



# The Messenger

May 15, 2024  
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*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## General Conference 2024

It's been an incredibly long journey these past for years for the United Methodist Church and especially those of the LGBT+ community who are a part of it.

In 1972, the UMC addressed homosexuality in its Book of Discipline, saying, "homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth, though we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian doctrine."

These words, plus heavy restrictions on marrying same-sex couples within the church and forbidding LGBT+ clergy to be ordained, have remained within the denomination for over forty years and have been a source of hurt, confusion and despair for many Methodists who also identify as LGBT.

People who truly want to follow God's will for their life and desire to be a part of a community that accepts them and loves them for who they are, have been told that who they are is wrong. We are told that we have "worth" but are not shown the same respect or rights as our heterosexual peers. Clearly there was something amiss.

General conference, a meeting of the highest legislative body in the UMC, meets every four years to determine the future of the denomination. In 2020, they were scheduled to meet to discuss many things including this very issue. COVID - 19 put a pause button on that.

But here we are in 2024. General conference resumes. And on May 1st love has won. The harmful language has been removed from the Book of Discipline. Those who identify as LGBT+ are able to be ordained with their peers, and same-sex couples are now officially able to be married and recognized as such within the church.

It's been a long journey indeed, but we've stuck it out. Where biases and tradition try to keep things the "same as they've always been," God is doing a new thing. And do we not see it?

Love is breaking through the cracks, healing old wounds and inviting everyone to be a part of this beautiful community that is the United Methodist Church. It is a good day indeed.

Paloma Holub  
Director of Communications

# **Summer @ Laurel Heights**

## **9:00 AM**

### **June: Frozen Faith**

**June 9: Love is Patient**

**June 16: Fixer-Upper**

**June 23: Forgiveness Heals**

**June 30: Evil Never Wins**

### **July: The Greatest Faith**

**July 7: You are Loved**

**July 14: You are Forgiven**

**July 21: You Have Purpose**

**July 28: You Belong**

### **August: The Gospel According to**

**August 4: Speak**

**August 11: Live**

**August 18: Pray**

**August 25: Believe**

# **Summer @ Laurel Heights**

**11:00 AM**

## **What Does the Bible Really Say About...**

**June 9: Doubt**

**June 16: Suffering**

**June 23: Church**

**June 30: Women in Church Leadership**

**July 7: Other Religions**

**July 14: Life after Death**

**July 21: Marriage and Divorce**

**July 28: Sex**

**August 4: Sexuality**

**August 11: Sin**

**August 18: Slavery**

**August 25: Politics**



*hello*  
**MAY** 2024

*Laurel Heights UMC*

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	

- 4** MOVIE MATINEE 10AM - 12PM
- 11** CAM 9AM-11AM
- 17** ~~MOVIE NIGHT 6PM-8PM~~  
**COTTON ACADEMY COOK OUT 4:30-6:00**
- 26** MEET AT THE COVE 12:15PM

*Young Family Calendar of Events*

**Join Us for Food, Fun & Games**

*MAKE Friends*

**Meet Our COTTON DRAGONS**

**JOIN OUR SAISD FAMILIA!**

NOW ACCEPTING 3RD-8TH GRADE APPLICATIONS!

*Enroll at Cotton Today!*

**At Our Community Blending Cook-Out**

**May 17th**  
4:30 PM-6:00 PM











**Cotton Community Cookout Especially for You!**

## CAMP FIRELIGHT REGISTRATION OPEN!

<https://forms.gle/j47MpHpniXU6JeSw5>

**JUNE 10-14**  
9 AM - 12 PM

**Camp Firelight**

*Psalm 56:3*

**A SUMMER CAMP**  
**LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC**



## Church Calendar

### Wednesday, May 15

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

### Thursday, May 16

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

12:00 p.m. Out-of-Office Office Hours  
w/Pastor Laura @ Greenhouse Coffee

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

### Friday, May 17

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

4:30 p.m. Young Families @ Cotton Academy  
Cook Out - 1616 Blanco Rd.

### Sunday, May 19

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*  
Confirmation Sunday

### Monday, May 20

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

### Tuesday, May 21

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

8:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting - *Zoom Only*

### Wednesday, May 22

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

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

### Thursday, May 23

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

12:00 p.m. Out-of-Office Office Hours w/Pastor  
Laura @ Greenhouse Coffee 223 E. Hildebrand

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

### Friday, May 24

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

### Sunday, May 26

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 - Meet at The Cove -  
606 W Cypress St.

### Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day

Church Offices Closed

## Out-of-Office Hours

DROP-IN CONVERSATIONS

### Greenhouse Coffee

223 E. Hildebrand Ave.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

May 16 - Pastor Laura

May 23 - Pastor Laura

May 30 - Pastor Lisa

For questions or more information, contact  
Pastor Lisa @ [lstaus@lmylhmc.org](mailto:lstaus@lmylhmc.org)



# Retirement Celebration

in honor of

*Juanita Cece Adams*

You are invited to join us  
May 29, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.  
in the LHUMC Fellowship Hall

There will be a basket for Cards & Love Offerings

R.S.V.P 210-732-6979





## LAUREL HEIGHTS

### YOUTH UPDATES

#### 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**

## Christian Assistance Ministry

Volunteer Opportunity

### **Adopt/Sponsor a Backpack 2024**

Christian Assistance Ministry is preparing for the 2024-2025 school year. They are seeking “adopters” to purchase a backpack and school supplies for a child’s school supply list.

If you choose to adopt a student, CAM will provide the child’s name, grade, gender, and school. Adopters look up the exact supply list online and the shopping begins.

For more information or to sign up, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CAEAB28A7FB6-49381492-adoptsponsor#/> Backpack and supplies are due July 22—July 31 at CAM 110 McCullough Ave.



Accepting orders for

# Chancel Flowers

**JUNE 30**  
**JULY 21, 28**  
**AUGUST 11, 18, 25**

*May your day be always happy and filled with blessings every day*

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# *Prayer Requests*

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### *Healing:*

Lucien Manchester  
Sonny Landers  
Richard Parrigan  
Gracie Huron  
Alice Gannon  
Jane Manning  
Tony Stewart  
Juan Arturo Gonzalez  
Mark Marty  
William Beuhler

### *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

5/16  
Harrison Hedgepeth

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

5/17  
Kenneth McFarland

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

5/18  
Ken McAdams

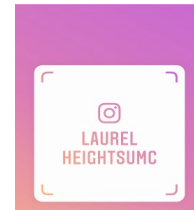
5/19  
Matthew Scott

*We don't want to  
miss anyone!*

5/20  
Jerry Geerdes  
Irne Vaca



## 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.

## 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

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