

# OUTREACH

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

## {Outward}

YOU CHIPPED IN AND WE THANK YOU. March was for food. With what you gave, Boulevard will be counted among those backing important work in our community. Half of the \$724 collection will go to FeedMore and the other half will find Tricycle Gardens. Last minute contributions to boost our total may be offered this Sunday.

# WITNESS

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

## {Together}

### A WORKING CALENDAR:

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	6:30 am
		Sanctuary	11:00 am

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



In Ezekiel, dry bones are knit back together and infused with life-giving breath, while in John, Lazarus is brought back to life after four days in the tomb. In neither case is resurrection life necessarily pretty. Resurrection is not new life, the perfect promise of a newborn baby, but renewed life, life forged from death.

- Margaret Odell

April 2, 2017

On the Cover: "The Breath of God" by Joan Chittister.

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](http://www.boulevardumc.org)

Order of Worship for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

11:00 AM

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

\* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

VCU Horn Choir

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn

*God of the Sparrow 1-3*

UMH 122

Words of Welcome

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Children's Moment

First Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-14

\*Hymn

*The Word of God*

Insert

\*Gospel Lesson

John 11:32-45

Sermon

"Would The Bones Have Rattled?" Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn

*Now the Green Blade Riseth 1-2, 4*

UMH 311

Thanksgiving and Communion

Our Service continues with the liturgy included in the hymnal. You are invited to offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to celebrate the sacrament. The Table is set for everyone.

Offertory

Prayer

Sending Forth

\*Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

UMH 384

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Parting Music

1. The Word of God is source and seed;  
it comes to die and sprout and grow.  
So make your dark earth welcome warm;  
root deep the grain God bent to sow.

2. The Word of God is breath and life;  
it comes to heal and wake and save.  
So let the Spirit touch and mend  
and rouse your dry bones from their grave.

3. The Word of God is flesh and grace,  
who comes to sing, to laugh and cry.  
So dare to be as Jesus was,  
who came to live and love and die.

NURTURE

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

**{Inward}**

WE ARE PRAYING for Kimberly Gwynn, 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.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
March 1 – 25	\$13,241	\$8,254

Old friends and new friends: Know that we are working our way from this financial picture and into a future that excites us and positions us, we hope, to better balance the church checkbook. In the meantime, our operations are lean and we are spending on ministry—on people, on our city, on that which makes us a Jesus following community (and not just a club that likes to talk about him).

# Easter Flowers

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:

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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 Rev. Rachel

### <sup>44</sup> THE DEAD MAN CAME OUT John 11

I rest from offering my own words here this week. I am inclined to guard my energies for the holy days ahead of us. Or maybe I just need to say it: It has been a hard month of preaching. If I am to take to the pulpit again, come Sunday—God help us—that good and this month, grueling work is calling.

What follows is another's introduction of Lazarus. I treasure the bit about Lazarus looking around unsure of "which side he was on". It is so very true to John, the gospel that won't quit when it comes to abundant life *now*:

Lazarus and his two sisters lived in a town called Bethany a couple of miles outside Jerusalem and according to the Gospel of John were among the best friends Jesus had. He used to drop in on them whenever he was in the neighborhood, and when he made his entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, it was from Bethany that he took off, and it was also to Bethany that he went back to take it easy for a few days before his final arrest.

When Lazarus died, Jesus didn't arrive on the scene until several days afterward, but he found the sisters still so broken up they hardly knew what they were saying. With one breath they reproached him for not having come in time to save their brother and with the next they told him they knew he could save him still. Then, for the first and only time such a thing is recorded of him in the New Testament, Jesus broke down himself. Then he went out to where his friend's body lay and brought him back to life again.

Recent interviews with people who have been resuscitated after being pronounced clinically dead reveal that, after the glimpse they evidently all of them get of a figure of light waiting for them on the other side, they are very reluctant to be brought back again to this one. On the other hand, when Lazarus opened his eyes to see the figure of Jesus standing there in the daylight beside him, he couldn't for the life of him tell which side he was on.

John 11:32-45 (CEB)

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

When Jesus saw her crying and the Judeans who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?"

They replied, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to cry. The Judeans said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Therefore, many of the Judeans who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

### Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."