



ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Welcome to the Asbury Community

Hope is a Verb

Our next series for this Fall is titled Hope is a Verb. Hopelessness is a common ailment in our community. Worries over making ends meet, schools, health concerns, violence, blight, high utility bills and more, take their toll on our attitude towards most everything. We hope that we will be saved from all of our worries.

But what does it mean to be saved? To experience salvation? Salvation is a word from our faith that takes on a multitude of meanings depending upon what we were taught, which church we attend and most importantly, our lived experience. Our friends might ask us "Are you saved?" and our answer may be different from what we believe inside. We might not be comfortable asking "What do you mean by saved?" But this is the real question isn't it? We hope that we are saved - that we have or will experience salvation

without really knowing what this should mean. Is it all about after we die? What about now?

In scripture we find a wide range of illustrations but a lot of our focus as Christians is on the story of Nicodemus who Jesus told about rebirth - being born again. Yet there are many stories in both the old and new testaments about salvation from health concerns, making ends meet, violence and other "what about now" challenges that face us. God gave salvation to several suffering persons through the prophet Elisha. Jesus did the same. The Gospels are rich with healing, feeding and other miracles. Hope is a verb. Hope implies actions with results. Salvation lies at the center of hope.

I have lived a blessed life. But there were times when I

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"
John 3:1-4 (NLT)

didn't believe this statement to be true. While I have had my share of broken relationships, health scares, close calls and financial set backs, parts of my life are beyond what I would have expected early on. I grew up in a Christian family that made church going a priority. Even as a child I felt as though I had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Perhaps out of these experiences I tend to be optimistic about the future. I really do see cups as more half full than half empty.

I am a Missionary

I have been called by many titles from pastor to CEO. Too often the title others choose for me is an attempt to place me in a role to make a point that they want to be true. Some clergy are chaplains, some are consolers and counselors, others are shepherds. Some may try to be several persons at the

same time. I am none of these although some of the functions I serve may have common activities.

I am a missionary. I serve the community around me bringing the love of Christ to broken lives. Therefore, my priorities come out of first seeking my

own relationship with Jesus Christ. That is, I strive to live a life in the Spirit. To be led by the Spirit of God and not by the will of men and women who might hope to control me. And God has chosen me to serve as a missionary.

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Special points of interest:

- > Next day for Fresh Produce giveaway will be on Friday, October 20th 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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Therefore, I am called to speak and do acts of hope. The Spirit helps me through the fruit that can only come from the Spirit. These fruits are listed in Galatians 5:22-23 as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I cannot produce these fruits on my own power and when others testify against me they are really testifying against the Holy Spirit. When others claim that I fall short of their expectations they are expecting fruit from me that the Spirit has chosen not to offer me. When others claim that I am not doing what they expect me to do they are expecting someone who is not a missionary.

I am a missionary. And as a missionary I am called to bring the good news of salvation to a people who want desperately to be saved. I am not, therefore, called to minister to the already saved. Missionaries carry out the work of mission and the mission to which I am called is to be an agent of transformation that is only possible

through faith in Jesus Christ. A faith which requires obedience. A faith which requires surrender. A faith in which there is no room for our control of others. A faith that relies on the only force who can save us. The Holy Spirit of God. A faith that understands that hope is a verb and that salvation is both now and later.

Jesus stated the mission for those of us called to be missionaries in Luke 4:18-19. It was a restatement of the same mission that God spoke to missionaries through the Prophet Elijah. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come. This is the mission of the missionary. This is the mission of a hope that saves.

Will you join me in this mission? Will you follow the One that I follow? Not led by me but walking with me? Will you follow in the

footsteps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who was, who is and who forever will be the source of life and salvation. Will you follow Him with me and bring the good news of salvation to a world desperate for hope?

Rev Tommy

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

Hope is a Verb ...continued from Page 1

I suspect that I get some of this attitude from my mother. My mom was not one to dwell on the past. She did not cry over spilled milk. She grabbed a rag or mop, cleaned it up and moved on. Some of this way of being undoubtedly comes from living out our beliefs in God's nature. The idea of forgiveness allows for starting over, second chances, new beginnings. Salvation is at its core a new beginning that is unrooted in the past. We are freshly transplanted into new soil, full of nutrients with promise of new growth and abundant fruit. Yet our roots are not yet established. We can be easily torn out and blown away by the winds of struggle and disappointment.

New beginnings are inevitable. I suspect that each day is a new beginning of some

sort. Even when our days seem quite repetitive. The parts keep coming down the assembly line and our joints ache from repetition leaving damage to nerves and muscles. It is easy to confuse our propensity to want to control every last detail in an effort to avoid the reality of failure. The world is changing even while each part looks like the last one. The parts only share common attributes and not the same molecules.

Our series will focus on the stories of the prophet Elisha found in 2 Kings 4. The miracles found in this text are incredible. Clearly, when Elisha asked the prophet Elijah for a double portion of power before Elijah was taken up to heaven, God granted Elisha his wish. The miracles we read

about are reminiscent of the miracles we find in the Gospels that were performed by Jesus. They were miracles of salvation that offered live-giving solutions for persons who seemed to run out of options and hope. Does God still work miracles today through people? To answer this question with a yes is to claim our faith in a God that is active in our world.

Rev Tommy

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

I am a Missionary ...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

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come.

Luke 4:18-19 (NLT)



Birmingham 1st Youth Installing a Fence Post on Jane Ave

Book Club News

We finished our discussion of the book Soil and Sacrament. This book took us on a spiritual journey by sharing the spiritual journey of its author. We learned how working with the soil is both biblical and draws us closer to God.

Our next book will take us on a journey of a different nature as we focus our attention on the Holy Spirit. Our guide will be pastor, author and church planter Francis Chan, founder of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, California. He is also the founder of Eternity Bible College and sits on the board of Children's Hunger Fund. Recently, Francis is planting churches in the San Francisco area and recently launched a countrywide discipleship movement called Multiply with David Platt. Francis and his wife Lisa live in Northern California with their five children.

Francis writes "as Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit—the

Helper—so that we could be true and living witnesses for Christ. Unfortunately, today's church has admired the gift but neglected to open it." Pastor Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and we are reaping the disastrous results.

You do not have to read the book to attend, but it does help with the discussion and what you receive back from it. Used copies of this book are available from the office for \$7.

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.

*Chan, Francis. Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit. Colorado Springs:

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

Please call me with questions...Connie

Leadership in Worship & Service

Welcome Team	Tony, Mirium, Christine	Mark Vorenkamp	Children & Youth
Children's Time	Cyndi	Jim Craig	Church Council Chair
Candle Lighting	Karen		Asbury CDC Board Chair
Usher	Jim, Anthony	Connie Portillo	Office Secretary
Production Team	Jim	Kathy Howe	Choir Director
Nursery	Norma	Rebekah Britton	Piano & Organ
Worship Leaders	Cyndi		
Coffee Hour	Richard		

Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel Pastor

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.



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.

Christmas is Near...

Need a little help at Christmas this year?

Let the North End Soup Kitchen help provide gifts for your children 16 & under!!

Registration is October 16-20, 2017

9:30am to 1:00pm (only)

Catholic Charities

North End Soup Kitchen's Gym

735 E Stewart Ave, Flint

(1 block East of Saginaw St)

Bring the following with you:

Your Michigan ID

Each child's birth certificate

or Social Security cards for each child

For more information call:

(810) 785-6911 – between the hours of 9:00am-4:00pm

NO REGISTRATION ALLOWED BY PHONE



Coming up this week

Neighborhood Deliveries /water-food

Oct 9 Mon

Oct 10 Tues 12Noon Pastor Book Club
6:30pm Washington Neigh -
borhood Assoc

Oct 11 Wed

Oct 12 Thurs 6:30pm Choir Practice

Oct 13 Fri 6:00pm Eastside Coalition
(Kate Fields)

Oct 14 Sun 9:00am Traditional
Worship
10:00am Connect Break
10:30am Contemporary
Worship
12:00 N Café Closes

**Last Week for Worship
Attendance 49 Offering \$ 773**

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

Sunday, October 22nd



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Welcome to the Asbury Community

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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.

