

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

STOCK OUR SCHOOLS. We are receiving financial donations from now through the first week of August. Gifts designated for mission or marked "school supplies" will help two local primary schools equip our children. Instead of presuming we know the needs, Boulevard asks; and then delivers. Drop-off is scheduled for mid-August.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



"Some prefer to think of it as a kind of supernatural miracle. Others insist it would be as much of a miracle if, following a child's example, everyone simply put on the table what they had brought. In a world where we are all too quick to hold tight to what is 'ours' and awfully slow to share, the latter would seem to be as miraculous an event as any."

Janet Hunt

July 26, 2015

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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Order of Worship for 9th Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *He's Got the Whole World*

Greeting

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Fill My Cup Lord* 641 UMH

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading 2 Samuel 11: 1-15

Gospel Lesson John 6:1-21

Anthem *Sing a Song*

Epistle Lesson Ephesians 3:14-21

Sermon Rachel May
Michelle Hettmann

*Hymn *O Come and Dwell in Me* 388 UMH

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Let Us Tongues and Talents Employ*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer

God of all mercies:

To us you extend forgiveness and help again and again.

Spare us from supposing either

that your mercy is automatic,
or that we must earn or deserve it.
**Confront us with the mystery of your grace,
which is beyond all human comprehension.
Cause us to be merciful in your name,
that those we see us
may see beyond us
and find you there.
Through Christ, your mercy made flesh. Amen.**

This Day, A Wesleyan Way of Prayer, Day 20

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Your Love, O God* 120 UMH
Tune: FINLANDIA

*Blessing

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Rob & Allison Smithson, Jane & Billy Rice, Doug Johnson's family, Terry & Ken Thompson, the Ridells, Emanuel AME Church, Colburn Dize, Anne Wilkinson, Bobbee Jo O'Hara, Robbi and Scott Hudgens, Betty Kane, 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. If you'd like to prepare:

Next Sunday—10th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalms 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹ **BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD** Eph. 3

Having said that it would be presumptuous of me to write a Crossing Boulevard in two parts; and having gone for it, in spite of that admission...onward with [biblically informed immigration policy part 2](#):

Among the pieces of the puzzle listed last week: Christ's Church. We cannot approach the intersection of Scripture and immigration without asking what it means that we belong to the body birthed by Jesus' living, dying, and rising.

Holding on to that that image of Matryoshka nesting dolls, I imagine the figurine representative of us as Christ's Church, as the smallest. Being the smallest means residing at the heart of things. It also means enclosure by many other layers.

What might a biblically informed immigration policy look like? I don't know. Really. I don't know. You see, people who pledge allegiance to the constitution and to their constituents *make policy*. These are our civil servants. People who follow Jesus; whom, they did not elect and who, it turns out, is about a kingdom that transcends man and woman-made boundaries, don't make policy. *We make disciples*.

I'm not saying that civil servants are never disciples. Nor am I suggesting that one cannot bring God to bear on the conversation. Surely our Christianity shapes us to exercise truth, hospitality, and humility. We can make use of FactCheck.org. We can gather around the Table, where legality is a non-issue. We can help each other remember that as Gentiles—those grafted in to the faith family tree—we were once the undocumented. [This is where Paul's letter to Ephesus comes in, by the way.]

I am an American and a Christian. As nice as it would be to imagine that these are one and the same, well, Christ is the head of the Church. He never said a mumblin' word about being the head of a nation-state.

That I am a disciple first, and that the Church has to find a way to be itself, come what may, is as much of a biblically informed immigration policy stance as I've got. Do I understand that that my country has tough decisions to make about who comes and goes and how? Yes. Was I ordained to build up the body that strives to speak of immigration as they do other things; namely, from a God's-eye-view? Another yes.

Friends, as Christ's Church are to be full of...God (v19). Let us not lose sight of this, no matter the talk of the town.