



The Messenger

August 14, 2025
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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Seek The Kingdom of God Above All Else...

Blessings Church Family! As I keep pondering and letting God lead me deeper into the Luke 12:31-34, I am beginning to get some clarity on God's dreams and hopes for Laurel Heights. As always, I want to invite you into purposeful prayer through that scripture. I want to hear what the Lord is saying to you about how YOU are being led to a new depth in seeking the Kingdom. I also want to know what you are hearing from the Lord regarding new ways Laurel Heights can participate in bringing the Kingdom of God to earth. How will we delight in God's reign, reordering the world around God's love?

I've been blessed to spend time getting to know some of you. There are still many more of you I still need to meet and share some time around a table. I appreciate and value what you have shared with me regarding your personal stories and your deep love of the church. I have such deep respect for the history of this church and how each change along the way opened the doors of fellowship wider, offering people a place to encounter the very real presence of God, to experience the love of God that heals and transforms, and a place to call home. Laurel Heights UMC is a place where LOVE invites you to belong.

During these get togethers, lunches, and coffee dates, there have been commonalities in the questions that have been asked of me. Are we going to still have a 9am worship service? Can we recreate the things we loved from previous years and pastors? And when I have asked about what new thing God might want to do, most responses were about recreating what has already been done.

First let me say, when we have these conversations, I am privileged to hear your heart in all the things you cherish and have cherished about the work and ministries of Laurel Heights. I can't make any promises about what might stay the same and what might be different. I know that I can't "recreate" beloved previous ministry expressions. I'm new to Laurel Heights and by that very definition I can't recreate what was. However, we can prayerfully discern, together, how we might "reimagine" what those ministry expressions could look like now.

The litmus test for all that we currently do and may do in the future will be how it seeks the Kingdom of God above all else. How does it best serve the Heart of God? How does it help reorder the world around the Love of God? How does it invite people in to know God, received God's love, and find a home here? And while filtering through this lens might make us feel uncertain or anxious, we are reminded in vs 31, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he [God] will give you everything you need."

Seeking the Kingdom First, Trusting God for Everything Else
Pastor Michelle

Welcome Desk!

Volunteers Needed!!

We will be reopening the welcome desk! As the scope of responsibilities increases for the staff, we need to be able to take other responsibilities from their daily list. Reopening the welcome desk, manned by volunteers will allow us to do that. These volunteers will be the first face of greeting and hospitality to visitors and members alike when they enter the building during the work week.

Responsibilities will include but not limited to:

- Answering phones
- Receiving packages
- Directing visitors to appropriate desired locations
- Helping assemble visitor welcome bags
- Helping scan in church files to create digital records
- Have a great time serving the Lord by blessing the church and so much more!

Training will be provided, a lot of blessings will be received, contact Heather at heatherw@mylhumc.org or 210.733.7156 to sign up!

Volunteers
needed

The Circle

Imagine what it would look like if a group of people gathered together in a circle with the simple focus of being together, building community and answering one focus question related to life and faith.

Next Sunday August 17th at 10am in Mann Chapel, we will be starting a group called “The Circle” and those wishing to explore what this might look like in their own spiritual journey are invited to join us as we start this faith formation group together seeking to intentionally live out a desire to share life together.

Each week as you join The Circle you will be asked one question. The goal is for everyone in attendance to answer truthfully this one question which will be a rotation of self-reflective, soul-searching questions. The format is simple. Answer the question and listen to others as they respond. Be honest and authentic. Our hope is that through this time together, we grow deeper in our relationship with God, with those in our church community and even with ourselves.

I invite you to join us at the Circle next Sunday.

Pastor Laura



The Laurel Heights United Methodist Church Emmaus Community cordially invites all who have been on the three-day Walk to Emmaus (or are interested in learning about the Walk), to join us Sunday, August 17th, at 12:15 p.m., following worship in the LHUMC Fellowship Hall for a Potluck Lunch, fellowship, singing and worship to get acquainted with each other and sharing God's Love!



WALK TO
EMMAUS
THE UPPER ROOM®

We believe with the Lord's help and your participation; all things are possible. So, plan to join us as we continue our Fourth Days of this loving, worshipping adventure following our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

Questions? Call or text David Smith at: 210-844-4991 or email at: smithde9@sbcglobal.net.

De Colores!

David

David E. Smith

210-844-4991 cell

210-494-0022 home

Join the Laurel Heights Emmaus Community

Sunday August 17th at 12:15 p.m.

LHUMC Fellowship Hall

Potluck Lunch, Fellowship, Singing and Worship

All are Welcome so - -Y'all Come!

SUPER ADULT DAY

San Antonio College will mark its 100th anniversary this September, and we're excited to join in the celebration! The Laurel Heights Super Adults are delighted to welcome SAC President, Dr. Francisco Solis, as our special guest at the August meeting.

We especially invite all former SAC students and faculty from Laurel Heights to join us for lunch at 11:00 a.m., followed by an inspiring presentation on the future of this outstanding college that has served our community for a century.

To help us plan for plenty of food, please call 210-872-8031 to reserve your spot.

Lunch is our gift to you—so come, celebrate, and be part of this special occasion!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

LUNCH AT 11:00 AM * FELLOWSHIP HALL

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

During the month of August we will be collecting school supplies for our neighborhood public school, Agnes Cotton Academy. They have specifically requested these items.

Items Needed

- Pencils
- Pencil top erasers
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Dry Erase markers
- Highlighters
- Composition Books (wide and narrow/college ruled)
- Grid paper spiral journals (4x4 quad ruled)

You may leave your donations on the reception desk on the first floor.

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

hello AUGUST 2025

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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						



9 CAM 9:00AM - 11:00AM CAM Sign up

10 ICE CREAM SOCIAL 9:30AM - 10:45AM

BACKPACK BLESSING 11:00AM

17 SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS 10:00AM

31 ACOLYTE & USHER 12:00PM TRAINING & POTLUCK

Young Family Calendar of Events

Youth Sunday School

Every Sunday 10AM (8/17-12/21)



- August: Bible Background
- September: Wisdom
- October: Money & Resources
- November: Revelations
- December: Advent

Youth Leadership Lab

Sept 14th & Nov 9th 12 - 1:30PM



Youth Can Lead Now! Study + Lunch & Activities



CAM Saturdays

Second Saturdays 9-11AM

Aug 9, Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13

Follow Us On Social Media



www.facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC



www.instagram.com/laurelheightsumc



www.youtube.com/@LaurelHeightsUMC

Church Calendar

Wednesday, August 13

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

Thursday, August 14

5:30 p.m. Health Cabinet Meeting - Zoom

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

Friday, August 15

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - Room

Sunday, August 17

9:30 a.m. Fellowship - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Fall Season Sunday School Begins

11:00 a.m. Worship Service & Third Grade Bibles

12:00 p.m. Emmaus Gathering & Potluck - Fellowship Hall

12:00 p.m. Youth Gathering Fall Kick Off

Monday, August 18

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

Wednesday, August 20

Thursday, August 21

9:00 a.m. Church Mice

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

Friday, August 22

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

Sunday, August 24

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary



Chancel Flowers

The following dates are available:

September 21 & 28
October 5, 12, 19, 26

To reserve a date please contact

Heather ♥
210.733.7156

Fall Youth Group

Sundays 12-2PM



Aug 17 Fall Kickoff

Team Building & Parent Meeting

Sept 21 Theme: Wisdom

Panel: What I Wish I Knew...

Oct 19 Theme: Wonder

Wonder, Questions, and Doubt

Nov 16 Theme: Wanting

Friendsgiving Progressive Dinner

Dec 14 Theme: Waiting

Youth Christmas Celebration

For All 6th - 12th Graders



Your donation to C.A.M. matters! They are currently in need of 1 pound bags of rice. Drop them off at our C.A.M. collection spots in the church.

Prayer Requests

Lucien Manchester

Richard Parrigan

Bert Clayton

Elizabeth Diaz

Kay Craig

Ahmed Halim

Claire Riley

Lindsay Pease

Elmer Boone

Belia Taylor

Mary Helm

Kahlia Langram

FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK

August 31
12:00 PM

Fellowship
Hall



BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!

