

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Then he rose and stood up for all that he had lived for.”

- Robb McCoy

April 16, 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 11:00 on Easter Sunday

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Music *Then Came the Morning*

Words of Welcome

*Hymn *Sing With All the Saints in Glory* 702 UMH

Prayer

Holy God,
Early in the morning, you whispered their names.
You prepared a feast.

You awakened your people to new life.

Early *this* morning,
Your angels rejoiced.

And so shall we.

Bind our wounds.
Weave us into the story.

Because death loses, hope triumphs, and life and love prevail,
Let resurrection ring.

Break-in to our lives and form us as your own.
In the name of the one whom death could not hold. **Amen.**

Interlude *Deb Saidel, flute*

First Reading *Acts 10:34-43*

Time with Children

*Gospel Lesson *John 20:1-18*

Duet *I Rejoiced*

Sermon *Rev. Rachel G. May*

Prayer

You asked for my hands that I might use them for your purpose:
I gave them for a moment, and then withdrew them for the work was hard.
You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice:
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.
You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty:
I closed them, for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life that you might work through me:
I gave a small part; that I might not get "too involved".

**Holy One, forgive us our calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient for us to do so,
only in places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.**

Renew us, empower us, to be usable instruments
that we may take seriously the meaning of your call in our lives.

FROM A PRAYER BY JOE SEREMANE, SOUTH AFRICA

The Lord's Supper

The Table is set for every last one of you! You may offer tithes and gifts as you come forward to receive the sacrament. Please join in singing these hymns:

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

Ask ye what great thing I know, that delights and stirs me so?
What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.
{continuing on 163 UMH}

Prayer

*Hymn *Go to the World* Insert

*Benediction

*Parting Music *An Angel Rolled the Stone Away*

A FLORAL TRIBUTE

Hydrangeas are given

Celebrating and Remembering:

Hannah, Cooper & Harley

Virginia “Grandma” Abbot

Free Williams
Aaron & Kayla Williams

John Hancock (2)
by Elaine Kennedy & Linda Crowder

The New York Schillings
by Kylee Ponder

Baby Roxanna Sadie May
The Humor & Spirit of Ann Monroe
& Frank Hazel

Our Grandmothers:
Eleanor, Celine, & Grandma Hannay
by Matt & Sherry Hannay



Lilies are given

Celebrating and Remembering:

Peter Ward & Susan Sappington
by James W. May, Jr.

Benjamin Lewis May
by his enduring fan club

P. David “Biggie” Brown, Sr.

Katherine “Grammy” Bradford

Dorothy Smith, Harry Smith & Henry Leggett
by their granddaughter



Contributions to The Worship Fund Celebrate:

Kylee & Ryan

Life!

John Hancock

Our family, our Richmond family, Boulevard UMC
& all who help us with little Leo.
by Matt & Katie B. Gooch

Thank-you. And to God, be the glory.

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter said, “I really am learning that God doesn’t show partiality to one group of people over another. ³⁵Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! ³⁷You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. ³⁸You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, ⁴¹not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

¹⁷ **DO NOT HOLD ON** John 20

John 20:11-18

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ ¹⁶Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

He could have at least given her a minute. Instead, Jesus waits only as long as it takes for her to recognize him. Mary Magdalene is on another of God’s errands in no time. “Go to my brothers and say to them...(vv.16-17).

Easter is a season. Though it is tempting to let it be a day, there is too much at stake. There is no other time in the church year that can take its place. Sunday begins a *fifty* days for something or other. What’ll it be?

Some parameters: (1) Easter is a time to receive glimpses of transformation—key word, receive. (2) Easter is a season to allow God to bring life out of death; which, by the way, can ask us to stick our necks out a little past the point with which we are comfortable.

It’s not that Easter is a gift and some assembly is required. [I’ll have to think on a better metaphor.] What I am trying to say is that Jesus speaks when he rises. There are words of instruction for each and all of us that are as precious as the news of a tomb told *oh, hell no*.

God in Jesus seems to already be whispering something to me about these fifty days. While I don’t want to come to any conclusions ahead of time, I sense that the crucified one may rise with a word for me about beginning again.

A million things could and do happen that put us in that back-to-the-drawing-board kind of place. We pick that fight again with a loved one, after a season of truly being our better self. We gain back the weight we worked to lose. Grief strikes like a Nor’easter on the heels of high tide, right when we thought we had progressed.

With the words “Do not hold on to me,” Jesus is not shooping Mary Magdalene away. I believe he intends to be her Lord, her Rabbouni, as she goes and does for others (v.17). Jesus is going to help her begin again at the same time as he helps the broader community of disciples to begin again.

Dear friends, do not assume that what you are called to offer for the collective is somehow separate from how God is relating to you or wanting to relate to you. A colleague writes, “I think we are always having awakenings, where we realize that we have become unfamiliar...we have forgotten how personally he comes into our lives.” This Easter, give Jesus a chance to love you and send you at the same time.

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Michael Barrett, Colleen Bouldin, 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
I st Quarter 2017	\$51,778	\$30,678

Old friends and new friends: We are working our way into a future that excites us and positions us 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.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

THE LAND LAYS FALLOW this month. There is no April mission focus. With rest comes renewed compassion and engagement. That is the hope! You may be wondering what happens to money that is designated "mission" when we are not emphasizing a particular project. It is used in accordance with our definition of outreach (above). In other words: It's always usable.