



The Messenger

October 9, 2024
Volume 56, Issue 45

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

The Walk: Worship **Katie Myers, Lay Leader**

It was one of those unseasonably warm Decembers, and by the time we had all wrangled ourselves to church for the Christmas Eve service, I was a sweaty and ill-tempered mess. I was mad at my family for messing up one of my most treasured moments. As I sat in that pew over there all by myself because the rest of the family had all decided to be somewhere else than with my grouchy self, I felt something on my hair. I thought it was my then 10-year-old, a chief source of my present ire, sneaking up behind me. I brushed at my hair in irritation and felt something land on the seat beside me. When I looked down there was a lizard sitting next to me. Well, I couldn't do anything but laugh as he scurried off somewhere and then glance heavenward and say thanks for the reminder to not take myself so seriously. All the other baggage I brought with me melted away and at least for the next little while worship became transcendent.

Some folks are blessed with a spirit that easily turns to praise, who experience worship as powerfully charged more often than not. While there are times when I find worship electrifying, there are many more times where the experience falls way short of that. A lot of the time it seems like I'm here but not totally here, acting out of routine – no heavenly lizards falling from on high. So why do I keep showing up? Does worship count if it is routine?

We tend to think that if something becomes routine it loses its meaning, but so many important things are daily, minute-by-minute, routine things: caring for our children, loving our spouse, doing our daily work, sleeping, eating, breathing. Whether we realize it or not, these routine and habitual practices mold us. Annie Dillard says, “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.”

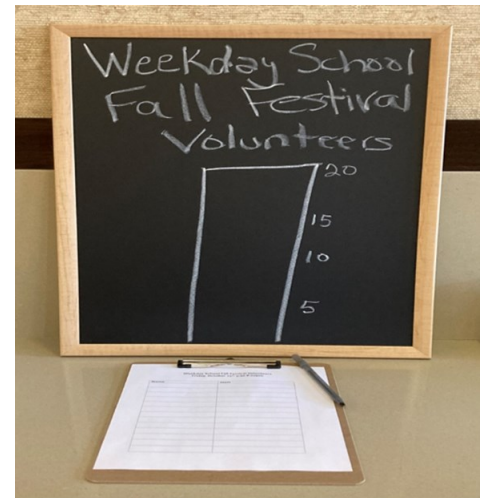
One of the fundamental truths we hold about worship is that it is a space where God is present, where Christ is present, and that prolonged contact with the Divine Presence changes us. Personally, I think that this happens even when it feels like nothing is happening – like the way that water drop by drop forms a stalagmite or a stream can slowly over time smooth a stone or carve a canyon. So many of the things that shape me – that I allow to shape me – are not really of God. Showing up almost every week for worship, week in and week out, puts me in a place where I allow my life to be shaped by being in God’s presence. I keep showing up - even when it seems like nothing is happening, even when sometimes I’m sweaty and ill-tempered, even if sometimes I’m distracted by my shopping list, even when I don’t feel like it. I keep trying to learn to say Hallelujah, God Be Praise! on those days when I feel the Spirit stirring in worship and Hallelujah Anyway on the days when I don’t.

What difference does it make to show up for worship week in and week out? I don’t really know yet. It’s a mystery what God is at work doing. But I trust that when I respond to Christ’s invitation to come to the table, like those on the road to Emmaus, I in turn invite Jesus to stay with me. I choose to believe **that** over time transforms me and ripples out beyond me. I invite you to join me in showing up for worship week in and week out – let’s find out together what happens if we do!

The Weekday School Fall Festival is Coming Soon!

Will you help us make our goal of 20 volunteers for the Weekday School Fall Festival?

Shifts are in one hour increments between 5:30 and 8pm Friday, October 25th.



Look for the sign up sheet near the coffeepot on Sunday or contact Laura Healy in the church office.

MOVIE
ON ROWE PLAZA

LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC

PRESENTS 227 W. Woodlawn Ave. 78212

**INSIDE
OUT 2**



Laurel Heights UMC Mission Committee

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (CAM)

110 MCCULLOUGH, 78215

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SAT. OCTOBER 12, 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



Explorers Group of Travis Park UMC invites you to an affirming and inclusive event:

PICKLEBALL COMING OUT HANGOUT

Sat, Oct 12
10am - 1pm

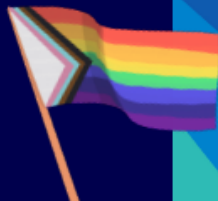
Come as you are and be surrounded by LGBTQIA+ family and allies. Enjoy small bites, play pickleball on the shaded Texas Court, check out Battle Ship, Corn Hole and Jenga, and have a slice of rainbow cake. You don't have to play pickleball to have fun - meet some new friends and hang out! This is a family-friendly event and all are welcome.



RSVP at travispark.org/pickleball

**CHICKEN
N PICKLE.**
SAN ANTONIO

Chicken N Pickle • Texas Court
5215 UTSA Boulevard



You're Invited

IWC 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Saturday October 12th
1PM - 4PM

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church
227 W. Woodlawn 78212

Musical works by Copland, Bernstein, Gershwin, and more

South Texas Symphonic Orchestra
Ronnie Sanders, directing

Reception to follow
Please RSVP so that we can properly plan.

interfaithwelcomcoalition.org

Cost: Free



hello OCTOBER  2024  Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

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		

- 11 Movie on Rowe Plaza
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- 27 Trunk or Treat Decorating Lunch & Youth Gathering 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- 31 Trunk or Treat 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm



Young Family Calendar of Events



TRUNK OR treat

LAUREL HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

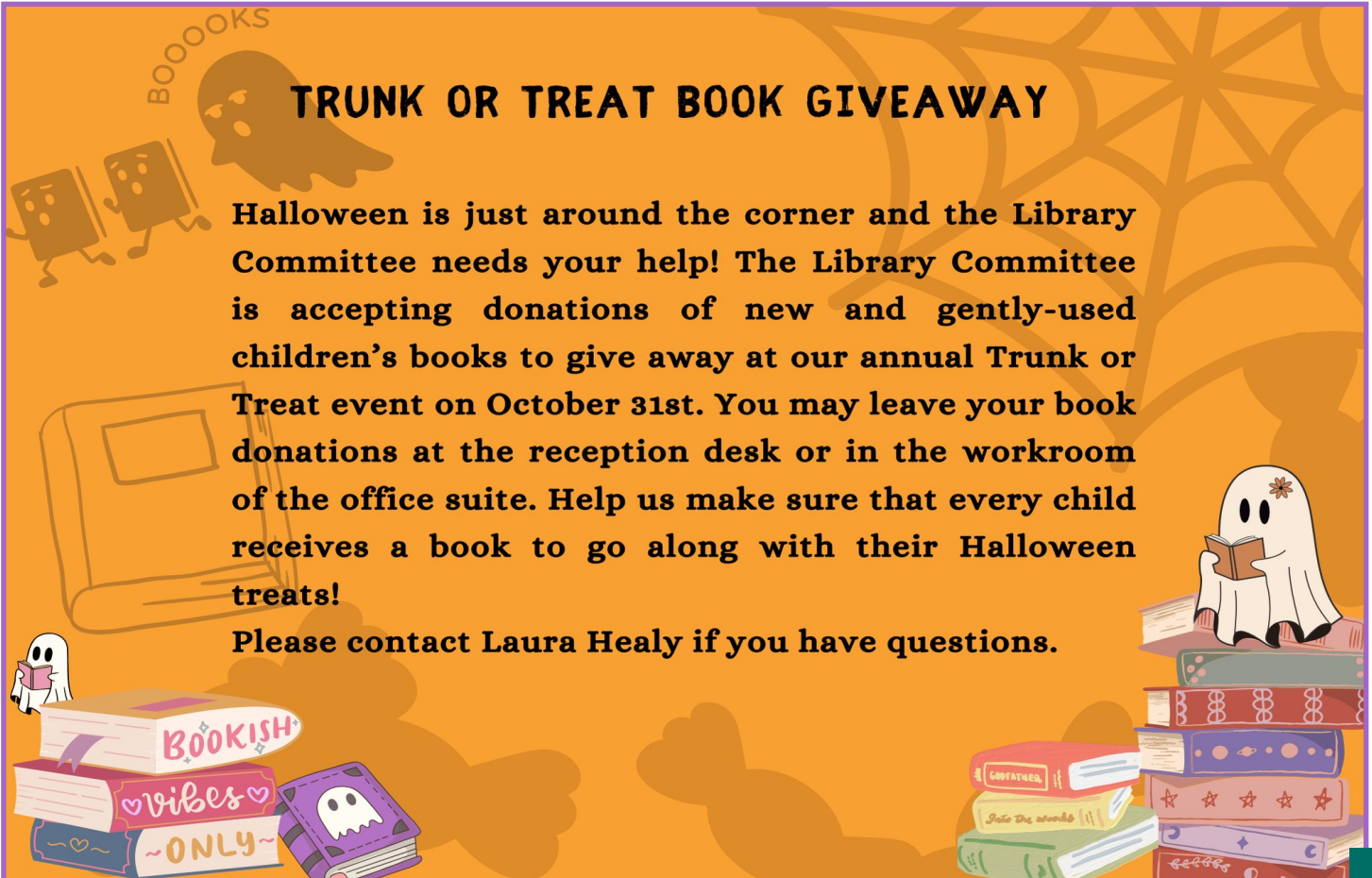
Sunday, October 27th at 12pm
Join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
We will craft and prepare for Trunk or Treat festivities on Thursday in the Mistletoe parking lot.

Thursday, October 31st at 12pm
227 W. Woodlawn Ave.

TRUNK OR TREAT BOOK GIVEAWAY

Halloween is just around the corner and the Library Committee needs your help! The Library Committee is accepting donations of new and gently-used children's books to give away at our annual Trunk or Treat event on October 31st. You may leave your book donations at the reception desk or in the workroom of the office suite. Help us make sure that every child receives a book to go along with their Halloween treats!

Please contact Laura Healy if you have questions.



Church Calendar

Wednesday, October 9

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

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

Thursday, October 10

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

Friday, October 11

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

6:00 p.m. Movie on Rowe Plaza - Rowe Plaza

Saturday, October 12

9:00 a.m. Volunteer Opportunity @ CAM -
110 McCullough Ave.

1:00 p.m. Interfaith Welcome Coalition Concert &
Reception - Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 13

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

Monday, October 14

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, October 15

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

Wednesday, October 16

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class

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

Friday, October 18

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

Sunday, October 20 Commitment Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Fellowship - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. No Children's Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary



Super Adult Day & Immunization Clinic

All Are Welcome

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

Church Offices will be closed

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

IN OBSERVANCE OF

COLUMBUS DAY

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing:

Lucien Manchester

Richard Parrigan

Gracie Huron

Juan Arturo Gonzalez

William Beuhler

Patrick Farmer

Pat Moss

Donna Semmes

Jay Benson

Jay Sconyers

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,



10/10
Jason Davis

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

10/13
Andrea Hemingway

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

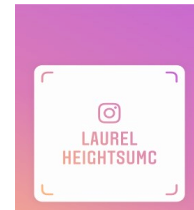
10/14
Norma Lee England
Michelle Holub

10/15
Rex Parker

*We don't want to miss
anyone!*

10/16
Jon Lowry

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@mhm.org