

# OUTREACH

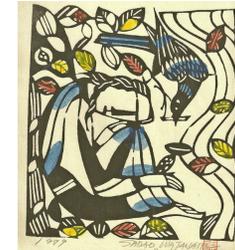
*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

AN UPDATE ON LOCAL POVERTY RESPONSE inasmuch as it is being explored by an ad hoc group of which several Boulevardians are a part. Richmond residents and congregants are focusing on two possibilities: Circles USA and Bridges Out of Poverty. They are not exactly “programs”. They are methodologies that have been picked up and applied elsewhere in United States. What they have in common is a relationship-based approach to resourcing people who are (1) not in crisis but far from thriving and (2) self-identify as candidates for a process that offers a pathway out of poverty.

We have gathered at the synagogue downtown, Congregation Beth Ahaba, and more recently at St. Peter’s Episcopal for proximity’s sake. Richmond’s east end will likely be the primary setting for whatever we develop. On July 14, representatives from both Circles USA and Bridges Out of Poverty will be on the receiving end of our questions with regard to how their guiding principles and practices are or are not a good fit for Richmond. If you would like to know more, speak with Rachel.

## Boulevard United Methodist Church



Like many people who are in need of care, healing and love, Elijah rejects help. He would rather go ahead and die than receive care. Why do people do that? Is it stubbornness? Is it excess pride that does not want pity? Or is it a soul so devoid of hope, that help and healing seem like a fantasy? Depression can have a freezing effect on the will and the heart.

- Todd Weir

June 19, 2016

*The flowers are given to glorify God  
with gratitude for the life and memory of Barbara L. McGhee.*

THE 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](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

# An Order of Worship for 11:00 AM

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Introit *As the Deer*

### \*Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

**For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.**

Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

**For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.**

All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

**On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.**

Loving God, you who are our father and our mother, we thank you that you have shown us how important it is to follow your example as we grow in faith. Teach us to be obedient to your will, respecting you as children ought. Thank you for your mercy despite our disobedience. Strengthen us to stand up against the challenges of this world, honoring your name and trusting your grace. In the Name of your Son, we pray. **Amen.**

The Rev. Dr. LaGretta Bjorn  
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

\*Hymn *God of Love and God of Power* 578 UMH

Prayers of the People  
Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

## Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

Gospel Reading Luke 8:26-39  
Scripture Lesson 1 Kings 19:1-15a  
Sermon "Who Wants To Play The Quiet Game?"  
Rev. Alexa Slonin

\*Hymn *Blessed Quietness* 2142 TFWS

### Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Silence, Frenzied Unclean Spirit*

\*Doxology (94 UMH)

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Sent Forth By God's Blessing* 664 UMH

\*Benediction

# NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for the perpetrators and victims of mass murder, Jim Green and family, the Virginia Annual Conference and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of United Methodist Church. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
June 1 - 11	\$3,796	\$6506



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

### UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES - Luke 12

Life serves up all kinds of work. Some of it can be done immediately. Other tasks are seasonal in nature. Still others can only be undertaken over a lifetime.

Understanding what happened on Sunday morning, June 12, 2016 can be all in a day's work if we decide that understanding is synonymous with having something or someone to blame. Understanding what happened—what is happening—belongs to the long haul if we see understanding as anything more. Some folk engage it like a plate of Edo Squid's Penne Karl; the interpretive aftermath of an attack, that is. God forbid hungry Monday Morning Quarterbacks miss a moment to dive in.

By understanding I don't mean certainty. I don't mean a recommendation for so-and-so and I don't mean an impassioned "here's how it is" spiel. By understanding, what I think I mean is this: Having insight.

Along with the practice of proximity, love, risk, and sacrifice, *insight* characterizes a prophet in the Scriptures. Those faithful to the prophetic way—which Jesus chose—and so discipleship entails—exercise insight.

Pursue the insight that gives way to understanding. Only then, perhaps, is a response and response, not a reaction.

And in the meantime? To that question I pose another. Who are we if not a 'under these circumstances' people? *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.* We celebrate the fact that there is something to do, someone to be in the meantime.

Jesus gives us ministry for now. One can grow in love while fishing for insight. In fact, we're probably not fishing for insight if no opportunities to grow in love are surfacing because insight denotes looking in at the same time as we are looking out. I don't know about you but when I look in, I spot a number of things left undone.

'Under these circumstances,' you can call a gay friend or greet a Muslim with the intent to bless. You can visit with your worrywart of a neighbor who may not even know what LGBT stands for and offer her a word of comfort, even as she's liable to say things that aren't at all insightful. For if love is what conquers hate, and the hate out there is as pervasive as folk on the radio and the television seem to think, then we people of God and goodwill have some serious catching up to do. Vamos.