

Boulevard United Methodist Church



If people in our communities were asked about our congregations, would "a place of forgiveness" be part of their answer?

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September 27, 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).

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Jane Frisa, Charlene Suter, incarcerated residents of metropolitan Richmond. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

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

Next Sunday—World Communion Sunday

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

GIVING GROWS you and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
Sept. 1 – 19	8,171	5,690

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}



COAT DRIVE

CALLING ALL COATS: It's a September thing, this year. For men and women, all sizes, bring coats on a hanger and we'll get them where they are needed before the temperatures drop. Look for the rack outside the main office or for the one in our narthex.

WITNESS

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

{Together}

OUR CALENDARS bear witness to something. To what or to whom is up to us! Looking ahead liturgically (with a bit of the civil calendar mixed in):

September 28 – October 1	Rachel vacation days
October 4	World Communion Sunday Rev. Melody Porter preaching Francis of Assisi Feast Day
October 5 – October 31	Season of Saints Charge Conference (10 th) Rev. Meredith McNabb preaching (11 th) Laity Sunday (18 th) Blessing of the Animals (24 th at 10:00 am) Halloween (Saturday the 31 st)
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Extended Advent begins
November 22	Christ the King Sunday
November 26	Thanksgiving
November 29	Year C of the lectionary cycle begins Happy Christian New Year!
December 24 (Thursday)	Christmas Eve
December 25 (Friday)	Christmas Day
December 31 (Thursday)	New Year's Eve

Order of Worship for 18th Sunday After Pentecost
11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

Where Could I Go

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

UMH 62

*Prayer of Approach ✝

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Saranam, Saranam UMH 523

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Epistle Lesson

James 5:13-20

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-50

Sermon

“Salt Sourcing”

Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians

TFWS 2223

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Go Make a Difference

*Doxology (97 UMH →)

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Go Now in Peace

UMH 665

*Benediction

✝ Lord, we confess to you,

**we have failed to avoid doing harm to others and your creation...
we have failed to do all the good we could as stewards of your love...
we have failed to make use of all the means of grace you offer us...**

We have confessed. God is faithful to forgive.

Assure those around you:

You are loved. You are forgiven.

And offer one another signs of reconciliation and peace.

JAMES 5:13-20 James calls for individual and corporate acts of prayer for healing and the confession and forgiveness of sin and commends those who seek to restore persons wandering from the faith.

MARK 9:38-50 Disciples of Jesus will learn to avoid placing stumbling blocks before others. Instead, they will remove all forms of stumbling from their own lives, even if at high cost to themselves.

For the fruits of this creation,
thanks be to God;
for good gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

IT'S ALL ABOUT ME

Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

YOUR HAND...YOUR FOOT...YOUR EYE Mark 9

Jesus is fixing to tell the disciples that it isn't about them (Mark 10). First, he clears his throat. *There will be times when actually, it is about you.*

The disciples' behavior can be likened to getting in the way (v.42). They aren't in the way because they set out to be or want to be stumbling blocks for others. But because of stuff that's out of whack within and among them, they very much are.

Where the text says, "cut it off", we might read: Cut it out. *Deal with what is tripping you up such that you can stop tripping others.*

Of course, it's easy to take this as license to ponder the faces of those whom we wish would deal with their hand/foot/eye...but that lands us deep in the very hole that Jesus is trying to pull us out of—the hole that sounds like "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons your your name, and we tried to stop him...(v.38)."

Sometimes it is about us.

If it is kingdom entry we're after, Jesus encourages us to take a good hard look at ourselves; and then, perhaps, at others. [Matthew more than Mark emphasizes this.]

I should say, 'if' lacks the passion Jesus carries for the kingdom. Kingdom entry is, for him, everything. No project is more important than bringing heaven to earth. Helping us to step into the stream of eternal life now is worth his all, suggests the cross.

'If' more appropriately applies to God's tactics. If hyperbole is what it takes to get us to address what holds us back, then hyperbole we will get.

While I'm not much on a God who wills self-amputation, I sure would like to be more for a God who goes to the ends of the earth that we might ditch what is detrimental. That, fellow pilgrims, is what being salted with fire along this way is all about (v.49): Becoming more of who we are for the One *whose* we are.

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."