

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 clean-up 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 still reads "sunny" and 56 degrees.

OCTOBER IS FOR PET FOOD. Get dollars for local animals to Boulevard and we'll get the goods to area shelters and service-providers. Elaine Kennedy and Linda Crowder are point persons for this effort. Details regarding donations of actual cans and bags? Next week.

WITNESS

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

{Together}

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS happens here on Saturday, October 15 at 10:00 am. New this year: Photographer Meagan Moore. Her ideas for us include snapping a variety of candids and several shots of each participant, however many legs they may or may not have, during the blessing, so as to supply one or two for each "blessee". After the event, she will process the photos and make them available for download from an online gallery.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



"And still, after all this time,
The sun never says to the earth,
"You owe Me."

Look what happens with
A love like that,
It lights the Whole Sky."

- Hafez

October 2, 2016

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

Opening Words

Introit "Hoy Celebramos, Come Celebrate"

*Call to Worship

*Hymn Spirit Open My Heart Insert

Prayer

Interlude Jennifer Johnson, violin

Proclamation and Response

Epistle Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14

New Member Reception The Baptismal Covenant

Music is offered to complete our sharing in The Baptismal Covenant. Meanwhile, please exchange God's peace with all persons present.

Scripture Lesson Luke 17:5-10

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn We Know That Christ is Raised UMH 610

Thanksgiving and Communion

An invitation to the table gives way to The Great Thanksgiving. You may offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament. Gluten-free friends receive first.

Offertory

Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn O Church Be Faithful Insert

*Benediction

*Choral Postlude Santo

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.

LOOKING AHEAD LITURGICALLY, with a bit of the civil calendar mixed in:

October 2	A Season of Saints begins World Communion Sunday Charge Conference
October 9	Kari Smith, singer-songwriter
October 15 (Saturday)	Blessing of the Animals
October 23	Harrison Koontz, piano
October 30	Holy Baptism: Bruce Hannay VCU Horn Ensemble; Mark Holt, cello
October 31 (Monday)	Halloween
November 1	All Saints Sunday Christine Ertell, flute
November 13	Extended Advent begins Harrison Koontz, piano
November 20	Christ the King Sunday
November 24	Thanksgiving
November 29	Happy Christian New Year!
December 24 (Saturday)	Christmas Eve Love Feast 10 AM Rafael Scarfullery, classical guitar
December 25 (Sunday)	Christmas Day
December 31 (Saturday)	New Year's Eve



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

⁵ **INCREASE OUR FAITH!** - Luke 17

Whatever we think these disciples meant by “increase our faith”, chances are, they were thinking differently.

“Faith is a passionate intuition,” penned William Wordsworth in *The Excursion*.

No, faith is God’s work—God’s work in us, argues the spirit of Martin Luther. Actually, it is a *gift*, says Rebecca Bratten Weiss. “Our faith is a gift, and the gift is that we encounter divine presence.”

Lifted from the pages of C.S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity*: “Faith is the art of holding on...in spite of your changing moods.” And to have a Christian faith “means trying to do all that Jesus says...There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice”.

Which brings to mind my (Wesleyan) definition. Faith is an extraordinary trust.

Or is it awe in the presence of the divine incognito?* Karl Barth’s take.

From a Frederick Buechner sermon: “Faith is homesickness. Faith is a lump in the throat. Faith is less a position *on* than a movement *toward*...”

We are all people of faith, another Reverend argues. We live in a universe that is “so grandly complicated that all of human knowledge amounts to only a tiny fraction of reality” and therefore it is by faith that we do *most* of what we do. “Faith is what allows us to function despite knowing or sensing how little we actually know about all that surrounds us (David Pyle).”

Consider your definition of faith. And then consider letting it go for long enough to honor what faith may have meant for the early disciples. [Your definition or lack thereof isn’t going anywhere. It’ll be there...]

What they asked for was more than more beliefs: That’s for sure. Faith was something that would help them. Help them how? Faith was... You tell me.

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea”, and it would obey you.

‘Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, “Come here at once and take your place at the table”? Would you not rather say to him, “Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink”? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, “We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!”’

* The divine incognito -- God’s incarnation, God living incognito as a human among us.