

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS. We'll consider our differently abled neighbors who live as independently as possible in Heart Havens homes across Virginia. Sarah Wilkinson will lead us in spirit, even as she travels around the Conference in support of this year's theme: A Place at the Table.

Heart Havens, with help from congregations like Boulevard, empowers adults with intellectual disabilities to find their places at tables both at church and in the community. We will be collecting financial gifts and supplies (paper products, cleaning supplies, art supplies). Look for the blue bin.



WITNESS

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

{Together}

AN ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE might be thought of as an inward thing and therefore as belonging under the Nurture heading. The imposition of ashes makes it equally a ministry of Witness. Let your forehead speak: Wednesday, February 10, 12:30 – 12:45, in our chapel.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



So, how did he manage to walk through the “*midst of them*” and “*go on his way*”? Some mobs, some crowds, some passionate, vindictively righteous assemblies, can get so enraged, so angry, so violent, so hypnotized by their fulminations that truth, light, and Universal Love, are able to depart from amongst them so swiftly they don't even notice!

- Peter Woods

January 31, 2016

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal
(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *Nobody Knows*

Greeting

Psalter Psalm 71:1-6

*Hymn *God of Love and God of Power 1-2, 4* UMH 578

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson Jeremiah 1:4-10

Epistle Lesson I Corinthians 13:1-13

*Hymn *The Gift of Love* UMH 408

*Gospel Lesson Luke 4:21-20

Sermon "Our Way" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Affirmation of Faith

*Hymn *We Are Called* TFWS 2172

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Many are the Lightbeams*

*Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Shalom to You* UMH 666

*Dismissal with Blessing

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Heart Havens residents and staff, Maria, persons suffering because of addiction, the working poor, 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.

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

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:2-36

GIVING GROWS YOU and us.

| | Ministry Costs | Your Gifts |
|---------------|----------------|------------|
| January 1- 23 | \$15,157 | \$6,045 |

WANTED: GREETERS and readers and flower sponsors. Say yes to one or more of these opportunities online or by visiting the paper calendar positioned outside the restrooms (through the right-side sanctuary door visible from the pews).



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

⁵ I CONSECRATED YOU Jeremiah 1

Protestants by and large give confession a bum rap, disparaging it as if it were some kind of yucky Catholic thing. Add to that our American can-do spirit and that southern sense of what is not to be spoken of...Stir in a general aversion to vulnerability and well, it's a small parting of the Red Sea merely to experience a genuinely embraced *prayer of confession*.

Perhaps I have underestimated the degree to which we are all a little haunted by the possibility of others using what we share about ourselves against us.

People do delight in exposing what they perceive to be the flaws of others: Old news. What may be new is the size and scope of the stage. Thanks to networking and broadcasting inventions, an audience is virtually guaranteed. In other words, if what you want to do is use people's words against them, this is the era for you.

Part of what I treasure about the church, is our call to live counter-culturally. Living counter-culturally is not the same thing as being against everything going on around us. There are other words for that. Living counter-culturally in the Judeo-Christian context is about living as consecrated individuals and as a consecrated community.

This week has involved a good bit of chewing on this word consecration. Jeremiah tells us that God consecrates (v.5). From Tuesday's prayer time: "Consecration is the act of continually separating myself from everything except that which God has appointed me to do. It is not a one-time experience (O. Chambers)."

Hmmm. What if confession contributes to that ongoing process of consecration? What if confession helps us let go of what God has not appointed us to do in order to grab a hold of what IS our proper service? So, someone can use what I offer about myself against me. (1) That played out on the cross. (2) It failed miserably 😊

The season before us offers to consecrate us to the way of the cross. If there is something besides "yuck" to be said for naming what we have done and left undone, maybe Lent can show us.

We will have each other to practice...detaching confession from guilt tripping...the counter-cultural art of refusing to fashion weapons out of words...Let's!

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant