

## OUTREACH

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

### **{Outward}**

**STOCK OUR SCHOOLS.** Through Sunday August 13, we are receiving financial donations. Gifts designated for mission or marked “school supplies” will resource two local primary schools.

According to one recent study, supplies alone, not counting clothing or gadgets, are costing parents \$95.00. Most teachers spent nearly \$500 on school supplies for their classrooms and one in 10 spent \$1,000 or more. How about helping us connect another child and another teacher with what they will soon need?

Finally, if you would like to be a part of the joyful shopping and dropping off experience, speak with Rachel or better yet, connect with Mark and Karen Suter.

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



"Faith is what you do between the last time you experienced God and the next time you experience God."

- Renita Weems

August 6, 2017

321 N Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
[www.boulevardumc.org](http://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 the 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

\* Please stand, as able.

## Gathering

Music *Lord, Listen to your Children Praying*

Greeting

Call to Worship

\*Hymn *Give Thanks for Life* Insert

Prayer

Duet *Londonderry Air* Deb Saidel, flute

## Proclamation and Response

First Reading Genesis 32:22-31

\*Hymn *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown 1-2* UMH 386

\*Gospel Reading Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon "Going Ashore" Rev. Rachel G. May

Interlude

## Thanksgiving and Communion

Invitation

The Peace

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

*Let us Break Bread Together*

Prayer

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* UMH 344

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Parting Music

## NURTURE

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

### {Inward}

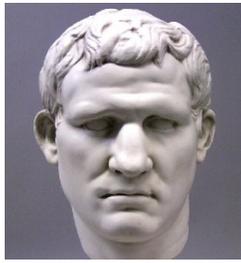
WE ARE PRAYING for Grayson Foy, Richard Weeks, Wayne, Ben Hamrick, the family of Yolanda Williams, Rusty Moellencamp, Mary Anderson and her new to the family son, the friends and family of David McConnell, Colleen Bouldin, Kimberly Gwynn, Merle and Laurie. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the 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
January 1 – June 30 2017	\$115,179	\$83,278

Mid-year giving statements including a word of thanks and a bit of financial analysis will go out next week.



## Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

<sup>13</sup> **WHEN JESUS HEARD THIS** Matthew 14

“Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place (v.13).” Wait. When Jesus heard *what?* ...how Herod had orchestrated John the Baptist’s execution.

The Herod at play here is not to be confused with his father, also named Herod, who tried to nip the Jesus thing in the bud by killing all of the infant boys in around Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16).

Herod *Antipas* rules Galilee at the time of our text: He will be among those whom Jesus faces when tried and executed.

He’ll have a son named...Herod (Herod Agrippa I). That son will have a son named...Herod (Agrippa II). Eventually the family will fall from grace.

Except these guys do not live lives patterned by grace. Nor do they rule in such a way that Jesus can host an alternative banquet without ruffling their feathers.

At Herod’s banquet, a person is executed. At this other one, people will be fed. At Herod’s party, people eat food that in effect asks, *who’s your daddy?* In a field near Bethesda, people will eat food that finds them as pure gift. Around Herod’s table, people dance to please power. Around God’s, the needs of the powerless are met.

Read the verses that precede these and you won’t have to take my word for it. Feeding 5,000 people is miraculous, yes, and also risky business. Where people are supposed to see the empire’s men as their provider and protector, one is wise to put their compassion to rest and “stay out of it”.

Which is exactly what the disciples intend to do. The twelve may think that it’s either their teacher’s job to work miracles or the hungry folks’ job to take care of themselves. Jesus, however, refuses to take their lack of imagination seriously.

Say the disciples: The crowd can go and buy food for themselves. No, says Jesus. “You give them something eat (vv. 15-16).”

^^^These are words never uttered by the Herods then nor now. Maybe that is why they, the Herods, are still at large and up to no good. The fullness of our responsibility is hard to imagine and even harder to embrace.

Matthew 14:13-21

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.