

## NURTURE

*caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples*

**{Inward}**

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. If you'd like to prepare:

Next Sunday—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE Jim Rickards, Jay McKinney, and Brittany Cooper. Wish to add or to restore a name to this printed list? Use the offering plate or contact the main office to say so.

## OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

OF THE BROWN BAG SERIES, one remains. Help Boulevard by offering yourself as a listener and a thinker as we plan for the next six months of outreach.



Date	Time	Topic	Related Event
May 4	12:00	Monthly mission calendar	Following worship Bring lunch.

## WITNESS

*telling our stories, offering expressions of faith, being Christ-like*

**{Together}**

THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB: May 8 – June 19<sup>th</sup>. Between 4:00 and 6:00, stop by the church's front porch. Meet somebody. Say hello to another. Take in the sunshine. Just be. It is a ministry of presence.

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



“We need breathing space and it is a credit to the disciples that they gave Thomas his...He missed out on the spiritual revival of the upper room. His quest was not just intellectual; it was experiential. He wanted the real presence of the risen Jesus not just talk about it.”

Bruce Epperly

April 27, 2014

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

## Order of Worship for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal  
(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

\* Please stand, as able.

### Gathering

Introit *Not With Naked Eye*

Words of Welcome

\*Hymn *Up from the Grave He Arose* UMH 322

Prayers of the People  
Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

### Proclamation and Response

Psalter Psalm 16 UMH 748

First Reading I Peter 1:3-9

Anthem *O Sons and Daughters*

\*Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31

Sermon Rev. Alexa Slonin

\*Hymn *Without Seeing You (1-3)* TFWS 2206

Offering Tithes and Gifts  
Offertory *Protect Me, God*  
\*Doxology (94 UMH)  
\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

### Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Thine Be the Glory* UMH 308

\*Benediction



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

<sup>8</sup> **THE BOUNDARY LINES** Psalm 16

It's true. One can *prepare* to be away. I could have written something or another well in advance. I could have dug up something from the last church, dusted it off, presented it as fresh from the heart, and fooled a few.

In any case, I have worked to draw a line around vacation; so that it can be...*vacation*; and it is not yet time to let up. These thoughts belong to theologian, spiritual guide, author, and Pastor Bruce Epperly. I find them to be lovely—lovely to the point of placing them here.

In the biblical world, breath is a manifestation of God's Spirit: God breathes over the waters and the universe takes form; God revives dry bones in a valley; and the Psalmist proclaims, "Let everything that breathes praise God." (Psalm 150:6)

God's Spirit still breathes through us as the source of possibility and the energy to achieve God's vision in our time.

The reading for April 27 ends with curious and liberating words. John 20:30 proclaims: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book." In other words, there is more to Jesus than what we can find on the printed page, even the printed pages of scripture.

This is good news, for it says that Christ is still alive and that Christ's work can never be encompassed by book or creed. God's Spirit sets us free; it breathes on us and gives us energy for adventures ahead. It inspires to be God's companions in our time and place.

Take time to breathe, inhaling and exhaling deeply. Simply breathing your prayers has been shown, according to medical studies, to reduce stress and enhance immune system functioning. It also awakens your connection with creation. When we breathe in God's Spirit, we are contemporaries with Jesus' first followers, and we can imaginatively – and realistically – hear Jesus say to us as he breathes in us, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Also true: Paul quotes Jesus as saying "It is more blessed to give than to receive". But John's Jesus *commands* us to receive.

So, here's to receiving, friends. Receive the gifts of God. Receive the people God has given you. And know it to be a mark of our belovedness.