

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Welcome to the Asbury Community

Hope Welcomes Others

The call to discipleship is hard. Too hard for us to do with our own strength. Even the most disciplined of disciples fall short. In the pastoral letter we call 1 Timothy the writer declares that he is the worst of all sinners, but God had mercy on him as an example so others could see that there is hope for everyone of us.

Do we presume for some odd reason that the persons that we don't care for are somehow worse sinners than we are? Setting aside the reality that unlike law there are no levels to sin. We create the ideas of degrees of sin to justify our own failures.

I realize that there are some people who are simply annoying - at least to me they are annoying. While it may be an "oil & water" issue I find persons who are mostly negative and pessimistic to be tiresome. I find persons who spend a lot

of their time criticizing others, or themselves, to be annoying. I particularly find persons who criticize me to be annoying. Don't you?

In Matthew 5:46 Jesus compares us to despised tax collectors when we only love persons who love us. Jesus goes on to say in the next verse that even pagans are kind to their friends. These teachings do not say that it is actually sinful to be annoyed. But it is safe to conclude that being annoyed oftentimes leads to sin. In particular, it is a problem when our opinion of another results in a lack of kindness. This is when we step over the line.

Caution! I am annoyed by persons who show inauthentic kindness towards me or others. I like to use a big word for this behavior - "disingenuous." You can substitute words like insincere,

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:14-16

dishonest and so on, but you get the point. I would rather that Jesus added something like "But don't be disingenuous or insincere in your kindness towards people who annoy you."

Sometimes a lack of kindness can come out of our own self-love that we might misinterpret as simply being competitive.

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Glow in the Dark

Our worship series for the Fall is titled Glow in the Dark. This was also the title for a sermon during our last series based on Jesus' teaching that we are to be a light on a hill. The timing for this series is good as we begin to see even more visible signs of God's

leading us into the future. A lot has happened already and more is happening all of the time. God is on the loose.

Sept 17

But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them



and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.

Luke 9:11

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September 24, 2017

Special points of interest:

> Fresh Produce giveaway on Friday, October 6th from 10am-2pm

> Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 5 for Asbury's 90th Anniversary celebration

> Neighborhood Connection is delivering food and bottled water. Call Kevin at 810-625-6115 or the church office for information, 235-0016

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Glow in the Dark...continued from Page 1

Have you ever felt unwelcome somewhere? At a church? Our new series begins with You. You, no matter if you believe or not, no matter what you struggle with, no matter how you dress or speak, you are welcome here. Just as Christ welcomed the crowd, not asking any questions to determine worth, value, or genuine interest. So too we, as the Church, welcome everyone without question. You are welcome here.

Sept 24

If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

Matthew 5:46-47

It's not natural for us, as people, to be welcoming of people who are different from us. But as Christ followers, we are expected to welcome everyone. Jesus slammed those who only welcome their

friends by comparing them to tax collectors, who were considered thieves at that time. Even thieves are willing to welcome friends. You are welcome here no matter who you are. So make sure that everyone else here feels just as welcomed.

Oct 1

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

Psalm 34:18

Church is not a museum full of perfect people. Church is a hospital for the broken. God welcomes us even with all of our brokenness, and God is anxious to heal us. We are made more beautiful and stronger through our brokenness, by giving it to God. You are welcome here, broken as you are. You are not expected to be "okay" and you are not expected to put on the face of a perfect person.

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Hoop House Construction at Izzy's

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Matthew 5:14-15

Hope Welcomes Others ...continued from Page 1

Early in my career as a software developer I accepted an opportunity in sales. I am naturally competitive and apparently had an aptitude for my new role. I quickly rose to the top of the sales organization setting new records. It can be difficult enough not to feel envy towards others. Celebrating good fortune for someone that we are annoyed by is even harder. Loving someone who not only annoys us but does not like us? Well that just lies beyond my capability. The writer of 1 Timothy suggests that this is hard even for saints. Is it hopeless to think that we can love everyone?

During the time that I was responsible for supervising sales managers I was often approached by a salesperson hoping to get a promotion to a sales manager posi-

tion. One of the questions that I would ask them is how they feel when they see one of their colleagues praised for their achievement. I challenged them to reflect on whether they were able to celebrate the achievements of others whom they may also see as competition or worse annoying. In my experience effective managers find this easier than less effective managers. I knew that it wasn't until I found it exciting to watch my colleagues receive accolades that I would be able to lead and motivate them.

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If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

Matthew 5:46-47

The Asbury Farm is a Popular Destination



Birmingham 1st UMC Youth

A shout out to the youth of Birmingham 1st UMC who joined volunteers from Asbury and our community on Saturday, September 2 to work on the new location for the Asbury Farm on Jane Avenue. The youth brought materials, adult supervisor with experience and know-how, creative gifts and loads of energy.

The group of approximately 45 youth divided into several workgroups including garden weeding, fence building, raised bed construction, building planter boxes and graphic arts.

The Asbury Farm is becoming a favorite destination for groups of all ages and from all over. During August Asbury hosted

youth from California who helped prepare the Jane Avenue site for planting.

The students of Central Michigan University are making their third trip on Saturday, September 30. Asbury will be sharing this group of around 150 students with the University of Michigan Touch-a-Truck event



Installing posts for the new fence

and other work locations around Flint. After a day of work the students will all come to Asbury for dinner. Let Michele Weston know if you are available to help serve and cleanup.

The Asbury Farm is our long term response to the Flint Water Crisis. Healthcare professionals recommend nutrition as a



Painting an Original Graphic for the New Fence at the Jane Avenue Farm

way to keep the harmful affects of lead dormant.



The Rev Kelly Willian, Youth Director

The Asbury UMC Family has new opportunities to join the Asbury Worship Team. We are looking for your help with to introduce our congregation and visitors to the Inspirational Worship Service that begins on September 10. We need leaders and members for the WELCOME and CONNECT Teams. There are opportunities to serve in hospitality, as greeters, media, and the new Cafe'. Our mutual goal is to make sure our members, visitors and guests are fully connected with us, as we go forward to become the spiritual beacon in our neighborhood. More information and job descriptions will be coming soon but in the meantime, please pray and ask God where your place can be in this exciting new time in our life together. Call Michele Weston to share your ideas and offer your service, 810-694-6266 or by e-mail at mweston38@att.net. Michele Weston

In Our Prayers

Curtis Young
Rachel Bastine
Norma Buzzard
Merle Supernaw
Barbara McIvor
Jonathon Misner
Nancy Auger

Austin & Mary Suffle
Shirley Craig
Mary Armstrong
Sarah Tanner
Elizabeth Wright
Judy Tanner
Mary Lyons

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Sharon George
Elaine Lamoreaux
Mary Nations
Mary Russell
Shirley Moose
Carman Misner



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Glow in the Dark...continued from Page 2

Oct 8

Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"

Matthew 9:10-11

We aren't expected to come into a Church

having already conquered all of our struggles. We're sinners who are seeking healing, and that's okay. There's no need to put on a perfect face or to hide our struggles. The key to Christian Community is accountability, having people who know your struggles and care enough to help you to conquer them. There is no judgement here for failures, just support to try again and succeed.



Birmingham 1st Youth Installing a Fence Post on Jane Ave

Book Club News

We are in the midst of a discussion of a book titled *Soil and Sacrament*. Parker J. Palmer writes this about our book: "Fred Bahnson believes that faith is expressed in the work of our hands as well as our minds and hearts, and that in community we can meet the needs of a hungry world. After reading his beautifully written book, I believe these things, too, and see new ways to put my beliefs into action. *Soil and Sacrament* is about new life—for ourselves, our descendants, and the earth on which we all depend."

A couple words of caution as we work our way through this book. First, you do not have to read the book to attend, but it does

help with the discussion and what you receive back from it.

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.

* Bahnson, Fred. *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.

Leadership in Worship & Service

Welcome Team	Tony, Mirium, Christine
Children's Time	
Candle Lighting	Karen
Usher	Richard, Jim, Kathy
Production Team	Jim
Nursery	Carolyn
Worship Leaders	
Coffee Hour	Cyndi

Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel Pastor

Mark Vorenkamp	Children & Youth
Jim Craig	Church Council Chair
	Asbury CDC Board Chair
Connie Portillo	Office Secretary
Kathy Howe	Choir Director
Rebekah Britton	Piano & Organ

Asbury Café

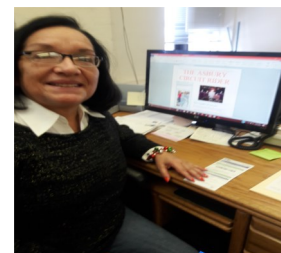
Plan to meet outside the sanctuary each Sunday after the first service for coffee, tea, snacks, conversation and so on. The music will start when it is time to wrap up and head in for 2nd service.

Worship times

9:00 am	Traditional Worship
10:00 am	Connect Break
10:30 am	Contemporary Worship

Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Acts 4:30 (NLT)



I will be starting on a new directory after Church Conference is over, so look over your information & let me know if you have any changes or need to add a new number, address, a family member or you want to add an email.

Hope Welcomes Others ...continued from Page 2

Fortunately, Jesus knew something about dealing with annoying people and the difficulty we all have in showing authentic kindness towards them. God knows our shortcomings. In John 14:26 Jesus says "But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." That feeling that you get when you have been unkind, pursued revenge, talked trash behind someone's back - you know the feeling. And you may shrug it off or it make even make you more determined not

to like a person who annoys you. Well, consider the possibility that it is the Holy Spirit making a teach point for your benefit.

As Christ followers we are to do our part in expanding the Kingdom of God in our time by inviting others to church. We are also called to show hospitality by teaching through example when people attend worship that are new to Asbury how to show authentic Christian love towards others. This is why attending to our own spiritual health is so

critical. Unless we are intentional about reading and studying scripture, prayer, meditation, fasting (denying ourselves), worship and other spiritual disciplines, faithfully following Jesus Christ is simply beyond our capabilities. It is truly a life and death matter.

Pastor Tommy

Coming up this week

Neighborhood Deliveries /water-food

Meet Up and Eat Up: Breakfast & Lunch -
Mon-Fri 8:00-9:30am & 12Noon-1:00pm

Sept 25 Mon

Sept 26 Tues 12Noon Pastor Book Club

Sept 27 Wed 6:00pm Prod Team Rehearsal

Sept 28 Thurs 6:30pm Choir Practice

Sept 29 Fri 12Noon Hospitality Team

Sept 30 Sat Hosting CMU Students

Oct 1 Sun	9:00am	Traditional Worship
	10:00am	Connect Break
	10:30am	Contemporary Worship
	12:00 Noon	Café Closes

Last Week for Worship

Attendance 49 Offering \$ 1,285

Look for announcements scrolling on the our screen prior to the start of worship.

Email announcements by the Friday before to: FlintAsbury@gmail.com

Ways to Connect

Donate -You can give online at FlintAsbury.org/donate

Music Ministry -We are looking for vocalists and musicians.

Community Gardening - The Asbury Farm needs volunteers.

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.

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 12Noon for fellowship, food and learning.

Church Conference 2017

Wednesday, October 18th

SPRC @ Court St UMC

6:00-6:30pm

Church Conference

Sunday, October 22nd

@ Bethel UMC

1:30-2:30pm



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Welcome to the Asbury Community

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Neighborhood Connection



We envision a community in love with God, each other, and our neighbors evidenced by the transformation of ourselves and our neighborhood. We are a center for worship & spiritual growth, a center for connections and a center for health & wellness.

Our goal is a revitalized community where every

resident can use their talents and passions for the common good, where children grow into citizens who contribute to building and maintaining a vibrant neighborhood, and all residents are able to enjoy safety, good health, a culture that fosters life long learning and satisfying lives.

We believe that such an ambitious goal can never be attained without God's grace and abundance and Christ calls each of us to be disciples willing to share our witness through words and acts.

Back to Church Sunday

Welcome to "Back to Church Sunday" and the launch of our new worship experience. Be sure to call Michele Weston if you are looking for a way to help out. We need volunteers for the Welcome Team, the Connect Team, the Café Team, the Hospitality Team and the Production Team. Each person and each team can make a huge difference in God's kingdom.

Be sure to check out the Asbury Café just outside the sanctuary. The Hospitality team is continuing to bake fresh selections made with healthy recipes developed by Chef Kevin. New ideas for good food that is good for you are coming.

Change takes so meanwhile we will ask our regulars and visitors to please excuse our dust.

