

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Life that is truly life is not at risk even when hardships come.”

- Glenn Monson

November 13, 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 *I'll Fly Away*

Greeting

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* UMH 129

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading *Psalm 46* UMH 780

Gospel Lesson *Luke 21:5-19*

Sermon *Rev. Rachel G. May*

*Hymn *Spirit Song* UMH 347

Offering Tithes and Gifts

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

Sending Forth

*Hymn *My Hope is Built* UMH 368

*Benediction

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Sissie Kerns, Garland Johnson, Ken Thompson, The Gooches, and Jay McKinney. 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.

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!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
October 1 - 29	\$15,115	\$9,471

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

OCTOBER'S MISSION FOCUS involved local pets, area animal shelters, and human service-providers. Thank you for 296 pounds of food plus 70 pounds of kitty litter, 6 food bowls, 7 collars and \$600. Meals on Wheels and Richmond Animal Care and Control are so very grateful for your compassion made real in much-needed goods and financial gifts.

Mid-November to mid-December's focus is United Methodist Family Services. We help them put hope into the holidays for children and families in Virginia. Making a check out to Boulevard UMC and designating it UMFS is one way to contribute. Stay tuned for an additional way to bolster our collective gift.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

¹³ YOU WILL GAIN YOUR LIVES - Luke 21

“Nobody goes to that restaurant because it’s always slammed.” Or, “Don’t go near the water until you know how to swim.” These are paradoxes.

Also paradoxical: “Whoever tries to preserve their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life will preserve it (Lk 17:33).”

Jesus wants to make sure that it didn’t go in one ear and out the other. Here, several miles down the road: “You will be betrayed...and they will put some of you to death... But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls (Lk 21:16-19).”

I’m not comparing RVA 2016 to 1st century Judea. Real people lost precious things when, toward the end of the Jewish Revolt, Titus’ soldiers burned the temple. Luke’s community struggled in and with the catastrophic aftermath.

The comparison I do want to make has to do with paradox. I’m adding long-distance running to the paradox pile. *Blest are you who run 26.2 miles. Though you have lost your mind, surely you have gained...*

Gained what? I suppose we could ask Kylee Ponder or Matt Hannay. It can be hard, however, to articulate what makes a given experience meaningful. When we are in touch with the fact that what we are up appears nonsensical, we keep our reasoning, our inspiration, to ourselves.

So I propose this paradox upon paradox: Get out there and cheer for somebody. Search high and low for the cowbell. [More is more.] Solicit high fives from strangers. Make a sign. With a smile or with whatever you can muster, let them know that you see them out there gaining (v.13).

Why would you add to the foolishness of it all? Because, says the Spirit, it makes us more alive.

Kylee, Matt, the other Matt, Lindsey, Carolyn, Christine, you who have graced Boulevard with your presence and I am failing to mention, take hold of that which the world may not understand and most certainly cannot take away. Run for your lives. God loves you. We do too.

Luke 21:5-19

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.” ⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.