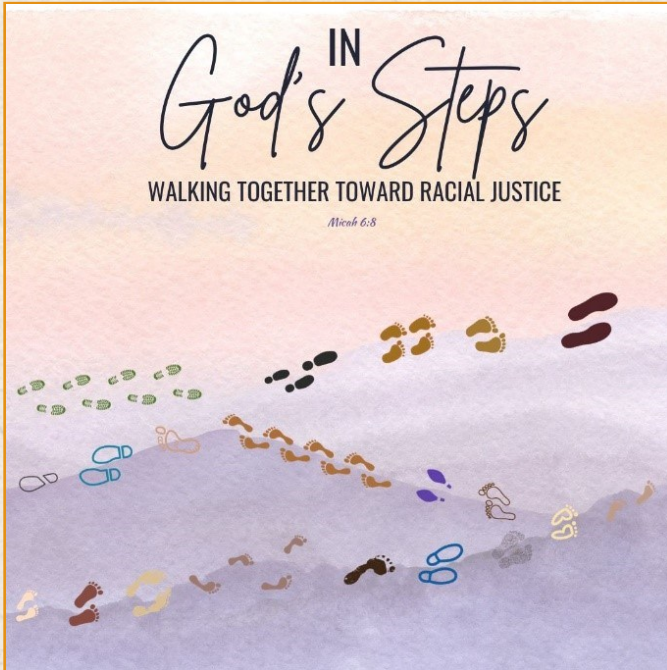




The Messenger

November 13, 2023
Volume 55, Issue 43

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church



'...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?' Micah 6:8 (NRSVUE)

In God's Steps' primary goal is to provide a framework for holy conversations around the difficult topics of race and justice and community. This is a journey that we take **together** as the body of Christ and that togetherness is important. We walk together because we love each other, and we believe that we need each individual in order to be whole.

The Journey

Introductory Dinner January 7: We will begin the journey by sharing an evening meal and guided conversation together.

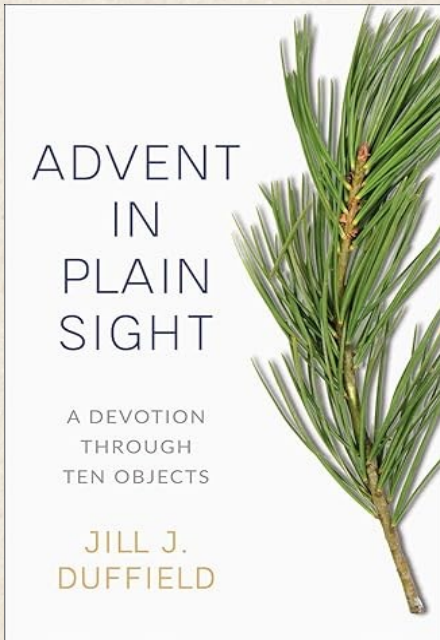
Small Group Book Study: Participants will then take part in a small group book study using *Anxious to Talk About it: Helping White People to Talk Faithfully About Racism (2nd edition)* by Carolyn Helsel. There will be three sessions spread over 6 weeks to allow plenty of time for people to read and reflect and process. Each study group will be facilitated by two members of the *In God's Steps* leadership team and will meet at three different times throughout the week. When you register, you'll indicate your preference for which group(s) you could participate in.

Closing Dinner February 25: Finally, for those who complete the book study, there will be a closing dinner where we will reflect on what we have learned and experienced and discern what God is calling us to next as individuals and as a community.

Registration is required so that we can plan adequately. You can use the [online form](#) or complete one of the paper forms available at the church.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

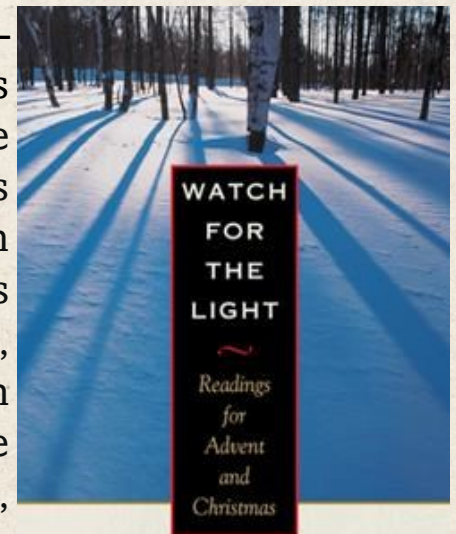
My sister called me a few weeks ago and asked me to suggest an Advent devotion-
al book for her. I dove into the literature and the stack of books I'd been gathering
on my desk and chose two that I thought might peak her interest. If you are still
casting about for a book of Advent devotions, perhaps you will consider one of
these?



The first is *Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. This daily devotional runs through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The author focuses on 10 ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives, objects that we encounter in our daily lives. Through objects like gates, trees, cloth, light and water, Duffield considers what divine proximity means for us and our lives. Each daily reading includes a Scripture reading, a prayer and thoughtful questions for reflection. This book will help you remember that God still dwells among us amidst the ordinary things of our life.

I love *Watch for the Light* because it has a little bit of every-
thing and features some of my very favorite writers. This
Ecumenical anthology gathers fifty devotions that invite
the reader to contemplate the great themes of Christmas
and the significance that the coming of Jesus has for each
of us – not only during Advent, but every day. Between its
covers you will find contributions from Thomas Merton,
Henri Nouwen, Meister Eckhart, Karl Barth, Will Willimon
and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Also included are Madeleine
L'Engle, T.S. Eliot, Sylvia Plath, John Donne, Jane Kenyon,
Annie Dillard and Kathleen Norris. There is something for
everyone in this wonderful anthology.

I would love to hear what devotional reading you are
choosing to accompany you through the coming season!



Aquinas • Bonhoeffer • Dillard • Donne • Eckhart
Elisot • Guardini • Gutiérrez • Hopkins • Kierkegaard
L'Engle • Lewis • Luther • Merton • Norris • Nouwen
Romero • Soelle • Underhill • Yancey • and others

Laura Healy

ADVENT STUDY

Pastor Lisa will begin leading an Advent study *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*, starting November 26.

Pastor Laura will be leading a “chapter a day” read through of the Gospel of Luke from Dec 1st through the 24th.

We hope you will join us in all of these opportunities to prepare our hearts and minds for the great mystery of Christmas!



Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam

An Advent Study by James W. Moore

Name: _____

Email: _____

Sun @ 5pm on Zoom ____ Mon @ 10am in-person ____



**Join your church family in reading the Gospel of Luke
throughout December!**

**Sign up by filling out this card and putting it in the
offering plate or contacting the church office.**

Name: _____

Email: _____



Sunday Worship Services

November 19, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Twenty-Fifth
Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Katie Myers

Liturgist & Song Leader: Beth Thomas

Scripture - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Fellowship Gathering

Sunday, November 19

9:30am to 10:00am

Fellowship Hall.

Thank you Epworth class for providing snacks and refreshments to our church family.

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

Hear the Angels Sing



@ Laurel Heights UMC
Advent Series Starts Nov. 26

Church Calendar

Wednesday, November 15

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

10:00 a.m. Building & Property Comm. Mtg.

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

Thursday, November 16

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

10:30 a.m. Super Adult Day - *Gym*

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

6:30 p.m. College Friendsgiving Dinner

Friday, November 17

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

Sunday, November 19

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*

Monday, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - *Parlor*

5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Mtg - *Parlor*

Wednesday, November 22

Thanksgiving Holiday - Church Office Closed

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Holiday - Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday - Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 26

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. Administrative Council Mtg - *Rm. 312*



Laurel Heights UMC



United
Women
in Faith

Bake Sale

Nov. 19 @ 8:30a.m.

Rowe Plaza

Happy Thanksgiving!

The church office will
be closed on the
following days for
Thanksgiving.

November 22, 23, & 24



Laurel Heights
United Methodist Church
Charge Conference
will be held on
December 3, 2023
at 12:30p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

227 W. WOODLAWN AVE
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78212
210-733-7156
WWW.LAURELHEIGHTS.ORG



Christmas Poinsettias

We hope you will consider purchasing a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special this year.

By purchasing a poinsettia for \$15 each, you will help fill our sanctuary with poinsettias on Sunday, December 10.

You may place your order by completing the order form and submitting your payment, either check or cash, to the church office, or by ordering online at: <https://onrealm.org/LaurelHeightsUn/-/form/give/default>

Please place your order as soon as possible.

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Number of Poinsettias _____ \$15.00 each

Please pay by check made payable to Laurel Heights UMC, Poinsettia in memo line.

Mail to: Laurel Heights UMC

Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212

Or pay online at <https://onrealm.org/LaurelHeightsUn/-/form/give/default>



Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

Lucien Manchester
Sonny Landers
Richard Parrigan
Natasha Garza
Barbara Miller
Kaylyn LeFevre
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

11/20

Penelope Hemingway
Jennalee Hollerbach
James Redmond

11/15

Celina Montoya

11/16

Maxwell Gannon
Marina Gonzales

11/17

Caitlyn Hughes-
Gallegos
Sandra Webb

11/18

Blanche Birdsong

11/19

Linda Hathaway
Ann McGlone
Greyson Mitchell

11/21
Hailey Beuhler
Stevie Kinnison

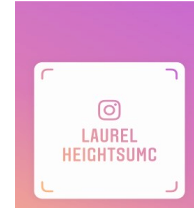
*Are we missing
your name
on the birthday list?*

*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

Laura Marty, Music Director

Dr. Melanie Randall, Organist

Angie Taylor, Dir. of Young Family Ministries

Heather Weidenbach, Administrative Manager

Debbie Cormier, Administrative Assistant (PT)

Susan Holloway, Super Adults Director

Yvonne Garcia, Wesley Nurse - 210.733.7156

lstraus@mylhumc.org

lhealy@mylhumc.org

lmarty@mylhumc.org

mrandall@mylhumc.org

ataylor@mylhumc.org

heatherw@mylhumc.org

debbie@mylhumc.org

susanbholloway@gmail.com

ygarcia@mhm.org