

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Abby, Mitchell, loved ones of Aunt Lou, Colleen Bouldin, 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.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH is up and running! Ms. LaRonda is among us. 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. They rejoin us for Communion.

A LOOK AT LIFE TOGETHER in numbers.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
December 1-9	\$4,516	\$3,652

As yearend approaches, kindly remember that you can make a gift (of stock, mutual funds, etc.) to Boulevard UMC and:

- avoid all broker commissions/fees as well as capital gains taxes
- take the full market value of the security as a 2017 tax donation
- possibly satisfy your 2017 RMD if you are over age 70½
- support our faith family with the full market value of the security(s).

You may also fulfill some or all of your planned giving for 2018 and record it as a 2017 deduction. Questions? Call Ted Soto of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation at 804-521-1122.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

THANK YOU for your continued commitment to congregational generosity. Our collection for United Methodist Family Services totals \$1394. We will deliver the check Monday.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Joseph's name was a proud name, recalling one of the twelve patriarchs, Joseph the son of Jacob who was sold by his brothers into Egypt and who later became second to Pharaoh in power over all Egypt, saving his family from famine (Genesis 30-50). His name means "to add."

- Ralph Wilson

December 17, 2017

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Richmond, Virginia 23220
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3rd Sunday in Advent

4:00 pm

Gathering

Greeting

Rev. Drew Willson

Call to Prayer and Praise (Isaiah 35:1-10)

The desert and the dry land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.

They will burst into bloom, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.

Then the lame will leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless will sing.

Waters will spring up in the desert, and streams in the wilderness.

A highway will be there. It will be called The Holy Way.

The Lord's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Prayer

The Peace

Time with Children

Music

Scripture

Psalm 91:1-6, 9-16

Music

Prince of Peace

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Offering Tithes & Gifts

The Lord's Supper

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

Dismissal with Blessing

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

INFANT HOLY INFANT LOWLY

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

Psalm 91:1-6, 9-16

- ¹ The person who dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² We shall say to You, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."
- ³ You shall deliver us from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ O God you shall cover us with your pinions, and we shall find refuge under your wings;
your faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- ⁵ We shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- ⁶ Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.

- ⁹ Because you have made God your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
- ¹⁰ There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- ¹¹ For God's angels shall have charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.
- ¹² They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- ¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and adder;
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
- ¹⁴ Thus says the High and Holy One: because you are bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver you; I will protect you, because you know my Name.
- ¹⁵ You shall call upon me, and I will answer you;
I am with you in trouble; I will rescue you and bring you to honor.
- ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy you, and show you my salvation.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.'²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.