

## NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for Oscarlyn and Todd Elder, Delight Andrews, Mary Marshall, and Casey Bowman Miles. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: April 4. Join in prayer and lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor common room.

OUR NURSERY is not staffed. However, the door to "Noah's Ark" is an open one. This space is on the first floor. Please feel free to exit and return at any point during this morning's service. We welcome infants and young children in the sanctuary. With them, we are more complete.

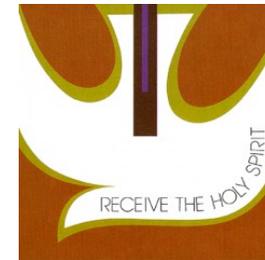
## OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

APRIL IS FOR SAFE HARBOR. Safe Harbor empowers survivors of sexual and domestic violence to transform their lives, and promotes healthy relationships for all. Greater Richmond residents look to this organization for the helpline, children/youth services, emergency shelter, hospital accompaniment, court advocacy, community education and training, and more. This monthly mission focus includes (but is not limited to) [a shelter wish-list](#). We are also receiving financial contributions by way of designated cash or checks made out to Boulevard UMC and memo-lined "Safe Harbor" or "monthly mission".

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



“There seems to be here, a symbolic representation of the life breath that God provided the first creation...God is enlivening a new creation, a new community...Breath – life – power. That is the gift that Jesus gives the disciples.”

- Bob Cornwall

April 3, 2016

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://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 the Second Sunday in Easter

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

\* Please stand, as able.

Sending Forth

\*Hymn

*Spirit of God 3-4*

UMH 613

\*Dismissal with Blessing

## Gathering

Opening Words

Introit

*Just a Little Talk With Jesus*

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn

*Easter People Raise Your Voices*

UMH 613

Prayer

Opposite

## Proclamation and Response

First Lesson

Acts 5:27-32

Time with Children

\*Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

\*Hymn

*Spirit of God 1-2*

TFWS 2217

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn

*Breathe On Me, Breath of God*

UMH 420

## Thanksgiving and Communion

Our service continues with a liturgy for celebrating the Lord's Supper. You are invited to offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament by intinction.

Offertory

*Praise Ye The Lord*

Prayer

We pray to God in Christ who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...  
Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life,  
give food to the hungry ...  
and nourish us all with your word.  
Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.  
Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us,**

accept our prayers, be with us now and always.  
**Amen.**

# WITNESS

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

## **{Together}**

Each annual conference in the United Methodist Church is holding a day of prayer for General Conference. The General Conference meets once every four years to determine the denomination's future direction, consider revisions to church law, and approve plans and budgets for church-wide programs. The 2016 meeting will take place May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon. Bishop Young Jin Cho selected **Sunday, April 10**, to be the day for the Virginia Conference vigil. A letter from our District Superintendent Pete Moon:

Dear Richmond District Pastors,

I would once again like to encourage each of you and your congregations to deliberately engage the Bishop's call to prayer on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

All of us are aware of the critical nature of our upcoming General Conference. As I travel around the District, I continue to encounter a mixture of fear, cynicism, and guarded hope around the upcoming gathering of our United Methodist Church. As I have prepared for the upcoming days, I have found the words of Psalm 46 particularly helpful. In these days of surging spiritual waters and quaking mountains, the reminder that God is our refuge and strength rises with a particularly appropriate and timely Easter message.

However, the conviction of this truth and the power that rises from it does not occur nominally. It occurs when we as the people of God pray. A long time ago I learned that cynicism is really just lazy grief and faith. Prayer is always the cure for spiritual sloth.

And so I invite us to heed the Bishop's call to prayer on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Each congregation on the District is invited to prayer as you would like. It seems particularly fitting, however, for each church to develop a 24-hour prayer vigil. At the very least, I am hopeful that every church on the District will devote time in worship for this key time in the life of our church.

Please take a look at some of the resources the Upper Room has provided. You can find them at this site: <http://60daysofprayer.org/prayer-vigils/>. In addition, you may want to take a look at a very old book that Abindgon has recently reprinted from Francis Asbury entitled, "The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions." I am reading through that now. Finally, please take a moment after reading this note to respond to me to let me know how you and your congregation will be joining this prayer vigil. I am looking forward to joining all of you in prayer on April 10<sup>th</sup>!

So, how will we, Boulevard, be joining this prayer vigil? Consider Rachel stumped and glad to receive your ideas. What does this have to do with witness (the heading above)? It is Christ-like to consider the body of which we are a part. We bear witness to God when we are experienced as those who pray their way through difficulty.