



# The Messenger

April 17, 2024  
Volume 56, Issue 24

*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## 2020 General Conference

Dear Church-

Some of you are probably thinking that I am most certainly mixed up when you read the headline of this piece. I am not. General Conference 2020 is about to take place from April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, NC. COVID delayed General Conference 2020 and this is the first chance the United Methodist Church has been able to hold it.

Others may be asking what General Conference is. The General Conference is the governing body of the United Methodist Church that meets every four years. This video provides a good explanation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2MLEFn3b8M>.

And still others may be wondering why I am writing about this meeting in our newsletter. I am writing because I anticipate you will begin seeing news stories about General Conference in the media. You may have friends who know you attend a United Methodist Church ask you what is happening. My husband texted a *US News* article to me just this morning. I did not want you to begin seeing these stories without some information.

Because the structure and polity of the UMC is designed similarly to the political and governmental systems in the United States, it is impossible to know exactly what proposals will make it through committees to the floor for a vote. In much the same way that you hear that policies in our government are stuck in a committee or are not being put forward by the Speaker of the House or the Senate Majority Leader, this can happen at General Conference as well.

Along with passing a budget, you may hear of three objectives that have support for this General Conference: **regionalization**; **revision**; and **removal** of harmful language. These three proposals have earned the name: The Three R's. **Regionalization** would enable the U.S. to amend the U.M. Book of Discipline to fit its own context, without worrying how changes might impact our sisters and brothers from around the world and in particular from Africa and the Philippines. There are a number of proposals to **revise** and update the Social Principles which are an official summary of The U.M.C.'s stated convictions on social issues of the day. And finally, there are a few proposals to **remove** from the Book of Discipline language that has been harmful to our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters.

At this time, there is no way of knowing what proposals will make it through committee to the floor for a vote. I hope you join me in praying for all of the delegates and the Council of Bishops as they travel to Charlotte and spend multiple days in discernment, conversation, and legislation.

If you have questions, I would be happy to try to answer them. If I do not know the answer, I will find someone who does.

In Christ-

Pastor Lisa

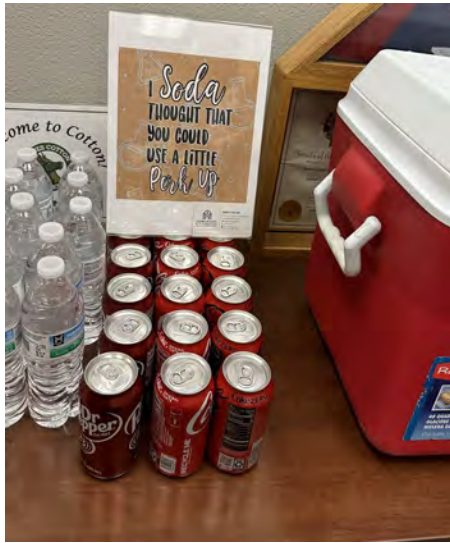


# Cotton Academy Outreach

Last week, Laurel Heights had the opportunity to serve at a local San Antonio charter school, Agnes Cotton Academy. Our Director of Young Family Ministries, Angie Taylor, was able to provide tacos, snacks and drinks to teachers and staff in preparation for STAAR testing. Educators were able to be fueled up to support their wonderful students in their academic endeavors and we'll have another opportunity to help next month!

Angie will be back at Cotton Academy May 8th providing lunch and snacks and we invite the congregation to lend their support in donations. Please visit our website and under "Give" select "Cotton Academy."

If you would like to help set up and serve on the 8th, please contact Angie Taylor at [ataylor@mylhmc.org](mailto:ataylor@mylhmc.org).



## Mary Blackford Scholarship

The United Methodist Women invite you to apply for the Mary Blackford Academic Scholarship. We award these funds to full time students (12 credit hours) who maintain a 2.0 GPA.

To receive an application, please contact us at [maryblackfordfund@gmail.com](mailto:maryblackfordfund@gmail.com).

The final date to request an application is May 15, 2024.

# WORSHIP WORKSHOP

**Sunday, April 21st**

**12:15pm - Fellowship Hall  
Lunch provided**

Learn how to serve at Laurel Heights in one or multiple of these church roles:

- Usher
- Communion Server
- Liturgist
- Acolyte

## Blessed are...

**Afflicted Minds, Sunday April 7**

**Broken Minds, Sunday April 14**

**Lost Minds, Sunday April 21**

**Healing Minds, Sunday April 28**

**Join us at Laurel Heights UMC  
for a four-week sermon series  
on mental health and wellness.**

## Grief Fellowship Group

Wednesday Evenings 5:30-6:45 - *Parlor*

April 17th - May 8th

Facilitated by Pastor Lisa and Rev. Dr. Mark Doty

To register attendance and for further information please contact

Pastor Lisa

[lstraus@mylhumc.org](mailto:lstraus@mylhumc.org)

(210) 733 - 7156

# Laurel Heights

2024 *hello APRIL*

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				

- 7 VBC Informational Lunch 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
- 19 Parents Night Out 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- 28 Lunch Meet at the Cove 12:15 pm - 2:00 pm

*Laurel Heights Young Family Calendar of Events*

**MOVIE MATINEE**

Laurel Heights UMC Presents  
227 W. Woodlawn Ave. 78212

Disney PIXAR  
**INSIDE OUT**

Saturday May 4  
10am - 12pm

## The Confirmation Class in Action!



## Church Calendar

### Wednesday, April 17

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

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

### Thursday, April 18

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

12:00 p.m. Out-of-Office Office Hours w/Pastor Lisa @ Philo Coffee 606 W. French Pl.

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

### Friday, April 19

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

5:30 p.m. Parents Night Out - *Fellowship Hall*

### Saturday, April 20

12:00 p.m. District Youth & Youth Leader @ Colonial Hills UMC

### Sunday, April 21

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. Worship Workshop - *Fellowship Hall*

12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class - *Room 317*

### Monday, April 22

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

### Tuesday, April 23

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - *Laurel Room*

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

### Wednesday, April 24

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

5:30 p.m. Grief Fellowship Group - *Parlor*

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

### Thursday, April 25

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

12:00 p.m. Out-of-Office Office Hours w/Pastor Lisa @ Philo Coffee 606 W. French Pl.

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

### Friday, April 26 - Battle of Flowers

Church Office Closed

### Sunday, April 28

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

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

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

12:15 p.m. Young Families Gathering @ *The Cove*

12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class - *Room 317*

## OUT-OF-OFFICE OFFICE HOURS

Drop-in Conversations with Pastor Lisa

Thursdays 12:00pm-2:00pm

Starting Thursday, April 11th

Philo Coffee

606 W French Pl

For questions or more info contact Pastor Lisa -  
lstraus@mylhume.org



## Altar Flowers

Now accepting orders for  
altar flowers for  
May through November 2024.

Please call Heather at  
210.733.7156 or email  
heatherw@mylhume.org



# LAUREL HEIGHTS YOUTH UPDATES

## District Youth & Youth Leader Gathering

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 12PM - 3PM

Lunch, worship, games/social time for students & community of support conversation for adult leaders @ Colonial Hills UMC. We'll gather at Laurel Heights at 11:30AM and take the van together. RSVP to Katie Myers (210)587-5498 or [katiewmyers@yahoo.com](mailto:katiewmyers@yahoo.com)

## Summer Camp

Youth Summer Camp registration now is open.

<https://forms.gle/Wvx3rCUkeLLd8Brk7> (<https://forms.gle/Wvx3rCUkeLLd8Brk7>)

**Dates: July 7th-12th**

(Arrival will be between 6-7:00 p.m. on Sunday and departure is noon on Friday)

Cost: \$275 until June 16th.

\$350 until the end of June (PAYMENT IS NOT DUE UNTIL ARRIVAL AT CAMP).

**Laurel Heights will cover the registration cost for any of our students who wish to attend. Contact Pastor Lisa for more information.**



**THE FAITHFUL**

**SUMMER CAMP 2024**  
JULY 7TH-12TH  
For students 6th-12th grade

\$275 until June 16th  
\$350 until end of June

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**  
**SIGN UP ASAP!**  
TWIN OAKS RANCH BUDA TX

**SURVIVOR**

# Prayer Requests

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### *Healing:*

Lucien Manchester  
Sonny Landers  
Richard Parrigan  
Natasha Garza  
Gracie Huron  
Alice Gannon  
Ann Wheeler  
Laurie Miracle  
Jane Manning  
Tony Stewart  
Juan Arturo Gonzalez  
Mark Marty

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

## Happy Birthday

4/18

Wyatt Clemens  
Chris Welch

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

4/20

Jane Manning  
Lindsay Welch

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

4/21

Shelby Oleson

*We don't want to  
miss anyone!*

4/22

Joshua Mercado

4/23

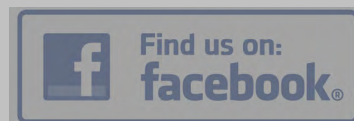
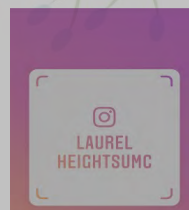
Luke Campen

4/24

Grace Greathouse  
Deborah Spading



## 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

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

## Laurel Heights Staff

210-733-7156

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)

Paloma Holub, Director of Communications

Susan Holloway, Super Adults Director

Yvonne Garcia, Wesley Nurse

[lstraus@mylhumc.org](mailto:lstraus@mylhumc.org)

[lhealy@mylhumc.org](mailto:lhealy@mylhumc.org)

[lmarty@mylhumc.org](mailto:lmarty@mylhumc.org)

[mrandall@mylhumc.org](mailto:mrandall@mylhumc.org)

[ataylor@mylhumc.org](mailto:ataylor@mylhumc.org)

[heatherw@mylhumc.org](mailto:heatherw@mylhumc.org)

[debbie@mylhumc.org](mailto:debbie@mylhumc.org)

[pholob@mylhumc.org](mailto:pholob@mylhumc.org)

[susanbholloway@gmail.com](mailto:susanbholloway@gmail.com)

[ygarcia@mhm.org](mailto:ygarcia@mhm.org)