

Boulevard United Methodist Church



“Invite in imaginative lovers, lunatics, and poets to give us visions of new selves and new heavens and earths. God knows, we need them if we are to be God’s partners in transfiguring ourselves and the world.”

- Bruce Epperly

February 11, 2018

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PO Box 14507 Richmond, VA 23221
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Transfiguration Sunday
4:00 pm at Fox Elementary

Gathering

Greeting Rev. Drew Willson

Hymn *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

Time with Children Rev. Rachel G. May

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Music

Gospel Reading Mark 9:2-9

Sermon "You Must Remember This" Rev. Drew Willson

Prayer

Hymn *O Living God*

Offering Tithes & Gifts

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Lord's Supper

Prayer

Hymn *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

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

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Glen Andrews, Mary Marshall, 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.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers:

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
January 1 - 27	16,294	17,669



AT NOON ON ASH WEDNESDAY ashes will be offered in the sanctuary at The Pace Center, 700 W. Franklin. This short service is a doorway into the season of Lent and is uniquely meaningful.

There are five Sundays in this year's Lenten season; the first is February 18. Palm/Passion Sunday falls on March 25. We celebrate Easter on April 1.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS, an organization empowering adults with a developmental disability to live full and vibrant lives. They provide group homes in neighborhoods across Virginia where residents live as independently as possible. Heart Havens was founded by the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and continues to be guided by Christian principles.



A pamphlet is included in this week's bulletin. Consider it encouraged reading! Throughout February we will collect supplies. A wish list flyer is available at the welcome table.

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Words: Carl P. Daw || Tune: Hyfrydol

We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the law and prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

! PRACTICING YOUR PIETY Matt 6

The non-negotiables cartwheel off the page, come Ash Wednesday: Almsgiving, praying, fasting. Lent is perhaps more than this but it almost certainly includes these spiritual disciplines.

Jesus discusses almsgiving, praying, and fasting as though we are already *are*. “Whenever” is the key word (v.2, v.6, v.16).

One can, of course, give alms, pray, and fast anytime. Matthew’s gospel says nothing about this piety being strictly a February thing. It’s just that Christians have traditionally taken up these practices with sharper focus at this time of year.

Counter-arguments abound: *I will not fast because I get light-headed. I am a giving person so does it really matter how intentional I am about what I give to whom? I pray for people. How I do it and how often is my business.*

In a crunch, my go-to way to distance myself from life lived in increasing faithfulness to these tenants is to tell myself that I am doing more than most people. How lame is that? Extremely.

Everybody loves to talk about discipline when it’s other people who need it. For example, the person who so clearly sees a lack of discipline in someone else’s spending habits does not see their own lack of discipline when it comes to eating well and exercising.

Few of us like to talk about discipline when it’s *our* lifestyle up for examination.

Here’s the challenge – and I am including myself in the addressees – give alms, pray, and fast in a new way this Lent. By “new” I mean new-to-you. Give money to the poor (almsgiving), listen for God in a set-apart setting (pray), refrain from catering to a particular craving (fasting)...and see what happens.

If you are making a note to self to steer clear of church, how about starting with one of the three? We’ve got a few days to think it over. When the plates (or baskets) go ‘round next Sunday, February 25, I hope that we will be those with a decided-upon spiritual discipline to offer.

How attached *are* we to stuff that fails to propel us in the way of doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God? Lent will show us if we let it.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.”³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.”⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.”¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.”²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.