

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

KID'S COLD WEATHER CLOTHING, new or gently used blankets, jackets, shoes for any age, unused first aid supplies: Bring these items (no medicine please) to us by Dec. 1. We're partnering with VCU's United2Heal to get these goods to Syria.

The inhabitants of eastern Aleppo reportedly have fewer than 10 days to receive aid or face death from a lack of medical supplies. One million people are besieged and not just in Aleppo. They need help.

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 the way that we ask you to contribute.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



In the days before cell phones (B.C. as I like to call them), my grandparents used to call us up and tell us they were coming for a visit. Since they sometimes stopped various places along the way, we were not sure when they would arrive...It was the certainty of the coming, not the timing which motivated this behavior of being ready at any moment.

- Ben Witherington

November 27, 2016

On the Cover: Nautical window pane mirror.

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

Introit *People Look East*

Greeting

*Call to Worship *Psalm 122* **UMH 845**

*Hymn *I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say* →

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

First Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Time with Children

*Gospel Lesson *Matthew 24:36-44*

Sermon *"To Watch Well"* Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* **UMH 196**

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Down By the Riverside* Insert

*Benediction

*Parting Music *Christmas Time's a Comin'*

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to the house of God."
And now our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem!

Refrain: Shalom, shalom, the peace of God be here.
Shalom, shalom, God's justice be ever near.

2. Like a temple of unity is the city, Jerusalem.
It is there all tribes will gather, all the tribes of the house of God. (Refrain)

3. It is faithful to Israel's law, there to praise the name of God.
All the judgment seats of David were set down in Jerusalem. (Refrain)

4. For the peace of all nations, pray: for God's peace within your homes.
May God's lasting peace surround us; may it dwell in Jerusalem. (Refrain)

5. For the love of my friends and kin I will bless you with signs of peace.
For the love of God's own people I will labor and pray for you. (Refrain)

Psalm 122

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 best to acknowledge your gift (of presence) to us. What you share we handle with care!



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

^{lin} **IN DAYS TO COME** - Isaiah 2

Mentor-covenant groups are part of the ordination process here in Virginia. I convene one group in accordance with the framework supplied by the Office of Clergy Excellence. I am healthier for having committed to this crew.

A participant said something beautiful, last time; which is not to suggest that this never happens. We were gathered in one participant's home, receiving a ministry report (case study), when the presenter described a dynamic in his current setting. "She preaches with a focus on who is there and I preach with an eye on who isn't there."

Read that again. I'll call him Jack. Jack put into words an important distinction. Those of us in that living room seemed to want a moment to see if it trued with experiences in our own ministries. You could feel the import of his insight.

Here's the thing, the thing that I know Jack knows: God is in both. The Bible lends itself to both. There is a scriptural basis to preach to who is in the room and there is a scriptural mandate to focus on who is has yet to harken the doors. God calls God's people to care for the particular and the universal.

Look no further than Psalm 122 and Isaiah 2. In the Psalm, one people make the ascent and the ascent is for the one people's well-being. In Isaiah *all* the nations ascend in order to receive instructions for universal flourishing. We are asked to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and to stream, alongside of other nations, to Zion.

"I'd like to hear a sermon that wrestles with these two visions," writes one seminary professor. [Am I allowed to say "fat chance"?] "On the one hand, I love to celebrate being at home in worship with fellow Lutherans. On the other hand, God has established the Church to serve in God's universal mission (H. Langknecht)."

Sigh. I'll give it what I've got, trusting in the possibility that others are willing to wrestle. Notice that I did not end that sentence with "me". Wrestling with our heritage and our hope, in the name of a faithful Advent: Let's do this.

Psalm 122

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'
- ² Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
- ⁴ To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- ⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May they prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.'
- ⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
- ⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

WITNESS

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

{Together}



“GET IN THE PIC”

Part live nativity and part photo booth – yes, live animals!

The backyard of Boulevard UMC

Saturday, December 1

4:30 – 6:30

Get in the Picture promises a kind, playful space in a season of stress. It brings the nativity story to life in an interactive way. It may help us to connect with more of our neighbors.

Hoping for:

- 1 COSTUME BOX coordinator
- 2 NATIVITY “shed” builders
- 4 GREETERS to cover the alleyway, the Boulevard, and to mingle with intention
- 1 FIREBUILDER plus 1 purchaser of firewood
- 2 S'MORES and hot beverage servers
- 1 BACK-UP PHOTOGRAPHER
- 1 HAY BALE deliverer; six or so bales
- 1 CHRISTMAS LIGHT DIRECTOR and by director we mean hanger-upper.

Update: First Baptist has offered us use of their costumes. [We still need someone on our end to facilitate that exchange and to make a few additions to the stash.] Meagan Moore, who was with us for Blessing of the Animals, has agreed to be our primary photographer. Our own Nick Ruxton is going to equip her/us with the proper nighttime lighting. 3 folks have expressed a willingness to work on the nativity shed. 2 others have offered to head up the s'mores and hot beverage operation.

1 person has said they'll greet. *3 more of those and we'll be in good shape.*
1 person has started hanging Christmas lights. *Another, are you out there?*
No fire builder, as of yet.

Please let Rachel know if and how you can get behind “Get in the Pic”. Planning to attend and inviting a friend certainly counts. It's going to be great fun!