



# The Messenger

December 4, 2024  
Volume 56, Issue 51

*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

## Midweek Advent Meals and Worship Gatherings

This Advent season, you're invited to join us for three special **Midweek Advent Meals and Worship Gatherings**. Each evening will include a meal, fellowship, and a unique opportunity to deepen your Advent journey.

### Wednesday, December 4 | 5:30 PM

Our first gathering will feature a warm meal prepared by dedicated volunteers. Along with enjoying fellowship together, volunteers will prepare additional meals to share with Laurel Heights UMC members who are unable to join us in person. These to-go meals will be lovingly delivered on Thursday, extending the spirit of Advent to those in need of connection.

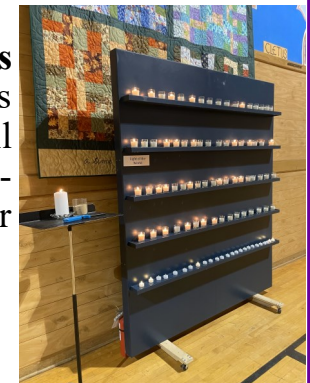
### Wednesday, December 11 | 5:30 PM

We'll gather again for a shared meal, followed by an **Advent Spiral** in the gym. The Advent Spiral is a moving tradition that symbolizes the journey of Advent. Walking inward represents entering the quiet reflection of this season, while walking outward signifies carrying the light of hope into the world. Participants will carry an unlit candle set in an apple candle holder into the center of the spiral, lighting it from the central flame, and then place it along the evergreen path. Evergreens symbolize everlasting life, while the apple's seeds remind us of hidden potential and the promise of new beginnings. As we walk the spiral, we'll sing familiar Christmas carols, filling the space with hope and joy.



### Wednesday, December 18 | 5:30 PM

For our final gathering, we'll share a meal and participate in a **Blue Christmas Service**. Blue Christmas, often observed near the winter solstice, acknowledges the sadness or challenges that can accompany the season. In the gym, we'll have **interactive, self-guided stations** designed for quiet reflection. These stations will offer a chance to name and release lingering feelings of sadness or loss, creating space for healing and hope during the holidays.



### A Place for All Generations

These Wednesday night gatherings are intentionally designed to be intergenerational. Children, with guidance from an adult, often find deep meaning in these hands-on worship experiences. Whether you join us for one or all of these evenings, we look forward to sharing this special time with you as we journey together through Advent.

**We hope to see you there!**



# *Hanging of the Greens* LAUREL HEIGHTS *Festival*

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
from 2pm-4pm**

Christmas is such a special time of year – a time of **celebration, family, and the birth of Jesus**. With this in mind, you are invited to join us as we decorate the church for the Christmas season. There will be jobs for every skill level. Children will be in the fellowship hall decorating cookies, writing letters to Santa, making ornaments, and decorating a Christmas tree. Adults will be decorating the sanctuary and creche. Please contact the church office for more information 210-733-7156

**Mr. and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance &  
Parents Night out will follow this event (4pm-7pm)**

To sign up please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FAEAA23A6F5C43-52664619-hanging> or scan the QR code.





# Christmas Poinsettias

We hope you will consider purchasing a poinsettia in memory of honor of someone special this year.

By purchasing a poinsettia for \$15 each, you will help fill our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias on Sunday, December 15 as we start the holiday season with Lessons and Carols at 6:00pm.

To place your order, please fill out the order and submit with payment to the church office, via mail or in-person. You can order online <https://onrealm.org/LaurelHeightsUN/-/form/give> or scan the QR code below.

## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 each

Please pay by check made payable to Laurel Heights UMC, Poinsettia in memo line

Mail to: Laurel Heights UMC

Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212





# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

1 Peanut Butter	2 Rice	3 Dried Beans	4 Mac & Cheese	5 Canned Chili
6 Canned Tuna/Chicken	7 Breakfast Cereal	8 Canned Fruit	9 Crackers	10 Oatmeal
11 Pasta	12 Pasta Sauce	13 Stuffing Mix	14 Instant Potatoes	15 Soup
16 Apple Sauce Cups	17 Canned Pinto Beans	18 Crackers	19 Canned Tomatoes	20 Cookies
21 Canned Green Beans	22 Canned Carrots/Corn	25 Find a box and add an item each day. Bring your completed box with you on Christmas Eve. Our boxes will be going to the San Antonio Food Bank.		
23 Cranberry Sauce	24 Canned Sweet Potatoes			



Laurel Heights UMC  
227 W. Woodlawn Ave. San Antonio, TX 78212





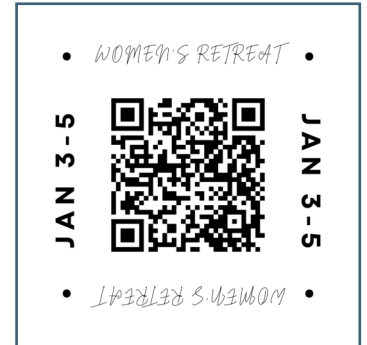
After the holidays, time for YOU!  
Rest, relax, & renew at the 2025 Women's Retreat!

JOIN US  
January 3-5, 2025  
Mustang Island Retreat Center

For more information, contact Laura Healy at 210-733-7156

Register at [Women's Retreat 2025 - Laurel Heights United Methodist Church](#) or scan the QR Code.

\$200 per person



Laurel Heights Young Family Calendar of Events

hello DECEMBER 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				

- 7 Advent Dinners 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- 7 Hanging of the Greens 2 PM - 4 PM
- Parents Night Out 4 PM - 7 PM
- 8 Youth Celebration 12 PM - 2 PM
- 14 CAM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 15 Lessons and Carols 7 PM - 9 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Services 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM, 11:00 PM
- 29 Church wide POTLUCK 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Laurel Heights Aug

YOUTH

Sept

Oct

What's Next?  
Youth Group: 11/17 & 12/8 12PM - 2PM  
CAM: 12/14  
MidWinter Retreat 2/21-2/23

For more information contact Katie Myers (210)587-5498

## Church Calendar

### Wednesday, December 4

5:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Dinner:

Gather & Feast - *Fellowship Hall*

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

### Thursday, December 5

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

### Friday, December 6

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

### Saturday, December 7

10:00 a.m. Celebration of the Assignment of Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey to the Rio Texas Conference: *First United Methodist Church Boerne*

2:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

4:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

### Sunday, December 8

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

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

10:00 a.m. Advent Study with Pastor Laura - *Mann Chapel*

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

12:00 p.m. Youth Gathering - *Youth Lounge/ Gym*

1:00 p.m. Lively Spirits - *Parlor*

2:00 p.m. Charge Conference -

*St. Matthew's UMC 2738 MacArthur View*

### Monday, December 9

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

### Tuesday, December 10

9:30 Staff Meeting - *Laurel Room*

1:00 p.m. United Women in Faith - *Parlor*

5:30 p.m. Advent Study with Pastor Laura - *Mann Chapel*

### Wednesday, December 11

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

5:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Dinner: Advent Spiral *Fellowship Hall*

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

Join us on Sunday  
morning @ 10am in  
Mann Chapel.

December 8

December 15

December 22

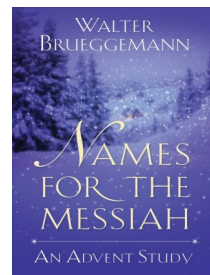
Or Tuesday @ 5:30pm

December 3

December 10

December 17

*Please contact Pastor Laura to register.*



Laurel Heights UMC

**Cluster Charge Conference**

**Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 @ 2pm**

St. Matthew's UMC

2738 MacArthur View  
San Antonio, TX 78217



United  
Women  
in Faith

**December 10, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m. Parlor Room**

**Program:**

*Food, Faith, and Fellowship*

**Discussion:**

# *Prayer Requests*

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### *Healing*

Lucien Manchester

Richard Parrigan

Gracie Huron

Juan Arturo Gonzalez

William Beuhler

Pat Moss

Jay Sconyers

Brooke Herron

Glenda Sams

Bert Clayton

Ahmed Halim



**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.



12/1

Belia Taylor

12/11

Merrit Nicewander

12/2

Rosslyn Chalk  
Vicki Crocket

12/4

Mary Ann Ferguson

12/5

Margarite Guggolz  
Juanita Souder

12/8

Stephen Hall  
Ann McAdams

12/10

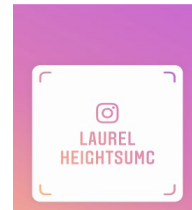
Byrd Bonner  
Steve Haney

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

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

*We don't want to miss  
anyone!*

## Follow Us On Social Media



<https://www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC>

**Sanctuary Offering**  
Please visit our website:  
<http://www.laurelheights.org/give/>

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

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