

# Boulevard United Methodist Church



“The king was deeply grieved” (6:26): a fat lot of good that does John. When repentance is preached to this world’s princes, do not expect them to relinquish their power, however conflicted some may be.

- C. Clifton Black

July 22, 2018

On the Cover: Jesus and John greeting each other in the womb, Byzantine icon.

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

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9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
4:00 pm at Fox Elementary

Greeting Rev. Drew Willson

Opening Words

It is good.

**It is good.**

To be in a house of the Lord.

**To be in a house of the Lord.**

One more time.

**One more time.**

Hymn *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around*  
*Wade in the Water 1-2*

Time with Children

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Interlude

Scriptures Isaiah 59:1-4, 7-8, 15-16a  
Hosea 2:14-15

Gospel Lesson Mark 6:14-29

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

Hymn *Wade in the Water 3-4*  
*Shall We Gather at the River*

Offering Tithes & Gifts

Prayer

The Lord's Supper

Hymn *Reamo Leboga (We Give our Thanks to God)*

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*

### **I WILL NOW ALLURE HER** - Hosea 2:14

It may not strike you as at all troubling; or, as so deeply troubling, that you're wondering why I don't just let fly under the radar. I'm talking about Hosea's metaphor.

Hosea likens the relationship between God and God's people to the relationship that he has with his wife. Gomer cheats. Hosea cannot help but love and forgive her. Similarly, we have been less than faithful. God cannot give *us* up.

So, Hosea draws from the well of his own experience—experience with infidelity and with love that has lost its way—to voice God's feelings.

The sound of it is a little much. Alluring her “into the wilderness and speaking tenderly to her?” Um. This kind of encounter would seem to lack mutuality. Besides, we don't tend to combine God-talk and intimacy-talk.

Here's what the metaphor has going for it: Hosea insists that we experience God as brokenhearted—as one minute, in good riddance mode, and the next, determined to repair the bond. We've been there. The fact that a relationship is on the line really comes through in this book.

Still, there's more to Hosea than the comparison of God's people to a wayward wife. This bit in the second chapter about the wilderness as a meeting spot: It's worth a slow-down.

For us, wilderness is after Egypt and before promised land. It's the place we had to be to get out of one place and into another. Not so, for God. God remembers the wilderness as the place of connection. The people were responsive there. God envisions a return that quality of space.

Let that sink in. Because however many hundreds of years later, John the Baptist is going to emerge and he's going to post up on the far side of the Jordan; that is, the wilderness.

He's going to woo people to the outer limits and either because of or in spite of his harsh preaching, he will bring the people to the place where God can speak tenderly. In which case, his head on a platter isn't “gross”. It's a blow. It stings.

### Hosea 2:14-15

Therefore, I will now allure her,  
and bring her into the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.  
From there I will give her her vineyards,  
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,  
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

Isaiah 59:1-4, 7-8, 15-16a (CEB)

Look! The Lord does not lack the power to save,  
nor are his ears too dull to hear,  
but your misdeeds have separated you from your God.

Your hands are stained with blood,  
and your fingers with guilt.  
Your lips speak lies;  
your tongues mutter malice.

No one sues honestly;  
no one pleads truthfully.  
By trusting in emptiness and speaking deceit,  
they conceive harm and give birth to malice.

Their feet run to evil;  
they rush to shed innocent blood.  
Their thoughts are thoughts of malice;  
desolation and destruction litter their highways.

They don't know the way of peace;  
there's no justice in their paths.  
They make their roads crooked;  
no one who walks in them knows peace.

Truth is missing;  
anyone turning from evil is plundered.  
The Lord looked and was upset at the absence of justice.

The Lord saw that there was no one,  
and was astonished that no one would intervene.

Mark 6:14-29 (NRSV)

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup> For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup> And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup> Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup> The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

## 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 for infants - 5 year olds begins after the children's moment (approximately 4:15). Guardians are asked to walk children to Ms. LaRonda at the end of the hallway. They rejoin us for Communion.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers:

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
June 2018	12,549	9,356

## OUTREACH

*participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy*

### **{Outward}**

NEXT UP, monthly mission-wise: Stocking two of our local schools with that which their classrooms will surely need. It's too soon for the teachers and summer lovers among us to hear "school supplies" so look for details next week.