

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.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Gathering the harvest is about bringing to fruition what every stalk, head, grain in every field has within it.”

- Brian McGowan

June 18, 2017

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

On the Cover: The Twelve Apostles Coast, Melbourne Australia

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Order of Worship for the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Music *Standing on the Promises*

Greeting

*Call to Worship*Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.

All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.

Loving God, you who are our father and our mother, we thank you that you have shown us how important it is to follow your example as we grow in faith. Teach us to be obedient to your will, respecting you as children ought. Thank you for your mercy despite our disobedience. Strengthen us to stand up against the challenges of this world, honoring your name and trusting your grace. In the Name of your Son, we pray. **Amen.**

The Rev. Dr. LaGretta Bjorn
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

*Hymn *Gather Us In* TFWS 2236

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude *Open My Eyes that I May See*

Proclamation and Response

Children's Moment

Scripture Lessons Matthew 9:35-10:8
Romans 5:1-8

Sermon Rev. Alexa Slonin

*Hymn *We Are All One in Mission* TFWS 2243

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Freely, Freely* UMH 389

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Parting Music

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for the family of Yolanda Williams, 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
June 1 - 10	\$3,038	\$2,574



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

³⁸ **ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST** - Matthew 9

Bishop James Swanson Sr. just preached his heart out. It was the 11:00 worship service, one of two services scheduled for Saturday, and these words reverberate: God (whether we like it or not) has put mission in the hands of *people*.

Come the end of the ninth chapter of Matthew's gospel, Jesus is putting the mission in the hands of twelve. As discipleship gives way to apostleship, one wonders if they felt the gravity of the moment (10:2).

The mission and the metaphor Jesus uses for the mission are separate things. The mission is to go, proclaiming the good news (v.7). The mission is to "cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons" (v.8). The metaphor is a harvest. And because harvest pops up not infrequently in the Bible, it is easy to blow by it, missing what it adds to what Jesus has to say.

Some people hear "harvest" and see "fall". But summertime is for harvesting too. This text takes me back to high school, when there was a boy who was tied to the combine for days on end this time of year. More than once he told me, "I'm sorry, but I've got to the grain out. And before it rains."

Thinking back on that dynamic helps me to tune in when Jesus says that harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Except Jesus does not say that he has to stay put on a piece of machinery. Neither does he say that if the disciples would get in the field, the work would get done.

Jesus asks them (and us) to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers (v.38).

I cannot recall the last time that I prayed for the Lord to send out laborers. Considering that much that has me considering what exactly this harvest is.

The harvest is God's harvest and it is people—people who are ready, *longing* even, to be gathered up into an alternative quality of life characterized by all that Jesus lives and later dies and rises for. Who is responsible for the harvesting? Well, we are; alongside God, of course. "Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers."

Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment