

Boulevard United Methodist Church



Carl Popper, the great philosopher said, “All problems are either clouds or clocks.” To understand a clock, you can take it apart, it’s individual pieces and you study the pieces and then you can understand how a clock works. A cloud, you can’t take apart a cloud.

David Brooks

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS allows you to back Boulevard in a roundabout way. If you shop at Kroger and use a Plus Card, all you need to do is to attach Boulevard’s organizational number to your account. That number is PG125, Enroll online or ask a customer service representative for assistance.

August 26, 2018

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

14th 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 *Sing for God's Glory*
How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

Time with Children

Prayer

Scripture Psalm 84

Music

Scripture John 6:56-69

Sermon Rev. Rachel G. May

Music

Offering Tithes & Gifts

Doxology

*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 *I Have Decided*

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...

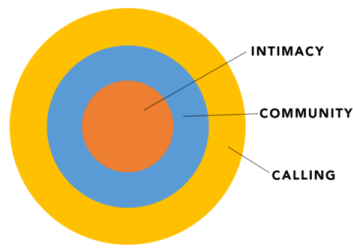
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

THEY ABIDE IN ME AND I IN THEM – john 6:56

Churches have core values. Sometimes these values are spelled out and woven into congregational literature.

Core values and aspirational values are two different things, a wise one once emphasized. Core values aren't what you *want* to be known for. Your core values are what you actually value, based on what you do with what you have.

I was once a part of a group of church folk tasked with naming that community's core values and let me just say, it was either an exercise in self-deception or a true airing of how differently we regarded our fellowship.

In the same way that individuals are sometimes reluctant to do the math with regard to how much of what is "theirs" is given away—preferring instead to maintain the idea that surely, they *are* generous—organizations can conflate core values with aspirational ones.

I may not know them from Adam. However, I can tell you that JOY is a non-denominational church with campuses in New Jersey and New York. I stumbled upon it online while looking for images in keeping with the theme of spiritual intimacy. Yes, that was what I was looking for and yes, I found next to nothing.

These are those bold enough to name intimacy (!) as a congregational value. I cannot comment on whether this is core or aspirational, as I am busy tending to a community vis-à-vis which I would not welcome an observer's casual scrutiny.

"Intimacy – To love the Lord with all our hearts is our highest calling and the spiritual spring from which everything flows."

Go ahead with your true-to-John-6-selves, JOY Church. I'd likely feel out of place there, but I can figuratively salute the folks willing to claim the thing Jesus offers (at so steep a cost), right?

To abide in another is intimate (v.56). For all the ways we get intimacy wrong, it belongs. It belongs in our vocabulary of faith.

John 6

⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

NURTURE

caring for one another and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O lord of hosts,
my Sovereign and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

**They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will appear in Zion.**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
the Lord will give grace and glory;**

No good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

**O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

WE ARE PRAYING for Dot Hechler, 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 two others baking bread for our services by contacting Beth Nelson.
- ❖ Offer to serve at the welcome table by contacting the church office or by signing up at the welcome table.
- ❖ Prepare a craft for the children. Point person: Katie Gooch.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER in numbers:

	Ministry Costs	Your Contributions
August 1 - 21	\$10,977	\$4,040

How do we spend over \$10,000 in the first three weeks of August? We paid our people and insurance premiums. Also, we paid a refundable security deposit for new gathering space.