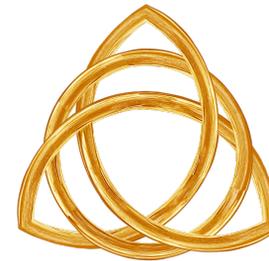


Boulevard United Methodist Church



“In Genesis we see God at work, and we learn how God intends us to work.”

- Theology of Work Project

June 11, 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 Trinity Sunday

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Music *Come Holy Spirit*

Greeting

Opening Words

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon and curl the baby's ear;
Spirit, brooding over chaos before the naming of day;
Savior, sending us to earth's ends with water and words:
Startle us with the grace, love and communion
of your unity in diversity,
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. **Amen.**

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY PRAYERS

Hymn *Crashing Waters at Creation*

1. Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.
- *2. Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage – channel to a life made new.
3. Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one love-told,
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.
4. Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Gospel Reading *Matthew 28:16-20*

Children's Moment

Scripture Lesson *Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a*

*Hymn *How Wonderful The Three in One 1-2*

How wonderful the Three-in-One,
Whose energies of dancing light
Are undivided, pure and good,
Communing love in shared delight.

Before the flow of dawn and dark,
Creation's Lover dreamed of earth,
And with a caring deep and wise,
All things conceived and brought to birth.

Sermon "Belovedly" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *How Wonderful The Three in One 3-5*

The Lover's own Belov'd, in time,
Between a cradle and a cross,
At home in flesh, gave love and life
To heal our brokenness and loss.

Their Equal Friend all life sustains
With greening pow'r and loving care,
And calls us, born again by grace,
In Love's communing life to share.

How wonderful the Living God:
Divine Beloved, Empow'ring Friend,
Eternal Lover, Three-in-One,
Our hope's beginning, way and end.

Offering Tithes and Gifts
Offertory *Three Things I Promise*
*Doxology (94 UMH)
*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *O God Our Help in Ages Past* UMH 117

*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.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
May 2017	\$26,112	\$17,000

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS allows you to help Boulevard in a roundabout way. If you shop at Kroger and use a Plus Card, all you need to do is to attach Boulevard's organizational number to your account. That number is 91758, Enroll online or ask a Kroger customer service representative for assistance.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

WE REST until our next mission focus, the details of which will be included in the July 9 bulletin. With ideas for future outreaching endeavors or to offer yourself as a leader for a particular effort, speak with Rachel.

Beloved

Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

Someone once said, "If you do not know the words, you can hardly know the thing." The Church has a word bank. After "angels" and before "calling" there is:

"BELOVED be-luv'-ed, be-luv'-d' (*agapetos*)

A term of affectionate endearment common to both Testaments;

Limited chiefly to two Hebrew words and their derivatives: *'ahabh*, "to breathe" or "long for," hence, to love, corresponding to the New Testament, *agapao*, "to prefer," i.e. a love based on respect and benevolent regard; *dodh*, "love," chiefly love based on sense and emotion, akin to *phileo* (Latin *amare*). Both words used of **God's love for God's chosen:** e.g. Benjamin "beloved of Yahweh" (Deuteronomy 33:12).

In the New Testament "beloved" used exclusively of Divine and Christian love, **an affection begotten in the community of the spiritual life** in Christ, e.g. "beloved in the Lord" (Romans 16:8). The beauty, unity, endearment of this love is historically unique. "Brethren" in Christ are "beloved" (1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:58; James 1:16; 2:5).

John is the conspicuous New Testament illustration of the **depth and tenderness** of Christian love. In his epistles alone he addresses his disciples 12 times as "beloved."

The term rises to still Diviner significance as an epithet of Christ, whom Paul terms "the Beloved." This is the word used repeatedly to express **God's infinite affection for Jesus** (Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 20:13).

Agapetos is 9 times "dearly beloved" (the Revised Version omits "dearly") and 3 times "well beloved" (the Revised Version omits "well"). The former rendering found only once in the Old Testament (*yedhidhuth*, "something beloved"), portraying **God's tender love for God's people:** "dearly beloved of my soul" (Jeremiah 12:7). Thrice is Daniel spoken of as "greatly beloved" of Gabriel and of God (*hamudhoth*, "precious," i.e. **delight** = beloved; Daniel 9:23; 10:11,19).

Through the apostles the word has become **familiar in pastoral and sermonic address.** Few New Testament words better illustrate the power and impress of the Christian spirit on succeeding centuries than this."