

Boulevard United Methodist Church



It's tempting to read ourselves into the text as God's chosen people. We take the New Testament idea of adoption as children of God and apply it to Old Testament stories. At times, this can be appropriate. However, we have to do the hard work of truthfully looking at ourselves...Are we Israel? Or are we Egypt?

- Aimee Niles

September 17, 2017

On the Cover: Wilderness Journey Map by Susan Williams.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

Order of Worship for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Music

Greeting

Call to Worship

*Hymn *We Sing to You O God* TFWS 2001

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude *Spirit Open My Heart* Insert

First, an introduction on the piano and then everyone sings.

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading Exodus 13:17-21

Music *Mary Don't You Weep* Crystal Bayles Lennon

Scripture Lesson Exodus 14:19-31

Sermon "Step and The Sea Will Part" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Give to The Winds Thy Fears* UMH 129

*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!

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
September 1 - 9	\$4,660	\$2,570

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!

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers."²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.