

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

THANK YOU generous friends. Your missional giving for late August and September's focus totaled \$1285.50! This will fund critical disaster relief. Homebound community members continue to participate in these special collections and we are grateful in a particular way for the boost they supply.

OCTOBER IS FOR PET FOOD. Get dollars or the food itself to Boulevard and we'll stock the shelves of those who provide for our hungry four-legged neighbors. How about ten cans or one ten-pound bag of dry food or a \$10 contribution, which can feed a pet for a month? Elaine Kennedy and Linda Crowder are point persons for this effort. Make it easier rather than harder on our transporters by considering product weight and packaging! Drop-off location: The cart outside our main office.



WITNESS

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

{Together}

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

October 29	4:00 pm Sunday services begin at Fox Elementary
November 5	All Saints Sunday Rev. Meredith McNabb preaching

Boulevard United Methodist Church



"I suggest we discontinue referring to this text as the "golden calf" incident and begin calling it the "God changes God's mind at the request of Moses" incident."

- Shauna Hannan

October 15, 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 19th Sunday after Pentecost

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

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Music

Greeting

*Call to Worship

It is God who draws us here

To awaken praise

To spark uncommon caring

It is God who draws us here

To sing and pray

To wonder and want differently

It is God who draws us here.

*Hymn *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

Insert

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Reading Exodus 19:1-6

Music Dennis Elliott

Scripture Lesson Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *You Are Mine* TFWS 2218

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Crystal Lennon

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Cast Out, O Christ

Insert

*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.

A REGISTRY FOR A CONGREGATION? Indeed. For life together in the near future, there are items that you can give to bless the transition. A foam play mat for babies...a caddy for coffee and tea service...a pair of folding tables that will fit in Fox's elevator. Search Amazon for "Boulevard at Fox", click on the link provided in the electronic bulletin, or call the main office.

BETWEEN 3:15 AND 5:15 this Sunday or next, the 15th or the 22nd, stop by



Fox Elementary and experience where we will soon hold our services. This is not a formal program or event. Think of it as part open house, part opportunity for you to help us see what we need to see as we get ready to do this new thing. Use the N Stafford entryway. Bring the kids!



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

⁸ MAKE ME A SANCTUARY - Exodus 25

It's as if we've gone to the theater. The company puts on a mini-concert during intermission. Despite the fact that it is supposed to be atmospheric, a fun little ditty for while we wait—the act between acts is what sticks.

The golden calf is arguably a mini-show that steals the actual show. What these chapters seem to *want* to feature is the story of the tabernacle.

The tabernacle is first mentioned in Exodus 25. Moses is receiving instructions on how to make it. “These instructions continue through chapter 31. Then, after a three-chapter interlude, chapter 35 resumes the story (Baker’s Dictionary).”

We're like moths to a flame, though, and the flame is this three-chapter interlude. God may have asked Moses to fashion a dwelling place for the Lord. *But let's talk about the other offering.* It's an earring offering! Aaron collects the people's gold. Into the fire goes their jewelry and out comes a golden calf.

What the people do while they wait for Moses is an intriguing short story of old. However, as the act between acts, it is not meant to be the one thing that sticks. The sacred narrator presumes we were around for when God said, a few chapters back: *Take up an offering (v.2). And make me a sanctuary (v.8).*

God wishes to dwell with God's people. This is as much the gist of Exodus as the giving of the law and the outgoing from Egypt. Now, the blueprint for how to go make this co-habitation a reality does not produce what we imagine when we hear “sanctuary”. Solomon's Temple was no replica of this tabernacle. The sanctuaries our grandparents built hardly resemble the houses of God built in the Middle Ages.

We creatures have crafted a variety of spaces for the sake of God-with-us in our living. I suppose this is me asking you to be a part of doing it one more time.

We're not just fixing to gather at Fox Elementary aimlessly. We mean (I hope) to enact in our own time a response to the One who said, *take up an offering and make me a sanctuary.* That our tent of meeting won't look like the tent we've known has biblical and traditional precedent. Involve the Lord God who longs to be in our midst and it'll be okay. No, it'll be more than okay.

We are the little church that could. And, well, you can take that to bank.

Exodus 25:1-9

The Lord said to Moses: ²Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me. ³This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁴blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair, ⁵tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood, ⁶oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece. ⁸And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. ⁹In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. ⁷The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

⁹The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." ¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.