

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

SEPTEMBER is for disaster relief. In the wake of two hurricanes, our mission focus is the people who must clean up before they can rebuild. If you are willing to head up a time of assembling cleaning or hygiene kits, speak with Rachel. No one is or needs to be an expert at this. www.umcor.org: The Relief Supply section provides instructions. As for the funds to buy the items for these kits, folks will give what needs to be given for us to do this!

WITNESS

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

{Together}

LOOKING AHEAD liturgically, with a bit of the civil calendar mixed in:

September 17	Crystal Bayles Lennon, piano
September 30 (Saturday)	Blessing of the Animals
October 1	World Communion Sunday Rev. Katie Gooch preaching Jennifer Johnson and Dennis Elliott, strings
November 5	All Saints Sunday Rev. Meredith McNabb preaching
November 23	Thanksgiving
November 26	Christ the King Sunday
December 3	First Sunday in Advent
December 16 (Saturday)	“Get in the Pic”: a live nativity photo booth
December 24 (Sunday)	Christmas Eve
December 25 (Monday)	Christmas Day
December 31 (Sunday)	New Year’s Eve

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Generally, a month was said to begin **in** the evening of the 29th day, at the moment when the thin sliver of the new moon appeared in the sky. When all seven Beth Din members agreed to the new month, it legally began; fires were lit on the hilltops to announce it to the populace.”

- Charles Pope

September 10, 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 the 14th Sunday after Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Opening Words

Music

Greeting

Call to Worship

*Hymn

Gentle Shepherd

Insert

Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

*Hymn

God of Freedom, God of Justice

*God of freedom, God of justice,
God whose love is strong as death,
Christ who saw the dark of prison,
Christ who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.*

*Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers,
of whatever race or creed –
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.*

Sermon

“The Other 1st Commandment”

Rev. Rachel G. May

Duet

Deb Saidel
Brendan Dresdner

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 offer tithes or gifts as you come forward to partake, if you wish.

Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Lead On O Cloud of Presence

TFWS 2234

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Parting Music

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for James May, Mary Marshall, Jerry Porter, Grayson Foy, Richard Weeks, Wayne, Ben Hamrick, and the family of Yolanda Williams. 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.

GUESTS: Might you send a text message to boulevardumc@gmail.com? Include your name and snail-mail address and we can then acknowledge your gift (of presence) to us. What you share we handle with care!

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER: September 11. Join in prayer and lunch thereafter, if you'd like, at Westminster Canterbury (1600 Westbrook Ave.). We gather at 11:30 in the 6th floor common room.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

! **THIS MONTH SHALL MARK FOR YOU** - Exodus 12

While still in the hell that was Egypt, God tells God's people how to relate to time, once free. The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, *here is your calendar* (vv.1-2). It's lunar.

Thus this Sunday's sermon: a sermon about the moon. I may have overestimated my ability to interpret the significance of the first couple of verses of Exodus 12. What I have underestimated is the impact of hearing the news—the news that Wallace Adams-Riley is turning the page.

Many moons ago, I was introduced to him at what would become an every Tuesday morning appointment. He seemed nice enough and plenty thoughtful. Heck, I was the new kid in town. Anyone remotely interested in my existence was a gift.

In time, I would marvel at his cheer. I would be on one side of the table drinking my coffee as though it were heroic to have simply made it to the table. Wallace would be greeting people like it was the privilege of his life.

I would glare at his energy level and tell him I was glaring. I knew that it (his energy) was being put to use in a kingdom-advancing way and I was envious.

When I could, during Lent, I'd run off to weekday worship at his parish and experience the art of dismissing folk (the benediction). *Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.*

I saved the hand-written note thanking me for participating in a Good Friday service. I still owe him lunch money. From afar, he cheerleads the people called Boulevard. I was counting on more of things as things have been.

Of course, that is not what friends are for; friends aren't for meeting our needs. Friends are for delighting in. So Wallace, as you step into the pulpit one final time at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond: You have made my moon-ths richer. Wherever the next chapter takes you, Godspeed. Be renewed like the moon and know you have been light. And grace. And courage.

Friends, time truly is given. For life beyond Egypt, it is what we receive as a means to connect. Tell somebody this week that they have helped you mark the months in a way that is truer to God's design. And don't. Don't take a second of it for granted.

Exodus 12:1-2

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.