

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. 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. We might bear a clearer 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!



Boulevard United Methodist Church



Most modern people simply assume that the owner is upset by the decrease in the value of his assets, caused either by the failure of the steward to bring a sufficiently high return on his investments or by the steward's misappropriation of the master's funds. However...in both the Jewish and Greco-Roman societies of New Testament times, honor was just as important as wealth--if not more so.

- D. Landry & B. May

September 18, 2016

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

An Order of Worship for 11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Gathering Music

Introit *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *How Great Thou Art 1-2* UMH 77

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

As the Deer Meghann Neale, Harp
Lily Fitzgerald, Harp

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading *Psalm 23* UMH 754

Be Still My Soul

Gospel Lesson *Luke 16:1-13*

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *A Place at the Table 1,3-4* Insert

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Go to the World* Insert

*Benediction

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.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
September 1 -10	\$7,272	\$2,601

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

A CLEANING THE TRAILS opportunity: Here is a chance to honor September's creation focus in early November. [This one's for you, advance notice folks.] Help is needed throughout the year at multiple James River Park System sites for overall cleanup and beautification. A team of 10 of us, for November 5, from 9 am to noon: That would put us in a position to do some real creation-caring. Speak with Rachel to schedule yourself there. The forecast for that day reads "sunny" and 56 degrees ☺



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

³ IN PROPER PATHS - Psalm 23

*Drive west onto Colorado Avenue until it dead-ends at Santa Monica Pier. Then walk straight out on the pier for 200 feet. The sign is just past the Bubba Gump shrimp franchise and just before the Playland arcade.**

At that trail's end, a landmark awaits. When I experience a trail ending, it does not ~~often~~ ever feel like Santa Monica. To boot, I don't always know that the end of the trail is upon me.

I'm not thinking of anything too terribly major, here. It seems to me that there are just those times—those times when we are going along, getting by, doing what we do and pop goes the realization: We are off the path.

Last Sunday morning was one of those times. Attendance was low. I was sick with allergies turned something much worse. Cyclist types will tell you that power is work over time (how much wattage one generates). Well, I'm glad we weren't wearing a power meter here at Boulevard UMC. No, simply gathering with others to celebrate life together as God's—one piece of what we call Sabbath—does not guarantee a walk in proper paths (v.3).

“In the paths of righteousness” is the translation we expect. But it is the rendering “in proper paths” that may get us beyond the sound of certain language and to a place of considering the content of the Psalmist's praise and prayer. The Psalmist looks to God as the source of right walkways.

The grace of a rough Sunday may be the relentless return of Sunday, to echo Bishop Pennel. And the grace of experiencing moments of disorientation or diminished output is that life can offer a moment to feel oriented and empowered.

Today was one of those times. Our new Bishop was installed. Bishop Sharma Lewis brought her A game. We weren't on Route 66 but right off Cary Street Road, actually. The way felt so marked that it's a bit embarrassing to think back to the feelings I felt six days ago.

Sometimes the trail does not end where we feel ourselves “off”. We just need the light of others and something like another try for the fog to clear.

Psalm 23 {Common English Bible}

The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

² He lets me rest in grassy meadows;
he leads me to restful waters;

³ he keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths
for the sake of his good name.

⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—
they protect me.

⁵ You set a table for me
right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil;
my cup is so full it spills over!

⁶ Yes, goodness and faithful love
will pursue me all the days of my life,
and I will live in the LORD's house
as long as I live.

* <http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/route-66-end-trail>

For Everyone Born

A Place at the Table

Unison

1 For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wo - man and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble,

for ev - ery-one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bus - ed, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

for ev - ery-one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wo - man and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery-one born, the right to be free,

and God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes, God will de - light when

we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and joy.