

# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

*Welcome to the Asbury Community*

## The Road to Hope

Paul states the obvious in his letter to the church in Rome. Who hopes for what they already have? The answer is no one. There's no need. We might hope for it to last, for the next version and so forth, but when we already have something hope is not a part of our thinking.

So there's a knock at the door and when you answer the person standing on your porch says to you "Do you have a plan for your afterlife?" "What ... When?" you reply back wondering if this person is about to waste your time pitching a life insurance policy. The person clarifies. "Have you been saved? Is your salvation assured? Do you know that you are going to heaven?"

Regretting answering the door you choose to be polite but look for a way to end the conversation. On the other hand, it is a great question. Just not a ques-

tion you really want to answer. And there are so many assumptions in his question. Is salvation like a treatment plan? The goal is for me to be saved so I need to get agreement on a plan that leads to the desired outcome?

You know the "sinner's prayer" and have even whispered it out loud at a revival but that was years ago. Wasn't that all I had to do? "Yes" you blurt out. "Yes I have been saved" bringing the conversation to an end. Or so you hope.

Paul also writes in this same chapter of Romans that:

*For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager*

*hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.*  
Romans 8:22-23

Paul acknowledges that we are a work in progress. Saved but not yet perfected. Not only are our bodies decaying but we are plagued with a "sinful nature" that causes us to stray away from the will of God despite our best efforts. Only the Holy Spirit can keep us from sinning but we have a role to play.

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*We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently).*

Romans 8:24-25 NLT

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

### *Inside this issue:*

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## 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

## I am a Missionary ...continued from Page 1

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)*

## The Road to Hope ...continued from Page 1

We are not enslaved by the Spirit as unwilling captives. Jesus demonstrated how to stay in tune with the Holy Spirit and we are called to emulate His practices. Prayer, studying scripture with others, worship and so on. These are the disciplines of a life in Christ that keep us in harmony with the Spirit.

So we hope, Paul explains, because we do not yet have that which we hope for. The porch is empty and you are free to return to whatever was occupying your time before the knock at the door. Instead you pick up a Bible allowing it to open to whatever page is visible. You begin in the middle of the page:

*But I will keep on hoping for your help; I will promise you more and more.*

Psalm 71:14 NLT

What help am I hoping for? Your eyes move up to the beginning of the Psalm:

*O Lord, I have come to you for protection; don't let me be disgraced. Save me and rescue me, for you do what is right. Turn your ear to listen to me, and set me free. Be my rock of safety where I can always hide. Give the order to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.*

Psalm 71:1-3 NLT

The writer of this Psalm does not seem to be talking about a plan to get to heaven. The writer is looking for hope right now. Protection and rescue. "Save me now" the writer pleads.

Your mind turns to the news that you heard the night before. Hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, mass shootings and more. You grab an envelope off the table that

*But I will keep on hoping for your help; I will promise you more and more.*

*Psalm 71:14*

contains the latest shut-off notice from Consumers to use as a bookmark in case you want to return to this Psalm later.

What do I hope for? While I have hope in eternal life and I have faith that I can depend on God to be God I do not have a treatment plan to get to heaven that has specific outcomes that I can use to make mid-course adjustments. I am entirely at God's mercy.

## The Road to Hope ...continued from Page 2



But like the rest of creation I groan that I am still awaiting that day when I am one with the Holy Spirit, a time when I can see clearly. I am waiting for a time when I see the world the way God sees the world and I can love others the way that God loves us.

Hope in this case is a verb. Hope implies action out of a sense of urgency that what the Holy Spirit is leading me to do cannot wait until tomorrow. Patience is itself not passive. Like active listening to seek understanding in a conversation with some-

one, active patience requires that we are intentional about each day.

Are you waiting on a miracle? Hope is available, but it takes action. Are you asking God for what you need? Are you being obedient to God's Word, loving others and sharing your faith. Is there an area in your life where you are waiting on a miracle, but you are not doing your part?

Rev Tommy

*Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 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 8:35-39 NLT*

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**

## The Road to Hope ... a new worship series

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.

What does it mean to be saved? To experience salvation? 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.

Come join us each Sunday and hear messages of hope based on God's Word. Expand your ideas about salvation. Realize that faith is trusting God for salvation which involves both the present and the future.

Rev Tommy

## 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

### TRICK OR TREATING AT ASBURY UMC!!

We will be passing out candy for all those trick or treaters stopping by on Tuesday, October 31st...

The hours will be between 5:00pm-6:30pm

If anyone would like to donate some candy, you may bring it to the office or you may see Miriam



## Leadership in Worship & Service

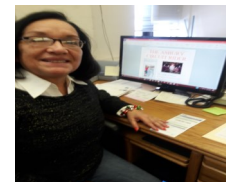
Welcome Team	Tony, Mirium, Christine	Mark Vorenkamp	Children & Youth
Children's Time	Cyndi	Jim Craig	Church Council Chair
Candle Lighting	Karen		Asbury CDC Board Chair
Usher	Bob, Carolyn, Jim	Connie Portillo	Office Secretary
Production Team	Bob	Kathy Howe	Choir Director
Nursery	Carolyn	Rebekah Britton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

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



I will be starting on a new directory after Church Conference, 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 16 Mon** 5:00pm Eastside Coalition  
w/Kate Fields (4th Ward)

**Oct 17 Tues** 12Noon Pastor Book Club

**Oct 18 Wed** 6pm SPRC (at Court St UMC)

**Oct 19 Thurs** 6:30pm Choir Practice

**Oct 20 Fri** 10-2pm Fresh Produce G A

**Oct 22 Sun** 1:30-2:30pm  
Church Conference at Bethel UMC

**Oct 22 Sun** 9:00am Traditional  
Worship  
10:00am Connect Break  
10:30am Contemporary  
Worship  
12:00 N Café Closes

**Last Week for Worship  
Attendance 48 Offering \$ 929**

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.

Asbury Church  
Conference 2017

Sunday, October 22

@ Bethel UMC

1:30-2:30pm

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District Annual  
Conference

Sunday, October 15

@ Court Street UMC

5:00 pm



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.*

## New Beginnings

Asbury is a place to CONNECT so while you are with us we hope that this will happen for you. We want you to connect with God, connect with us and we want to help you to connect with your needs and the desires of your heart.

Our New Beginnings Worship is designed to help you CONNECT with God in new and meaningful ways and to really enjoy your time here. Enjoy refreshments from the Asbury Café before, during or after worship.

Our messages are simple, divinely inspired by the Word of God, and practical. We believe church is a hospital for the broken and not a memorial for the perfect, so our prayer for you is that you leave with whatever God has in mind for you to

takeaway. An action that you feel compelled to carryout that will make a difference for you.

Each worship experience is an opportunity for you to come closer to God. But life too often gets in our way. Our CONNECT team will be with us as we near the end of our worship time to hear your concerns, pray with you and connect you with resources and a way forward for you to grow in love with God, in love with the others worshipping with you and in love with your neighbor. You are here because you belong here.

