

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Welcome to the Asbury Community!

Ladder Climbing

Joanna Weaver in her video that introduces her book, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, offers a wonderful metaphor for how many of us view our relationship with God. We imagine a ladder that stretches up to heaven with each rung of the ladder another thing that we need to do. There is reading scripture, prayers, meditation, worship, life groups, concerts, volunteering, witnessing, inviting others and more. Just making a list is exhausting.

We stare at the height of this ladder with tired eyes and muscles knowing before we take the first step that we don't see how we can make it all the way to the top. It may as well be the dangling rope in gym class hanging from the rafters of the gymnasium as we wait our turn to grab the rope and

climb to the top. Only this ladder reaches much higher and will take much longer. And we aren't as young as we once were and much busier.



Some of us started climbing the ladder that we saw in front of us years ago and are still climbing. And after thousands of hours of Bible study, prayer and service we are tired. We are more than tired. We are exhausted. But there are still more rungs to climb. Oh boy! Will I make it in time

Ship Wreck

A ship wreck differs in a number of ways from a train wreck. First, and most frightening to most of us is that it takes place on water. Now I love the water and I'm quite comfortable in water to a point. But I don't live in water. I'm not a fish. So if the ship I'm traveling on sinks, eventually I sink unless there is something

else that can keep me afloat. So when we think of life situations that are like a ship wreck, we are talking about monumental events that generally affect a lot of people and put us into very unfamiliar territory. Another difference between a train wreck and a ship wreck is the duration and the amount of warning. Train wrecks

before the gates of heaven are closed?

Before I go on I need to make sure that if at any time this article gives you the impression that you shouldn't do some if not all of the things listed above and more, I have failed you. These are all good things and crucial to life but set your to-do list aside for a few minutes and read on.

Can I be honest? If you think that you can earn God's love by what you do then frankly you are being just a bit arrogant. For to do so suggests that you know what's best and what you need to do to please God.

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seem to happen quickly with little warning. We likely didn't see it coming and once its here we are either powerless to change course or don't have enough time to do so.

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Volume 18 Issue 11

November 11, 2018

Special points of interest:

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.



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Ship Wreck ...cont. from Page 1

Ship wrecks usually unfold over a longer period. A storm is seen over the horizon but it could dissipate or move a different direction. The wind changes and we need to change course if not change our destination. We have choices to make. Some of our choices could save the day. Poor choices could make matters worse.

When I think of present day ship wrecks that seem to be unfolding in our midst I think of our political circumstances, particularly on the national level. With a mid-term election coming up it is no surprise this is on my mind. My in-box is full of emails making political claims. Too many of them are unsettling, intended to create fear and a sense of urgency to cast my vote their way. But as I stand back a bit what I see is an impending ship wreck that has been unfolding with each wave and exacerbated by each passing storm. I have come to realize that ship wrecks don't always happen. Situations change and momentum can shift in favorable ways.

Ship wrecks are those monumental that unfold over a period of time...

Within this national ship wreck concern is our beloved city and neighborhood. National politics aside Flint has been in the midst of a ship wreck that could be described as our

Ladder Climbing... cont from page 1

The argument is powerful and I've heard this argument from well meaning, somewhat angry Christians in the past. "I know what to do because it says so in the Bible!" Yes it does but be careful not to read with tunnel vision.

Most important, salvation, and by salvation I mean the Good News that comes to us right now, right where we are, without so much as changing our socks, is a gift. Salvation is not given to us because of anything we have done, or not done, or anything that we intend to do. Salvation is ours because of what Christ has already done. We don't earn salvation. The Good News is a free gift. We just have to accept it.

ship going aground and helpless to move in any direction. While I don't ordinarily subscribe to this extreme I can see how after decades of further decline we certainly have not been "underway" at cruising speed in a very long time. Perhaps the problem is not our circumstances. Perhaps the problem is that our destination has changed but we are still holding onto an old itinerary. Like train wrecks, scripture also offers examples of ship wrecks that offer incite and wisdom.

The story from the Book of Acts about the Apostle Paul's trip to Rome is a story of adventure and intrigue. On Paul's way to his destiny he encountered waypoints or intermediate stopovers. Places that he visited before his journey could continue. Dry land, perhaps, but unfamiliar dry land, with unfamiliar circumstances. Yet familiar needs.

Paul found himself on just such a journey. Departing his homeland for Rome his ship encountered one obstacle after another. Paul was neither the Captain nor the Pilot. He lived at the mercy of others who put their own lives ahead of his but who knew how to navigate the sea yet incapable of controlling the sea. Paul was not silent in his captivity. He ministered to the people that he traveled with offering encouragement and eventually hope for their own survival. Caught in storms

Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:42 GNT

Sounds easy doesn't it? And it is easy. Jesus said so. In Matthew 11:30 Jesus tells us that the load that He puts on us is light — not heavy. Furthermore, in Psalm 37 God promises to give us the desires of our heart. Why? Because God loves us and lived among people to show us just how much we are loved even before we take our first breath and certainly before we quote our first verse of Scripture.

and desperate to find safe harbor the crew eventually wrecked close enough to the Island of Malta to be saved. Once there, Paul made the best of it. He ministered to the local residents, healing their sick and sharing the Gospel.

I beg you, take courage! Not one of you will lose your life...For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship came to me and said, "Don't be afraid, Paul...So take courage, for I trust in God that it will be just as I was told".

Acts 27:22-25 GNT

Paul had discerned that he was being called to Rome to take the Good News there but Paul had learned that faithfulness requires patience which requires a trust in God's ability to navigate storms even during times when hope is harder to find. Perhaps Paul was certain that spending time in Malta was part of God's plan. Perhaps Paul knew that even if nature or human incompetence had temporarily delayed the unfolding of God's plan that God would make the best of it and that there was work to be done while waiting.

Whether you find yourself recovering from a train wreck, trying to avoid a train wreck, or if you are in the midst of what appears to be a certain ship wreck, unfolding in slow motion, but leaving you feeling powerless, God's plan continues to unfold. And if all of these wrecks are too many metaphors, let them go.

But remember this — God has a plan for our wellbeing...but FIRST we may experience setbacks and downright failures along the way. Whether these were always a part of God's plan or simply the enemy adding to our difficulty, God's plan will prevail. Meanwhile, there is always work to be done, for the Good News of Jesus Christ never gets old or out of date. For there is power in His name that will heal and transform people, neighborhoods and cities.

What work has God given you to do at whatever waypoint you find yourself?

Pastor Tommy

Ladder Climbing...cont. from page 2

Here's the thing about the ladder. We don't have to climb a ladder to get to God because Jesus comes down to us right where we are and wherever we are physically, emotionally, economically, intellectually. We are given the opportunity to "choose the right thing" which is to listen to Jesus. Sounds easy? Yes. Let someone else worry about washing the dishes? No.

The secret is surrender. Just like our need to climb the ladder we also have a more desperate need that causes us to choose the ladder over intimacy with Jesus. We want our own way. Just like when

we were toddlers it is hard to surrender our own desires. And we are masters of justifying that our desires are what God wants.

You say "But pastor, didn't you say that God would give us the desires of our heart? Well I desire _____." We fill in the blank with what we believe to be true about ourselves without really knowing ourselves. At least not as well as Jesus knows us. We assume that we know exactly what we need.

Our thoughts go something like "Lord just let me do what I like doing and I will consider giving You the credit." Whether it is the spotlight on stage, a promotion, a new car, some other place to live, whether well-meaning and good on its own, it is what we think we want. And I don't know about you but I am pretty stubborn, so it took me a long time to finally give into letting Jesus show me the desires of my heart. And boy was I surprised!

Surprise is a common expression among Christians who finally surrender completely to Christ. Sometimes what we thought we wanted turns out to be really close to what God had in mind, but we still feel like our world turned upside down when our eyes are opened. But quite often it turns out we didn't know what we were missing. Past wounds, trying to please others, stubbornness, and an unlimited number of distractions throw us off course.

And it seems worse for those of us who have invested years and thousands of dollars in learning a vocation

that God never intended for us to pursue. Degrees, accolades, awards, opportunities, promotions. All the trappings of a very tall ladder that surely must reach the heavens.

Jesus is the way and frankly the only way that I know to receive my heart's desires. In my case, I was shocked and so were a lot of people who knew me. But the day I finally surrendered to my Creator, my Savior, my Lord Jesus Christ, I found true joy and happiness. And God just keeps piling on the blessings in unexpected ways.

Are you a Martha who is climbing the ladder to heaven on your own strength? Or have you given up altogether figuring that the ladder is just too tall and you don't think you can make it? Or do you just think that God doesn't really care about you? These are all lies that the enemy has told you. Don't believe them.

Martha's make life so much better for everyone around them. Martha's are priceless. But be a Martha who first turns your attention towards Jesus to get your to-do list. Then all that you do can and will be done for God's glory and your efforts will no longer be a burden but a blessing for you and others.

But, even if you don't believe the lies there is still the problem of the voices of the market telling you that you can "Have it your way." This is only true if you are placing the order on your own power. When God gives you what He has in store there is nothing on earth like it and the bill has already been paid.

Jesus knows you better than you do.

May you surrender your desires to the One

who knows you better than you know yourself. And may you have a heart for Jesus. He certainly has a heart for you.

Pastor Tommy



Our long time member of Asbury, Carmen Misner passed away Saturday, November 3rd. Cremation has taken place and as per the family's request, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Please keep Jonathon and the rest of the Misner family in your prayers.

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 | Richard Oram |
| Austin & Mary Suffle | Merle Supernaw |

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Sharon George | Mary Nations |
| Elaine Lamoreaux | |
| Mary Russell | |



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

**Asbury Worship Series
A Heart for Jesus
Having a Mary Heart in a
Martha World**

In ancient Israel the people gathered in the tent of meetings for worship. But not everyone gathered. Women in particular were not allowed inside. The closest they could come was to stand outside the door. Have you ever stood outside a door when there was something going on inside? How did you feel? What kept you from going in?

We had an incredible turnout for our Halloween celebration this year. By some estimations 300 to 400 people may have entered the church and made their way to the café. We served just under 200 hot dogs. There was green slime mustard and ketchup along with punch to go with the hotdogs. The line for food was steady.

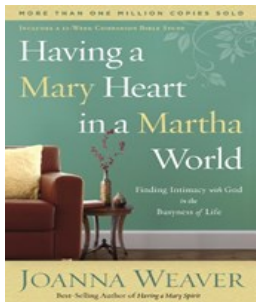


Meanwhile, inside the worship center the music was awesome. God was being honored and gifts were being shared. I know I would have rather spent the entire time listening and worshipping. Surprisingly, at the peak there may have been 100 people at any one time inside the worship center. Most of the time the worship center was less than one quarter full. The vast majority of people chose to stay in the crowded café area for food, getting their picture taken, playing games or just hanging out.

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Book Club News

Do you consider yourself a busy person? Are your days generally filled with things to do? Are there some days where you feel like you are falling further behind? These are questions that according to the author of our next book could be proceeded with "You may be a Martha if..." Perhaps you not a Martha-type. Instead of busyness that never ends you take time to "smell the roses" and talk to strangers and manage to be the target of rolling eyes and harsh comments about not doing your share of the chores. Well, "You might be a Mary if..."



10:38–42, John 11:1–44, and John 12:1–11. Scholars suspect that Jesus frequently stayed with the two sisters and their brother Lazarus, but these are the three stories of Jesus visiting them that we find in scripture. One thing is clear in terms of their type-casting, Mary is not Martha and Martha is not Mary. They are two very different people who both want to know and serve Jesus Christ.

This study offers an invitation for everyone of us who feels like we just aren't godly enough... or loving enough... or that we just aren't doing enough. Our lives today really are not all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, don't you also long to sit at the Lord's feet... but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone? Like Martha, don't you love Jesus and really want to serve Him... yet don't you often struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy?

On Wednesday, October 31, we begin our next book titled *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. Mary and Martha are named in the Gospels in three places: Luke

Just like the story told by Luke, Jesus comes right into the midst of your busy Mary/Martha life and extends the same

invitation He issued long ago to the two sisters of Bethany. Tenderly He invites you to choose "the better part" of life. A joyful life of "living-room" intimacy with Him. An intimacy that flows naturally into serving Him. Come learn how can you make that choice. In this study we will learn how all of us, Marys and Marthas alike, can draw closer to Jesus Christ, deepening our devotion, strengthening our service, and doing both with less stress and greater joy.

Author Joanna Weaver' book has sold over a million copies and her books and Bible studies have been used by hundreds of churches, life groups and individuals. Our time with Joanna's book will be guided using a ten week study guide that she provides along with short video clips from her companion DVD. Joanna is the mother of three children and the wife of a pastor in Montana so she has plenty of experience in the church environment. While this book is written from a woman's perspective the story and lessons are equally applicable to all gender identities.

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.

Pastor Tommy

* Weaver, Joanna. *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life*. CO: Crown Publishing Group, 2000.

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

Asbury Worship Series ..A Heart for Jesus.. continued from page 4

There were a few activities in the café area to keep children occupied. There was a Photo Booth and a few children's games. But honestly, given the size of the crowd, not everyone got their turn and even then it only occupied a few minutes of their time. People came, hung out for a while and left rather than join in the worship celebration. What kept so many people standing at the door of worship rather than joining in?

As we transition from Fall to the season of Christmas decorations we will spend two weeks preparing for the busyness that usually comes along with the celebrations.

The stores have been busy moving merchandise around and preparing to accept our money in exchange for decorations and those gifts that we know our friends and family just can't live without. The worship planning team is already feeling the busyness as we prepare for our Community Christmas concert coming up November 29th.

We spent the past few months considering what we know to be true about God's plan for our community and for each of us individually. From relationships to hearing God's voice to recovering from and avoiding train wrecks we tackled the question of preparation. God has a plan for our well-being, but FIRST what can we do to hear and know God's voice?

God has a plan for Asbury that includes all of us in one way or another. God has a plan for every person and it is a plan for our own good, and we can become so busy with life that we may miss the better thing. God tells us through the Prophet Jeremiah that we each have a desire within us to know God, but are we able to sit still long enough to do so?

Our book club is reading and discussing a book titled *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* written by a pastor's wife by the name of Joanna Weaver. We will use Joanna's advice over the next couple of weeks to take a breath before the busy season gets into full gear to sit at the feet of Jesus and enjoy the better thing.

Whether you join us each Sunday for a practical message that can help you face your challenges.

Pastor Tommy

Coming up this week

- Nov 12 Mon** 6:00pm Leadership Team
- Nov 13 Tues** 10am-2pm Water Distribution
- Nov 14 Wed** 12Noon Pastor Book Club
6PM Beginners Bible Study
- Nov 15 Thu** 10am-2pm Water Distribution
- Nov 16 Fri** 10am-2pm Asbury Cafe Open
- Nov 17 Sat** 4pm Mark & Emily's Wedding
- Nov 18 SUNDAY**
9:30am Café Opens
10:30am New Beginnings Contemporary Worship

**Last Week for Worship
Attendance 32 Offering \$ 1,087**

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

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

Our Asbury church directory has been printed. If you would like one, please leave me a note in my mailbox or leave me a message and I will make sure you get one.

Connie

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.

**** 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.

ASBURY WORSHIP CENTER

PRESENTS:



“A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION”

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST:
RICHARD KERRY THOMPSON

FEATURING:

* FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

* THE FLINT JUBILEE CHORALE

* THE FLINT COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

* THE ASBURY PRAISE BAND



TIME:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

7:00PM-8:30PM

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1653 DAVISON RD FLINT

(810) 235-0016

(A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECT)

Life Group Questions & Notes

Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:42 GNT

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

1. What is the “better” thing that Jesus is talking about? What are some ways that we are able to pursue the better thing and stay close to Jesus?
2. How is your relationship with Jesus? Have you surrendered your “desire” to Jesus? If so, share what it was like to do so. If your not sure, what may be holding you back?
3. How can the members of your group help you this week?

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.

THE SALVATION ARMY—FLINT MICHIGAN

2018 Late Christmas Assistance 1-Day Flint Beecher

Corps Sign up

1475 W. Coldwater Rd,
Flint 48505
(810) 789-4003

Tuesday, November 6th
from 9:00am to 2:00pm

2018 Late Christmas Assistance 2-Day

Flint Citadel Sign-up

211 W Kearsley Street,
Flint 48502
(810)232-2196

Extended Hours:

Tuesday, November 13th
from 9:00am to 7:00pm
Wednesday, November 14th
from 9:00am to 7:00pm

Required Documentation for Christmas Assistance:

Michigan ID, Social Security cards for all adults in household.

Proof of dependents in home (birth certificates, social sec cards)

Current bill for last 30 days: must contain name/address of individual applying for assistance.

Proof of income for last 30 days: pay stubs, child support, SSI, etc...