



The Messenger

October 16, 2024
Volume 56, Issue 46

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

The Walk: Study By Celina Montoya

I've always been a good student: honor roll, National Honor Society, Merit Scholar, all that; but I never considered myself very good at studying. I always felt like I was never really prepared to just sit down and study. I felt like I needed something: in grade school maybe it was a fancy double-ended highlighter or a dedicated notebook, but in a household with seven kids someone was always borrowing my pencil bag or I'd find pages of my notebook were missing having been made into paper airplanes. So, when my friends and I started a study group in 8th grade I thought it was a solution to a problem I was sure I had. Finally, I would *feel* prepared.

To be honest, we were all good students, and we didn't really need to spend extra time studying. Mostly, we just found that we wanted to spend time with each other. We were starting to get busy, as kids that age do, and we were missing each other and the early days of play dates and easy questions with ready answers. So, every Monday we'd meet at one of our houses and have "study group". We'd usually start with some math proofs and maybe go over what's due that week but we mostly talked and hung out and kept each other accountable. We all had different interests: dance, sports, music; but one thing we had in common was a curiosity about the world and a desire to know more. I quickly realized in this group it wasn't about what supplies I did or didn't have that made me a successful student. I had peers, people around me, who cared about the world and doing well in it. Being in their company and having their friendship gave me the confidence to embrace learning and to challenge myself to set high standards. I was a better person for their friendship and our time together.

So, after 5 years of our Monday Study Groups my friends and I all graduated in the top 10% of our class. They went to schools like: Tulane, Trinity, and Harvard. I made my way to Northwestern University in Chicago, and I have to admit I *still* never really learned how to study. I got to college and was taking classes like New Media and Production, and 20th century Russian Literature, and I saw my dorm mates going to the library to study. I went to the library for work study; just one of the half dozen odd jobs I had to help pay for school. I can honestly say I never went to the library to study-study.

I went to class, took copious notes, reviewed and did close readings. I spent time talking to my TA's and professors and other students in class. I asked lots of questions. I did projects and labs and took my exams, but I didn't really study, at least, not in the traditional sense. I was not like my roommates, who were pouring over biology books and flash cards.

And yet, I managed to land the Dean's List, was selected for fellowships, and graduated with what most would consider an enviable GPA. But, my embarrassing secret was that I never really learned how to study.

Cont. on pg. 2

Last summer, almost 20 years after graduating from college, I joined a Bible Study. We were to read and discuss the entire Bible in 100 days. It was an assignment that required discipline I wasn't sure I had.

I'll let you in on another secret: I didn't really like reading the Bible, at least not in its entirety in 100 days.

And then I realized I've been thinking about this study-thing all wrong.

Study doesn't happen in a vacuum. While it's not always easy or fun it has a purpose. I slogged through reading the Bible and I almost didn't finish. But fortunately for me, I had a study group not unlike the group I had in high school. It was a group of accomplished individuals, who encouraged and challenged me, and left me better than I started. They entertained all my questions and stayed late to talk and even offered their own suggestions for further reading, not unlike my TAs and professors in college.

I recently came across the Bible I had with me in college: The Student's Life Application Bible. I leafed through and found I had marked the passage that goes with this chapter of Study, Psalm; Chapter 19, verses 1-4:

"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

Twenty-year-old me wrote one note in the margin: "listen".

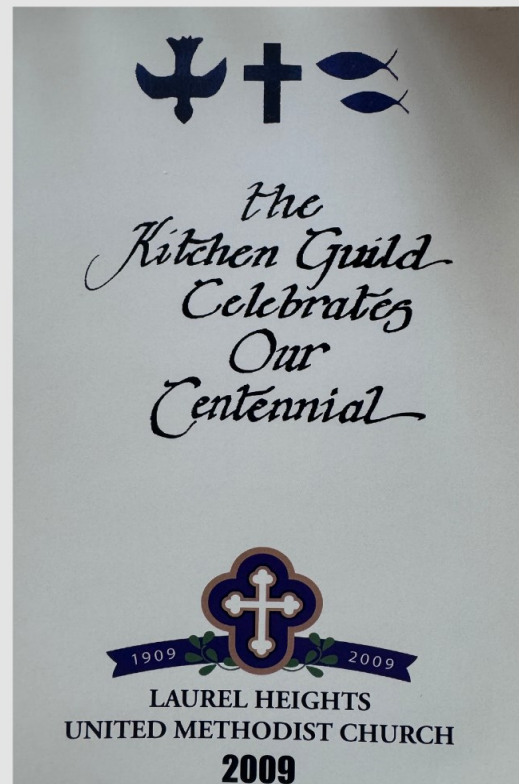
And that got me thinking. Maybe I haven't been doing it all wrong. Maybe the study of God's creation is to surround yourself with His people, ask the questions, and simply listen. Maybe the answers are already in front of us.

CHURCH-WIDE SERVICE FAIR

*SUNDAY OCTOBER 20TH
9:30AM-11AM (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)
FELLOWSHIP HALL & GYM*

*JOIN US FOR A MENU CELEBRATING THE CULINARY
GIFTS & HISTORY OF LAUREL HEIGHTS, USING
RECIPES FROM OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK!*

*LEARN HOW YOU CAN PUT YOUR GIFTS TO WORK
IN SERVICE OF LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC*



Weekday School Fall Festival

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.



Out-of-Office Hours with Pastor Lisa

October 24 & 31
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

@

Philo Coffee
606 W. French Pl., 78212



**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 the Trunk or
Treat festivities on Thursday in the
Mistletoe parking lot.**

**NO
TRICK**

Trunk or Treat

**JUST
TREAT**

**Thursday, October 31st at 5pm
227 W. Woodlawn Ave.**

hello OCTOBER

Laurel Heights
United Methodist Church
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 | | |

- 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 BOOK GIVEAWAY

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.



For 6th - 12th graders

Monthly Gatherings

Sundays 12PM - 2PM @ LH
Lunch * Games *
Conversation

September 15: Community
October 27: Justice
November 17: Friendship
December 8: Celebration

Volunteer @ CAM

2nd Saturdays 9AM - 12PM
Signup with the QR code

September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14



Questions? Katie (210)587-5498

Church Calendar

Wednesday, October 16

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

Thursday, October 17

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

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. Church-Wide Service Fair & Potluck
Fellowship Hall & Gym (No Sunday School)

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - *Sanctuary*

Monday, October 21

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

Tuesday, October 22

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

Wednesday, October 23

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

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

Thursday, October 24

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

9:30 a.m. H-E-B Immunization Clinic -
All Are Welcome - *Fellowship Hall*

10:00 a.m. Super Adult Day - *Fellowship Hall*

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

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

Friday, October 25

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

5:30 p.m. Weekday School Fall Festival - *Gym*

Sunday, October 27

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. Trunk or Treat Preparation & Lunch
Fellowship Hall

12:00 p.m. Youth Monthly Gathering: Justice -
Youth Lounge

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

Super Adult Day

October 24, 2024

10 a.m. Cookies, Coffee & Conversation

10:30 a.m. SUPER ADULT BINGO!

11 a.m. Lunch

Carrot Salad, Baked Ham, Corn Pudding,
Spiced Peaches, Biscuits & Pineapple Meringue

Cost for lunch \$8.00

Special Guest

Robert Reeves, Astrophotographer.

Deep Sky Colors Over San Antonio.

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



10/17

Oliver Gannon
Steven Marrone
Jo Mascorro
Traci Rush

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

10/21

Andrew Gannon

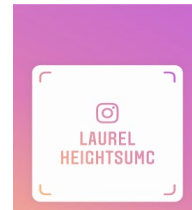
*Please notify the
church office
at 210-733-7156
so we can update our
records.*

10/22

Laura Beuhler
Hannah Campen

*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/>

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, 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