

# NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Helen Taylor, the family of Jack Little, Jim Kay, Bert Hobson, Alex and Melva Slonin, Jamie and Lanier May. Here, per your request, we publish a prayer list. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. Next Sunday,

Fourth Sunday in Lent:

Numbers 21:4-9  
 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22  
 Ephesians 2:1-10  
 John 3:14-21

## A LENTEN CALENDAR:

March 8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Chapel worship continues Easter flower forms available in bulletin	
March 15	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent		liturgist needed
March 22	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Flower orders due	
March 25	"Experiencing the Holy" Wednesday Worship	Reveille UMC Rachel preaching	6:45 – 7:30 pm
March 29	Liturgy of the Palms Liturgy of the Passion		liturgists needed (several)
April 2	Maundy Thursday	Boulevard UMC	7:30 pm
April 5	Easter Morning	Hollywood Cemetery Sunrise Service  Sanctuary Worship	6:30 am

On the front: Rendering of the Second Temple (unknown artist).

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



"What might it mean to look with fresh eyes at our sacred institutions -- especially our churches -- and to be a part of 'cleansing them' so that others might more fully encounter God?"

Janet Hunt

## March 8, 2015

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

Order of Worship for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

11:00 AM

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

\* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Call to Worship

Night and day, all creation declares your glory, holy God.

**Yet you call us into covenant  
and reveal your will for our lives.**

Your perfect instruction renews life;  
your commands can be trusted.

**In humility may we serve you, O Lord,  
our rock and our redeemer.** (Psalm 19)

*I Go to the Rock*

Prayer of Approach

**Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us  
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature,  
of life and death and rebirth.**

**Forgive us for taking without giving  
reaping without sowing.**

**Open our eyes to see  
our lips to praise  
our hands to share.**

**May our feet touch lightly on the path we tread,  
and our footsteps be worthy of following,  
for they lead to you.**

\*Hymn *This Is God's Wondrous World*

Insert

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson

Exodus 20:1-17

Epistle Lesson I Corinthians 1:18-25

\*Hymn *The Old Rugged Cross (1-2)* UMH 504

\*Gospel Lesson John 2:13-22

Sermon "How About Now?" Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *O God of Earth and Altar*

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

Sending Forth

\*Hymn *O Church, Be Faithful* Insert

\*Benediction

WITNESS

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

**{Together}**

WE MAKE ROOM. We host. We belong to a God whose nature it is to connect and to share. Thank-you, William & Mary, for giving us the opportunity to again exercise this part of our identity! Ten students will arrive on Sunday and be our overnight guests for a week.

GIVING GROWS both you and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
February 2015	19,550	8,375

# OUTREACH

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

{Outward}

FILL THE BIN! We are collecting new and gently used purses, jewelry, and women's accessories for the 2nd annual Another Woman's Treasure. This event will be held on March 7 & 8 at Bon Air United Methodist Church. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Change the World RVA. Look for collection container just outside of our main office door.

MARCH IS FOR FOOD. Where it comes from, for whom which sorts are accessible, stopping hunger, how and why people of faith consider these things—it's all on the table. Over the next three weeks, cash or checks made out to Boulevard UMC and **memo-lined "mission"** will benefit a local foodbank and Shalom Farms. Consider making note of one or more of the following opportunities to further engage March's mission focus:

- Volunteer one Wednesday morning at Sherbourne UMC food pantry.
- Watch part one of "Living in a Food Desert" documentary at 7 p.m. Saturday March 14 on WWBT NBC 12.
- Complete an online application to volunteer at FeedMore.
- Register for Origins Farm's community supported agriculture program and thereby befriend Byrd House or St. Stephen's Farmers Market.
- Stop by Little House Green Grocery on Bellevue Ave. Spend *there* what you save at your regular store(s) through sales and saying no to impulse.
- Mark you calendars for Richmond Restaurant Week, April 20-26, to benefit Central VA Food Bank and Meals on Wheels.
- Go bowling  with Boulevardians, details forthcoming.



## Crossing Boulevard

*with Rev. Rachel*

<sup>19</sup> **THIS TEMPLE** John 2

There is a difference between leveling a house and gutting it. Cleaning out a cupboard: Is this synonymous with me saying that food has no value? When you plug in the purifier, do you intend to replace air altogether with something better?

I doubt it.

So doubt the narrative that pits the temple against the church. Doubt the story that says "the Jews" are to blame. Doubt that this mention of tearing down the temple in three days means something apart from the question to which Jesus is responding (v.18). Doubt that the temple is the only house of the Lord that God enters and spots a tragic gap between what is supposed to be and what is.

Trust that Jesus cleansed it; and that what Jesus cleansed, he counted worthy of cleansing.

Trust that Jesus knows what he's talking about when he says that we are blind—and blind to our blindness; lest we get to thinking that we have accurately self-diagnosed (Jn 9, Matt 13). Trust that the way to receiving God's gifts necessitates continual recovery of sight, which is the work of the Spirit and by grace.

Show up to the texts such that you can be the one to point out that Jesus and his disciples are temple participants (Jn 2,4,5,7,8,10,18). Really listen for the Word when passages are read so that you might be led into the deeper dimensions. Remember that God has been trying to dwell in our midst for eons, and that the tendency to en-structure God and improperly use sacred space is in no way unique to 1<sup>st</sup> century Jerusalem.

Doubt. Trust. Show up. Really listen. Remember. Because beyond 'this temple' there are all sorts of things that have happened, or are happening, that cannot be boiled down to a quick and certain synopsis. Attempts to do so reinforce spiritual blindness.

When others take their jabs at that which we hold dear, we long for them to see the nuances; how, *it's just not that simple*. So let us not expect what we withhold. Maybe John 2 is as good a place to start as any when it comes to more carefully reading. And maybe Lent is when Jesus knocks, wanting to overturn a few more tables (v.15). If so, let him in. For we too must be worthy~

# Easter Flowers

## John 2:13-22

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

## Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

A two-fold invitation:

- (1) To provide flowers for Boulevard's sanctuary on Easter morning and
- (2) To support our worship fund.

Prices below are therefore slightly higher than cost.

*If making more than one contribution, use another form (over).*

Your Name:

Attached is payment for—or, expect payment from me between now and March 23 for:



- Potted Lily at \$14.00 each
- Potted Hydrangea at \$20.00 each
  
- The Worship Fund (no flowers) \$15.00

**REMEMBERING:**

**CELEBRATING:**



- I wish to dedicate these anonymously.
- I wish for them to be dedicated by:

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If you wish to support our worship services, but do not want to receive actual flowers, your gift to Boulevard UMC will be acknowledged in the bulletin accordingly. If you wish for another to receive the flowers that you purchase, please make those arrangements independently. Thank-you!