

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

OUR MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS is United Methodist Family Services. We help them put hope into the holidays for children and families in Virginia. There is more than one way to contribute. Making a check out to Boulevard UMC and designating it UMFS is one avenue. Walkers, joggers, and runners: Consider taking on the December 5th Nutzy Rotary Funn Run. UMFS is a beneficiary.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



In the presence of such grandeur revered and fought over by three great religions of the world, why is Jesus so unimpressed? For clue number one let's start with who built it—Herod.

Todd Weir



The flowers are given with gratitude to God for Benjamin Lewis May,
by his enduring fan club.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

November 15, 2015

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

Order of Worship
11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Call to Worship

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free!

Greeting

*Hymn *Let All Creation Bless the Lord* Insert

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

First Reading I Samuel 1:4-20

*Hymn *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* vv.1, 4-5 198 UMH

ON GIFTS Sherry & Matt Hannay

Time with Children

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:1-8

Sermon "Why Lord?" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* vv.1-2 584 UMH

TUNE: Hyferdol

ON SERVICE Lauren & Aaron Bell

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* v. 5 584 UMH

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

BIBLE STUDY begins again on Tuesday evening, November 24. This is **once a week for seven weeks** opportunity to travel through Advent and Christmas together. The setting is a living room. If you believe you can make five of the seven sessions, consider yourself qualified! Questions? Speak with Rachel.



WE ARE PRAYING for Jamie and Lanier May, June Robinson, Joe Morgan and family, Jane Frisa and 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.

O ADONAI is second in the O Antiphons wherein each "O" is a title for the Messiah based on Isaiah's prophecy. These are a way to tap into the fullness of what Christians have longed for in this season of the church (liturgical) year.

Advent 1	<i>O Sapientia</i>	Wisdom	November 8
Advent 2	<i>O Adonai</i>	Lord	November 15
Advent 3	<i>O Rex Gentium</i>	Ruler of nations	November 22
Advent 4	<i>O Radix Jesse</i>	Root of Jesse	November 29
Advent 5	<i>O Clavis David</i>	Key of David	December 6
Advent 6	<i>O Oriens</i>	Light from the east	December 13
Advent 7	<i>O Emmanuel</i>	God with us	December 20

God who comes as Wisdom—that was last week. Today we will look at God as Adonai. Adonai is Hebrew for "my Lord" and a title of reverence.

prayers

presence

gifts

service

witness

Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

² **ALL WILL BE DEMOLISHED** Mark 13

Mark 13:1–8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

Either they’re showing their hillbilly colors or they’re coming to terms with the fact that they haven’t got a chance. The disciples are wowed by urban architecture. Or, they are feeling, acutely, Rome’s military might.

When they say, “Look, Teacher, what large stones,” the stones really are noteworthy. Herod didn’t build the thing out of Legos. If it was the southwest corner to which their eyes were fixed, stones measured 40 x 8 x 4 feet. Take a moment to imagine. Not where you want to be during an earthquake, right?

From “not one stone will be left here (v.2)” to “things are about to be accomplished (v.4)”: This is the leap Peter, James, John, and Andrew make. Jesus says that the stones will be thrown down (or demolished, as another translation renders the Greek). They take this to mean that cataclysmic destruction would be an outcome of *their* movement—the Jesus movement.

It is, after all, a sight some folks longed to see. As one group looked to Jesus to emerge as the Messiah, others, beyond his household of faith, wondered if he could be the one to really sock it to Rome. [As is often the case, the occupiers held a higher opinion of their presence than did the occupied.]

In a tragic twist of events, those large stones came down on the people who loved it most. A Roman soldier threw a burning stick and though destroying the Temple was not strategic on the part of Titus, the fire spread quickly, irreversibly. It was August of year 70. The Jews were temple-less again.

For people like Peter, James, John, and Andrew, this region was the world. For the generation that followed, some of whom comprised Mark’s community, the stones falling felt like the end of the world. Remember that much when you read this gospel. Ask: *How does one report the good news to people who have seen that Jesus predicted the demolition and yet did not return to rebuild?*

Maybe you, Mark, tell them that God in Jesus is rebuilding... a temple made of people...whose prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness birth what *will be*, after the pangs pass (v.8). And by grace you and yours rise to the occasion.

WITNESS

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

{Together}

GIVING BEARS WITNESS to a caring and sharing God; so too does offering your time (via SignUp Genius or by calling our office).

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
November 1 - 7	4,157	1,491

MINISTERING THROUGH MUSIC is exactly that: Ministering. Soon, there will be the option to participate in a short-term stint, requiring only that you show up a bit early for several Sundays in a row to rehearse. There is also an ongoing opportunity to offer special music any Sunday of the year, on a one-time-only basis, without having to officially join the choir. If you play an instrument or have a song you'd like to sing, contact Joshua Kennedy directly following our service or email him drphlog@gmail.com.

LAITY SUNDAY is a tradition that we are celebrating in two parts this year. In October, those present for worship heard from Kylee Ponder and Mark Suter on prayer and presence. This morning's reflections, like the preceding ones, correlate with our baptismal vows. Through baptism, prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness are promised to the household of faith. What does that look like? When in our lives have we struggled to offer these things and when have we experienced grace and growth? These two Sundays offer a time to reflect on the Christian life and to express gratitude for the discipleship among us.



ADDING TO THE LIGHT



Your Name:

Attached is \$12.00 for one candle.

Or, \$ _____ for this many candles: _____.

A person whose light you are honoring:

We are within reach of lighting 40 windows! Due: November 16.