

# THE ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

## Asbury Community Help Center is now opened!

The Help Center will be open four days a week:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
10:00am to 4:30pm

Wednesday 8:00am-2:30pm

Available Services Include:

Variety of Foods, Fresh Produce,  
Nutritional Services, Water, Personal  
Care Items, Physical Health & Mental  
Health Services



## Volunteer Spotlight Corner

Our spotlight for this edition is on Joe Schafer - known as Pastor Joe of the Know Your Neighbor Community Church located on the vacant lots across from Joe's house on Mabel Ave. Joe is a walking Bible, called by God to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Whether leading worship, singing & playing his guitar, preaching or checking on a homeless family, Joe is the quick to offer testimony of how Jesus Christ continues to bless him and give him what he needs to do ministry. We love you Pastor Joe and grateful that God has seen fit to share you with us.



## Welcome to the Season of Lent

### Communities of Forgiveness

*Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him... Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."*

Luke 23:32, 34

Joey Meek, age 22, was sentenced to more than two years in prison for his role in delaying the capture of Dylann Roof. In a show of regret for his actions, Joey sent a letter of apology to the families of each of the victims of Dylann Roof's shooting rampage in a Charleston African Methodist Episcopal Church. Each letter was handwritten and included qualities that he admired about their loved one. Joey Meek ended each letter with the same request: "I ask for your forgiveness, but I don't expect it. Should the families of those brutally murdered by Joey's childhood friend, forgive Joey who was the only person that his friend told about his plans to murder innocent people simply because of their skin color? Should they forgive a person who did not tell anyone but concealed his knowledge after the massacre took place? We read in the Gospel of Luke that on the day of His execution, Jesus was led to a place called the skull likely because it was a common site for crucifixions. The soldiers and the leaders in the crowds mocked Jesus. Even one of the criminals hanging on a cross next to Him mocked Jesus.

### Lenten Combined Worship Service - 5:00pm

March 26th @ Bristol UMC  
April 2nd @ Charity/Faith UMC at  
Faith UMC

April 13th @ (Holy Thursday)  
Asbury UMC at 6:00pm  
April 14th @ (Good Friday) at 12N at  
Bethel UMC and 6pm at Asbury

April 16th (Easter Sunday) Asbury  
9:30am Breakfast  
Easter Egg Hunt to follow  
\*11:00am Easter Worship Service  
\*(Please note, only one service for today)

### Asbury Food Pantry

Every week individuals and families turn to Asbury to help them supplement their food supply. Asbury is a partner with the Genesee County Food Bank where we can purchase at a big discount. WE NEED YOUR HELP with food items, including meats, and diapers. We also need your financial contributions.



### FlintAsbury.org

Join in on the conversation taking place on our blog. Pastor Tommy posts his reflections during the week along with other special guests. Let us know if you have information or other content that you wish to share.

### Special Easter Celebration

Mark your calendars for **April 16 &** plan to be at Asbury for a special Easter celebration. This year's celebration will begin with breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am followed by worship at 11:00 am. Note the time. There will be one service only on Easter.

claim to be the Son of God. Jesus words to His tormentors and executioners are as remarkable as His actions are challenging to emulate. "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." As the criminal hanging on the other side of Jesus said out loud, Jesus was innocent. Nevertheless, our God living incarnate among us was found to be guilty of a crime warranting the death penalty. While we can imagine that if we were there we would have been with the followers of Jesus, more likely with the ones in hiding elsewhere, are we prepared to do as Jesus did?

The Rev. Anthony Thompson first met his wife Myra when they were both students at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. Rev Thompson was a veteran of the Navy, with a wife and daughter back in Charleston. Myra also had a son there too, and would spend the weekends back home, working at McDonald's and caring for her son. One weekend, she missed the bus home. When Anthony offered Myra a ride she was suspicious and told the Good Samaritan "I want you to know that nothing is going to happen, I am going to school. I don't need a man in my life." "I'm just offering you a ride," Anthony remembers telling her. Ten years later, both had been through a divorce. One day Myra called Anthony to let him know that it would be all right if he wanted to take her out on a date.

They married and settled in a modest, brick home, not far from The Citadel's baseball field, where the wall is now adorned with a "Charleston Strong" mural. Their daughter, Nadine Collier became famous a year ago for three words she said to Dylann Roof, the young white man who a few days earlier had gunned down her mother and eight other African-Americans during a Bible study at their Charleston church: "I forgive you." Every time I reflect on this story it chokes me up. First, the mere thought of how our society continues to raise up children born into hatred based on the ignorance and stupidity of parents and other adults around them. Second, the idea of people being murdered for showing hospitality to such a deranged person is so horrific I can barely wrap my head around it. These thoughts together with the courage and faith of one of the victim's daughter to offer forgiveness in the aftermath of such a heartless act leave me in tears. We continue to live in an era of prejudice based upon ignorance and stupidity. I wish I had kinder words to describe the brokenness of our society but the images in my head after reading the follow-up stories from these events are too fresh. The evening news reporting how many of our country's leaders speak openly about policies based on similarly rooted ignorance and stupidity is simply too fresh. I watch the news each night dreading whatever tweets, public declarations, unsupported charges and the like that are making headlines targeted towards discrimination based on a person's inclusion in a group that seldom represents a particular person. How long can we continue to forgive attitudes and policies that misguided persons can interpret as justification for violence against innocent people?

Our thematic scripture for our current worship series from Amos does not specifically touch on forgiveness. However, to seek justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God demands that we forgive even as we seek justice based upon love and acceptance. How hard it is to forgive those who wrong us. How hard it is to forgive those who harm others. Forgiveness is indeed a requirement for those of us claiming to follow Jesus. However, so is seeking justice and standing against any policies that set justice and love aside.

## Book Club News



We are watching and discussing a series of short video lessons that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. Each video is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. NOOMA films are created and produced by Flannel, a nonprofit organization. Flannel is a group of people committed to giving everyone a fresh and compelling look at the teachings of Jesus.

We begin each week by watching a video from this series in our Chapel Theater. We move to our meeting area downstairs next to the Fellowship Hall for lunch and discussion. Each video is based on Scripture and challenges us to consider how what we believe to be true about Jesus should show in how we live day to day.

Our goal is to continue to "widen our circle" and so we hope that you will join in on our discussion. We meet each Tuesday at Noon. Come join us for a light lunch, fellowship and discussion. Our food selections have been fantastic and we always have plenty to share. We are always on the lookout for our next book, video lesson or topic. Your participation and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

May God forgive us when we are apathetic, when we selfishly choose our self and our family's comfort over the well-being of strangers? May we forgive others just as we ask God to forgive us.

Pastor Tommy

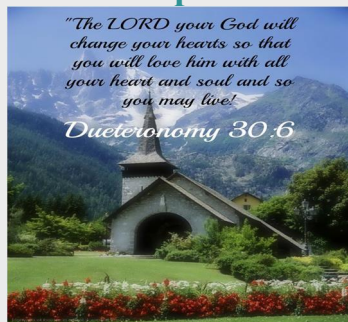
### Saved by Faith

In a book titled *Worship Ways* we read "God's power is revealed to specific people, at the right time, in a relevant way, with lasting results."<sup>1</sup> You can help or hinder the process. God will hold you accountable for the one or the other! This quote causes me to consider the tension between the belief that we are saved by our faith in Christ and the significance of our acts as a result of our stated belief in Christ. It can seem that the claim to be saved by confession when challenged by such statements can sound like claiming that "I already checked the box that asked 'Do you want to be saved?' so I'm good."

The intricate relationship between confession and action is a tension only in the sense that we do not want to follow through with the ramifications of our confession. If we truly believe our confession then the statement from Paul: "No power in the sky above or in the earth below" indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39 NLT), should give us reason to reconsider whether Paul's reflection can be interpreted as a validation that salvation without sacrifice or challenge is not really faith. Paul may be reminding us as Jesus did for His disciples on the mountaintop after His transfiguration, to "Get up and don't be afraid." That is, we are to live out our faith in what we do with our time and resources.

Our current worship series from our very first Sunday on the very first day of the New Year was intended to challenge us week to week to grow closer to God. In our growth spurt that we hoped would happen during this time we should anticipate and increase in our production of spiritual fruit. This statement from the book I just referenced should be a warning to all of us who have the mistaken impression that we are insiders by virtue of our church membership. That we are insiders only by virtue of God's grace in Jesus Christ. God has illustrated for us that a mountaintop experience is not just for our satisfaction in ourselves. Rather, our encounters with the living Lord are intended to transform us into faithful disciples and our actions speak louder than words. We will be held accountable to whatever extent we help or hinder others in their search for the living Lord. This warning is stated in even more dramatic words by Jesus who said "But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). This statement should cause anyone who does

## Worship Guide



Traditional Service

10:00 AM

WELCOME

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OPENING HYMN

CALL TO WORSHIP

ANTHEM

READING OF SCRIPTURE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF PREPARATION

TEACHING

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING & BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## Worship Service Times

Bible Study	10:00 am
Traditional Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Break	11:00 am
New Beginnings	11:30 am

## In Our Prayers

Curtis Young	Rachel Bastine
Norma Buzzard	Carmen Misner
Merle Supernaw	Barbara McIvor
Jonathon Misner	Nancy Elston
Austin & MarySuffle	Shirley Craig
Mary Armstrong	Sarah Tanner
Elizabeth Wright	Judy Tanner
Charlayne Oram	Mary Lyons
	Nancy Auger

*FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO  
ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN  
NURSING CARE*

Sharon George	Elaine Lamoreaux
Mary Nations	Shirley Moose

anything that takes away the possibility of an encounter with the Living Lord to be fearful of judgment.

Yet, sadly, worship wars and disagreements over the things of this world continue to interrupt our mission of disciple making. Afraid? We have every reason to fear if we are not acting on our faith. On the other hand, Jesus assures us that when we follow Him that which frightens us in this world should no longer cause us fear or anxiety. We are then free to have mountaintop experiences each time we open ourselves to the grace of God by surrendering all that we hold onto so tightly that stands in our way.

Pastor Tommy

## Ways to get involved ...

**Worship** helps us to connect with God through music, scripture, biblical teaching, prayer, reflection, adoration and fellowship.

**Video & Sound Support** ó We are looking for persons willing to support worship and other events by running our media control center. Training available.

**Music Ministry** ó Join the Asbury Choir or Praise Team. We are looking for vocalists and musicians.

**Community Gardening** ó The Asbury Center for Nutrition has several gardens, orchards and a hoop house that need your attention.

**Neighborhood Connect** is a ministry that assesses individual gifts and passions and looks for ways to bring people together in ways that improve relationships and our community.

**Food & Water Giveaway** ó Join us on Thursdays at 8:30 AM to help give away food and bottled water.

**Pantry** - We need food items, including meats, paper products; personal items diapers, and financial support.

**Social Media** allows us to tell others about the work that God is doing. All of us can help enhance our presence in the social media by posting on our Facebook and utilizing our website for blogging.

**Student Housing** - the Asbury House offers local college students a way to use their gifts and passions together with their faith in building a better neighborhood.

**Women's Circles** - The women of Asbury meet regularly in small groups.

**Pastor's Book Club** meets each Tuesday at 12 for fellowship, food and learning.

**Sunday Bible Study** meets each week at 10 am to review & discuss scripture.



**Coming up this week ...**

Mar 27	Mon	Neighborhood Deliveries /water-food
Mar 28	Tues	12Noon Pastor Book Club
Mar 29	Wed	4:00pm Youth Recreation
Mar 30	Thurs	1:30pm Taking it to the Streets Meeting at the District Office
		6:30pm Choir Practice
Mar 31	Fri	
Apr 1	Sat	12Noon Youth Recreation
Apr 2	Sun	10:00am Bible Study
		10:00am Traditional Worship
		11:00am Coffee Break
		11:30 am New Beginnings Worship
		5:00pm Lenten Worship Service at Faith UMC with Rev Duane Thomas preaching

Look for announcements scrolling on our screen prior to the start of worship. Email announcements by the Friday before to [FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com](mailto:FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com)

**In our worship service**

Greeter	Christine
Children's Time	Rev Tommy
Candle Lighting	Karen
Usher	Anthony, JoAn, Jim
Media Support	Jim
Nursery	Norma
Coffee Break	
Worship Leader	Ron 10:00am

**Last Week for Worship**

Attendance 49 Offering \$678.00

**Coffee Break**

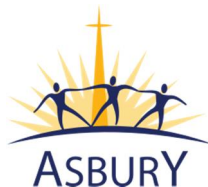
Plan to meet outside the sanctuary each Sunday after the first service for coffee, tea, snacks, conversation and so on. The music will start when it is time to wrap up and head in for *New Beginnings*.

**Asbury Staff**

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel	Pastor
Jim Craig	Church Council Chair Asbury CDC Board Chair
Connie Portillo	Office Secretary
Kathy Howe	Choir Director
Rebekah Britton	Organist
Phone/Fax	810-235-0016 (call first when faxing)

**WELCOME! - Bienvenidos!**

We are happy you are here to worship with us today. Please fill out an information card and place it in the offering plate in order that we may be able to serve you further.

**OUR VISION – Nuestro Vision**

*We envision a community in love with God, one another and our neighbors, evidenced through the transformation of ourselves and our neighborhood*

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS – Anuncios de la Semana**

**Lenten Combined Worship Service: Next week, April 2, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**, the worship service will be at Faith UMC, 2266 W Coldwater Rd at 5:00pm.

**Calvary UMC needs volunteers:** Calvary UMC, located at 2111 Flushing Rd, is in need of volunteers to pack and distribute food. This will take place on Saturday, April 1. The truck will probably arrive around 8:30am. You can come by anytime between then. It will be given away on a first come, first serve and until gone. Feel free to call Calvary UMC (238-7685), if you are able to help them.

**Drop off Easter Lilies at Asbury UMC:** Do not forget to bring your Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. You may drop them off between 10am-12Noon. Make sure your name is on them if you wish to pick them up afterwards.

Greetings from Colorado Springs, CO!

Dear Asbury Community,

I hope you are all well. Here in the shadow of Pike's Peak, with the snowcapped mountains towering over the town, I have stayed a sojourn. The gig at the "Speedtrap" in nearby Palmer Lake went well. (General Palmer was a founder in the area, with a statue of him on a horse in downtown Colorado Springs). I got acquainted with First United Methodist Church downtown, a huge church with a large choir and organ. I also went to their traditional service and heard the organ. Their organist, Joe Galena, was for decades organist at the Sir Force Academy and he has played all over, including at Court Street United Methodist in Flint!







They have two traditional services and one contemporary on Sunday. Also the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony played there last Sunday.

Best to Everyone in Christ's Love, Tom Allen

*Please put your cell phone on stun!*

*Por favor poner el teléfono en silencio!*

In order that we may be fully present in worship, please set your cell phone to silent mode. Tweets & Facebook posts are encouraged if they are relevant to our worship.

MARCH 2017		Asbury UMC Monthly Planner				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Taking it to the Streets Planning Meetings: Thursdays, March 16 and March 30 at 1:30pm at the District Office			1 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>SERVICE AT</b> 6pm UMW 11am Youth Rec 4pm	2 Water Crisis Coordination Meeting 3pm VCI Strategic Planning Team 5:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	3 	4 Youth Rec 12N
5 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Lenten Service at Asbury w/ Rev Dr Chun preaching 5pm	6 	7 Water Resource Workgroup 9am (at Food Bank) Pastor Book Club 12pm	8 Lydia Circle 12:30pm Youth Rec 4pm	9 Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	10 **** <i>Change your clocks forward 1 hour before to bed ...</i> Youth Rec 12N	
12 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Lenten Service at Calvary w/ Rev	13 Elizabeth Circle 7pm (Diane)	14 Recovery Wkgroup at 1938 Howard Ave 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	15 Youth Rec 4pm	16 Taking it to the Streets (meeting at District Office) 1:30pm Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	17 	18 Youth Rec 12N
19 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Lenten Service at Phoenix w/ Rev Marvin Herman of Bristol UMC	20 Church Council 6:30pm	21 Water Resource Workgroup 9am (at Food Bank) Pastor Book Club 12N	22 Youth Rec 4pm 	23 Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	24	25 Youth Rec 12N 
26 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Lenten Service at Bristol UMC w/Rev Jim Britt	27 	28 Water Resource Workgroup 9am (at Food Bank) Pastor Book Club 12N	29 Youth Rec 4pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LENTEN COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE – 5:00PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Sunday, March 5 – ASBURY UMC w/ Rev Sang “Abraham” Chun preaching</b>  <b>Sunday, March 12 – Calvary UMC w/ Rev Brian Willingham preaching</b>  <b>Sunday, March 19 – Phoenix UMC w/Rev Marvin Herman preaching</b>  <b>Sunday, March 26 – Bristol UMC w/ Rev Jim Britt preaching</b>  <b>Sunday, April 2 – Charity/Faith UMC w/ Rev. Duane Thomas preaching</b>  <b>Friday, April 14 – Good Friday – Bethel UMC w/ Rev Dr. Tommy McDoniel</b> </p>		