



The Messenger

September 25, 2024
Volume 56, Issue 44

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

I recently heard someone say that every church they had had contact with in the last 8 years - and they had contact with a lot -- has been in survival mode – even the ones that look successful. Survival mode meaning focused simply on staying alive.

It's budget creating season in the church, and we have asked our staff and ministry leaders to create a budget that's not focused on surviving but that envisions what it would mean to be thriving. It's a work in progress but the Finance Committee want to give you an idea now of what that budget is shaping up to look like. And we want to begin a conversation about how we work together through the sharing of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to ensure that Laurel Heights is a place that is thriving.

The current bottom-line figure is approximately \$1.1 million. For context the 2024 budget is a bit less than \$950,000.

The budget for 2025 plans for sustaining our current programming and adding young family retreats, an adult mission trip, rebuilding youth ministry, training budding church musicians, investing in our church staff, and growing adult Sunday School classes to name just a few things. I hope these plans and ideas excite and energize you as much as they do me.

We also know that the cost of everything from toilet paper to electricity has increased. We anticipate that the cost of our building insurance in particular to be substantial – in the neighborhood of \$100,000, which is more than twice what it cost just a few years ago.

In 1909 through the leadership of Mrs. Mattie Simpson Terrell, among others, a church was planted on the corner of Woodlawn and Belknap. For the past 115 years, the congregation has chosen this place as the center of the ministry of Laurel Heights UMC. We each in turn have chosen to live out our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ in this same place. We honor the investment that past generations have made, and we honor the generations that will come after us by stewarding this place so that God's work may continue to be done here for years to come. These tasks are perhaps less exciting but no less important.

There will be more information and opportunities to learn more in the coming weeks and months, but you can also ask questions of the Finance Committee directly. They may not always have an immediate response, but hearing your questions is important and they can take them back to see if they can be answered.

There are times when just staying alive is our paramount concern, but is a life lived solely to survive what any of us want for ourselves? No! We want our time alive however long that is to be vibrant, to be meaningful, to be full, to be flavorful. We want to thrive. God also calls us as disciples to not be afraid, to not be concerned about our own lives, but above all to be about the work of sharing God's love with a world that desperately needs it.

Fellow disciples who call Laurel Heights home, I urge you to be attentive to the calling of God in this season. Where is God asking you to be faithful? Where is God inviting you to grow? Where is God urging you to step forward boldly. There is a role for each of us and God's mercy and grace is sufficient for us to meet any challenge.

Katie Myers, Lay Leader



**kindness.
compassion.
respect.
love.**

Laurel Heights

United Methodist Church

Sermon Series Sundays, Sep 8-29

Super Adult Day
September 26 * Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
10:30 a.m. BINGO!
(Bring wrapped white elephants for prizes)
11:00 a.m. Lunch - \$8.00 per person
Caesar Salad, Spaghetti & Meat Sauce,
Roasted Vegetables, Garlic Bread & Tiramisu
Presentation by Peter Thomas Baron
Chairman of the State Historical Marker Committee



Join Us For An

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Sept. 29th at 12pm

**Bring Your
Favorite Dish or
Dessert**



**For Questions Contact
the Office at 210-733-7156**

Church Calendar

Wednesday, September 25

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

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

Thursday, September 26

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

10:00 a.m. Super Adult Day

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

Friday, September 27

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

Sunday, September 29

9:00 a.m. Worship Service- Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Fellowship - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. All Church Potluck - Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 30

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

Tuesday, October 1

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

1:00 p.m. Altar Guild Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, October 2

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

Thursday, October 3

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

12:00 p.m. Out-of-Office Hours with Pastor Lisa

Location to be determined.

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

Friday, October 4

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

Sunday, October 6 - World Communion Day

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Fellowship - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting

Laurel Heights
United Methodist Church

hello SEPTEMBER

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					

- 15 Youth Gathering & Young Family Lunch 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- 20 Parents Night Out 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- 29 Church Wide POTLUCK 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

Young Family
Calendar of Events

SAVE THE DATE

Immunization Clinic

October 24th
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Flu Shots will be available.

For more information, contact our Wesley Nurse, Yvonne Garcia at 210.733.7156

Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

Lucien Manchester
Richard Parrigan
Gracie Huron
Tony Stewart
Juan Arturo Gonzalez
William Beuhler
Patrick Farmer
Pat Moss
Donna Semmes
Frank Healy

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@mylhumc.org,
through [Facebook Messenger](#),
or calling the church office (210) 733-7156.



9/26

Carrie Holloway
Birdie Landers

10/1

James Anderson Jr.

9/27

Billie Arredondo
Jay Greathouse

10/2

Charlie Beuhler
Abby Halim
Mary Verette

9/28

Gracie Huron
Lauren Kramer
Karen Michaelson

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

9/29

Chris Heye
Byego Madrigal
Paul Oleson
Nancy Richter

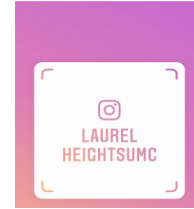
*Please notify the
church office
at 210-733-7156
so we can update our
records.*

9/30

Ryan Lopez
Molly Myers

*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/>

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, Assoc. Dir. of Music & Organist

Angie Taylor, Dir. of Young Family Ministries

Heather Weidenbach, Administrative Manager

Hannah Ortiz, Director of Communications

Debbie Cormier, Administrative Assistant (PT)

Susan Holloway, Super Adults Director

Yvonne Garcia, Wesley Nurse

lstraus@mylhumc.org

lhealy@mylhumc.org

lmarty@mylhumc.org

mrandall@mylhumc.org

ataylor@mylhumc.org

heatherw@mylhumc.org

hannah@mylhumc.org

debbie@mylhumc.org

susanbholloway@gmail.com

ygarcia@mh.org