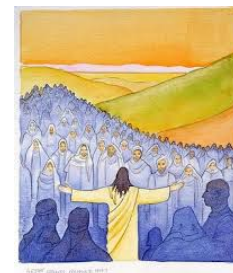


Boulevard United Methodist Church



The "job" of the church is not to convert the world, but to love and serve the world as Jesus did. Our "job" is not primarily to "get new members," but to love and care for people in our communities -- some may join, many will not.

- Brian P. Stoffregen

July 8, 2018

On the Cover: Great Crowds Followed Him, Elizabeth Wang poster print.

THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
✦ *where disciples are lifelong learners influencing others to serve* ✦

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PO Box 14507 Richmond, VA 23221
(804) 840-1921

7th Sunday after Pentecost
4:00 pm at Fox Elementary

Greeting

Rev. Drew Willson

Opening Prayer

God the creator, God of the cross,
you show forth your hand
in whirling galaxies and unseen forces.
You reveal your love
in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
Drive out the evils that threaten to break our spirits
and help us to rely on your all sufficient grace,
for this hour and for evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

Time with Children

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Interlude

First Reading

Matthew 11:2-6

Hymn

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Scripture Lesson

Mark 6:1-13

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

Music

Offering Tithes & Gifts

The Lord's Supper

Hymn

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

³ AND THEY TOOK OFFENSE Mark 6

Like many of you, I am at attention. There are these boys and their coach. They have been trapped underground for days. All thirteen have been found alive! The news from Thailand takes me back to the Chilean miners; and before them, Baby Jessica emerging from the well in Midland, Texas.

Cynics would say we're glued to the television or radio or smartphone because we are incorrigible rubberneckers. Cynics are sometimes correct in their assessments. Older folk or people spending these days at home might say that they are watching because they are, as we all ought to be, rooting them on.

And then there are those for whom the buzz is too much – those who will take offense if they haven't already. *Where was all of this compassion when...?!*

My mind began to go there as I waited in line for a snack-sized Oreo McFlurry. I was dipping into that zero-sum thinking that presumes a winner and a loser to every action or idea. *We can come together to rescue 12 boys from a Thai cave but we creatures of God's world can't even talk about how...*

I have since requested a do-over from my brain/heart.

Certainly, there are countless others whom we ought to rally around in the way that we are on account of the ones not yet well enough to forge their escape. I am almost as certain that demanding people to somehow divert their compassion from this situation to another is as ineffective as it is knee-jerk.

In the words of one Rabbi, "there is a common streak that runs throughout the Torah that goodness begets goodness". The well does not run dry.

Also, Jesus did not tell stories or choose action that emphasized how humanitarian efforts in response to one kind of crisis hardened hearts toward other human hurts.

God does not shame us into shalom. We cannot, then, shame each other into a common life patterned by kingdom values. Jesus might want us to allow this week of our better angels on display to be a kind of leaven. If hearts can lift weights, well, why can't this moment be a set of reps for rallying yet undertaken?

Mark 6:1-6 (NRSV)

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

NURTURE

caring for one another and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Nancy Tate, Susan Hageman, the family of Jim Rickards, Dan Rohrer & his family, and those grieving Ben Harmrick. 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.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers:

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
June 1 - 16	6,751	4,338



ON SUNDAY JULY 22 we are potluck suppering together here at Fox. We will have guests in the form of young people, who will also be with us for our service beforehand. Do come and connect with old friends, new friends and especially our guests!

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

WE REST between now and July/August; at least in terms of a monthly mission focus. Thank you for continuing to help Boulevard grow in generosity, in "missional giving". Writing checks isn't everything, but it is something; especially when what helping organizations need is grace in the form of money.