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Boulevard United Methodist Church



Storytellers are heart teachers. They unfold roads before us and behind us. They show us where the rough places are and where we might find good water.

Philip told the story of faith. The act of telling became part of his journey – and ours, too. We are richer when we surround ourselves with stories.

- Katie Munnik

August 19, 2018

On the Cover: Herbert Boeckl's Philip and the Eunuch, Angel's Chapel, Austria.

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

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13th Sunday after Pentecost
4:00 pm at Fox Elementary

Greeting Rev. Drew Willson

Call to Worship

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.

Hymns Woke Up This Morning
Sweet Hour of Prayer

Time with Children Rev. Rachel May

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Music

Scripture Acts 8:26-39

Music

Scripture Mark 12:28-34

Sermon Rev. Lindsey Baynham

Hymn Bless the Lord

Offering Tithes & Gifts

The Lord's Supper

Hymn Be Thou My Vision

Dismissal with Blessing

An open congregational meeting follows today's service.

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 and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Alexa Slonin, Nancy Tate, and Susan Hageman. 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.

IT IS A KIND OF ANGEL TREE in August from which you don't actually have to retrieve an ornament. If the Spirit says participate, pick a thing. Do it. And Boulevard will be given a boost!



- ❖ Invite someone to come with you to a service this month.
- ❖ Complete this sentence and get it to Rachel by way of the offering plate or e-mail: "Boulevard is where I...."
- ❖ Sign up for online giving and offer the gift of consistency.
- ❖ Say yes when the time comes to have your picture taken for a directory.
- ❖ Be on the lookout for house-to-house ministry and make room in your life to be a part of the first group, forming mid-fall.
- ❖ Join the two others baking bread for our services by contacting Beth Nelson.
- ❖ Offer to serve at the welcome table on September 9 or another upcoming Sunday.
- ❖ Prepare a craft for the children. Point person: Katie Gooch.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers:

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
August 1 - 11	8,438	2,416

How do we spend over \$8,000 in the first half of August? We paid our people and insurance premiums. Also, we paid a refundable security deposit for gathering space.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}



LATE JULY AND EARLY AUGUST is for school supplies. Gifts designated for mission or marked "school supplies" will help two local schools equip our children. Why do we collect money rather than ask you to shop? Doing it this way allows administrators and teachers to tell us what they need and for Boulevard to plan our buying and distributing accordingly.

Online givers: You can select the "monthly mission" option and your gift will make it into this collection.



Schoolhouse Inklings

with Rev. Rachel

THEY CAME TO SOME WATER - Acts 8:36

“Storytellers are heart teachers. They unfold roads before us and behind us. They show us where the rough places are and where we might find good water.”

That’s according to Ottawa writer Katie Munnik. Her words have been in the air these last few days. I have wondered about how we guide each other to good water and about those moments we stumble upon it with an unlikely other.

Because we do not dwell in an arid place, one could surmise that the image does not pack the same punch here as it does there. Fair enough. Still, I think each of us can connect with the truth and the beauty of having been helped when it comes to making sense of our lives.

“They unfold roads before us and behind us. They show us where the rough places are and where we might find good water.”

Storytellers do this, yes. Storytellers -- come in many shapes and sizes. They don’t always hold a microphone. Art, geography, and wordless exchanges can story-tell.

Prayer and Scripture at the graveside, ideas floated over a Vietnamese lunch, my father’s announcement of a pilgrimage to Union Springs, Alabama...maybe I came upon water more often than usual this past week. Or, I was just awake.

Those who point us to precious stories are also our heart teachers. Yesterday, a toddler stomped in water that was nothing if not suspect. I looked on with a so *this is happening* expression while the neighbors waited to see what I was made of. In hindsight, we were some semblance of Philip and the Eunuch meeting up on Richmond’s northside. “Look here is water (v.26)!” He said so with his eyes.

Showing us the rough places is no less of a gift, by the way. When someone describes their soul as troubled and we are given permission to see what is rumbling within ourselves; or when, in the company of another, we stumble upon a name for the thing we’ve been navigating; this too is grace.

God bless and keep our guides.

Acts 8:26-39

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.