

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Glen Andrews, Mary Marshall, 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 - 20	\$17,334	\$11,360

We used two moving services in December, one for a storage unit and the other for our new office at The Pace Center. Your gifts ensure that we can do these sorts of things when the need arises, so thank-you!

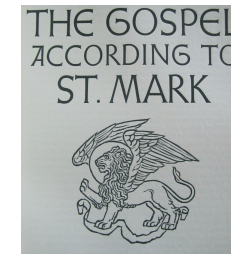
OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

PLANNING for 2018 outreach initiatives is in order. A time and place for this important work is forthcoming.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Mark places us in the wilderness on the far side of the Jordan. The location of John's baptism necessitated a large number of Israelites symbolically leaving and re-entering the land through the Jordan's waters. In the Jordan they were placed within the waters of Israel's drama.

- Alastair Roberts

January 7, 2018

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Baptism of the Lord Sunday

4:00 pm

Gathering

Greeting

Rev. Drew Willson

Call to Prayer and Praise

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; **and there was light.**

And God saw that the light was good; **and God separated the light from the darkness.**

God called the light Day, and the darkness Night. **And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.** – Genesis 1:1-5

Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Prayer

The Peace

Time with Children

Music

Down to the River to Pray

New Member Reception

Hymn

Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine

Scripture

Mark 1:4-11

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

Music

Offering Tithes & Gifts

The Lord's Supper

Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians

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

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT I

INTRODUCTION

A deacon or pastor addresses the congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ:
Through the Sacrament of Baptism
we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.
Through the reaffirmation of our faith,
we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,
acknowledge what God is doing for us,
and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

All may stand.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Eternal God:
When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light.
In the days of Noah
you saved those on the ark through water.
After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.
When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.
Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
nurtured in the water of a womb.
He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.
He called his disciples
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,
to wash away their sin
and clothe them in righteousness
throughout their lives,
that, dying and being raised with Christ,
they may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Almighty God! Amen.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Here water may be used as the deacon or pastor says:
Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

With the placing of hands on each person reaffirming faith:
Name, the Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION:

The pastor addresses candidates:

As members of Christ's universal Church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers,
your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

The pastor addresses the congregation:

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.

The congregation responds:

As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation, we renew our covenant to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness; that in everything God may be glorified.

The choir offers *Come By Here*, a sung blessing.



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

⁵ **AND WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN IN THE JORDAN** - Mark 1

Somewhere inside my HarperCollins Study Bible, a sticky note continues to hold on for dear life. It is as if that little piece of paper still fears the professor whom it has to thank for its existence. The post-it is pink. My pen was blue. “Across all four gospels,” reads the heading.

That Jesus was baptized by John – this made the list. Both the ancient evangelists and contributors to the modern historical Jesus movement scholars are sure of the location. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

My experience, and take it for what it’s worth, is that the location is lost on us. I’m not saying that no one among us knows a thing about the Jordan River; rather, that I think we get to this part of the story and sense that what we are supposed to do is talk about baptism.

Guilty as charged. I have done the thing. I have skipped over the always-important piece of bible reading, which is to take seriously what the text meant to the characters in the story and to the first audience to hear it.

This time around, I’m trying to imagine Mark 1:4-11 geographically. Maybe a better way to say that is with the word movement. The movement of the people, here, is significant.

People from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him (v.5). John was calling people back to the body of water that was the river that ran through *them*.

I begin to catch on when I think about the effect of traveling to the Eastern Shore. Ask any of us who are from there; the drive across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel just does something to you. It’s an immersion before the immersion in a way that is not unlike the experience of Israelites traveling across the Jordan to get the opposite bank where John could be found.

Jesus makes the trip. Jesus travels from Nazareth to the Jordan and it’s worth imagining what it felt like. The smells and the sounds and the skyline, as he made his way there...consider the tug of the water before he came up out of it (v.9).

Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”