



The Messenger

April 16, 2025
Volume 57, Issue 14

A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

New Sermon Series: Jesus and the Outsiders

Which of the four gospels is your favorite? It's hard to choose just one. Each offers a unique perspective on Jesus' life and ministry. Matthew speaks to those deeply rooted in Jewish tradition. Mark moves with urgency, keeping us on the edge of our seats. John's poetic language stirs the soul. And then there's Luke—bold and compassionate—showing us how Jesus embraced those on the margins of society.

Luke's gospel reminds us that Jesus was never afraid to break social norms. He intentionally spent time with those whom others overlooked—the outcasts, the forgotten, the ones labeled “outsiders.”

In our post-Easter sermon series, *Jesus and the Outsiders*, we will explore four groups of people with whom Jesus chose to engage, despite the concern of religious leaders: the young, the old, women, and immigrants & refugees. Through these stories, we will reflect on who the “outsiders” are in our world today and how Jesus calls us to respond.

Join us Sundays from April 27–May 18 as we journey together through this powerful series. We look forward to seeing you in worship!



Holy Week at Laurel Heights UMC

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a **baked potato bar**, followed by a **service of table communion and reflection** as we remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples.



The sanctuary will be open for a lay-led **Tre Ore service** from **12:00-3:00 p.m.**, a time of prayer, Scripture, and silence. You are encouraged to come and go as you are able.

Then return at **6:00 p.m.** for a **Good Friday Service of the Seven Last Words**, with Scripture and reflections and choir-led hymns and anthems including G. F. Handel's *Behold the Lamb of God* from *Messiah*.



Holy Week at Laurel Heights UMC

Experience the Seven Last Words of Christ: Good Friday at Laurel Heights UMC

Join us on Good Friday, April 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for a deeply moving worship service at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church as we reflect on the *Seven Last Words of Christ*. This solemn and sacred service invites us into the final moments of Jesus' earthly life, meditating on his last words spoken from the cross.

A Tradition of Reflection and Reverence

The *Seven Last Words of Christ* is a time-honored tradition that dates back centuries, providing an opportunity to contemplate the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and love. Each of the seven statements he uttered from the cross carries profound meaning, guiding us through themes of forgiveness, salvation, compassion, suffering, fulfillment, and ultimate trust in God.

The Structure of the Service

Throughout the evening, we will journey through these final words of Christ, each accompanied by Scripture readings, brief reflections, and musical responses as we consider Christ's suffering and its significance for our lives today.

A Time to Prepare Our Hearts

This Good Friday service will be a time of deep spiritual reflection, helping us prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter morning. Whether you have experienced this service before or are new to this tradition, we invite you to come and be part of this powerful time of worship.

We encourage you to bring family, friends, and members of the community as we gather to remember Christ's sacrifice and await the hope of resurrection. All are welcome.

For more information, please contact the church office or visit our website. We look forward to sharing this meaningful evening with you.

Holy Week at Laurel Heights UMC

Easter Sunday

Celebrate the resurrection with joyful worship, music, and the good news of new life at 9 & 11am! Our choir will sing Dan Forrest's *To the Lamb on the Throne* and G. F. Handel's *Halleluia Chorus* from *Messiah*.



Church Calendar

Wednesday, April 16

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

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

6:00 Bake Potato Bar & Table Worship -

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

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

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Tre Ore - Lay Lead Worship

6:00 p.m. Last Seven Words Worship - *Sanctuary*

Saturday, April 19

9:00 a.m. Altar Guild - Easter Lily Placement

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

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

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

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

(No Children's Sunday School)

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

Monday, April 21 - Easter Monday

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, April 22

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting - *Zoom*

Wednesday, April 23

9:30 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 305*

Thursday, April 24

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

Friday, April 25

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

Saturday, April 26

10:00 a.m. Gracie Huron Memorial & Reception

Sunday, April 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. Youth Gathering - *Mystery Outing*

1:00 p.m. Lively Spirits

hello
APRIL

2025



Laurel Heights UMC

Young Family Calendar Of Events

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			

12

Christian Assistance Ministry

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

13

Easter Egg Hunt

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

17

Maundy Thursday Dinner

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

18

Good Friday Services

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

20

Easter Sunday

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM



**CHURCH OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, APRIL 21
IN OBSERVANCE
OF EASTER.**

Happy
Easter



LAUREL HEIGHTS YOUTH NEWS

APRIL YOUTH GROUP: MYSTERY TRIP



April 27 12PM - 2PM

Join us for a mystery outing! Bring a friend! We'll enjoy a sack lunch on our adventure.

MAY YOUTH GROUP

The Future

May 18 12PM - 2PM

Meet in the Youth Lounge after the 11AM service. Lunch provided. Games, relaxing, and planning for the future.

SAVE THE DATE

Pool Party @ Pastor Lisa's

May 17 4PM - 7PM
9712 Mandalay Way

Come celebrate the end of the school year! Family & friends welcome! Dinner provided.

Wear your bathing suit & bring a towel.



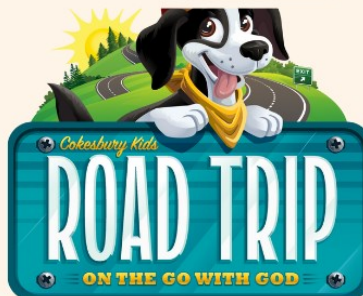
Vacation Bible Camp: Road Trip!

June 23-27

9AM - 12PM: Rising 7th graders & up earn 15+ volunteer hours.

12PM - 2PM: Then stay for lunch & youth time daily.

**Register
Here:**



Youth Summer Camp

July 6-11

Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville, TX

Rising 6th graders - graduated seniors

Cost \$275

Registration coming soon



Need More Info?

Katie Myers, Director of Youth Family Ministries
youth@mylhumc.org or (210)587-5498

Prayer Requests

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing

Lucien Manchester

Richard Parrigan

Jay Sconyers

Bert Clayton

Norman Roe

Elizabeth Diaz

Kay Craig

Ahmed Halim

Claire Riley

Lily Campbell





4/17
Randy Pollock

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

4/18
Charlotte Chalk
Wyatt Clemens

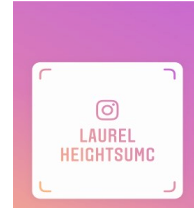
*Please notify the
church office
at 210-733-7156
so we can update
our records.*

4/21
Shelby Oleson

*We don't want to
miss anyone!*

4/23
Luke Campen

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 9am-4pm

Church Office Closed, April 21, 2025



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

Katie Myers, Dir. Of Youth 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

youth@mylhumc.org

heatherw@mylhumc.org

hannah@mylhumc.org

debbie@mylhumc.org

susanbholloway@gmail.com

ygarcia@mhm.org