

WITNESS

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

{Together}



Think of it as a chance to repurpose a vase or to seek out just the right piece of pottery. Do it for fun. Do it for your home. Do it for love of God who asks us to let our light shine (Matthew 5) and to live like those for whom the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1).

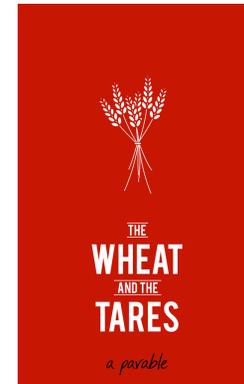
Basics of Lamp Making -- Wednesday July 23, 4:30 pm

Design & Development -- Saturday August 9, 10:00 am

Assembly & Shade Discussion -- TBD

Between the first and second gatherings, there is time to select your base; between the second and third, time for the arrival of parts (which we will do on your behalf). Mark Suter will guide us. Interested? Tell Rachel. It is possible to miss one, even two of the three sessions and still take part.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Instead of guarding power, Jesus gives it away; instead of rational discourse, he tells stories. This is a Jesus whose very identity is radically different from the norm of human personhood that prevailed at the time. *Relationality* rather than rationality illuminates his entire story.

Diarmuid O'Murchu

July 20, 2014

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
www.boulevardumc.org

Order of Worship for the 6th Sunday After Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Introit *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Gather Us In* 2236 TFWS

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Readings Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Genesis 28:10-19a

Anthem *Holy Ground*
Please sing the chorus. 2272 TFWS

*Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon "No Plucking" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *Nearer My God, to Thee* 528 UMH

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Come, Labor On*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Be Strong in the Lord* Insert

*Benediction

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—7th Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

OUR PRAYERS INCLUDE Ted Liles, Rafael del Cid & family, Joe Noto & family, David Johnson, Carolyn Johnson & family, Irene Wagner, Buster Ridell, Jamie & Lanier May, Jim Rickards, and Jay McKinney. Wish to add or to restore a name to this printed list? Use the offering plate or contact the main office to say so.

GIVING GROWS both you and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
July 1 – 16	3,386	13,063

Thus far in 2014, the broader community—folks whom you may not see here on Sunday morning—have, by way of \$13,000, said thanks to Boulevard UMC. To our annex and main building space-users: Thank-you.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

STOCK OUR SCHOOLS. Now through the first week of August, we are receiving financial donations. Gifts designated for mission or marked "school supplies" will help two local primary schools equip our children. According to one recent study, supplies alone, not counting clothing or gadgets, are costing parents \$95.00. We have collected enough to fully equip four children. How about four more?



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

29 **YOU WOULD UPROOT THE WHEAT** Matthew 13

I've done it. So eager to get cut out the ugly and provoke the fresh, I went too far. In the end there was nothing or next to nothing. All that remained was something far from nature's design.

Case and point: Hydrangea. They've been trying to tell me. *My new growth comes a few inches below your cut. Leave my brown stuff be, at least some of it! And watch for where the green appears. You can't always tell which parts of me I am better without.*

There are hydrangeas at 812 Old Mill Rd. Fortunately I have maimed none. Dad mentioned he was able to get out there and not only water the terrace but do a little weeding as well. It was cooler.

I started to ask if that—the weeding—was better left to the crew. [My parents foresaw life, post-transplant, and hired a handful of folks to tend the yard.] At the very same time, I thought of the tares. Evidently, he anticipated the question and seized the moment wherein I was off with Jesus in Galilee: "I wanted to do it myself."

Maybe that parable had already got ahold of him. He could have learned the other way—the way in which our God seems equally invested: Though caring for creation; which is to say, experience. In any case:

A wise farmer once taught me that all weeds were not the same. A cockle burr had shallow but widespread roots and *had* to be pulled. If you hacked it off at the ground level it would be back in a week. A milkweed *could not* be pulled. Three separate sprouts would be back in a week...

Those are Todd Weir's words and not my father's. From them, we might each take away our own insight. Still, Jesus holds out the caveat for all of us. It's a word of caution. *Don't pluck. If you must, do so humbly. Things are not always as they seem.* Last week it was sowing. The sower scattered here, there and everywhere. This week it's weeding. Again the farmer operates with alternative logic and amazing grace.

We are asking for that grace and for it to make us generous...and wise. If it's a matter of acknowledging that with time we can grow and so too can that which we look upon—if it involves ground that is on its way to being holy, if we would but let it—if it's about the possibility of life and love abundant on mixed and trouble-ridden terrain—*yes!* Friends, say yes. And say it with abandon.