

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

Boulevard United Methodist Church

2017 MISSION FOCUS CALENDAR:

February

residential support/training for
intellectually-disabled adults

Regional

HEART HAVENS

March

feeding people
caring for the land

Regional

FEEDMORE
and a community farm

April

Supporting survivors of domestic
and sexual violence

Local

SAFE HARBOR

May

projects TBD
disaster relief

National/Global

CONFERENCE OFFERING
and Kits (UMCOR)



FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS. We'll consider our differently abled neighbors who live as independently as possible in Heart Havens homes across Virginia. Sarah Wilkinson will lead us in spirit, even as she travels around the Conference in support of this year's theme: Part of the Body.

Heart Havens, with help from congregations like Boulevard, empowers adults with intellectual disabilities to find their places at tables both at church and in the community. We will be collecting financial gifts as well as paper products, cleaning and art supplies.



"There is a trap hidden in the Beatitudes that I know I have fallen into countless times, and perhaps you have, too. The trap is as simple as it is subtle: believing that Jesus is setting up the conditions of blessing, rather than actually blessing his hearers."

- David Lose

January 29, 2017

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).

Order of Worship for the 4th Sunday After the Epiphany

11:00 AM

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *Showers of Blessing*

Greeting

*Call to Worship *Psalm 15*

*Hymn *God Who Spins the Whirling Planets* →

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude *Jennifer Johnson, violin*

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson *Micah 6:1-8*

*Gospel Lesson *Matthew 5:1-12*

*Hymn *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* **UMH 348**

Sermon *Rev. Rachel G. May*

Solo

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Be Thou My Vision* **UMH 451**

*Benediction

*Parting Music

God, You spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain.
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, Call forth sunshine, wind and rain.
We created in Your image, would a true reflection be.
Of Your justice, grace and mercy and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship, joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people, we move onward toward Your goal.

God, Your word is still creating calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care.
Thus new creatures in Your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

- J.P. Huber

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Grayson Foy, the family of David Bradley McConnell, the Talton family, Sissie Kerns, 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.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
January 1 - 14	\$12,178	\$7,544

BIBLE STUDY begins again. Tuesday evening, February 28, is the starting point for this once a week for eight weeks opportunity. We'll travel through Lent and celebrate Easter together. Details forthcoming.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

²WITH WHAT SHALL I COME? Micah 6

“Weary doesn’t respond to the same treatment as tired.”

That sentence rang true or at least less true to my experience. The spiritual types do a great job of distinguishing “weary” from other words that carry similar meaning. Problem: That crowd (to which I belong, I suppose) can take that distinction and head in a direction that is itself wearying.

When I hear “weary” described as something other than sleepiness, I nod. When I read first-hand accounts of what weary feels like, the affirmative nodding continues. But the you-can-fix-this plan that often follows gives me pause. 10 Ways to Overcome Spiritual Weariness, The Cure for Weariness... *That will not do*, I think.

One is weary precisely because of the weight of expectation! Telling a weary person to overcome their weariness in this number of steps is a little like telling someone suffering from depression to look on the Brightside. It reflects a lack of understanding.

If you are reading this and you are weary, you don’t need advice. You need refreshment. You need renewal.

If you are reading this and you are weary, you don’t need someone to tell you what the Bible says about weariness. You need an encounter with the Source of life itself.

God is the name I use for the Source. Micah characterizes God as having said that good living involves the doing of justice and the loving of kindness (v.8).

Today, I’m not hearing Micah as a supervisor who wants to know how well we are performing. To pick up a thread from last week’s sermon, I am experiencing a sign. The prophet is offering words of assurance that are a kind of light to the diffuse *the fear of weariness or the shame* we sometimes feel because we are weary.

I hear Micah saying that God is there if we want to take a walk. In that walk there is medicine. Those acts of justice and mercy are neither new nor an indictment. Rather, they happen when we take care to walk with the One who most loves us.

That spiritual type was right. Weary *doesn’t* respond to same treatment as tired. This spiritual type would add: Weary responds to love.

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.