

# NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

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

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: September 12. Join in prayer and lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor common room. This typically happens on first Mondays. Labor Day moves us forward this month.

 BRING A MUM TO CHURCH day is Sunday, September 11. A pair of small ones or a larger-sized plant: You decide. The churchyard loves feeling loved!

On the Cover: Pottery Wheel Kit.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



The biblical text makes it clear that “God will work with what is available.” The message from the potter’s house is that “God is faced with the task of working with positive and negative factors in order to shape Israel into the best vessel possible.

- Alphonetta Wines & R.E. Clements

## September 4, 2016

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

Opening Words

Introit *How Big is God*

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn *When in Our Music God is Glorified* UMH 68

Prayer

Duet *The Gift of Love* Joshua Kennedy, organ  
Harrison Koontz, piano

## Proclamation and Response

First Reading Psalm 139:1-15; 23-24 UMH 854

Time with Children

\*Gospel Reading Luke 14:25-33

Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 18:1-11

Sermon "A Better Vessel" Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning* TFWS 2237

## Thanksgiving and Communion

An invitation to the table gives way to The Great Thanksgiving. Because Jesus is our host, all people are asked to claim a place at the Table. You may offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament. Gluten-free friends receive first.

Offertory *Una Espiga*

Prayer

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Maker, In Whom We Live* UMH 88

\*Benediction

## WITNESS

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

**{Together}**

A SEASON OF CREATION is an opportunity to deepen our appreciation for creation as an integral part of our worship and discipleship. Why not appreciate creation every day of the year? By all means, do! The logic of this focused time (September) is much the same as any other season of the Christian year: Paying closer attention to something in particular can be spiritually nutritious.



September's services of worship will be shaped, in part, by this theme. Speak with Rachel if you think you may have something to offer. Ideas are welcomed. Taking on some small project—maybe it is an altar table design, or supplying a pair of live houseplants for the sanctuary, or leading a children's moment — even better!

However we do, observing this season is an act of witness. We bear witness to our belief that the skies declare the glory of God (Psalm 19), that God's handiwork helps us to know who God is (Romans 1), that nature itself participates and leads us in praise (Psalm 148 & Isaiah 55).

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:** Saturday morning, October 15, 10:00 am. Save and share the date!

## **Jeremiah 18:1-11**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup>“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel.<sup>4</sup>The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. <sup>5</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>6</sup>“Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?” says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, <sup>8</sup>but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. <sup>9</sup>And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, <sup>10</sup>but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

<sup>11</sup>Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

## **Luke 14:25-33**

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.<sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.