

Boulevard United Methodist Church on Broad



We are in worship together with our various reasons for being here and ideas about what is happening here. Into all of that reasoning, walks the risen Christ greeting you with a word of peace. "Peace be with you." As you share a word of peace with each other in worship, this is the good word you continue to preach to each other. "Peace be with you."

- C. Trussell

April 28, 2019

2nd Sunday of Easter
4:00 pm at 1837 W Broad St.

Greeting Rev. Drew Willson

Call to Worship Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in the sanctuary; **praise God in the mighty firmament!**
Praise God with trumpet sound; **praise God with lute and harp!**
Praise God with tambourine and dance; **praise God with strings and pipe!**
Praise God with clanging cymbals; **praise God with loud clashing cymbals!**
Let everything that breathes praise our God! **Hallelujah!**

Hymn

Time with Children

Prayer

The Peace

Interlude

Scripture Acts 5:27-32

Hymn

Scripture John 20:19-23

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

Music

The Lord's Supper

Prayer

Hymn *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

Dismissal with Blessing

John 20:19-23

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

NURTURE

caring for one another and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Jim and his family, Chris Gregory, the Anderson family, the Kirkland family, the United Methodist Church, Grayson Foy, Nancy Tate, and Bishop Sharma Lewis. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH for infants - 5 years of age begins after the children's moment. They rejoin us for Communion. Our childcare provider is employed by Grace Covenant Child Development Center.

THE PHYSICIAN WITHIN will address Hospice on Wednesday, May 8. Legal aspects, decision-making, and religious perspectives on the modern hospice concept will be discussed 6:00 – 7:30 pm at First Baptist's Flamming Hall. Bring questions!

The Physician Within is a medical education program designed to foster more accurate understanding and self-help measures for the general public. It is sponsored by Richmond's First Baptist Church and the Richmond Academy of Medicine.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

OUR CURRENT MISSION FOCUS involves those who experience domestic violence, sexual violence, or human trafficking.



safe harbor

Consider staying after the service, next Sunday to hear from a Safe Harbor representative about how the organization works to save, transform, and rebuild lives. It will be relaxed, relatively brief (5:10 – 5:35), and local pizza will be served!

Encounter RVA

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 • 10 Iyyar 5779

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

1837 W Broad

Parking on-street or at the N Allen Suntrust

This is Session 11 of a series designed and moderated by Rabbi Michael Knopf. The speakers will be discussing spiritual entrepreneurship and interfaith work in Israel and America.



Arie Hasit is the founding rabbi of the Masorti community in Mazkeret Batya, a community designed to promote meaningful Jewish engagement for Jews of all beliefs and practices. Prior to his current position, Hasit served in a number of rabbinical positions around Israel, including as acting rabbi for the NOAM Masorti Youth Movement.



Rachel May is Pastor at Boulevard UMC on Broad, in Richmond Virginia. Her community elected to sell two historic, urban church buildings for a shot at a future with hope. They are now gathering at a new urban space and learning what it means to abide in a way that's neither a new church start nor a typical congregational revitalization project.

For some of you, 9pm is too late to be out "on a school night". Understood! Count on leaving early without judgment.



Storefront Inklings

with Rev. Rachel

TO CHANGE ITS HEART AND LIFE - Acts 5:31

John the Baptist is all about it, this moment. His fist is in the air a la MTV's *The Jersey Shore*, 2009. From his place among the communion of saints -- communion of saints because Herod, *that jerk, took his life -- he is in Peter's Amen corner.

This was *his* sermon: find forgiveness and let it change your heart and life. John's baptism was for forgiveness, which Paul later described as the baptism of repentance (Acts 19). When he was born, his father sang of his calling: "to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins (Luke 1).

When Peter and the apostles are being questioned and they use the microphone as they do, John the Baptist is with them. Are we?

In a word, no; at least, this is my sense. While there is an abundance of shame and guilt within and among us, on the whole, we don't see the bad things in our lives and our world in terms of sin that needs to be forgiven. Ask us what the world needs now, and we're not throwing elbows to get to the front of line to say, "forgiveness for sins" (Acts 5).

Here's the thing: It's all over the gospels. Said another way, there is plenty in the Bible, including the red-letter parts, about a change of heart and life set in motion *by forgiveness*. In the end, Jesus assesses the value of his own life in such terms. This is my blood...poured out...for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28).

I'm not suggesting that there is nothing else going in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Of course there is. What I *am* suggesting, is that it may be time for us to do some fresh thinking about the nature of the torch that is passed to Jesus and then to the apostles.

They are on the hot seat, this Sunday, and this is what they say (Peter and company): *The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead... to enable God's people to change their heart and life and to find forgiveness for sins* (vv.30-31).

We have come full circle. I don't know about the rest of us, but John is pumped. The promise in repentance burns brightly.

Acts 5:27-32

²⁷ The apostles were brought before the council where the high priest confronted them: ²⁸ "In no uncertain terms, we demanded that you not teach in this name. And look at you! You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. And you are determined to hold us responsible for this man's death."

²⁹ Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than humans! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God has exalted Jesus to his right side as leader and savior so that he could enable Israel to change its heart and life and to find forgiveness for sins. ³² We are witnesses of such things, as is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."