

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS, for Heart Havens homes across Virginia.



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 are collecting financial gifts and supplies (paper products, cleaning supplies, art supplies). Look for the blue bin.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Love has sacred power, not because it makes us high, allowing us to rise above ordinary life on clouds of blissful glory, but because it helps us relax the struggle between self and other that is at the root of human suffering... The profound question love poses is, 'Can you face your life as it is; can you look at all the pain and darkness as well as the power and light in the human soul, and still say yes?'

- John Welwood

February 14, 2016

On the front; Jesus Tempted, by Chris Cook.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

An Order of Worship for Lent I

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Call to Prayer and Praise

O God, in you there is shelter and comfort.

Lead us in your truth. Teach us your ways.

*Hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past (1-2)*

UMH 117

Greeting

Prayer

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature,
of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for expecting more from others than we give to them,
and for wanting transformation without sacrifice.

Open our eyes to see

our lips to praise

our hearts to hold

the gift of this season, this day, this hour.

*Hymn *It is Well With My Soul*

UMH 377

*The Peace

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Gospel Lesson Luke 4:1-13

Anthem *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Sermon "Almost True" Rev. Rachel G. May

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *For Forty Days and Forty Nights*

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Lord, Who Throughout*

UMH 269

*Benediction

*Postlude

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Casey Bowman Mile, 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, Lent 2:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

GIVING GROWS YOU and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
January 2016	\$7,008	\$1,707



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

! PRACTICING YOUR PIETY Matt 6

The non-negotiables cartwheeled off the page this Wednesday: Almsgiving, praying, fasting. I preached a one-sentence sermon. I know. You are sorry you missed it. Can I do that again? “It is not a matter of if you give alms, pray, and fast; it is when...”

Any one of us can tune in to this wisdom anytime, provided access to Matthew’s gospel. Christians have traditionally spent quality time with these spiritual disciplines at the start of Lent.

I have not yet heard it all. But I have heard quite a bit. *I cannot fast because of my health. I am a giving person so does it really matter how intentional I am about what I give to whom? I pray for people. How I do it and how often is my business.*

My go-to way of excusing myself from life lived in increasing obedience to these commands—I could call them “requests” but I can’t seem to find much evidence that God sees almsgiving, praying, and fasting as extra-curricular activity—is to tell myself that I am doing all of that more than most people. How lame is that? Very.

A small victory in the realm of fasting keeps me from wallowing in lameness. Let me tell you about it and then I will try to shed some light on *why* I am telling you.

This reverend would rather die than go without breakfast. Translation: I have an idolatrous love for foods associated with the morning hours. Somewhere along the way I realized that I needed to acknowledge that maybe I do live on bread alone (Deut. 8:3; Matt 4:4) and so for five years running, Thursday means no breakfast.

Once a week, I am in touch with the fact that I am not nearly as good at resisting the urge to secure my own comfort and ease, as I may like to think. This funny thing I do helps me to keep it real about my own hang-ups. It helps me to see what I think God sees, which is how much of my being is tied up in stuff that fails to propel me in the way of doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God (Rueben Job).

Am I supposed to make a big ta-do about it (v.l)? No. Am I to commend spiritual disciplines? Yes. I was brought to the possibility of fasting only by way of another who described their experience and then said something that sounded an awful lot like Jesus: “Try it. See for yourself.” Indeed. You can’t always see it before you try it. So it is with the three pillars of Lent.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.