

# OUTREACH

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

**{Outward}**

MAY IS FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE. What is that? It is an event, a place, and a people. Annual Conference convenes in June. It's also a geographical entity. [Our is the Virginia Annual Conference.] It is a body composed of clergy and laity that enable us to be who we are: Connected.

At each year's Annual Conference session, relief-supply kits are collected. A leader, a point person for the assembly of school or health kits, a description of which is available online at <http://www.umcor.org>; *That* would be game-changer.

It is also customary for each Conference to take up an offering for specific connectional ministries. Bishop Young Jin Cho hopes the 1,200 congregations in Virginia can collectively offer: \$50,000 for Virginia disaster relief (February 2016 tornadoes), \$25,000 for leadership development in Mozambique, \$25,000 for The Shade and Fresh Water Project in Brazil, and \$50,000 to fund the Methodist Mission of Cambodia. You can help Boulevard do its part through cash or checks made out to BUMC, memo-lined "Annual Conference Offering".

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



Throughout the evening, Jesus speaks again and again on three themes:

1. He is leaving.
2. His followers are staying.
3. The Holy Spirit will be with them so that they may continue his work.

Again and again, the disciples get stuck on point number one.

- M.H. Shore

## May 15, 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 PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Introit

*It's Beginning to Rain*

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

UMH 57

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Jennifer Johnson

## Proclamation and Response

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:14-17

Time with Children

New Member Reception

The Baptismal Covenant

*The choir will offer a sung blessing to complete our sharing in The Baptismal Covenant.  
Meanwhile, please exchange God's peace with all persons present.*

Scripture Lessons

Acts 2:1-21  
John 14:8-17, [25-27]

Sermon

"It Gets Better"

Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

Insert

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Living Spirit Holy Fire*

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

\*Prayer for Renewal (574 UMH)

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn

*Now Praise the Hidden God of Love*

TFWS 2027

\*Dismissal with Blessing

## NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

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

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS allows you to help Boulevard in a roundabout way. If you shop at Kroger and use a Plus Card, consider the rest a piece of cake. All you need to do is to attach Boulevard's organizational number to your account. That number is 91758, Enroll online or ask a Kroger customer service representative for assistance.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
April 2016	\$14,310	\$10,609

FOLLOWING WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, May 15, you are invited to receive and respond to a plan for Boulevard's future. This hour is a continuance of the March 13 vision-sharing session.

Congregational leaders will share a proposal that involves selling a portion of the property we own (or hold in trust for the greater United Methodist connection, to be precise). Members and regular worship attendees will have the opportunity to support a resolution to proceed along the way of selling some property and redeveloping another parcel.

Consider staying not only to "be in the know" but also in acknowledgement of the 500 + hours invested thus far in this process. Envisioning a way forward with God and one another takes time and heart!



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

### **4 TO SPEAK IN OTHER LANGUAGES** Acts 2

Saul must've celebrated Shavuot elsewhere, around another table, because that's just what you did. It was the fiftieth day after Passover. You made the trip to Jerusalem. You ate. You thanked God for the grain by giving the first of the harvest away.

[Friends, please don't drink the "tithing isn't biblical" Kool-Aid. I'm not saying your first fruits have to land in Boulevard's plate, but they ought to be returned to the Source. Had people not been practicing what it means to give God what's best and not what's left, there would be no Pentecost story. The apostles were celebrating this festival when the Holy Spirit descended on them.]

Back to Saul and to Saul not being present for what happened that hot summer morning: It wouldn't be long. The Holy Spirit would find *him*. This respectable scholar, teacher, leader, citizen...would be doing his fair share of talking funny.

You see, when the Spirit shows up (and we're not shut up tight) there is this other language we acquire. It is the language of our calling. We say things that come to us in our conversations with God (prayer). We speak of the particular thing God is laboring to do through us.

Paul's sense of his God-given errand was bound to meet criticism. The jeering at this Peter-attended Shavuot (v.13) was modest compared to what Paul would face. People thought Saul-now-Paul should be championing other causes. *Why are you worried about the Gentiles? We could be...*

Of course, those voices came then, as they do now, from persons out of touch with their own errand. For when you focus attention on God; and out of that relationship sprouts a particular something; you're *relying* on God to sprout a something in others so that you can stop trying to run a hundred errands that aren't yours.

Church, not everyone wants your response to grace in a given season of life. Folk can't help themselves. They mistake advising for following. But Paul did the thing. By the same Spirit he befriended, follow suit. Strain to see the thing. Name the thing. Be its vessel!

Some souls *will* see us on our errand and "get it", just as surely as some "got it" back then. Go ahead with your beloved selves. Talk funny. Walk funny. What the Spirit enables (v.4), God is using for nothing less than the redemption of the world.

### Romans 8:14-17 (NRSV)

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

### John 14:8-17 (CEB)

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don't speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

<sup>25</sup> "I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. <sup>26</sup> The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you.

<sup>27</sup> "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid.

Acts 2:1-8; 12-15 (MSG)

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them.<sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

<sup>5</sup> There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.<sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages.<sup>7</sup> They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them?”<sup>8</sup> How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language?

<sup>12</sup> They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?”<sup>13</sup> Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

<sup>14</sup> Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!<sup>15</sup> These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning!



Flowers are given to glorify God  
and for the love of Boulevard United Methodist Church,  
by Dale Monroe.