

# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

*Welcome to the Asbury Community!*

## Surrender

Its hard to believe it has been a year since Emery and Addilyn, my twin granddaughters, were born. This Sunday is their first birthday and Cyndi and I attended their birthday party on Saturday. I couldn't help but pay a lot of attention to our grandson, Griffin. He just turned three in July. For two years he was the center of attention and a year ago all that changed. I wonder how he will handle this change.

I'm a middle child but more important, like Griffin, I also had a younger sister that was born two years after me. I don't remember anything about that time in my life, but I can imagine that things changed in my world quite suddenly.

When a newborn arrives they are attention grabbers. Even if I had learned to stand on my head when I was two or tell great jokes, I'm guessing that my spotlight was turned off quite decidedly and getting my fair share of attention wasn't going to happen. Psychologists tell us that we experience feelings of rejection. And rejection by people who love you is hard to get over.



But rejection doesn't end there. Life is full of

what often feels like rejection — a replay of a younger sibling or similar version of trauma — even when rejection was not the intention. Getting fired from a job is one of the most degrading events that any of us can experience.

One experience that can be worse than a younger sibling stealing the spotlight or being fired from your job is being dumped. Whether married and being served divorce papers or single and the love of your life tells you that its time to go their own way, this is the adult version of rejection and it stings. Rejection is hard.

Page 2

## God Calling... Are you Listening? 1 Peter 2:9

I had a fascinating conversation with my elderly parents four years ago. We were sitting around the living room in the summer of 2014 and I had been comparing and contrasting the Gen 3 temptation with the

Matt 4 temptation. I said daddy I figured something out.

The enemy of our souls has been working for 6,000 plus years to convince us that we don't need God, we can be God, and we

can fix our own problems. Daddy, if it was true wouldn't our problems be fixed by now?

Page 2

Volume 18 Issue 16  
September 16, 2018

### *Special points of interest:*

> **Leadership Team Meeting:** will be held on Monday, September 17th at 6:00pm in the Asbury Library.

> **Worship Design:** will meet on Monday, September 24th at 6:00pm.

> **Prayers go out to the Washington Hicks Family on the passing of Troy Hicks on September 12th.**



### *Inside this issue:*

Surrender	1
God Calling.. Are you Listening?	1
New Worship Series	3
In our Prayers	3
Pastor's Book Club	4
Leadership in Worship & Service	4
Coming up this Week	5
The Flint Farming Project	6
Small Group Questions & Notes	7

God Calling... Are you Listening? ...cont. from Page 1

Dad started laughing and said, "daughter you are right and that's how we know the devil is a liar!" Satan's accusation against God to the fallen angels and humanity is that the father withholds power, dominion and authority because God is a tyrant. The truth is that the enemy of our souls is exactly what he accuses God of being a power hungry tyrant that seeks to usurp the authority and divert the worship of the God who created him!

The father of lies calls us to death, darkness and bondage.

The battle between Christ and anti-Christ is for possession. The property that is being fought over is the souls of humankind. Every day we must choose which voice we will follow and believe!

Sylvia Pittman  
Asbury Director of  
Worship Arts

The "good" father calls us to life, light and freedom.

seek God even when we aren't sure how to find God or what to expect when our search is fulfilled. Sadly, there are still lots of people who don't consciously realize that the "thing" that is missing in their life is a relationship with God.

**Seek your happiness in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desire.**  
**Psalm 37: 4 GNT**

Surrender ..cont. from page 1

These three scenarios (being replaced, being fired and being dumped) all have one thing in common: other people. And they are each missing a key consideration: God.

we develop independence which frees us from what would otherwise become an unhealthy relationship. However, our need for attention shifts and we strive for kudos from friends and bosses to know that we are loved at least to be appreciated for the things we do.

As an infant it is understandable that my instinct for survival is quickly attached to the attention that I receive from caregivers. I can't fill my own bottle or change my own diaper and I create an attachment to those who can. A co-dependency takes shape. My caregivers try to please me so I don't wail and I try to please them so I can get attention when I want it.

Conditional love is always at risk. Our co-dependency begins to feel as though it is not stable. That it is always at risk. Because it is. What if we are unable to deliver on the goods? What if someone else steals our show? Will the people around us still love us when we are no longer able to hold up our side of the co-dependency?

We instinctively lean on our experience with people in our pursuit. It is as though we convince ourselves that if we perform for God in the same way that we perform for the people around us whom we desire to be loved by, God will also love us.

But as we "give up our childish ways" we quickly look for replacements. Our caregivers have others to care for and

Through God's grace we have an even greater desire that burns within us. We

But it doesn't work. We hold onto an illusion that we are in control. We convince ourselves that we call the shots while all the time dancing to the desires of the people we want to please. And we project these desires onto God without allowing God to tell us what is pleasing to God. Unless we listen to God.

## Surrender ... cont. from page 2

Psalm 37:4 tells us to “Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Wait! So is it that we have it backwards? God is not looking for us to “perform” so as to please Him — God just wants to be loved and will give us that which we want most? What does it mean to “take delight” — to really enjoy God?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus addressed the subject of our needs and urged us to let go of our desire to worry about them. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus says “Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with

what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.”

*God was our real caregiver all along but God provided this care through others.*

God was our real caregiver all along but God provided this care through others. They were not just expressing their love, which can be conditional and usually feels condi-

tional. They were expressing God’s love which is unconditional.

This changes everything doesn’t it? God is the love of our life not other people. When we express love for others, even those we love the most, like our spouse, partner, children or best friends, God is loving them through us. We are a conduit for God’s love which flows through us. In this process we find satisfaction and great joy. Our greatest desire, our desire to be loved, is fulfilled. Everything else is secondary.

Do you hear what I hear? First, you must surrender your need to please others, your fear that if you disappoint others you will not be loved by them, and turn completely to God. You are no longer performing. You are simple loving and being loved by the God who created you and loves you dearly. Then, and only then, can you truly be pleasing to others.

It is when God is showing His love for others through you that they find satisfaction in you. Whether you are a cook, a carpenter, a musician, a teacher or any other way that you utilize the talents given to you by God, use these talents in your worship and God will take care of the rest.

Pastor Tommy

## Asbury Café is Open!

**Asbury Café is opened for lunch on Fridays from 10:00am-2:00pm outside the Worship Center on the main floor.**



**These selections will also be available on Sunday mornings before and after worship.**

## 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 Do you hear what I hear? Second of Three Series

One of the goals for our first series in our trilogy was to shift our focus from the rules of religion to the opportunities for relationship with God and each other. One of the goals of this series is to help us further shift our thinking towards relation-

ship by considering how to listen for the voice of God. Religion calls this “discernment” and talks a lot about God’s Word particularly when criticizing others. Here we will explore what this word means for our community. Our focus in this next series is on how to listen, compare what we hear, and coming to a common understanding.

Discernment requires a relationship with God and with others. It is best done in community since God seems to offer a little bit of insight to each person in a group — even a group of two — requiring that we compare notes and requiring that we ask each other “Do you hear what I hear?”

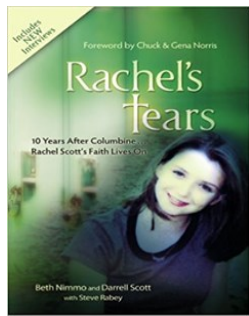
Page 5

## Book Club News

**NOTE - WE ARE NOW MEETING ON WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON.**

Has any one ever invited you to watch a movie or read a book with the qualifier “Are you ready for a good cry?” For some of us, this “sweetens” the invitation and the answer is nearly always YES. For some, this qualifier is a disqualifier. Why set myself up to cry on purpose? Then there is the middle ground — the majority. We may dip our toes in emotionally but hold out as long as possible. “There’s no crying in baseball!” is a line that comes to mind for me. That’s a lie. I’ve coached hundreds of children in baseball and tears are a part of the game. And a part of life.

As we put our last book selection behind us we turn from analysis to real life. While our last book was non-fiction and full of reporting on life it was mostly at a societal level as we analyzed the



state of our democracy, or lack thereof, from a safe distance. Our next book invites us into the story — into the lives of a family devastated by our inability as a people to provide safety for our children. Not because we aren’t trying hard. But perhaps our lack of democracy plays a bigger role than we may care to recognize.

In our study just finished, authors Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen argue that “Democracy is not a choice. Creating democracies truly accountable to their citizens is essential to our very survival—to the flourishing of societies supporting human life, and now, because of climate change, to the survival of the Earth...” The burning question is “What is the world that we want to create together?”

Certainly, our children are at the center of our hopes. As school shootings continue at an increasing rate while politicians huddle in back rooms to find new ways to protect the interest of gun manufacturers and political contributions our youth are rising up and calling them to come out and look into the faces of children who are both afraid and tired of adults unwilling to take action. Our children are using their voices and their votes for change, even as some states try to create new obstacles that discourage them from voting.

Our next book takes us also into the heart of a teenager. A student at Columbine High School who once wrote in her personal journal, “I am not going

to apologize for speaking the name of Jesus... If I have to sacrifice everything... I will.” While I am not one who readily takes on a book that promises to turn on the tears I was hooked as soon as I began reading. And the tears...well have some tissues close by. Amazon’s website describes our next book, *Rachael’s Tears*, as follows:

The Columbine tragedy in April 1999 pierced the heart of our country. We later learned that the teenage killers specifically targeted Rachel Scott and mocked her Christian faith on their chilling, homemade videotapes. Rachel Scott died for her faith. Now her parents talk about Rachel’s life and how they have found meaning in their daughter’s martyrdom in the aftermath of the school shooting.

*Rachel’s Tears* comes from a heartfelt need to celebrate this young girl’s life, to work through the grief and the questions of a nation, and to comfort those who have been touched by violence in our schools today. Using excerpts and drawings from Rachel’s own journals, her parents offer a spiritual perspective on the Columbine tragedy and provide a vision of hope for preventing youth violence across the nation.



We encourage you to come to our Wednesday gatherings. Our small group hopes to widen our circle and so we hope that you will join in on our discussion. We meet each Wednesday 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.

\* Nimmo, Beth, and Darrell Scott. *Rachel’s Tears: The Spiritual Journey of Columbine Martyr Rachel Scott*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2000, 2008.

## Leadership in Worship & Service

Welcome Team Tony, Mirium,  
Ushers Anthony, Jim  
Production Team Mark  
Children Mirium & Emily  
Worship Leaders Cyndi  
Café Christine & Norma

Jim Craig Leadership Chair  
Connie Portillo Office Secretary  
Kevin Croom Farm to Table  
Israel Unger Business Operations

### Asbury Café

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

### Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel Pastor  
Mark Vorenkamp Children & Youth  
Sylvia Pittman Worship Arts

*Do you hear what I hear? continued from page 4*

There is an ancient parable that was constructed into a poem by John Godfrey Saxe, about six blind men who encounter an elephant. Each man has a different understanding of the elephant based on the part of the elephant that they are touching. None of them really know much about the elephant overall since they are each limited to their own experience.

*Six men of Indostan  
To learning much inclined,  
Who went to see the Elephant  
(Though all of them were blind)  
That each by observation  
Might satisfy his mind...  
And so these men of Indostan  
Disputed loud and long,  
Each in his own opinion*

*Exceeding stiff and strong,  
Though each was partly in  
the right,  
And all were in the wrong!*

Page 8

1 John Godfrey Saxe, The Poems of John Godfrey Saxe. (1873), (pp. 135-136

### Coming up this week

- Sept 17 Mon** 6:00pm Leadership Team Mtg
- Sept 18 Tues** 10am-2pm Water Pick up
- Sept 19 Wed** 12Noon Pastor Book Club
- Sept 20 Thu** 10am-2pm Water pick up
- Sept 21 Fri** 10am-2pm Asbury Cafe Open
- Sept 22 Sat**
- Sept 23 SUNDAY**
  - 9:30am Café Opens
  - 10:30am New Beginnings Contemporary Worship

**Last Week for Worship Attendance 29 Offering \$ 567**

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\* New Asbury UMC Coffee Cups**



are available by bringing a friend or neighbor to Sunday Worship with you! Just fill out a Connect Card so we can get to know them too, turn it in to the Café ladies and you and your guest will be given one of these coffee cups.

### 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.

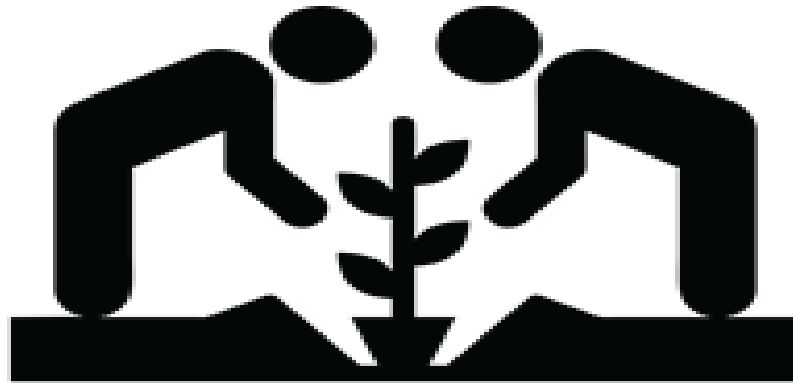
**Social Media** allows us to tell others about the work that God is doing. All of us can

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.



# THE FLINT FARMING PROJECT

**PRODUCE FROM THE ASBURY FARMS ...**





# Welcome to the Asbury Community

1653 Davison Rd  
Flint, MI 48506



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FLINT, MICHIGAN  
PERMIT #151

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

## 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.

## Asbury Worship Series ..Do you hear what I hear? *cont.. from page 5*

Discernment involves a community open to the possibility that God is speaking through actions and decisions all around us. For example, why is our weekly book club small group studying a book about democracy? Clearly, our situation in Washington has reached an all time low, but some question whether the church should take a position on politics? When Jesus said to give to Caesar (government) that which they claim and give to God what God claims was He making a politically neutral statement?

Here is a possible discernment: What if God is calling Asbury to become more active in making a political statement of inclusion and democratic process?

*...anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock*

*Matthew 7:26 GNT*

After all the work that we are doing in our community cannot be done in a vacuum.

The City's Master Plan affects our community and the people we serve. Decisions about land usage, whether we can combine lots, drill wells, eliminate streets and use

buildings are all a part of God's plan for good.



But FIRST ... Do you hear what I hear?

Pastor Tommy