

# 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. This monthly mission focus includes [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".

Safe Harbor's staff is excited about their new, much needed office space. To make this space usable, they need help with painting and associated odd jobs. This is where our gifts of presence and service would be well received. Sunday, April 17th, at 1:00 pm: Contact Lauren Leggett [[lauren.leggett@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.leggett@gmail.com)] with questions or to share your intent to show up!

## Boulevard United Methodist Church



That response -- I shall not want -- immediately puts us at odds with our culture, in which we are conditioned to be consumers who always lack something... To live by Psalm 23 would mean ignoring the constant barrage of messages saying, "you are unhappy, you need more stuff."

- N, Koester

April 17, 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 Fourth Sunday in Easter

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

\* Please stand, as able.

### Gathering

Introit *Victory in Jesus*

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn *Come Christians Join to Sing* UMH 158

Prayers of the People  
Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

### Proclamation and Response

Psalter *Psalm 23* UMH 754

Time with Children

First Reading *Acts 9:36-43*

Gospel Reading *John 10:22-30*

Sermon "In a Rut?" Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* UMH 474

Offering Tithes and Gifts  
Offertory *The Lord's My Shepherd*  
\*Doxology (94 UMH)  
\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

### Sending Forth

\*Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd* UMH 138

\*Dismissal with Blessing

## NURTURE

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

### {Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for the families of Arthur C. Thurston, Sue Lockhart Larson and Audrey Clements, Mary and Keith Bedson and family, Oscarlyn and Todd Elder, Delight Andrews, and Casey Bowman Miles. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

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.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016	\$44,924	\$27,852

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. Next Sunday, Easter 5:

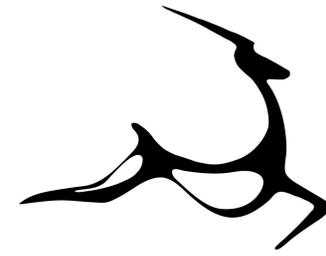
Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

## WITNESS

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

### {Together}

TELLING OUR STORIES or part of our story is an act of Christian witness. Describing how life unfolds as a mix of ordinary and extraordinary, hard times and holy moments: This can be a means of grace for others. Beth Nelson is a story gatherer among us for a season. Why not let her know that you would be willing to be interviewed? Similar to StoryCorps' mission, at Boulevard we hope to share stories in a one-on-one setting, build connections between people, cultivate compassion, uphold the value of listening, and appreciate the humanity we have in common.



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

<sup>36</sup> **IN GREEK HER NAME IS DORCAS** Acts 9

### Acts 9:36-43

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas). Her life overflowed with good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need.<sup>37</sup> About that time, though, she became so ill that she died. After they washed her body, they laid her in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two people to Peter. They urged, "Please come right away!" <sup>39</sup> Peter went with them. Upon his arrival, he was taken to the upstairs room. All the widows stood beside him, crying as they showed the tunics and other clothing Dorcas made when she was alive.

<sup>40</sup> Peter sent everyone out of the room, then knelt and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and raised her up. Then he called God's holy people, including the widows, and presented her alive to them. <sup>42</sup> The news spread throughout Joppa, and many put their faith in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Peter stayed for some time in Joppa with a certain tanner named Simon.

"Ben, make sure you play *Take My Hand Precious Lord* in the meeting tonight."

These were Dr. King's last words. He spoke them from the second floor balcony of Memphis' Lorraine Motel, just outside of Room 306.

It was his favorite. Mahalia Jackson made a ritual of singing it at the rallies.

Before it was a funeral staple, *Precious Lord Take My Hand* was a plea for the living years. What happened? At what point did we stop singing it for strength to follow Jesus on this side of the Jordan?

It was called "the way" in Tabitha's time. Peter takes her hand and restores her to the followership. She opens her eyes. She sees Peter. She sits up. She is presented alive to the believers and widows (vv.40-41). Robin Gallaher Branch says that the inspired author of Acts honors Tabitha by silencing her. Maybe. In any case, we hear only the outpouring of grief on the part of others in Joppa.

For those who went through middle school about the time that I did, there is an unfortunate ring to her Greek name. Maybe this association is a distracting one. You see, I never noticed how Luke gives her a double name and in so doing, communicates something significant (v.36).

Two names...two peoples whom she serves...Jewish and Hellenistic believers need her. Both the Aramaic and Greek mean gazelle. She was quick on her feet; at least, that is where my mind goes. Tabitha-Dorcas: Agile, nimble discipleship.

On Thursday morning, I listened as a colleague shared a difficult story that involved church folk being, well, the opposite of agile. This session of the Virginia Clergy Leadership Program focused on worship. Even so, I found myself thinking more broadly, about the past year or so of ministry here in Richmond.

I have seen agile discipleship, alright. I may have a whole herd of gazelles with which I've been called to travel. I knew there was a reason I've started calling this life a faith safari. Forget "journey"! We still have our hands, though. And Lord, if you're listening, by all means take 'em. Help us to sing for here and now.