



The Messenger

May 14, 2025
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Invitation to Christian Discipleship

by Laura Glick

Good morning! Happy Mother's Day! What better way for me to celebrate Mother's Day than by doing something I hate...public speaking. But that's what we do as mothers, right? We do the things whether we love them or hate them because that is how we teach our children. Whether it's a small, easy thing like taking out the trash or a big, hard thing like learning to drive a car, we teach by example.

When I was a child & teenager, I spent every Sunday morning with my mom and 3 siblings in the second row at the First United Methodist Church in Sweeny, TX. (My dad was there too, but he was in the choir.) Before service started, one of us was usually getting ready to acolyte and the other two were tussling over who got to put my parents' check in the offering tray. As we grew, my mom resolved that tussle by allowing us to write out their check each Sunday. At the time, it was just a way to one up my siblings, but as an adult and mother, I realize my mother was teaching us valuable lessons. We were learning the importance of giving, both monetarily and through our service. We were learning to prioritize our spiritual life and serving God and the church. I don't know if those lessons were intentional or if she was just tired of the fighting...probably a little of both, but they have stuck with me.

We each have our own story of how we came to be sitting here this morning. Some of you grew up in this church and continue to be here because of family ties and stories similar to my own and others have found your own way to God and the church through friends or social media or happenstance. No matter how you came to be here, I am thankful for your presence and your gifts. Because, whether you realize it or not, just by sitting here in these pews, you are teaching MY children and all of the other precious little souls in this building how important a relationship with God is.

Before I let you rush off to your Mother's Day celebrations, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the financial condition of the church. Those of you who attended one of our budget Q&As will recall that your finance committee passed a deficit budget of \$35,016.22 for this year. That was an intentional decision that I'm happy to discuss with any of you and we do have a backup plan in place in case we aren't able to make up the difference during the year. Through the end of March (I don't have April numbers yet), we had a loss of \$31,997.15 for the year. We have managed to keep our expenses under budget by 3%, but, unfortunately, our income is almost 6% under budget. Please keep an eye out in the Messenger for the April numbers, because we do expect April to look a little better.

As you wrap up the crazy, business of May and head off to summer vacations and travels, please remember the church. These doors are always open to welcome all who enter...that means staff continues to be paid, the A/C continues to run, and expenses continue to accrue, whether we are here or not. If you need help setting up automatic payments while you are away, please call the church office and they will get you taken care of. Or, if you are old fashioned like me, you can always drop a check in the mail.

Most importantly, wherever your travels take you, near or far, always remember, this church family is here waiting with open arms for your return. Happy Mother's Day and safe travels!

Finance Committee Update Y-T-D March 2025	
	Y-T-D
Contributions Received	\$ 155,982.71
Other Receipts	\$ 49,827.19
Total Receipts:	\$ 205,809.90
Total Expenses:	\$ 237,807.05
Behind:	\$ (31,997.15)

Church Calendar

Wednesday, May 14

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

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

Thursday, May 15

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

6:00 Tai Chi Class - *Room 312*

Friday, May 16

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - *Room 306*

Saturday, May 17

4:00 p.m. Youth End of the Year Pool Party

Sunday, May 18

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 - *Youth Lounge*

1:00 p.m. Lively Spirits - *Laurel Room*

Monday, May 19

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

Tuesday, May 20

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting - *Parlor*

Wednesday, May 21

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

5:45 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting - *Parlor*

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

Thursday, May 22

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

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

Friday, May 23

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

Sunday, May 25

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*

Prayer Requests

Lucien Manchester

Richard Parrigan

Bert Clayton

Norman Roe

Elizabeth Diaz

Kay Craig

Ahmed Halim

Claire Riley

Richard Jackson

Judy Edwards



Laurel Heights UMC

Please join us for a

Farewell Potluck Luncheon

Honoring Pastor Lisa & Jim Straus

Sunday, June 22 at 12:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Bring Your Favorite Dish to SHARE!

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