

## OUTREACH

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

**{Outward}**

THE FRUITS OF MARCH are two checks to local organizations addressing hunger and food system issues, totaling \$1,000. One is FeedMore-bound. Another is headed to Shalom Farms (United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond). Both are signed: Love, Boulevard UMC.

WHAT'S NEXT? Our Annual Conference offering; a part of which is Kits for Conference. Relief-supply kits help provide care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis and are distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Rachel is (a) on vacation and therefore not spearheading anything (b) asking you search your spirit to see if there is a leader in there for this important and fulfilling project.

## WITNESS

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

**{Together}**

A LOOK AT OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers. Here we are in the first quarter.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts	Savings Used
January 1 – March 31	50,452	45,731	17,100

What's with the 17,100 figure? For several years now, funds have been regularly transferred from a savings account to our general fund to maintain operations. Because we must move away from relying on funds that were given by the saints of a bygone era, your increased generosity is no small matter. Thank-you!

On the Front: Easter story stones, Ernie Treu.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## Boulevard United Methodist Church



"On the eighth day after Easter, the world looks to you and me to take the first steps to turn the passion of Christ into compassionate change."

L. Hickman

April 12, 2015

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

# Order of Worship for the Second Sunday in Easter

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Introit *I Believe*

\*Call to Worship

L: How good it is when kindred live together in unity,

**P: Like an anointing with precious oil.**

L: Like the dew of Hermon,

**P: Which falls on the mountains of Zion.**

L: For there the Lord ordained the blessing

**P: The blessing of life forevermore!** (Psalm 133)

\*Hymn *Thine Be The Glory* 308 UMH

Words of Welcome

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Invocation

We come before you, O God, in this Easter season hoping to know your will. As the disciples before us, in the aftermath of all you have done, we are gathered together. We long for your Spirit and to know your presence. We ache for your guidance and direction. We come seeking your love and for you to know our love and devotion. Breathe upon us anew and fill us. Anoint us with the blessings of your presence as you receive our praise and prayers. For we offer them in the name of our risen savior. **Amen.**

Interlude

## Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading Acts 4:32-35

Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31

Sermon Rev. Alexa Slonin

\*Hymn *Up From The Grave* 322 UMH

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Behold How Pleasant*

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

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

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn *He Lives* 310 UMH

\*Blessing

\*Choral Benediction *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*

Remain standing in a receptive posture until the singing ends. Go out with joy!

## NURTURE

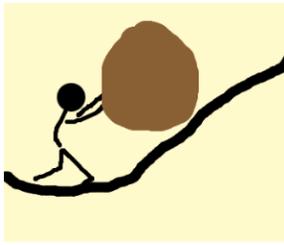
*caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples*

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for Brent Monroe and family, JJ and Lindsay, Dize, the family of Jack Little, Jim Kay, Alex and Melva Slonin, Jamie and Lanier May. Here, per your request, we publish a 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: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, I John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48.

COMMUNION DELIVERY is a real and delightful thing! If you know someone who wishes to receive the sacrament but cannot be with us in worship, please encourage him or her or a primary care-provider to contact our church office.



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

4 **AND IT WAS A VERY LARGE STONE** Mark 16

Easter is a season. Last Sunday ushered in a fifty days for something or other.

So what'll it be?

I feel the resistance before I can complete question.

I'm not saying it's coming from you. I'm saying it's an uphill move.

I have a theory. We like it when life conquers death and we can stand on the periphery and clap. We are less enthused about the new life, that, if it is to be, asks us to obey, work, lead, flounder, try again, laugh, adjust, follow, meet, cry, persist, problem-solve, create, re-create, pray, ache, apologize, cultivate...

This 'theory' isn't a thinly veiled accusation of laziness. It's born of experience—of what I know about my own condition.

Sometimes we need somebody to help with the rolling; or someone to simply notice that there is a stone before us (a very large one). Other times we need good company; or that voice, that gesture that reminds us why we were pushing and why we became tomb-openers in the first place.

So, go to work this week and take the time to help another man push. Tell your co-laborer in whichever vineyard you land that you see the weight she carries and that she carries it with pizzazz. To the person who invites you over or out, say yes. And be present to them.

Maybe by saying nothing or maybe by saying something, be the one who conveys: *I see you. I see the offering you are making to your God and this world, and it is beautiful.*

In short: Be raised with your Lord. Shake the grave clothes. If the struggle still feels like a struggle, don't beat yourself up. Just shout "Risen Indeed!" Quit caring who looks at you funny. Expect the breakthrough.

At which point all God's people say (at least in my imagination): *On it.*