

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING update: Holy smokes, we are getting after it! Over \$1,000 has been collected. Plus, we assembled 20 health kits last weekend for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Our congregation is a part of the Virginia Conference. At this year's annual gathering of the Conference, Rachel or our lay member, Kylee, will hand off the kits and put the check in the plate during a worship service.

Our Bishop Sharma Lewis, per tradition, has selected the initiatives that will be on the receiving end of an offering that is being collected in the weeks leading up June 16-18. For (1) Ministry in Cambodia, Brazil and Mozambique and (2) Disaster Relief, Minority Missional Ministries, and Volunteers in Mission in Virginia, the goal is a total of \$200,000.

Boulevard did its part! Thank you for making our \$1,444 contribution possible.



*The flowers are given to glorify God and with great love for Leo,
by his grandparents.*

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



The Holy Spirit is the light and strength of my life, for which I am eternally grateful. My best daily prayer continues to be simply, 'Come, Holy Spirit.' No better prayer, no better results: much light and much strength.

- Theodore Hesburgh

June 4, 2017

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
www.boulevardumc.org

Order of Worship for Pentecost Sunday

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Music

Words of Welcome

*Call to Prayer and Praise

Insert

*Hymn *Holy Spirit Wind of Heaven*

Insert

Prayers of the People

Interlude Jennifer Johnson, violin

Proclamation and Response



Holy Baptism LEONARD HOLLAND GOOCH

Please join in a sung blessing to complete our sharing in The Baptismal Covenant.

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." (Refrain)

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

*Gospel Reading John 7:37-39

*Hymn *Spirit of God vv.1-2* TFWS 2117

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:57-66

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry* TFWS 2051

Thanksgiving and Communion

Invitation

Our Confession
God's Pardon
The Peace

She is the Spirit

The service continues with The Great Thanksgiving. Jesus, our host, invites everybody to Supper. You may offer tithes or gifts as you come forward to partake.

Taste and See

Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Spirit of God vv.3-4* TFWS 2117

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Parting Music

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Rusty Moellencamp, Mary Anderson and her new to the family son, the friends and family of David McConnell, Colleen Bouldin, Kimberly Gwynn, Merle and Laurie. 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.

May 1 - 27	Ministry Costs \$25,676	Your Gifts \$15,786
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Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

⁶³ **HE SURPRISED EVERYONE** - Luke 1

The first chapter of Luke's gospel is so rich it could give us the gout IF, in one sitting, we tried to ingest the whole thing.

The opening act whisks me away to a place that feels as near as it does otherworldly. Time collapses. High salvation drama picks up steam and I feel for Zechariah. I know the littlest bit about experiencing the enormity of God swirling about and yet needing help when it comes to speaking.

To this section often called the birth of John the Baptist there is more:

- Folk still reeling from the news that Elizabeth and Zechariah had conceived
- The ripening of time
- Neighbors and relatives who, after a spell of pure joy, expect to have input
- A mother that has to tell everyone to back off
- Tension over the name of a baby
- A defense of tradition when it appears that a tradition is fixing to be broken
- A father who is at a loss for words--literally
- A breakthrough
- A changed neighborhood
- Imaginations kicked into high and hopeful gear
- A strong sense of God being intimately involved.

This could all be said of the season in which a little one has entered *our* lives. It may ring true for Katie and Matt Gooch, with at least one exception. Whereas Zechariah and Elizabeth's relatives did not have the name John, Leo *is* a family name. Leo is named after his great-grandfather and then grandfather -- Matt's dad -- who died on October 19, 2016. Little Leo was born on October 26.

It is a bittersweet piece of the story which Leo's parents will carry long after the days of carrying Leo have passed. Church, this is where we come in. We lift high our belief in the Communion of Saints, summoning those who have gone before us to bring their rowdy—to cheer on the baptized one! That promise we make to show up: Thanks be to God for those who keep it in this life and in the life to come.

Luke 1:57-66 Common English Bible

⁵⁷ When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. ⁶⁰ But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John."

⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." ⁶² Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him.

⁶³ After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God.

⁶⁵ All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. ⁶⁶ All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, "What then will this child be?" Indeed, the Lord's power was with him.

John 7:37-39 The Message

On the final and climactic day of the Feast, Jesus took his stand. He cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says." (He said this in regard to the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were about to receive. The Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.)

I am awestruck, Holy One
at this beautiful and boundless universe—
gestated over eons with love and care.
Your creative intent envelopes the world like a cloak.
I see it shining in the heavens, hear it whispering
in the winds, feel it crackling in the fire.
For you energized the dust of the universe—
the galaxies, the stars, the planets,
right down to this jewel of an earth.
You birthed her like a golden babe
from the fires under your heart.
She cooled, wrapped herself in water and in air.
The waters receded, the mountains rose
Storms shaped and softened the landscape
and in time, she gave birth to life in her seas.
In the eons life evolved into myriad forms
each with its own niche in your scheme.
With Your love, She taught each its place, its work, its song.
And humankind—you birthed us too. Gave us
the world as our home and food--
bread to eat, wine to make our hearts glad, herbs for
healing, and oil to soothe our skin.
You gave us many songs, many powers, and put
a restlessness in our hearts
we could seek you always.

**O Holy One, how manifold are your works
In your love and play you have birthed them all
and raised them up.
I will sing your songs all my days
and care for all you have created
and keep my heart ever open to your Love.**