

Boulevard United Methodist Church



We are the people called to live with the vision of the kingdom of
God as our agenda.

- William Loader

April 23, 2017

On the Cover: Christopher Slatoff's *St. Peter Preaching*, bronze, Fallbrook CA.

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

Order of Worship for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit *I'm So Glad*

Greeting

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth* UMH 92

Prayers of the People Rev. Rachel May

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*Gospel Lesson John 20:19-31

Sermon "Easter is Here...So What?" Rev. Lindsey Baynham

*Hymn *Now Praise the Hidden God of Love* TFWS 2027

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Easter People Raise Your Voices* UMH 304

*Benediction

*Parting Music *Not With Naked Eye*

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for the friends and family of David McConnell, 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}

FROM THE MONTHLY MISSION CALENDAR:

May – mid-June

details below

National/Global

CONFERENCE OFFERING
AND KITS (UMCOR)

July - August

school supplying

Local

JOHN B. CARY
& FOX ELEMENTARY

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING boosts (1) Methodist ministry in Cambodia, Brazil and Mozambique (2) Disaster Relief, Minority Missional Ministries, and Volunteers in Mission in Virginia. This is a special collection initiated by our Bishop Sharma Lewis. Goal: \$200,000. Virginia can do this!

As for “kits”, also collected that same weekend, there is currently an appeal from UMCOR for Health and Bedding kits. Speak with Rachel if you think can rally a small crew around the cause.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

17 IT WAS STILL THE FIRST DAY John 20

That evening—as in, the evening after the morning when Mary encountered her risen Lord—the disciples may have seen new sides of fellow followers. Huddling together in a spirit of fear can bring the best out of people. Ahem. It can also bring out, well, our issues. No one is perfectly enjoyable at all times.

All the more reason to celebrate a God in Jesus who shows with a large serving of what they might need more than a miracle or with what is a miracle in itself, come to think of it: Peace (v.21). They aren't just dealing with the aftermath of a beloved teacher's horrific murder. They are dealing with one another.

Jesus breathed on them that evening. He breathed on them and he asked them to receive the Holy Spirit (v.22).

It strikes me how John's Jesus connects the Spirit to forgiveness (v.23). Of course he does. For this crew to move forward, they were going to need to forgive themselves, the authorities, each other, and yes, Jesus. We humans can harbor quite a bit of resentment for those who love and leave us.

I am also moved by this image of gospel schoolmates looking around and seeing that who they had was each other. Before, it may have been easy to think that group dynamics were somehow separate from the mission. In this still-the-first-day moment or in the moment described as "after eight days", I imagine a couple of them realizing that the relationship is the task.

Boulevard is another space where whom we have is each other; which is not to say that there is no need to widen the circle of fellowship. It is simply an invitation to recognize that we are not all here accidentally. We have been given to each other. Perhaps only God knows why or maybe it is worthwhile to discern the reason(s).

It's true: Our preacher, The Reverend Lindsey Baynham, currently serves as the Associate Director of Call, Candidacy & Discernment for the Virginia Conference of the UMC. It is also true that she runs and rescues (daily) Charles the dog and marvels over hippos (especially her adopted one) and helps people to feel loved in their idiosyncrasies and sees deeply into the complexities of her own story and the stories being lived all around her.

Something about this Eastertide makes me want to do better at treasuring the *who* amidst so much talk of what, where, why, and how. Company welcomed.

John 20:19-31 (CEB)

¹⁹It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ²²Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

²⁴Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

²⁸Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

³⁰Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.