

Text to give:
"LHUMC" 73256

Or use our QR code

MANY WAYS TO GIVE AT LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC

<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

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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ygarcia@mh.org