



# The Messenger

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*A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church*

How do you know when you've "found your people?" What does it feel like? When you know with confidence you've found a place where you are wanted and belong? I think back thirty years ago. Just out of college, being tangentially connected to a UMC as a choir trip sponsor and then as a youth leader. Many people welcomed me, were friendly to me, but I was still an outsider. I'm not sure what they were waiting on from me or if we were just waiting to see if I'd "fall in line" with community. I was there, but I wasn't "one of them." Until Soccer Mom Extraordinaire Cindy chose me to be part of her family.

Cindy's kids were in the youth group, and I spent a good amount of time with them. Since they lived close to the church, I would sometimes pick them up or drive them home. Cindy and her husband would invite me over for dinner occasionally. They would invite me in when dropping off the girls and just sit around the table and chat. Soon, invitations weren't necessary. They expected me to come early and walk in without knocking. They created a space for me to be included as one of their own. One afternoon, as I let myself in, Cindy was on the phone. She put her hand on the receiver and said, "you know where everything is, help yourself, I'll be finished in a minute." I turned to the pantry closet, pulled open the door and had this startling revelation. On the middle shelf, my favorite snacks and soft drinks were stocked. Next to it, were items I recognized as her daughters' favorites for after school snacks. Without even understanding what was happening, Cindy made me part of her family. If Cindy drove by the church in the evening and saw I was there working late, she would pack up dinner and bring it to me. When we disagreed about things (read argued) and couldn't get to a resolution, she'd hug me and say, "you're making me mad, but you're one of my girls, so I still love you." In good times or in hard times (maybe especially in the hard times) I never doubted my place in Cindy's family, the core of my church family.

Belonging.

Who are the "outsiders" on the edge of your circles who need a place and a people to belong? They are there, we only have to decide to really see them. Choose to welcome them. We need only to love them. When was the last time you invited someone to church with you? When was the last time you served people in need? When was the last time you felt so secure in a relationship that you didn't worry or overthink a disagreement, but trusted the relationship to mean more than the disagreement? What small steps can we take today to show that Laurel Heights UMC has room for them to really belong?

Praying through these questions with you...

Pastor Michelle

Finance Committee Update  
Y-T-D August 2025

	Y-T-D
Contributions Received	\$ 496,754.54
Other Receipts	\$ 137,277.09
Total Receipts:	\$ 634,031.63
Total Expenses:	\$ 664,627.14
<b>Behind:</b>	<b>\$ (30,595.51)</b>

## 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 26. 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.



## Welcome Desk!

We have opened the Welcome Desk but we are still in need of more volunteers!!!

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@mylhmc.org](mailto:heatherw@mylhmc.org) or 210.733.7156 to sign up!

## JOIN OUR CHURCH MICE TEAM!

Come join our newest Church Mice, Mitch Holbrook, and help keep Laurel Heights in tip-top shape! Show up on any Thursday morning at 9:30 for work, fun and fellowship.

Call John Tennison (210-287-4665) or Bill Myers (210-867-3377) for more info.



Young Family  
Event

WHAT I WISH I  
KNEW WHEN MY  
CHILDREN WERE  
YOUNGER.



LAUREL HEIGHTS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

9/21/25

September 21<sup>st</sup> following the 11am service in room 312

Laurel Heights UMC

Celebrating all God's Creatures!!!

# Blessing of the Animals

October 11

4:00-6:00PM





## **World Communion Prep Party!**

Join us

**Saturday, October 4, from 3–5 PM**

for a fun bread-baking bash in the kitchen and fellowship hall!

Bring your favorite recipe and help us get ready for World Communion Sunday.

### **Bonus**

Parents' Night Out follows!

## COMMUNION CHANGES

Starting in October we will offer fresh gluten free bread and individual cups for gluten free folks - we'll have a 3 communion station that serves gluten free and we are switching to white grape juice. We'll still have intinction (the one cup for dipping) for the regular bread communion stations.

We look forward to seeing you in church!



## Church Calendar

### Thursday, September 4

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

### Friday, September 5

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

### Sunday, September 7

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

### Monday, September 8

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

### Wednesday, September 9

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

### Thursday, September 11

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

### Friday, September 12

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class - Room

10:00 a.m. Library Committee Meeting - Library

### Saturday, September 13

9:00 a.m. Volunteer Saturday @ Christian Assistance Ministries - 110 McCollough

### Sunday, September 14

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 Leadership Lab



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.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Walgreen Immunization Clinic

September 25th  
9-11 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Flu Shots will be available.

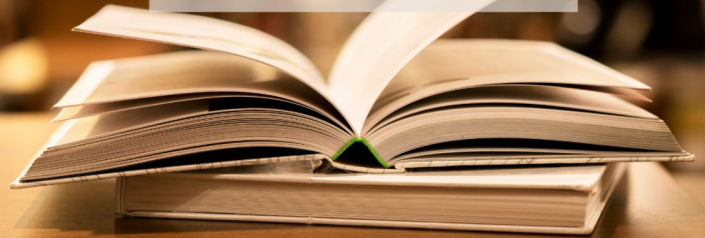


For more information, contact our Wesley Nurse, Yvonne Garcia at 210.733.7156

## Come Visit Our Library!

located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

The library is regularly open on Sunday mornings and accessible by request during normal church office hours.



## Prayer Requests

Lucien Manchester  
Richard Parrigan  
Bert Clayton  
Elizabeth Diaz  
Kay Craig  
Ahmed Halim  
Claire Riley  
Lindsay Pease  
Elmer Boone  
Mary Helm  
Kahlia Langram  
Frieda Whitworth