

# OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

**{Outward}**

MARCH IS FOR FOOD—for feeding people and for the relationship between food and faith. Our focus shifts to the work of FeedMore and local organizations on a mission to grow healthy food, healthy communities and a healthy local food system. We will give a financial gift to those doing the hard work of feeding our neighbors and improving access to fresh food in our city. To contribute to this collection, make a check out to Boulevard and write “food” in the memo line.



# WITNESS

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

**{Together}**

## A WORKING CALENDAR:

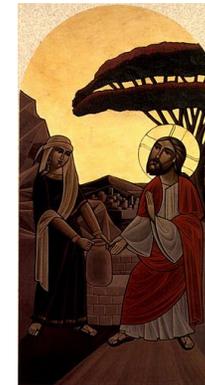
March 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	Chapel	
March 26	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Chapel	Singer-songwriter Amy Andrews
April 2	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Sanctuary	VCU Horn Choir flower orders due
April 9	Palm Sunday	Chapel	
April 11	Interfaith Seder (ceremonial meal)	Temple Beth-El 3300 Grove Ave.	6:30 pm
April 13	Maundy Thursday	Chapel	7:00 pm
April 16	Easter Sunday	Sunrise Hollywood Cemetery	Details forthcoming
		Sanctuary	11:00 am

On the Cover: Pinterest.com, SAMARIA.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



That something other than food or water makes us feel “alive” is not so surprising. What is surprising is what Jesus says keeps him “alive.” It is loving like God loves.

- C. Brown,  
[worshippingwithchildren.com](http://worshippingwithchildren.com)

## March 19, 2017

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

Order of Worship for the Third Sunday in Lent

11:00 AM

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

\* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *Fill My Cup, Lord*

Greeting

You shall call,

**And the Lord will answer;**

You shall cry for help,

**And God will say, Here I am.** (Isaiah 58)

Prayer of Approach

Gracious God, you draw us near through prayer, fasting and generosity. Accept our Lenten discipline. Where we have fallen, lift us to the place of trying again.

*Silence*

**Amen.**

\*Call to Worship *Psalm 95* **UMH 814**

\*Hymn *Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows*

1. *Such perfect love my shepherd shows, whose goodness fails me never;  
Whose hand all things I need bestows and watches me forever.*
2. *Where streams of living water flow, my loving Shepherd leads me;  
And where the verdant pastures grow with food from heaven feeds me.*
3. *When vain and foolish I have strayed, you, faithful shepherd sought me;  
And on your shoulder gently laid, then home, rejoicing, brought me.*

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

4. *I do not fear death's shadowed vale when you are here beside me;  
Your rod and staff and strength prevail to comfort and to guide me.*
5. *You spread a table in my sight, your gifts of grace bestowing;  
And from your chalice I delight, to taste your mercy flowing.*
6. *And so through all the length of days, your goodness fails me never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever.*

Proclamation and Response

Children's Moment

Mission Moment Beth Nelson

First Reading *Exodus 17:1-7*

Gospel Reading *John 4:5-42*

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* TFWS 2146

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Christ is the Mountain of Horeb*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Go Forth For God* Insert

\*Dismissal with Blessing

Go forth with a steady step.

For God provides.

Take heart.

Live;

That if, among days, these were your last, they would resemble

in living, your finest,

in loving, your Savior.

**Amen. Amen!**

\*Parting Music

**NURTURE**

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

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for Grayson Foy, Merle and Laurie, Jeanette, 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.

# Easter Flowers



**Go forth for God**, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,  
till in the kingdom we see face to face.

Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
help the afflicted; richly from above  
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.

TUNE: TOULON  
WORDS: J. R. PEACEY, 1975

A two-fold invitation:

- (1) To provide flowers for Boulevard's sanctuary on Easter morning and
- (2) To support our worship fund.

Prices below are therefore slightly higher than cost.  
*If making more than one contribution, use another form.*

Your Name:

Attached is payment for—or, expect payment from me  
between now and April 3 for:



- Potted Lily at \$14.00 each
- Potted Hydrangea at \$20.00 each
- The Worship Fund (no flowers) \$15.00

**REMEMBERING:**

**CELEBRATING:**



- I wish to dedicate these anonymously.
- I wish for them to be dedicated by:

If you wish to support our worship services, but do not want to receive actual flowers, your gift to Boulevard UMC will be acknowledged in the bulletin accordingly. If you wish for another to receive the flowers that you purchase, please make those arrangements independently. Thank-you!



## Crossing Boulevard

with Beth Nelson

### **7 HE CALLED THE PLACE MASSAH AND MERIBAH** Exodus 17

You know those Bibles wherein some of the letters are red? I'm fixing to make one with all the place names highlighted. These names runneth over! They say so much.

Bethel tells on itself. It means "House of God, Gate of Heaven". It is where Jacob experienced just that—he dreamed there, of a ladder connecting Heaven and earth.

Bethlehem likewise spills the beans. It means "House of Bread". Christmas Eve is never the same after absorbing that tidbit (Matt 2 & Lk 2).

Before Bethesda was a suburb of DC, it meant, in Aramaic, "House of Mercy". It is where sick people gathered. Near the Sheep Gate there was a pool and five covered porches. They waited for healing there (Jn 5).

And that's just the letter B. Not even, because Beulah, Beersheba, Bethpage...In this version of the Bible, the whole lot of them will stand out; brown letters, perhaps. We would be nudged to see through the lens of place.

I lack a future with a publishing house. What I have, though, is a kind of super attentiveness when it comes to this moment before us this Sunday. Moses is going to name a place and I am listening. I sense that what he calls the spot matters.

He could have called the spot near the rock at Horeb any number of things. Had there been a contest, the entries would have all been variation on names that the fact that there, God gave water to a thirsty people (v.6). As it is Hebrew Moses uses, we might presume that is exactly the sort of name the place gets.

Except it gets two names: Massah and Meribah (v.7). In Rachel May's Toponymy Bible—I'm not actually that vain—we'd know to look up the Hebrew. [In the back, of course, and free of other explanatory notes.] Moses calls the area near the rock of Horeb "Proving" and "Strife". Or, "Testing" and "Contention".

If we can remember what the place names mean, there's a chance we can carry with us what happened there. And what happened there tends to tell us about God and ourselves, which is why we read to begin with; the Scriptures, anyway.

In this way, the names "Massah" and "Meribah" become little lighthouses that illumine one part of the channel by which we travel toward a land more promising. After a while, we might take to a richer, deeper, more telling mapping of our lives.

### Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"