



The Messenger

February 28, 2024
Volume 56, Issue 9

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

In God's Steps: An Experience in Dialogue About Racism

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, 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)



Photo: Participants in the February 25th closing Divine Dinner for In God's

In September of 2023, a small team began meeting together to plan a program to offer the Laurel Heights congregation the opportunity to engage in conversation about racism. We named the program ***In God's Steps*** and met for four months to lay the framework for this experience.

We read the book we planned to study and discussed it with each other to prepare us to facilitate the sessions we would lead for others. We developed liturgy to be used before and after all our gatherings to remind us how our conversations are different than those we see modeled in the public sphere.

We set the guiding values for the program: that this work is grounded in our faith and relationship with God and in our love for one another.

On January 7th, a diverse group of 26 people came together for our opening Divine Dinner, a model of guided conversation around a table that Jesus taught us. There was a delicious meal from Chef Nicola Blaque's [The Jerk Shack](#). (Chef Blaque is a James Beard nominated chef, an Army veteran, and native of Jamaica.) We sat at small tables of four with people we did not know or know well. Our conversation was in three courses (like a meal) on the topic of belonging because so often racism is experienced as exclusion – as not belonging. In addition to providing a base line for our future conversations, this time of story sharing built relationships among participants.

Then for six weeks, we met to discuss the book [Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White People Talk Faithfully About Racism](#) by Carolyn Helsel.

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We continued to start and end our conversations with our liturgy. One participant remarked what a relief it was to have a challenging conversation like this around a table with people who were committed to loving one another. Our conversations were spirited – sometimes reflective, sometimes humorous, sometimes shocking, and sometimes tearful.

On February 25th, we gathered for a closing Divine Dinner. This time our focus was on what we had learned, what we still have to learn, and what next steps we imagine taking individually and as a community. Ideas were shared and collected for planning future iterations of *In God's Steps*. Some possibilities include: partnerships with churches of different racial/ethnic backgrounds for worship, fellowship, and ministry together, more small group book/film studies, and inviting the wider San Antonio community to participate in future conversations with us.

In God's Steps was created to be ongoing. While this first experience has drawn to a close, it is not the end of our journey together to walk with God toward racial justice. As one participant shared, “now that I have begun, I can’t stop learning”. And neither can we!

*Stay tuned for future opportunities to participate in **In God's Steps** events and programs.*

I'd like to offer a personal and public thank you to the team of individuals who spent months with me planning and preparing for this experience: Lynda Byrd, Byrd Bonner, Rayen Dennis, Kaci Boylan, and Celina Montoya.

Ribbons of Prayer

You may have noticed that the prayer wall has returned to the corner of Belknap and Woodlawn for the Lenten season! Please visit the prayer wall, tie on a ribbon to represent a prayer that is on your heart or simply pray over the tokens of prayer left by others.



Blood Drive Results

The February 18th blood drive at Laurel Heights was a great success thanks to all of you who donated and all of you who encouraged people to donate. We collected 26 units of blood, exceeding our goal of 18 units by 8 units!! What a wonderful gift to our community.

We promote the blood drive in several ways, in The Messenger, notices in area neighborhood newsletters, posters on our church doors, and signs around the church property. The signage works! A new donor popped in to donate blood after seeing our signs on her Sunday morning walk. A generous and spontaneous act of kindness!

The blood bank appreciates each donation. They stay in contact and notify donors when their specific donation is utilized. That personal attention and gratitude for donors is part of what makes our relationship with South Texas Blood and Tissue a deep and abiding partnership.

In 2023, we held three blood drives and collected a total of 57 units. This first of three blood drives scheduled for 2024 puts us on track to surpass 2023. Mark your calendars for blood drives on July 14th and November 10th. Let's keep it going!

THANK YOU
for donating

2024 Easter Lily Order Form

We invite you to purchase Easter lily plant(s) to decorate and beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Lily Plant(s) _____ **\$15.00 each** **Total Amount \$** _____

Please pay by check made payable to Laurel Heights UMC, "Lily" in the memo line.

Mail this form along with your check to

Laurel Heights UMC, Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn, SA, TX, 78212.

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

Laurel Heights Young Family News



Easter Egg Hunt Preparations

Looking for donations

Plastic eggs
&
Prizes to put inside eggs

Donations needed by

Sunday March 3

Will also accept
pre stuffed eggs
through March 22

Now with over 250 easter eggs comes the challenge to fill them. I have created an Amazon wish list (link below) full of ideas of things I would like to fill our eggs with this year. We will meet on March 6th and 11th at 10am to get these stuffed away and your donations are appreciated.

<https://a.co/8nVN5R4>

Pre stuffed egg donations will be accepted through March 22. We hunt on the 24th!

Thank you,

Angie Taylor

Director of Young Family Ministries

hello
MARCH

2024

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
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						

9 • CAM 9am to 12pm

• Lent dinners 5:30pm

24 • Palm Sunday & Fellowship Lunch Egg Hunt
Children's music time 6:15 to 6:40

31 • Easter Sunday
Following 11am service
7am, 9am & 11am



Save
the
Date

Laurel Heights UMC
June 10-14 from
9am-12pm

Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday Worship Services

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Scripture Reading - Matthew 25:31-40

Sermon - Sheep...ish?

The 11 am service is live-streamed at:
www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/
www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC

Laurel Heights UMC Mission Committee

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (CAM)

110 MCCULLOUGH, 78215

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SAT. MARCH 9, 2024

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/117670810#/>



Church Calendar

Wednesday, February 28

5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner - *Fellowship Hall*
6:30 p.m. Library Committee Meeting - *Library*
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 29

9:00 a.m. Church Mice
10:00 a.m. Super Adult Day - *Gym*
6:00 p.m. Tai Chi Class - *Room 312*

Friday, March 1

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 305*

Sunday, March 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*
1:00 p.m. Lively Spirits - *Parlor*

Monday, March 4

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 305*

Tuesday, March 5

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Lenten Study - *Parlor*

Wednesday, March 6

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 305*
5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner - *Fellowship Hall*
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Church Mice
6:00 p.m. Tai Chi Class - *Room 312*

Friday, March 8

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 305*

Saturday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Volunteer Opportunity @ CAM

Sunday, March 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*
12:15 p.m. Young Family Lunch - *Gym*

SUPER ADULT DAY

Thurs., February 28, 2024

Cookies & Coffee @ 10:00 A.M.

Bingo @ 10:30 A.M.

Lunch @ 11:00 A.M.

\$8.00 per person

ASIAN CABBAGE SALAD

CHICKEN LETTUCE WRAPS

STIR FRY VEGETABLES

FRIED WONTONS

**CHOCOLATE CUP
W/STRAWBERRIES & CREAM**

LENTEN DINNERS

February 21 & 28

March 6, 13, & 20

5:30p.m. ★ Fellowship Hall

CHILDRENS MUSIC TIME

6:15 -6:40 P.M.

Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

Lucien Manchester
Sonny Landers
Richard Parrigan
Natasha Garza
Gracie Huron
Elizabeth Jackson
Juan Arturo Gonzalez
Alice Gannon
Mary Howard
Ann Wheeler
Candidates for Ordination

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

3/1

Nancy Haney
Lizzie Hartson

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

3/3

Karen Angelini
Genny Campbell
Camino Martin
Jose Mercado
Zoe Moore

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

3/4

Luke Galindo

*We don't want to
miss anyone!*

3/5

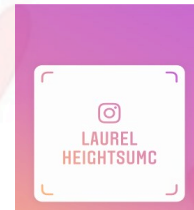
Lucille Campbell
Glynis Hayes

3/6

Javier Alvarez



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

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us at 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

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