

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. Thanks to friends of Boulevard near and far, we have over \$1,200 to invest in our city’s classrooms.

Some of the school supply funding has been given in honor of loved teachers. For those dedications, see the insert.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



I have heard it said that it takes a lot of faith in the future to plant an acorn. Few people who plant acorns will ever see the mature oak that it produces. Much of what we do in ministry, or simply in being Christian does not have immediate, short-range results. Teachers of children understand this fact. What the teacher does is invest in a future they will never see, and for which they will never get any credit. And yet it is a crucial task.

- Dennis Bratcher

August 21, 2016

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
www.boulevardumc.org

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

An Order of Worship for 11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *Near to the Heart of God*

Greeting

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *O God Beyond All Praising* TFWS 2009

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude Mark Holt, cello

Proclamation and Response

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10

Time with Children

Epistle Reading Hebrews 12:18-29

*Hymn *Take This Moment* Insert

*Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-17

Sermon "Whose Sabbath Is It?" Rev. Rachel G. May

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Spirit Open My Heart* Insert

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Sissie Kerns, Chris, & Amy Kerns, those who feel the loss of Jane Frisa, Delight Andrews, Casey Bowman Miles, Jim Rickards, Alex & Melva Slonin, 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.

GIVING GROWS US; as does offering your presence via SignUp Genius or by calling our office.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
August 1 - 13	\$8,078	\$5,480

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.

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

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

GUESTS: Before worship begins or during the offering time, consider sending a text message to boulevardumc@gmail.com. Include your name and snail-mail address and we will do our darndest to acknowledge your gift (of presence) to us. What you share we handle with care!



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

¹⁶ **FOR ME TO UNTIE THIS DAUGHTER** - Luke 13

The grace to begin again is needed. Some weeks more than others.

Yesterday, I awoke to the thought that perhaps my house was being broken into, which was not the case. A drunk driver had run the stop sign. The damage he caused was loud.

I opened the curtains to find a crowd of neighbors convening. He had driven up onto the sidewalk. It was strange to see a car parked alongside of the adjacent stoop. It was even stranger to have the primary victim walk over and say: "I'm so sorry about your grass. I've been watching you work so hard on it and I feel so bad."

Nine more people expressed their condolences that morning. It's true. Two totaled cars, two more majorly damaged, one driver in trouble with the law and his conscience, another driver with a sore back (thank God because we all suspected worse)...and folks were sad for my grass and me. Insert flushed face emoji.

The grace to begin again flowed freely. Of course it did. I was out there with tools in no time. A neighbor repaired the garden fencing. I went to work on the leveling out and picking up tiny car parts. As the sweat blurred my vision, I thought, *how parabolic...the practice of starting over because starting over well is what kingdom cultivation requires ...this was the stuff of Jesus' storytelling!*

This morning put an end to that discipleship aha moment. Though my house had not been broken into some 24 hours ago, my car *had been*, I realized, overnight. The only thing taken seemed to be the care package. I had finally gotten around to making copies of the sermons, organizing the notes, attaching orders of worship, bubble-wrapping the book and thumb-drive—a colleague had asked for these materials—and *this* was what he/she snatched? Really?

Really. The grace to begin again does not always come rolling down from the heavens. Sometimes it has to be pleaded for, which is an insight that is probably as spiritually significant as it is uninvited.

Friends, when the mini-defeats follow the tiny wins, chins up (v.13)! Ask Jesus for a little of that untying (v.16); not for pride's sake, but because there are things to see that we may only be able to see from precisely where we are—things that matter for how we live and love and labor on.

Luke 13:10-17 The Message (MSG)

¹⁰⁻¹³ He was teaching in one of the meeting places on the Sabbath. There was a woman present, so twisted and bent over with arthritis that she couldn't even look up. She had been afflicted with this for eighteen years. When Jesus saw her, he called her over. "Woman, you're free!" He laid hands on her and suddenly she was standing straight and tall, giving glory to God.

¹⁴ The meeting-place president, furious because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, "Six days have been defined as work days. Come on one of the six if you want to be healed, but not on the seventh, the Sabbath."

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ But Jesus shot back, "You frauds! Each Sabbath every one of you regularly unties your cow or donkey from its stall, leads it out for water, and thinks nothing of it. So why isn't it all right for me to untie this daughter of Abraham and lead her from the stall where Satan has had her tied these eighteen years?"

¹⁷ When he put it that way, his critics were left looking quite silly and red-faced. The congregation was delighted and cheered him on.

A LANTERN TRIBUTE

School supply funding is given

Celebrating and Remembering:

Mrs. Sharp
by Donnie Coburn

Dr. Hannum
by Rachel May

Teacher, Principal, Aunt
Virlinda Snyder
by Michael Joyner

Jane S. Frisa
by Ed Frisa

Mr. Steve Surbeck
by Katie B. Gooch

Rebecca Comstock
by Nancy Pomplun

Wendy Hall
by Rachel May

Dorothy Hankins
by Dale Monroe



David Buttrick
by Sammy Williams & Lynda Weaver-Williams

Counselors Vickie Casey & Elizabeth Sharp
by Alexa Slonin

Pulaski High Teachers, Class '60

Rachel (we learn from her in worship)
by Mark Ogren & Margie Turbyfill

Dr. Bell, Dr. Foy, Mrs. Hannay, Ms. Ponder, Mrs. Rowsey
by their family in faith

