

## WITNESS

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

**{Together}**

STAY AFTER WORSHIP today for a potluck picnic! Our togetherness and any proceeds will boost this month's mission focus. No food to contribute? No problem. Stay and eat!

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



Paul preaches about a God who resurrects bodies. This is a topic that makes people squeamish in places beyond Athens. Bad theology has left far too many Christians thinking that they should despise embodied existence. Bad cultural assumptions have left others thinking that they should adulate bodies.

- Matt Skinner

On the Cover: Stairs to Mars Hill, Athens.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

May 21, 2017

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

## Order of Worship for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

\* Please stand, as able.

### Gathering

Introit *Blessed Assurance*

Greeting

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn *All Who Hunger* TFWS 2126

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Interlude

### Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading I Peter 3:13-22

Music

Gospel Reading John 14:15-21

Scripture Lesson Acts 17:22-31

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

\*Hymn *O Church Be Faithful* Insert

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory  
\*Doxology (94 UMH)  
\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

### Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Jesus Thine All Victorious Love* UMH 422

\*Benediction

\*Parting Music *Lord I Want to be a Christian*

## NURTURE

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

### {Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Mary Anderson and her new to the family son, 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
January 1 – April 30	\$68,848	\$54,751

## OUTREACH

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

### {Outward}

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 offered and collected that weekend, we are assembling twenty health kits today for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to distribute wherever disaster strikes.

### Acts 17:22-31 (CEB)

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, “People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. <sup>23</sup>As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn’t live in temples made with human hands. <sup>25</sup>Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. <sup>26</sup>From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup>God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn’t far away from any of us. <sup>28</sup>In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, ‘We are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>“Therefore, as God’s offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. <sup>30</sup>God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. <sup>31</sup>This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

### John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

”If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

”I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”