

NURTURE

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

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Dan Rohrer & his family, those grieving the loss of Ben Harmrick, Rex Pyle & Michelle Oblinsky, and Lillian Faith Ruark. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH with Ms. LaRonda begins after the 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.

ON SUNDAY APRIL 29 we are potluck suppering together here at Fox. The Trustees are going to share the latest, regarding the recent sale of property and describe the next leg of the adventure. There will be outlets for crockpots or you can bring something that shares well at room temperature. Do stay after the service to congregate!

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

THE LAND LAYS FALLOW this month. There is no April mission focus. You may be wondering what happens to money that is designated "mission" when we are not emphasizing a particular project. It is used in accordance with our definition of outreach (above). In other words: It's always usable!



HELPING WITH CLASSROOM and other needs here at Fox Elementary is something we want to do. If you can reach out to a handful of teachers as your schedule permits, or are up for acting on any leads you may already have on this front, speak with Rachel.

Boulevard United Methodist Church



"If I cannot in honest happiness take the second place (or the twentieth); if I cannot take the first place without making a fuss about my unworthiness, then I know nothing of Calvary love."

- Amy Carmichael

April 8, 2018

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PO Box 14507 Richmond, VA 23221
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2nd Sunday of Easter
4:00 pm at Fox Elementary

Greeting

Rev. Drew Willson

Call to Prayer & Praise

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold of our Savior-Shepherd, Jesus,
Blessed be God forever.

Hymn

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Time with Children

Prayer

Scripture

Acts 4:32-35

The Peace

Scripture

John 20:19-31

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!*

Sermon

Rev. Rachel May

Hymn

Spirit Open My Heart

Offering Tithes & Gifts

*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

Hymn

For All the Saints

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



Schoolhouse Inklings

with Rev. Rachel

²⁴ THE ONE CALLED DIDYMUS John 20

John 20

²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

The whole doubting Thomas or disbelieving Thomas stuff sort of floats on by me like it is no more interested in me than I am in it.

Is it that I'm not John 20:24-29's type? It's possible that this Scripture sees me and says *moving right along*.

Or maybe I am insensitive. This particular hang-up is a world away from mine on the spectrum of faith struggles and so I lack empathy.

In a nutshell, the other disciples say that they have seen the Lord. Thomas says *no way*. If you or I were to experience the execution of a loved one, I imagine we would be similarly slow to absorb the possibility of a future with hope.

Sure, I might be sticking up for Thomas but that is hardly original. Plus, I'm not convinced he needs defending! The text as it is does not condemn him. It reports what happened on the eighth day (v.26).

What does intrigue me is the thought of those days in-between – the week Thomas spent somewhere, somehow. Did he spend those feeling left out or alienated? Unable to genuinely participate in whatever the others were doing? John 20:24-29 may have my attention after all.

Our Scripture says that the one called Didymus wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came on the first day (v.24). Thomas missed out on and sometimes when we miss out we feel cast aside, even if that was never anyone's intention.

About that heart-space of lacking whatever it takes to get to where others are (literally or figuratively): We can languish there. Sometimes we can do what we need to do to get back on the field. Other times, God has to enter in and rearrange the landscape; or at least shift how we are experiencing it.

Jesus came for Thomas. Jesus came for him like he was not about to let one of the twelve, *his* twelve, perish on Isolation Island. That Risen One, he's something else. Like they used to sing, He's in no ways tired.

Acts 4:32-35 (CEB)

³²The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, ³⁵and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.