

# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

*Welcome to the Asbury Community*

## Hope Rebuilds

My heart goes out to all of the people whose lives have been crushed by the storms and earthquakes that just seem to keep coming. The callous arguments that we can continue to abuse our planet for our own profit are drowned out by the cries of despair from the victims of centuries of greed. It breaks my heart when I see the news coverage of shattered buildings and shattered lives. It makes me angry when I see shaking fists and angry voices spewing hate and division. Our world at times seems too broken even for a God with gigantic reserves of superglue. There are just too many pieces scattered in too many places. What hope is there for the Kingdom that Jesus described?

Young women are being snatched from the streets of their neighborhoods a short distance from where we live. These stories are too plentiful to

cover them all and to keep them present in our overburdened, over-stimulated minds. Is there any hope for a community that is so broken that we will destroy each other? Perhaps a focus on "me" is justified with so much chaos and brokenness?

The stories in scripture speak to our brokenness. The Psalms in particular cry out to God with all of the emotions of a world lost in brokenness. All scripture lead us toward divine truth and the truth about brokenness is found in this week's scripture reading from Psalm 34. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

Paul, writing to the church in Rome, connects hope and the risk of hopelessness that comes out of brokenness, arguing that even in these

*We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

*Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)*

times we can rejoice in the God who is close to us. Paul writes: We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

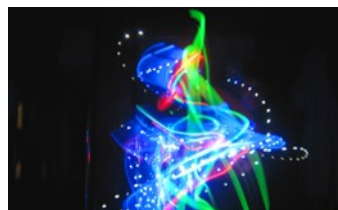
## Glow in the Dark

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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October 1, 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

### *Inside this issue:*

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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 Rebuilds ...continued from Page 1

Some read this text and their mind goes straight to the end to times when salvation means that we are saved for eternity through our faith in Jesus Christ. While this is part of the divine truth revealed here there is also a more present truth to be learned. Salvation throughout scripture is both now and then, just as the Kingdom of God is both present and unfolding. Salvation is food when we are hungry, shelter, clothing, safety, purpose, and more. Salvation comes from living in the Kingdom of God.

To live in the Kingdom of God is to follow Christ. When we faithfully and obediently follow Christ we experience salvation even in the midst of the storm

and destruction. We experience hope. Hope rebuilds the ruins of the city, the neighborhood, our lives.

Paul writes: And this hope will not lead to disappointment. These are words to hold onto as we rebuild our neighborhood and our church. HOPE REBUILDS.

Rev Tommy

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

Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

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# The Asbury Farm is a Popular Destination



Birmingham 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 Sacarament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013.

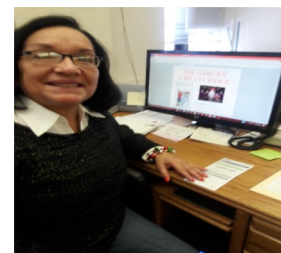
### CHURCH CONFERENCE FORMS:

FOR THOSE OF YOU WORKING ON THESE FORMS, I WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING FORMS BY OCTOBER 12TH:

- 2018 Compensation Recommendation
- Pastoral Leadership Assessment
- Profile of the Church

ALL OTHER FORMS I WILL NEED THEM BY MONDAY, ODOBER 16TH AND NO LATER

Please call me with questions...Connie



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.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> service.

## 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

**Oct 2 Mon**

**Oct 3 Tues** 12Noon Pastor Book Club

**Oct 4 Wed** 11am UMW

**Oct 5 Thurs** 6:30pm Choir Practice

**Oct 6 Fri** 10-2pm Fresh Produce G A

<b>Oct 8 Sun</b>	9:00am	Traditional
		Worship
	10:00am	Connect Break
	10:30am	Contemporary
		Worship
	12:00 N	Café Closes

**Last Week for Worship**  
**Attendance 39 Offering \$ 626**

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

Email announcements by the Friday before to: [FlintAsbury@gmail.com](mailto:FlintAsbury@gmail.com)

## Ways to Connect

**Donate** –You can give online at [FlintAsbury.org/donate](http://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

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Church Conference

Sunday, October 22nd

@ Bethel UMC

1:30-2:30pm

Sunday, October 22nd



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

## Welcome to the Asbury Community

1653 Davison Road  
Flint, MI 48506



Phone: 810-235-0016  
Fax: 810-235-0016 (call first when faxing)  
E-mail: FlintAsbury@gmail.com

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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.

