

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Welcome to the Asbury Community

In all the wrong places

Author Gary Chapman asks the question "Why do some people claim to experience God's love very deeply, while others feel so distant from God that they are unsure God even exists?" The author of the book, *God Speaks Your Love Language*, offers his opinion that "Perhaps because some are looking in the wrong direction." Is this true? Are some of us simply looking in all the wrong places for God's love and missing out? *

The one place that most of us go expecting to find God is the place designated for that purpose. In our case, we call this place a church. "God's house" is a common

expression, pointing back to the Old Testament where God was present with the Hebrew slaves after freeing them from their Egyptian overlords, living in a tent. Later, their descendants would build a temple as God's home with an inner room that no one dare enter except a designated priest chosen by lottery. It was in this place that the father of John the Baptist would encounter God, talk smack and be struck speechless until after the birth.

As a people we historically participate in religious rituals with the idea

that our words and actions call upon God to show up. Much like an avid sports fan with our favorite jersey for game day, what works once will surely work again, and again. Our focus can become the ritual itself coming to believe that it is the precision of movement and the exact words that bring God into our midst. And even when we aren't feeling God's presence, we continue our rituals and even teach them to our children so that they can practice them and teach them to their children.

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credit one or both parents, whether biological or adopted, with inspiring their success.

Khalid's hit song, Young Dumb & Broke is a love song. But this song also reveals the frustration of youth. Not quite ready to be independent of the adults they depend on, still trying to figure out who they are as individuals, hormones sometimes racing out of control and needing to feel loved for the person God created them to be. Not just loved by God, but loved by the very people they depend on.

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Special points of interest:

>A shout out to the 125+ students from Central Michigan University who made another trip to Flint Saturday to help out with some major beautification projects in Flint. Several of the students worked at the Asbury Farm on Jane Avenue helping to construct a hoop house and paint canvases for our fence. Asbury hosted the students for another great meal prepared by Chef Kevin. Thank you volunteers who made this possible.



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Young Dumb & Broke

R&B singer Khalid (Khalid Donnel Robinson) began writing songs while in High School. According to Wikipedia Khalid reports that his musical career was inspired by his mother, who stuck to her career in the military and sacrificed her own musical career to raise her son. Artists,



professional athletics and others who have found success in their career often

Young Dumb & Broke ...continued from Page 1

A few years ago Cyndi and I accompanied a group of teenagers to the mayor's office as part of a program that we called Youth know our neighbors. We met with Mayor Walling for a couple of hours so the youth could ask questions in interview style and write a paper on what they learned. During one of the exchanges the Mayor asked their opinion of an idea of a single high school in Flint rather than multiple schools. In unison, the youth responded "no way... there is already too much drama." Too much drama is not exactly a recipe for learning.

Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before...and the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel! And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3:7-10 (NLT)

Unfortunately, "drama" for youth in today's world goes well beyond teenage heartbreak. According to the Center for Disease Control, violence disproportionately affects youth. Homicide is the number one cause of death for African American youth, and the second leading cause of death for Hispanic youth. Every day 13 young people in this country are victims of homicide. The sad truth is that nonfatal and fatal violence are substantially higher among young people than any other age group.¹

So what can you and I do about it?

Author Gary Chapman writes that today's youth need our love more than ever as they prepare to be on their own in a world quite different from even their largely Gen-X parents. We live in a global world defined by mobile Internet technology that exposes our teens to the best and worst of all human cultures. A culture of pluralism characterized by an acceptance that no particular worldview or philosophy as being superior to the others has replaced common beliefs and

patterns. Diversity in culture and individual expression is commonplace. Drama abounds.²

Teenagers often do not feel loved, but when they do it profoundly affects their behavior. It is not that parents do not love their teenagers. For most parents, it is not a matter of sincerity but rather lack of information on how to communicate love effectively on an emotional level. A part of the problem is often that many parents do not feel loved themselves.

I invite you to join us on Sunday, April 29 as we explore the various ways that we can show and receive love to our teens and the youth of our community.

What can we do about youth violence? How can you relate better to your teen? Join us on Sunday, April 29th at 10:30am to hear some ideas that could change your life.

Pastor Tommy

¹"Violence and Homicide Among Youth." Center for Disease Control website. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcommunication/toolstemplates/entertainmenttips/ViolenceYouth.html>.

²Chapman, Gary. The 5 Love Languages of Teenagers: The Secret to Loving Teens Effectively. Moody Publishers.

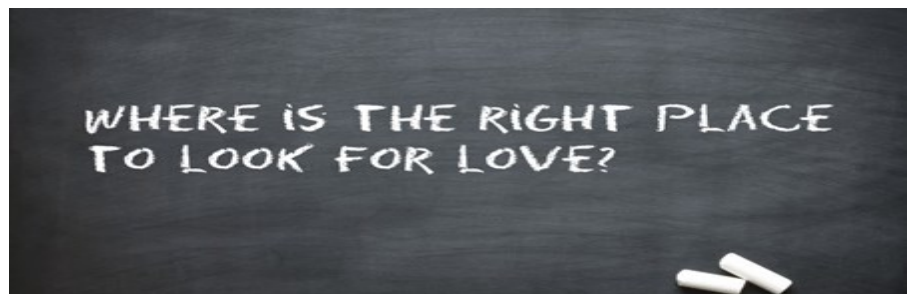
In all the wrong places ... continued from page 1

But are we looking in all the wrong places? Does God have a particular formula, like a secret password or a particular phone number that rings at the divine office to let God know that we are waiting? Are we looking in all the wrong places?

Our worship series, Love me tender, began with introducing five love languages. These are the most relevant ways for us to feel loved. For some, it is words, for others we respond best to gifts. Some of us really need touch, while others feel loved

when something is done for them and still others it is quality time that is most important.

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In all the wrong places ... *continued from page 2*

Since we were created by this very same God whom we have a never ending desire to be loved by, and since we are created in God's image, is it possible that in order for us to really be aware of God's love that we will need God's words of affirmation, gifts, touch, acts or quality time in order for us to feel loved — depending upon which of these love languages fit our particular quirks?

Religious ritual can help us open ourselves up in anticipation. For Cyndi and I it is worship through song that helps us to feel like we can touch the face of God and feel His arms around us. And for me, when I preach, I come alive. I feel God alive in me. But I also need quality time. So I have learned over the many years of looking in all the wrong places that I need to take time to be in God's presence.

Time for prayer, reading scripture, reflecting on the ways that I can feel God there with me and the ways that God has made His presence known day to day. This helps to make God's love real for me. I feel the presence of Christ sitting with me, holding me when I am sad or grieving or just anxious and sitting quietly with me when I am upset or angry.

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CELEBRATE SPRING WITH US!

The United Methodist Women of Asbury UMC invite you and your family and friends to their new Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 12Noon-2:00pm

Special menu prepared by our own *Chef Kevin!*

Chicken Alfredo, Bread Sticks, Make your own Cobb Salad,

Hot and Cold Drinks, Homemade Desserts

Program, Door Prizes and Lots of Fun!!

YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO RSVP!!

Price will be \$7.00 (3 and under free) and reservations must be made in advance by calling Norma Natrass at 810-235-1116 before Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

In Our Prayers

Curtis Young	Shirley Craig
Rachel Bastine	Christopher Lewis
Norma Buzzard	Sarah Tanner
Virginia Bigger	Elizabeth Wright
Barbara McIvor	Judy Tanner
Jonathon Misner	Mary Lyons
Nancy Auger	Brenda
Austin & Mary Suffle	

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Sharon George	Mary Nations
Elaine Lamoreaux	Carmen Misner
Mary Russell	



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Asbury Worship Series Love Me Tender ...

We all have a love language according to Gary Chapman, author of numerous books on the topic. The point is that certain things result in us feeling more loved than other things. For example, some of us feel loved when someone does something for us, like open a door or bring us lunch. If acts of service result in my feeling more loved then I am more

Book Club News

Our group finished our reading and discussion of *The Hip-Hop Church* written by Pastors Efreem Smith and Phil Jackson. Like the culture it rises from, the hip-hop church is relevant and certainly bold. And it speaks to the heart. This book has offered us practical ideas from hip-hop churches about how to engage and incorporate rap, break dancing, poetry and deejays to worship Jesus and preach his Word.



We are in the *Season of Lent*. A time of preparation as we look forward to our Easter celebration of Christ's resurrection. In our message for Ash Wednesday we learned a little bit about the tradition of fasting during Lent. That is, giving up something that

has become a little too important to us while we focus on our relationship with God, others, ourselves and our planet. These are life-giving connections which help to keep us in harmonious relationships.

Leadership in Worship & Service

Welcome Team	Tony, Mirium, Christine
Children's Time	Rev Tommy
Ushers	Anthony, Jim
Production Team	Jim
Nursery	Carolyn
Worship Leaders	Michele
Coffee Hour	

Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel	Pastor
Mark Vorenkamp	Children & Youth
Jim Craig	Leadership Chair

likely to do things for other people when I want to show them love. After all, I know how much it means to me.

But it turns out that we are not all wired the same. While everyone on the planet realizes this fact we go about our lives as though it isn't true. If words that affirm me is my favorite love talk then I am more likely to offer affirming words to others I care about as a way to show them that I love them. Its sort

We hope that you will join us on Tuesdays at Noon. On March 6, we will discuss what we learned about the Hip Hop culture and how what we learned might help us to reach more youth and young adults with the good news of Jesus Christ. We begin a new study the following Tuesday, March 13. Our next topic will be a book recommended by Israel Unger, *The Last Hunger Season*.

In western Kenya, the *Luhya* people customarily name their children for the time of year in which they are born. Francis Mamati, a smallholder farmer shares this about his birth month: "I think it must be May or June...because my mother gave me a third name: *Wanjala*,...our word for hunger, for the time of year when we run low on food. The hunger season. And that is usually May and June."

Wanjala, or hunger, is real in many parts of the world. Many of us heard references to "starving children in Africa" as children when we refused to eat our peas or whatever food item we were offered but preferred not to eat. Africa's smallholder farmers, most of whom are women, know misery. They toil in a time warp, living and working essentially as their ancestors did a century ago. With tired seeds, meager soil nutrition, primitive storage facilities, wretched roads, and no capital or

of like if I really enjoy Starbucks dark roast coffee and I want to show Cyndi how much I love her I will pick a coffee up for her and unless I am consciously aware that dark roast is not her thing I am apt to grab two of the same.

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credit, they harvest less than one-quarter the yields of Western farmers.

The small family farms that award-winning author and world hunger activist Roger Thurow witnessed in Kenya was a horror scene of malnourished children, backbreaking manual work, and profound hopelessness. For these families, growing food is their driving preoccupation, and still they don't have enough to feed their families throughout the year. The *wanjala*—the annual hunger season that can stretch from one month to as many as eight or nine—comes out of a lack of possibilities.

But in January 2011, a woman named *Leonida* and her neighbors came together and took the enormous risk of trying to change their lives. Roger Thurow spent a year with four of them—*Leonida Wanyama, Rasoa Wasike, Francis Mamati, and Zipporah Biketi*—to both witness and to share their stories. In *The Last Hunger Season*, we read about the profound challenges these farmers and their families faced, and follow their stories through the seasons to see whether, with a little bit of help from a new social enterprise organization called *One Acre Fund*, they might transcend lives of severe poverty and hunger.

The daily dramas of the farmers' lives unfold against the backdrop of a looming global challenge: to feed a growing population, world food production must nearly double by 2050. If these farmers succeed, so might we all.

We encourage you to come to our Tuesday gatherings. Our small group hopes 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. And we are always on the lookout for our next book, video lesson or topic. Your participation and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Pastor Tommy

* Thurow, Roger. *The Last Hunger Season: A Year in an African Farm Community on the Brink of Change*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2012.

Love Me Tender ... *continued from page 4*

So I bring Cyndi the coffee, she takes a sip and ugh! Dark roast! Isn't Cyndi just grateful that I brought her the coffee "out of love?" First, if receiving gifts is Cyndi's primary "love language" then it is likely that receiving a gift, even a gift that isn't what she had hoped for, would erase most of the poor choice on my part. However, if my love language is gift receiving my first reaction to the ugh! might be "How ungrateful."

Suppose Cyndi's love language is words of affirmation. My choice of dark roast could potentially trigger feelings of "you don't love me" since ignoring her

preferences could be received as not believing her preferences are important. What? This is getting complicated. Can't we all just get along?

Welcome to our next worship series, *Love me tender*. In an effort to help us all get along better with each other and with new people that we do not know, we will spend some time thinking about what causes us to feel more loved: words, time, gifts, service or touch? Knowing this about ourselves we can be more aware of how we express love - we can call it caring for now - and also be aware

that even people we think we know may not receive what we offer them in the same way that we would.

If you are a member of Asbury Church then you made a promise that you would support our community through your presence, gifts, prayers, service and witness. These promises each relate to sharing the love that we know Christ has for us with others. But how do these promises connect to our love languages? There are five of each? Come learn how this fits together.

Stay tuned! We start the Second Sunday of Easter. Yes - Easter is more than one Sunday. My apologies to those who need words of affirmation. This is intended to be a reminder not a criticism.

I look forward to learning together and growing closer to God and to each of you. On behalf of the worship planning and production teams, I invite you to join us each Sunday as we explore what it means to *Love Me Tender*.

Pastor Tommy

Coming up this week

Neighborhood Water Deliveries

- Apr 23 Mon** 4:30pm StandUp Education Prog
- Apr 24 Tues** 12Noon Pastor Book Club
- Apr 25 Wed** 4:30pm StandUp Education Prog
6:00pm Beginners Bible Study
6:30pm Asbury Youth
- Apr 27 Fri** 4:30pm StandUp Education Prog
- Apr 29 Sat** 1-4pm StandUp Education Prog

Apr 22 Sunday

- 9:30am Café Opens
- 10:30am New Beginnings Contemporary Worship

Last Week for Worship Attendance 15 Offering \$329

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

Email announcements by the Friday before to:
FlintAsburyUMC@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.

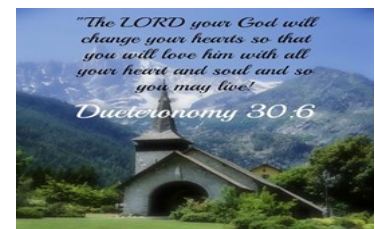
Social Media allows us to tell others about the work that God is doing. All of us can

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.



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs



Welcome to the Asbury Community

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Neighborhood Connection



WELCOME JEFF HARPER & COOKIE!!

Pastor Jeff and Cookie have been active in out-reach ministry at Calvary UMC. At the beginning of the water crisis, the entire Harper family organized a water distribution operation that gave out hundreds of thousands cases of water, but also offering prayer and words of encouragement in the name of Jesus Christ. Cookie runs a clothing closet for the families supported by Family Promise. We are blessed to have Pastor Jeff offer our message this Sunday.

In all the wrong places ...continued from page 3

The God of the Bible is a God of words and scripture is rich with affirmations of God's love for us. If this is your primary love language, the Psalms in particular will put you directly in touch with God's love. And you will find that sharing God's love with others through words will give you satisfaction and joy. In the same way, if you are a "gift giver" you feel and express love through this. And you are in for being showered with love from God who is the greatest giver of gifts. Gift givers understand what it means to say "This is a gift from God."

If your primary love language is service try looking into the many needs of our community and finding

a place to serve. Asbury is a center of activity throughout the week providing food, connections to services, growing fresh fruits and vegetables, beautifying our neighborhood, teaching and mentoring youth and more. You will find in doing so the many ways that God is serving you just as God has, is and will be acting in the world. Jesus told His followers that He came to serve and to be a sacrifice for the world.

I invite you to join us each Sunday as we explore the various ways that we show and receive love in the same way that we show love to God and God to us.

*For God so love the world
that He.. Spoke..Gave...
Served..Lived..Touched..
Dwelled..
That all who believed in
Him shall have others,
give, touch, affirm...be
with*

Pastor Tommy

* Chapman, Gary. *God Speaks Your Love Language: How to Feel and Reflect God's Love*. Moody Publishers. (p. 12).