

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER



Fearless (Trusting God enough to do)

Meet Greta Thunberg. Greta describes herself as that introverted girl who sits in the back of the room and never says anything. She simply felt that she was too small and that her voice didn't matter. Greta is quite unusual for a teenager. Actually, Greta is quite unusual for an adult, in terms of the courage that she exhibits.

It's not that Greta didn't have some of the key ingredients that might offer her more confidence than she showed. Greta's mother is an opera singer, and her father is an actor who was coincidentally, named after a scientist who is credited for discovering how to measure the greenhouse effect that comes from an increasing level of carbon dioxide in

our atmosphere.



Greta is actually quite smart. Diagnosed with Asperger's four years ago perhaps this explains in part why she sometimes has difficulty with just letting things go. Children diagnosed with this form of autism characteristically exhibit repetitive interest, are intelligent and may exhibit speaking that can be a bit odd. Fortunately for all of us, Greta found her voice and is fearless enough

to speak truth to people substantially more powerful than Greta and all of her friends. At least we believe they are more powerful. Greta thinks that they are cowards.

Greta lives in Sweden and gained international attention when she successfully initiated a school strike among not only her classmates, but a strike that extended even beyond the borders of Sweden to over 70 countries. Greta was a 15 year old High School student when she shocked the world with her United Nations speech calling for environmental justice. What this young teenager did that day was the equivalent of "turning over the tables of the money changers."

Page 2

Flight School (Teaching others to fly)

I was a young adult when I first attended flight school. Learning to fly consists of both in the air learning and instruction while safely on the ground. Learning to fly begins with actually experiencing the thrill of taking the controls of an airplane to make sure that this is really something that you can see yourself doing on your own. And to motivate you to say yes to the cost of the instruction. I really appre-

ciated ground school because there was so much variety in the lessons from weather to mechanics and from law to physics.



A pilot needs a well-rounded education on a variety of topics which affect an airplane and the safety of passengers that the pilot can apply in live situations. Most of the training is not needed for a beautiful day when everything is going right. The training is needed for bad days when everything goes wrong.

In my first venture into flying I was blessed to have an instructor who was about the same age as me, and fearless. Nothing seemed to rattle Jack. I remember one lesson when we were working on power

Page 2

Volume 19 Issue 31

March 31, 2019

Special points of interest:

>>> **United Methodist Women will be meeting on Thursday, April 4th at 1pm in the Asbury Wesley Room. All are welcome to attend.**

>>> **Worship Design will meet on Tuesday, April 8th at 6pm in the Asbury Library.**

>>> **Leadership Team will meet on Tuesday, April 15th at 6pm in the Asbury Library.**

Inside this issue:

Fearless-Trusting God enough to do	1
Flight School-Teaching others to fly	1
In Our Prayers	3
Asbury Worship Series—Multiply	4
Pastor's Book Club	4
Leadership in Worship & Service	4
Coming up this Week	5
Updates	6
Asbury Farm to Table	7
Small Group Questions & Notes	8
Fearless	9

Flight School (Teaching others to fly)...cont. from page 1

stall recovery I managed to put our small t-tail trainer plane into an unstable configuration, flight-wise, and within seconds the nose broke (pointed down abruptly) and we entered a high speed spiral. Jack calmly asked me to let go of the controls, grabbed the controls on his side, hit the pedal on the opposite side of our rotation and with great skill and precision, regained control of the airplane. As we leveled off over Lakes St Clair at a considerably lower altitude than where we started, Jack said in a calm voice "That was fun. Now let's try that again."

Jack taught me how to be a safe pilot by showing me what being a good pilot looked like through what he did, explaining to me how to do the maneuvers that make for safe flying and allowing me to make my own mistakes while in the safety of his reassuring presence. Jack's ability to be the kind of pilot that he was teaching me to be saved my life more than once after I had my own pilot's license and went on to fly over a thousand hours on my own, oftentimes carrying passengers with me. This is what a good teacher does.

Have you ever had to learn something that was difficult and starting out you knew

Fearless... cont. from page 1

But she didn't do this in a church where friends and family would willingly show her love and support. Greta turned over the tables in the assembly of the United Nations. What does it take for us to have the sort of courage that we are willing to risk embarrassment, rejection, humiliation and attacks from people with a lot more power than us?

We say that we trust God but our actions don't verify our claim. We say that we depend on God but we are more self-reliant than God-reliant in what we do. We say that we know that God will take care of us but our anxiety levels suggest otherwise.

that you were bound to mess it up even trying? High school chemistry class or even biology comes to mind for me. And more recently transplanting tomato plants or trying to reach a particularly high note in front of a lot of people. We have all found ourselves facing a new experience that we haven't faced before and hoping that we can find a teacher, like Jack, who rather than criticize our attempts, he or she calmly show us, by example, a way to learn and do.

I marvel at the way that Jesus taught His disciples and how He continues to teach us. Discipleship is a combination of ground school and doing. Making mistakes and learning from them. And all the time knowing that Jesus is right next to us, ready to take the controls if we start to spin out of control and teaching us how to save lives as a result of our learning. And the results are worth it. In the process of doing what we learn we save lives including our own.

I like the comparison of flight school with teaching others about the Kingdom of God. First, Jack didn't pick me as a student and I didn't pick him to be my instructor. It

Trusting other people can be easier than trusting God and most of us don't really trust other people all that much. Yet God requires that we trust our lives to Him alone. And the truth is that we really don't have a choice but we struggle to admit our dependence and live it out.

Trusting other people can be easier than trusting God and most of us don't really trust other people all that much.

We read in Matthew that the whole

was the "luck of the draw" or at least this is how it appears. I now realize that God had a lot to do with this seemingly chance meeting. And I haven't stayed in touch with Jack. Discipling is oftentimes like this. Someone seems to randomly show up and we are the one who is expected to teach them about discipleship. We didn't choose them and they didn't choose us. It was the "divine luck of the draw" so to speak that brings us together in the same airplane.

When I attended flight school, Jack wasn't my ground school instructor. This job went to another, more experienced person, who knew the FAR's (Federal Aviation Recommendations), laws affecting pilots, weather, and all of the various subjects that make up a comprehensive knowledge of flying. This instructor's goal was to prepare me with the head knowledge to both pass the flight exam and to help me learn what I needed to know to prepare for a flight and to safely pilot the airplane.

Discipleship works the same way. There are ground school courses such as Bible Study, Book Club, and small groups, just to name a few.

Page 3

city was thrown into an uproar when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. If something like this happened today the evening news would be interrupting regularly scheduled programming and viewers would be glued to their iPhones wondering whether the militia would be called in to put an end to the disruption. Jesus' picture and sound-bites would be used to invite the public to consume more media coverage and of course, to also patronize the advertisers paying for the cost of coverage. If something like this happened today it would be a media extravaganza.

Page 3

Fearless...cont. from page 2

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And just when His followers thought that it might be wise to bring it down a notch, Jesus takes the volume to full power. He goes into the Temple courts and seals His fate with those who have benefited from the exploitation of the poor. "This man must be stopped," must have been shouted by anyone caught in the crosshairs of Jesus' drive to restore divine injustice.

We read in Matthew that *Jesus went into the Temple and drove out all*

Page 9

In Our Prayers

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

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Sharon George	Mary Russell
Elaine Lamoreaux	Mary Nations

Flight School ...cont. from page 2

Most times there is an experienced instructor who has lived the life of a disciple for a long time. Long enough to realize that they still have a lot to learn and to recognize that being a disciple requires lifelong learning for all of us. The world does not sit still but continues to change day after day. And we find ourselves in new circumstances with new students sometimes when we least expect it.

When a person becomes a pilot they take on the responsibility for the safety of themselves and others. Passengers need instruction too so they will know their role in safely getting to their destination. A pilot is also responsible for persons on the ground who would rather not have an airplane crash into their home or land next to them on the expressway. A pilot is a lifelong learner and teacher.

When we become a disciple we take on the responsibility of teaching others. And most of our teaching is done without being consciously aware that we are being watched. One of the last things that Jesus told His disciples are the same instructions that He gives to us. Jesus tells us that we are to teach others about the Kingdom of God. We might not be a ground instructor. Most of us teach while in the air. That is, we teach in how we live life. We show others how to be a disciple by our worship, how we treat others, how we treat ourselves and how we treat our planet.

"Go, then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 GNT

While this may sound like a lot of pressure, this is where having the ultimate instructor comes in. Jesus never leaves our side. He is a constant companion. We teach through our actions but we have the ultimate Teacher with us always. This was what Jesus promised. That He will always be with us no matter where we travel to. Even if we fly to the other side of the planet, He is right next to us, ready to take the controls and keeping us from crashing.

It doesn't matter if you are an experienced instructor or never stepped into a church. There is a place waiting for you here at Asbury. Sooner or later we all face circumstances that causes our heart to race. We face loss, we face unpleasant change, we face adventure. Why not be prepared? Why face it alone? Eventually, we face our own death. Why face it unsure if anything happens next?

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is the most rewarding, the most joyful, the most life-changing and life-giving experience available on the planet or anywhere else. Come and join other disciples here at Asbury and learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ. We are all connected in ways that bind us together into a beautiful tapestry that is a community of abundant life.

It doesn't matter if you are an experienced instructor or never stepped into a church. There is a place waiting for you in the Kingdom of God.

Our current worship series here at Asbury is titled *Multiply*. Come and learn how God's Kingdom is unfolding before our very eyes and how God multiplies our blessings. Worship is each Sunday at 10:30 am. Our Café opens at 10 and you are welcome to join us for a short ground school lesson (Bible study) at 9:30 am in the Café.

Pastor Tommy



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Asbury Worship Series Multiply Be Fruitful and Multiply

We move from our February worship series, Love does, into the Season of Lent. A time when we prepare for our Easter celebration. The Season of Lent is generally a time of reflection. Winter will soon come to an end. The Asbury Farm team is busy germinating

transplants in anticipation of longer and warmer days. The Spring flowers will soon emerge from overwintering as bulbs. We associate the Season of Spring with new birth when creation seems to *Multiply*.

Jesus was a *Multiplier*. He multiplied in his "doing". Jesus equipped His followers to do the same. And then Jesus sent them out to tell others and to multiply the Kingdom

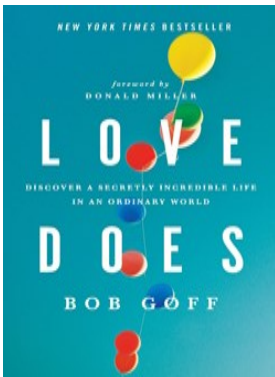
of God. Jesus often used metaphors in His teaching that are found in the multiplication of creation.

I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Page 5

Book Club News

Our next book for discussion at our weekly Book Club is *Love Does* by Bob Goff. This book is an easy read and a great joy that is hard to put down. Bob's view of life comes through the pages and his literary skills allow his readers to feel a part of the action. And a part of the life lessons.



See Pastor Tommy, contact the office, or just show up for Book Club to receive a copy. A donation of \$10 is encouraged for each book and we appreciate any help with purchasing books for those unable to pay for

one. Please refrain from taking a copy if you don't intend to read and discuss the book with us. Copies are readily available through Amazon and other sellers.

Bob writes that he keeps his office on Tom Sawyer Island at Disney World. Sporting a season pass he spends time in a place where many people who visit Disney World don't bother. One travel guide listed Tom Sawyer Island as an oasis within the madness of long lines, crowds and the hot sun. But our writer uses this getaway as a metaphor for missing out.

Tom Sawyer Island is no amusement ride. You bring your imagination to the attraction. And apparently it is one of those attractions that most visitors to Disney World leave on their "if I get around to it" list and they are fresh out of "round tuits" and pass — and miss out on an adventure. "Tom Sawyer Island is like most people's lives, I think: they never get around to crossing over to it" writes Bob Goff.

In his assessment of "people" the writer brings the words and stories of Jesus into his analysis as well as his own journey that began with a couple of believers who seemed to live out their faith to a relatively unimpressive high school student. While Jesus told parables and stories to illustrate truth Jesus also spoke plainly about a lot of very important topics. For one, Jesus made

it clear to the people around Him that it isn't enough to just look like you love God. Instead, Jesus pointed out that the way to tell how much we love God is by how well we love people.

Let's face it. People can be hard to love at times. But if we truly believe that God created us and wants what is best for us, this makes God rather easy to love. And I suspect a lot of people — most people stop there. They love God but not so much God's people. And let's face it, church people can be hard to love. But this isn't the point.

Perhaps this is one of the challenges for those who don't believe that God lived among people as Jesus Christ. They may even like Jesus but they don't care much for what Jesus told them they needed to do. In one of the stories Jesus tells a young man with a lot of belongings that he needed to get rid of his stuff. It must have been getting in the way of the young man loving others. He went away sad we read. Most of us go away sad at the thought of giving something up.

Bob takes the Gospel seriously by living whimsically. A contradiction? Not really. We can never quite know what God is up to so even our best laid plans may get interrupted by a God request. Are we willing to drop everything, or sell everything, or just change our mind about what we plan to do tomorrow? This is how love does.

Since God is insistent that we love one another, this state of feelings toward another person we call "love" must move from a noun to a verb. We do because we love. We go because we love. We respond because we love. This all looks quite whimsical to the world outside the Kingdom of God. But this is how love does.

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— Be Fruitful and Multiply ... Cont. from page 4

In John chapter 15, Jesus says "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will bear much fruit" (John 15:5). Within each seed exists an entire field. An entire orchard. Jesus teaches us to think of multiplying Himself through us into others.

This Seasons of Lent we will prepare for our Easter celebration by reading and studying a few of Jesus' teachings on farming. Our theme scripture begins with Jesus as the vine and each of us branches. We will work along with the Asbury Farm team in sowing seeds that will produce the nutrition that we need to live. And perhaps we will find that we are all farmers who follow Christ. For each of us is an orchard that produces fruit which results in still more fruit.

Join us each Sunday. Easter is right around the corner and our Empowerment Arts team is working on a special presentation for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. More to come. Let's Multiply the Kingdom together. Let's sow seeds of love together. And we will become a movement that continues to multiply and to flourish.

Pastor Tommy

Book Club News.. Cont from page 4

Author Donald Miller, writes this about his friend and colleague, "Bob Goff loves people with a force that is natural, and by natural I mean like nature, like a waterfall or wind or waves on the ocean. He loves effortlessly, as though love packs annually in snow on a mountain, melting and rushing through him in an infinite loop. There's no explanation for a man who can love this well save God. I think Bob Goff knows God, and I think God's love flows through him."

The review on Amazon writes that "When Love Does life gets interesting. Each day turns into a hilarious, whimsical, meaningful chance that makes faith simple and real. Each chapter is a story that forms a book, a life. And this is one life you don't want to miss. Light and fun, unique and profound, the lessons drawn from Bob's life and attitude just might inspire you to be secretly incredible, too."

Jason Russell, Co-founder of Invisible Children writes "If all people loved the way Bob Goff loves all people, the world would change overnight. In this book, he reminds us of the truest virtue the kingdom calls us to practice: Love Does. It's active. The Jesus we serve is surprising and subversive. Bob knows this because he himself is both paradoxically wise as a wizard and as joy-filled as a toddler."

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

* Goff, Bob. *Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2012.

- Coming up this week -

- Apr 1 Mon** 5pm Youth Choir
7pm Flint Jubilee
- Apr 2 Tues** 10am-2pm Water Distribution
7pm Community Gospel Choir
- Apr 3 Wed** 12Noon Pastor Book Club
6pm Beginners Bible Study
- Apr 4 Thu** 1pm UMW
6pm Worship Band Practice
- Apr 5 Fri** 10am-2pm Asbury Cafe Open
6pm Asbury Youth Group
- Apr 7 SUNDAY**
9:30am Café Opens
10:30am New Beginnings
Contemporary Worship

Last Week for Worship
Attendance 30 Offering \$ 553

HOLY WEEK

April 14—Palm Sunday



April 18—Holy Thursday

April 19 – Good Friday



April 21 – Easter Sunrise

Easter Sunday





2019 LENTEN SERVICES

Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate ...”

Joel 2:12-13a



TIME:	<u>4:30PM</u>	HOST CHURCH
DATE:		(REFRESHMENTS AFTER SERVICE)
March 17		Asbury 1653 Davison Rd, Flint MI 48506
March 24		Atherton 4010 Lippincott Blvd, Burton MI 48519
March 31		Calvary 2111 Flushing Rd Flint MI 48504
April 7		Bethel 1309 N Ballenger Hwy, Flint MI 48504

Join us for a time of sacred reflection on Sundays at 4:30pm, to share our faith as we wait, with great expectation, for the Resurrected Jesus the Christ!

Jesus said, “The time has come, The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Mark 1:15

Asbury Farm to Table



While turning blight into beautiful and productive landscape is good on its own, transforming a food desert into abundance is life giving. But Asbury wants to make sure that produce is available on the tables of our residents. Our culinary arts and nutritional education programs offer residents the know how just as our farms offers nature's bounty. In addition, the Asbury Café is a culinary experience accessible to our neighbors and anyone with an appetite. Our "pay what you can" approach means that no one is turned away. Those who can help either on the farm or in the café are offered special MyFlintStones tokens that can be used either in the Asbury Café or in exchange for produce to prepare at home.

We proudly accept MyFlintStones

The Asbury Café is open Fridays
10am to 2pm & Sundays
10 am to 12 Noon



ASBURY CAFÉ MENU

Open Fridays 10am to 2pm

Pay what you can

DELI SUBS

Lettuce, onions, tomato plus
choice of ham, turkey or beef

STIR FRY

Local grown garden vegetables
sautéed with love and herbs

GARDEN SALAD

Local grown greens &
vegetables. Ham, turkey or beef
upon request

WRAPS

Lettuce, onions, tomato plus
choice of ham, turkey or beef

MUFFINS

Chef Kevin's special recipe with
fruit, love and other delights
baked in.

SMOOTHIE

Assorted flavors of the day

COFFEE

Regular or decaf

Life Group Questions & Notes

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was thrown into an uproar. "Who is he?" the people asked...Jesus went into the Temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons, and said to them, "It is written in the Scriptures that God said, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer.' But you are making it a hideout for thieves!"

Matthew 21:10-17 GNT

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read Matthew 21:10-17. The Temple in Jesus' time was a combination of worship center and commerce center. The Temple held mortgages on property when a family was unable to make ends meet and needed assistance. The moneychangers changed Roman money into coins accepted in the Temple. It is likely that the rates that they charged may have been excessive. What are some parallels in our society today?
2. What was going on at the Temple when Jesus arrived that motivated Him to take such action? We read that all of Jerusalem was in an uproar when Jesus arrived. Surely, what happened at the Temple created even more tension. What kept Jesus going despite the certain consequences? Are there opportunities for you to "turn over tables" where you see exploration of the poor and oppressed?
3. How can the members of your group help you this week and on-going to help you remove obstacles that stand in the way of your witness?

Welcome to the Asbury Community

1653 Davison Rd
Flint, MI 48506



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

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PERMIT #151



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.

Fearless..Trusting God enough to do cont. from

those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the stools of those who sold pigeons (Matthew 21:12 GNT).

Can you imagine the scene that day in the Temple courts? Loose change bouncing along the stone floors? Businessmen getting out of His way, wondering if he is packing heat, whether His member of His gang are itching for a fight and knowing that they want to go home to their families at the end of the day. Wondering when the Temple police would arrest Jesus. It must have been loud and upsetting to a lot of people. It must have made headlines on all of the news channels particularly given the whole city was in an uproar. No wonder.

Jesus knew that what He was doing would attract attention. A lot of attention and attention that would not end well in terms of His safety. But Jesus knew something else. Jesus knew something that we sort of know, but don't always know it in a way that affects what we do. Jesus trusted in God and He trusted that God is always on the side of divine justice. Jesus had taught His followers about divine justice and how divine justice takes the side of the poor. Jesus taught that benefiting from systems that exploit the poor, or anyone else, is not a part of the Kingdom that Jesus

presides over. So He turned over the tables, both literally and metaphorically.

And Jesus expects us to emulate Him. And when we do turnover tables, those who benefit from unjust systems will take notice. And the tweets will begin but they will be only one weapon in the arsenal of the powerful. And if we really trust God with our lives it will be all out war to stop us. And some of the violence will come from people who claim to know us. The violence will come from people who claim to know us.

Jesus went into the Temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons...

Matthew 21:12 GNT

The powerful do not sit around waiting for us to run out of steam. They respond because their power is dependent upon silencing the voices of divine justice. But our power comes from the God who sides with the poor and oppressed no matter who they are or what they have done or haven't done. They are innocent by benefiting from their suffering is guilty by divine decree.

This does not mean that the poor and oppressed are not also held accountable. God knows our hearts better than we do. And God knows our weaknesses. But when we are comfortable in our own privilege we are less likely to depend on God. We are less likely to trust God. And our attention turns to other gods, particularly other gods who we believe give us our privilege. Whether a lucrative job or retirement, a bank account that makes us independent or just the confidence that we can do it on our own, these other gods compete with the One True God whom is the only God worthy of worship. And the only God that can be trusted.

I pray that you will join us each Sunday for our current worship series titled *Multiply*. Come learn with us how God is making all things new and multiplying our blessings and our movement. We believe that 2019 is the year of a breakthrough here at Asbury and in our neighborhood. Despite a few signs to the contrary God has already accomplished more than any or all of us could accomplish on our own. And God is doing something wonderful right here in Flint.

Join us each Sunday for worship at 10:30 am. I lead a short Bible study at 9:30 am in the Asbury Café where we explore each week's scripture in a little more detail as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Pastor Tommy