

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Management they say is the art of using what you have to get what you want. And this is exactly what the clever manager in the parable did. He used every power and opportunity at his disposal as a manager to secure for himself a bright future. *The gospel challenges us to bring into the conduct of our spiritual lives the same foresight and realism that this manager brought into the conduct of his business life.*

- Christopher Burkett

July 17, 2016

An Order of Worship for 11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit	<i>I Would Be True</i>	
Greeting		Rev. Rachel G. May
*Call to Worship		
*Hymn	<i>How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely</i>	TFWS 2042
Prayers of the People		
Joys and Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
Interlude		

Proclamation and Response

First Reading		
Time with Children		
Gospel Lesson	Luke 16:10-13	
Sermon		Minoka Gunesekera
*Hymn	<i>More Love to Thee</i>	UMH 453
Offering Tithes and Gifts		
Offertory	<i>Little is Much When God is in It</i>	
*Doxology (94 UMH)		
*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer		

Sending Forth

*Hymn	<i>We Will Take What You Offer</i>	Insert
*Benediction		

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Ed Hammack, Lucille Suter, Delight Andrews, Casey Bowman Miles, Jim Rickards, Alex & Melva Slonin, the family of Aunt Virginia, perpetrators and victims of gun violence, and Jim Green & family. 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
July 1 - 9	\$4,867	\$3,369

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}

LATE JULY AND AUGUST is for school supplies. Gifts designated for mission or marked "school supplies" will help two local primary schools equip our children. Instead of presuming we know the needs, Boulevard asks; and then delivers. Drop-off is scheduled for mid-August. Look for more details next week.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

Luke 16:10-13 (NRSV)

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

¹² **FAITHFUL WITH WHAT BELONGS TO ANOTHER** - Luke 16

Shmoop—not to be confused with Goop—is kind of like Cliff Notes. Shmoop writers are scholars with a soft spot for bored students. They offer facts with flare, exegesis with an edge.

The commentary on Luke 6, for example: “They’re certainly not going to let him into a tie-only country club. He’ll send everyone home feeling guilty if he’s not arrested first.” That was that one time when Jesus said “woe to you who are rich.”

No fewer than ten times are we forced to entertain the intersection of our material resources and faithfulness to God: And this is only one book. He’s on a tear (Jesus, Luke, or both Jesus and Luke).

For a long time, I allowed myself to tiptoe around the intersection. I was not afraid as much as I was unsure of how to co-mingle my theology of preaching and my theology of money. I could not figure out how to make them buddies.

To have a theology of something is to have a point of view. As there is no shortage of those, in our time, I should say that a theology is not a theology absent study and engagement. To have a Christian theology of work, for example, means studying the Scriptures and showing up to Christian community while one is defining work.

Back to introducing my theology of preaching to my theology of money and the trouble I was having: Help was on the pages of Scripture, all along. I didn’t just have a theology issue. I had a trust issue. Stay with me.

While people brought all kinds of debates to Jesus (which were not necessarily matters that God intended the incarnation to settle), Jesus initiates plenty of storytelling and advising on the topics of his choosing. If Jesus brings up our relationship with possessions and wealth, not once, but many times, could I trust that God intends for us to talk about it?

Could I trust that you were willing to go with me, wherever the Scriptures might take us? Even if it is to a place that others around us may resist or resent?

I am working on it. Or God is working on me. In any case, thank the Spirit for breakthroughs, however mini, whenever they come! Someday I will look back on this generosity sermon series and remember little of what I said and much about the people who called forth more from their pastor.