



The Messenger

November 29, 2023
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

In God's Steps

“„,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)



Linda Byrd

This scripture has always been so clear and informative for me. As an African American female, I have seen the absence of justice, kindness, and humility practically my entire life. And yet I refuse to believe that these guides for living cannot be realized.

When the invitation to be a part of *In God's Step* was first presented to me, my hesitation was brief. I had no idea of what the effort might entail. The idea of delving into racial justice, a sensitive, sometimes volatile, often ignored issue; while intriguing, was likewise a bit disconcerting. As a new member to Laurel Heights, my hesitation was largely because of my newness. But the possibility of being able to participate and prayerfully contribute far outweighed whatever opposition I considered.

Am I anxious about where this might lead? Of course, I am. But the possibilities of personal and collective discoveries loom large. For a congregation to embrace an issue of this magnitude that has been deeply woven into the fabric of our families, communities, nation and world is more than challenging. It is seismic in consideration of what the outcomes might be. To have an opportunity to share experiences, feelings, understandings, misunderstandings, fears, doubts, and the litany of other influences that inform our behaviors poses blessings beyond imagining.

Knowing that God truly wants us to let the greatest commandments: ‘love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and your neighbor as yourself’ (NRSVUE) reign primary in our lives, then Micah 6:8 offers the template necessary to live out the greatest commandments. In my heart, I believe anything is possible when seeking to fulfil God's directive. *In His Steps* might indeed be the reality of the Chinese proverb: *A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.*

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias with a Mission

This year Laurel Heights is ordering our poinsettias from a new company – **Down Home Ranch in Elgin, TX.** Down Home Ranch's mission is "Empowering the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through social, educational, residential and vocational opportunities."



They provide residency for people with IDD in 6-bed, 4-bed, 3-bed, 2-bed and 1-bed homes. They provide vocational skills training and paid employment, with diverse job opportunities and options both on and off the Ranch. They provide a community for people with and without IDD to enjoy companionship, friendships, fun, travel, recreation, and an active lifestyle.

They achieve their mission by Integrating into the surrounding local communities and the larger Austin metropolitan community, while becoming increasingly active on the national stage. They seek to be on the cutting edge in creating an entrepreneurial organization that attracts people interested in disability, horticulture, agriculture, environment, good stewardship and more.

The poinsettias that will adorn our sanctuary have been planted and raised by these awesome adults. Your gifts of poinsettias will help support this amazing community of ranchers.



To learn more about Down Home Ranch and their mission, please visit <https://www.downhomeranch.org/>.

Photos courtesy of Down Home Ranch website.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

1
Peanut
Butter

2
Rice

3
Dried
Beans

4
Mac &
Cheese

5
Canned
Chili

6
Canned
Tuna/
Chicken

7
Breakfast
Cereal

8
Canned
Fruit

9
Crackers

10
Oatmeal

11
Pasta

12
Pasta
Sauce

13
Stuffing
Mix

14
Instant
Potatoes

15
Soup

16
Apple
Sauce
Cups

17
Canned
Pinto
Beans

18
Crackers

19
Canned
Tomatoes

20
Cookies

21
Canned
Green
Beans

22
Canned
Carrots/
Corn

25
Find a box and add an item each
day. Bring your completed box
with you on Christmas Eve.
Our boxes will be going to the
San Antonio Food Bank.

23
Cran-
berry
Sauce

24
Canned
Sweet
Potatoes



Laurel Heights UMC
227 W. Woodlawn Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212



Laurel Heights United Methodist Church



NOW BOOKING LIMITED

A Festival of Seven Lessons & Carols

December 10, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

hello
DECEMBER

2023



S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

- Advent Dinner 5:30pm
- 9 Letters to Santa 10am *Santa will be here!*
- 21 Movie night Polar Express 5pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
11am 7pm 11pm *No Bible Class on Christmas Eve*
- 10 Epiphany Dinner 5:30pm



Advent

Join us for
Midweek Advent Dinner &
Worship, Wednesdays
in December at
5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

12/6
12/13
12/20

Please note the Midweek Advent Dinner
& Worship scheduled for November 29
is canceled.



Merry Christmas



The Polar Express

ROUND TRIP

Thursday
12 - 21 - 23
5 PM

FREE
Hot Coco
Popcorn

LAUREL HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

227 W Woodlawn Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78212



№ 0110001



Sunday Worship Services



December 3 2023
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
Advent 2
Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus
Liturgist & Song Leader:
Beth Thomas
Scripture - Luke 1:26-56

Fellowship Gathering

Sunday, December 3
9:30am to 10:00am
Fellowship Hall.
Thank you Kairos/Shalom 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



December 3 , 2023
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Advent 2
Sermon: Rev. Lisa Straus
Liturgist: Randy Pollock
Scripture - Luke 1:26-56



Christmas Word Search



N P O V N I J C W K X D M G A L I L E E F B X D
 I J B I C F N R I L U V Z K Y N Y L R Y D F R A
 B X E C W R T Q S B Y W N W H K T P T R Y D M B
 W D Z S X E U D E Q F M X R R G I A H S S F A M
 N K G B A F Y I T G T L U T K F V V R L H H T J
 G E S N E C N I K N A R F I W U I S E E E D T S
 U J Q W D C C H D T I U U E E U T Q E M P A H L
 Y H E H T I Q Q X C S H M O K Z A A F A H V E A
 I M C L O T H E S C G A T H U K N Z E C E I W E
 N Z W S G J R U Z V H Y Y A L E S N G C R D L P
 N G E U Q M X Z R N I B P I Q H Z M H Z D H J B
 G P F S S D P V L O K S G S Q F U X M A S B K I
 A Z U E P C K O E C A R Q S R I S P E O C O W S
 L W P J L H J O S E P H Y E V Y R A M H J O M H
 G N I L D D A W S T I I E M N E M O P Q K R S G
 G A V X V V J B H T J A R E Y E A F X N W E K I
 W W Y X L Y A G T Z C W E O K L S C G Y J N A Y
 W A T G R W P E E H S S G O P B B U Y B Z W R C
 G W S O V V Y G R U D T N M E A Z W L E G N A S
 J R A T S C I Q A K A E A O I T I I C O B A J W
 G X P G O L D A Z O J C M I A S C T U L F Y C R
 L E U N A M M E A X R F K H R R Y M P Q F H N I
 D Y S F O X J M N X X M S X M E H E L H T E B K
 D Y Z E X B H S A M T S I R H C K L Q L N X C T

David

inn

clothes

swaddling

Emmanuel

Matthew

Luke

Messiah

men

wise

three

angel

Galilee

Nazareth

Bethlehem

frankincense

myrrh

gold

camels

sheep

cows

nativity

star

Shepherds

manger

stable

Joseph

Mary

Christmas

Jesus

Church Calendar

Thursday, November 30

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

Friday, December 1

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

Sunday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Worship - *Sanctuary*

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

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

12:30 p.m. Chare Conference - *Sanctuary*

5:00 p.m. Advent Study by Zoom

Monday, December 4

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

Tuesday, December 5

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. College Student Pancake Supper

Wednesday, December 6

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

5:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Dinner & Worship

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - *Choir Rm/Sanctuary*

Thursday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

10:30 a.m. Aleene Block Memorial & Reception

3:00 p.m. Church Under the Bridge

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

Friday, December 8

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

Saturday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Volunteer Opportunity @ C.A.M

10:00 a.m. Letters to Santa - Fellowship Hall

12:00 p.m. Youth Lunch Movie & Gift Exchange

Sunday, December 10

9:00 a.m. 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 - *Parlor*

5:00 p.m. Advent Study—*Zoom Only*

7:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols - *Sanctuary*

Qualified Charitable Distribution News

Your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other Qualified Retirement Plan can provide a tax-smart way to make an impact on LHUMC either now or after the end of your lifetime. The Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD (sometimes called an “IRA Charitable Rollover”) is a great way to make a tax-free gift now to LHUMC and satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) at the same time. When you do this the RMD is not added to your taxable income for the year.

A gift of *retirement plan assets* could be right for you if:

- You have an IRA or other Qualified Retirement Plan such as a 401(k) or 403(b).
- You do not expect to need all of your retirement plan assets during your lifetime.
- You have other assets, such as securities and real estate, that you want to pass to heirs.
- You want to provide income or payments to loved ones after you are gone.



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

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

Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

Lucien Manchester
Sonny Landers
Richard Parrigan
Natasha Garza
Barbara Miller
Kaylyn LeFevre
Donna Semmes
Gracie Huron
Diane Halim
Elizabeth Jackson
Juan Arturo Gonzalez

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

11/29

Jacob Dixon
Thomas Morton
Jason Salazar

11/30

Janice Davis
Jane McDaniel
Darla Peek
Sidney Yarbrough

12/1

Merly Jones
Victoria Jones

12/2

Vicki Crockett
Gunnar Galindo

12/3

Cole Ruiz

12/4

Mia Calvillo
Susie Guven

12/5

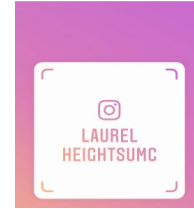
Mary Cathy Everhart
Margarite Guggolz
Josh Neeley
Juanita Souder

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

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



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