

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

A CHURCH CONFERENCE happens on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 pm. We will gather for 45 minutes alongside Richmond District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Pete Moon, to discuss new developments since our church conference in July. We don't meet just to meet around here so please consider offering the gift of presence!

WE ARE PRAYING for Jim Rickards, Jerry Porter, Grayson Foy, Richard Weeks, Wayne, and Ben Hamrick. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

SO BEGINS CHILDREN'S CHURCH. Ms. LaRonda is among us and this is exciting, people! She's a favorite among students over at Grace Covenant's preschool. After children's moment (approximately 4:15) guardians are invited to accompany infants - 5 year olds to the end of the hallway.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
October 1 – 21	\$10,762	\$11,407

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

OCTOBER (and early November) IS FOR PET FOOD. Get dollars or the food itself to us and we'll stock the shelves of those who provide for our hungry four-legged neighbors. 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!



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Boulevard United Methodist Church



The NRSV translation makes it passive, "he was buried," but the Hebrew indicates an almost startling intimacy with the imagery of God being the one to bury Moses and lay him to rest.

- Sara Koenig

October 29, 2017

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For the 21st Sunday after Pentecost

4:00 pm

Gathering

Greeting

Rev. Drew Willson

Call to Prayer and Praise

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. - Psalm 90

Hymn

Woke Up This Morning

Prayer

The Peace

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Interlude

Time with Children

Music

First Reading Deuteronomy 29:1-5; 10-15

Scripture Lesson Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

Hymn

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Offering

The Lord's Supper

Hymn

Welcome Table

Dismissal with Blessing

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God...

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus...

And so,

in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us, and pour out your Spirit on these gifts...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

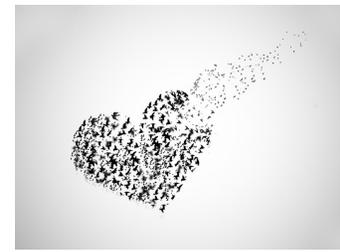
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

7 HIS SIGHT WAS UNIMPAIRED - Deut. 34

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

⁵Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Either Moses was a spring chicken or his faculties were functioning comparably. At “one hundred twenty” he could still see. He had plenty of energy.

Enter Joshua. One season was becoming another and *he* would be the one to guide the next stage. I imagine it hitting Joshua like a bittersweet arrow to the heart. *Had it not been for love, this moment would not be.*

Absent love, Shiphrah and Puah could have subverted Pharaoh’s genocide. Jochebed may not have yielded her toddler to the care of Pharaoh’s daughter. Absent love, young man Moses would never felt for the people, his people, whose liberty God would place in his hands. Moses may never have longed to connect with those who walked the covenant way before him. Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, would have been nobodies.

Absent love, people don’t listen for the sound of the holy as it emanates from a bush on fire. [They run or douse the flame.] Absent love, navigating the unknown with fickle pilgrims is painfully pointless. I’m willing to wager that beyond a flash of insight, a bolt of grace struck Joshua: *Had it not been for love, this moment would not be.*

The thing about love, Godly love, is that for whatever it makes happens, for whatever it gets a hold of, it releases; if reluctantly, still willingly. Love lets go.

Moses had been a man of mighty deeds and unequalled in who he was for a people (vv.11-12), but he was first and finally a man of love. He offered his role to another, his positional power, not because he *had* to but because he was in this thing with God and working with God is a labor of love.

I’ll wager whatever I have left (or have I spent all my chips?) on the nature of Joshua’s fullness (v.9). It was the fullness you or I feel when we recognize the gift just as the giver is on their way out or even after they have gone. Our hearts swell. We see how we spent a long while only *almost* seeing their beauty.

There is grace for that, you know. Maybe Moses only almost made it to the promised land and maybe Joshua only almost received the fullness of Moses’s life. You better believe -- that I believe -- it counted.