

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 2 Issue 10

October 10, 2021

#Metoo (God knows your story)



There were a lot of folks looking forward to the Senate testimony of Frances Haugen. As a former Facebook product manager, Frances had an insider's view of this mysterious company. And

after the Wall Street Journal exposed Facebook's internal workings based on information, this daughter of an Episcopal Priest became the center of attention.

Now Frances has a new title — "Whistle Blower."

She told her story to a journalist from the Wall Street Journal who writes on technology. Her story went viral. The social media service where she once worked and is now exposing went dark for several hours the day after her interview aired on the popular show *60 Minutes*. This outrage brought even more attention to her story.

Page 6



Please continue to wear your masks when in the building. If you don't have one, let us know we will provide one for you.

DONATE

Inside this issue:

#Metoo	1
Your Best Selfie	1
In Our Prayers/Coming up this Week	3
Asbury Worship Series	4
Pastor's Book Club-You are enough	4
Leadership in Worship & Service	4
Asbury Worship Series-Better Together	5
#Metoo	6
Your Best Selfie	7
Small Group Questions & Notes	8
Feed Flint	9
Feed Flint	10
SFSK October Dates	11
Asbury Veggie Boxes	12
#Metoo	13

Your Best Selfie (You are enough)



From [FaceTuneApp.com](https://www.face-tune.com) website

According to the makers of FaceTuneApp, the best selfies require a little pre-planning and the help of their app. In a promotional article titled

"How to Take a Selfie," the writers blame the problem on technology. Our phone simply fails to portrait our authentic selves.

I read their advice after spending time researching what is often called the world's oldest vocation. The story of Brenda Myers-Powell caught my attention. Brenda did not choose prostitution out of a catalog of college courses. Instead, she entered the often violent world of trading sex for money at the age of 14. ²

Page 2

Your Best Selfie (You are enough) ..cont from page 1

Brenda explained to a BBC reporter that prostitution was a natural next step for her. By then, she had two children with different fathers when she discovered that men were willing to pay to have sex with her. This was an improvement over the sexual abuse she experienced by the men her grandmother brought home.

According to surveys, over 42 Million prostitutes work in the \$1.8 billion spent annually in sex-trade. It's estimated that approximately 1% of women living in the United States participate in prostitution to various levels.

Closely associated with the sex trade is human trafficking. According to the non-profit WorldsChildren.org, there are over 21 million victims of human trafficking. The arrest of Jeffrey Epstein and public photos of numerous high-profile individuals associated with him indicate the obstacles facing authorities in prosecuting the guilty. Human trafficking is not always about abducting men and women into prostitution, but the connection is clear.

Prostitution has a prominent place in scripture both as a vocation and a critique of specific persons and societies. As such, scripture generally uses prostitution with negative overtones.

Rahab, according to scripture, was bi-vocational. She operated an Inn in Jericho that allegedly included her services as a prostitute. Grouping individuals by vocation and socioeconomic circumstances to make a significant point is common in scripture. For example, prostitution was a common vocation for women without a father, husband, or brother to represent them. As such, there are often overtones of divine justice for the most vulnerable whenever scripture references this particular vocation.

The traditional understanding of Rahab's place in the biblical narrative illustrates the universal application of divine grace. For example, the writer of Matthew includes her name in the genealogy of Jesus. And she appears again in Hebrews as a role model for faith in God's protection.

Indeed, the history of women's role in society is a testament to the activity of divine grace in the world and the strength, courage, and wisdom of feminine nature. Both wisdom and the natural creation are characterized as feminine, highlighting the intelligence and power of the feminine attributes of humankind.

Rahab apparently took a considerable risk based on God's reputation of keeping divine promises made to the former Hebrew slaves. She did not allow society's assessment of her to keep her from asking for divine protection and favor. The use of a scarlet cord as the sign of protection, rather than a color-coded branding representing promiscuity, is seen by Christians as a foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice for all humanity.

Rahab answered a call to a divine appointment without fully realizing the significance of her act of bravery. And her response left a legacy that continues to celebrate her decision.

Abigail's story has little in common with Rahab. The wife of a prominent and wealthy businessman, Abigail, took immediate action to clean up the mess created by her husband, Nabal. The stories in scripture frequently use names with symbolic meanings. In this case, Nabal was both his name and his shortcoming — Nabal was a fool.

In Our Prayers

Kevin Croom
 Sylvia Pittman
 Shirley Craig
 Richard Oram



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Nancy Elston Elaine Lamoreaux
 Norma Buzzard Mary Nations

Coming up this week

*** PASTOR BOOK CLUB NEWS:**

Pastor Book Club is still meeting via Zoom. Please call the Church Office for more info 810-235-0016 as it changes.

Meanwhile, as a lot of you are already aware, sharp increases in new infections of COVID are pushing us back into isolation. While our regular attendees are vaccinated, we realize that a large number of persons are not vaccinated.

Therefore, we reinstated our policy to require masks in our building for all persons when not eating or drinking. If you don't have a mask, we can provide one for you, just ask the office.

Thank you and everyone stay safe!

*** CHARGE CONFERENCE:**

With Charge Conference just around the corner, please remember to try to get your reports in to me, by the date stated on your notes. Any questions, just call me.

*** CHECK OUT OUR OPEN MIC NITE ON PAGE 14 FOR MORE INFORMATION!!**

- Oct 11 Mon 6:00pm Worship Team
- Oct 12 Tues 10:00am-12:30pm
 Food/Water Distribution
 11am-12Noon **Angel Closet at South Flint Soup Kitchen
- Oct 13 Wed 12Noon Pastor Book Club
 11am-12Noon **Angel Closet at South Flint Soup Kitchen
- Oct 14 Thu 11am-12Noon **Angel Closet at South Flint Soup Kitchen
- Oct 15 Fri
- Oct 16 Sat 12Noon Food Not Bombs
- Oct 17 Sun 10:30am
 New Beginnings
 Contemporary Worship

**Angel Closet is by appointments only during the above dates. (see flyer on page 10 for more info)

(We are live on [Facebook](#) and our newly launched [YouTube channel](#). You can find these links along with more information about us on our website at FlintAsbury.org.)

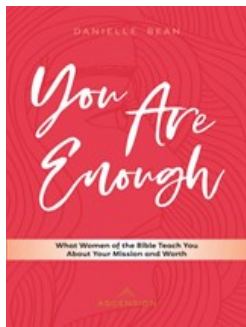
Asbury Worship Series Better Together



Licensed Image...AdobeStock_122125194

Book Club News

We're concluding our discussions of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Holy Envy*, so we're ready to jump into our next topic. Barbara is clearly a stand-out among women of her generation. A priest, professor, and frequent speaker, her words and stories continue to inspire us.



Over the past year, we've experienced the election of our first woman Vice President. The election of Kamala Harris places her both in the history books and in the spotlight. Kamala was one of six women who sought nomination as President. A 2019 survey conducted by LeanIn.org found that 53% of registered voters were either "very ready" or "extremely ready" for a woman president.

Leadership in Worship & Service

Tony, Mirium	Welcome Team
Anthony, Jim	Ushers
Jonathon, Terrance	Production Team
Miriam	Children
Cyndi	Worship Leader
Christine & Norma	Cafe

Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDaniel	Pastor & Exec Dir
Connie Portillo	Office Manager
Sylvia Pittman	Empowerment Arts
Jim Craig	Board & Leadership Chair
Kevin Croom	Exec Chef & Dir Opers

You can't make this stuff up. And you don't have to because it's right there in print. Turn to the book of Judith, and you'll find an intriguing story of sacrifice, deceit, and bravery by a woman willing to risk her life to save her country. A woman with her own book, Judith was a faithful, wealthy widow. When her country is threatened by the Assyrian army, and the people are ready to surrender, Judith

hatches a plan, confident that God will protect her from harm.

But I don't want to spoil the ending.

Better together is a 2-part worship series based on women found in the Old Testament. Much of the content for this series comes from the book,

Page 5

For our new series, *Better together*, our life group chose a book by a lesser-known yet influential female writer named Danielle Bean.¹ She is the brand manager for CatholicMom.com and former publisher and editor-in-chief of Catholic Digest. Danielle is also the creator and host of a weekly Catholic women's television talk show called *The Gist*. In addition, she has published several books, is a popular public speaker, and hosts her own podcast.

From the back cover of *You are Enough*, we read that Danielle Bean's book is an "invitation from God for belonging and love." Each of us is unique, worthy of love, and called to greatness. But in a divisive world, we get distracted from that truth and begin to doubt God's love is real.

Sadly, too many of us, particularly women, are told that we are not smart enough, pretty enough, sexy enough, or thin enough. So it is no wonder that so many forget that we are already made perfect. We are already enough. And God has made each of us for a unique purpose.

In her book, Danielle Bean introduces us to several women found in the Old Testament. She invites us to see how God's love for each of us shines forth through their stories. She invites us to connect with these remarkable women's hopes, dreams, struggles, and experiences. And to learn how their lives offer valuable lessons for our lives today.

Recent increases in new infections of COVID among the unvaccinated are pushing us back into isolation. While our regular attenders are vaccinated, we realize that a large number of persons are not vaccinated. Therefore, we reinstated our policy to require masks in our building for all persons when not eating or drinking.

We strongly urge all persons to get vaccinated as soon as practical unless advised by your doctor. Avoid news sources that promote baseless claims and pay closer attention to the experts we depend on to keep us safe.

We each make our own arrangements for lunch at this point. However, we look forward to returning to pot-luck lunches when infection rates fall. We anticipate this happening as the number of vaccinations reaches herd immunity levels, and the CDC relaxes precautionary measures.

If you prefer to avoid groups or live too far away I encourage you to [join us online](#) for our Wednesday gatherings. Alternatively, you can call in by phone, be heard, and hear what others say by calling (929) 436-2866 -- enter the meeting ID, 282 039 5568#.

We are a diverse group, and we are delighted when new persons join us. I hope that you will join in on our discussion.

You can contact our office with questions, by phone or simply type your question on our website's homepage — [FlintAsbury.org](#).

Pastor Tommy

¹ [Danielle Bean](#). *You are Enough: What Women of the Bible Teach You about Your Mission and*



Better Together ... Asbury Worship Series

You are Enough, a book about many of the women found in the Old Testament.¹

Our worship team is inviting you to share your favorite women of the Old Testament. Perhaps you identify with a particular story or character. Why? What fits? What doesn't fit? Send a selfie video to ArtsCenter@FlintAsbury.org so we can share your story with others.

Check out Rahab, Abigail, Bathsheba, Tamar, Judith, Delilah, Sarah, Hannah, the un-named Widow helped by Elijah, the Shunammite Woman, Miriam the Princess, Rachael and Leah, Ruth and Naomi, and of course, Eve. Which of these stories intersect with your story?

Man, woman, non-binary, or any combination, you're invited to participate in our series. Share what you admire about one or more of these women. In what ways do they remind you of a particular person in your life? What do you have in common?

Our Book Club plans to follow along in Danielle's book during our series if you want deeper discussions on our weekly themes. We have a few books available, or you can check with the library or order your own copy from several sources.

The latest variants of COVID are more contagious. As a result, there is a resurgence of new infections among the unvaccinated. It's time to come out of whatever fears or biases keep you from being a part of the solution. Get vaccinated!

I pray that you will join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We share our weekly explores live on our [YouTube channel](#). We go live at 10:30 am. You can find these links along with more information about us, or join our live broadcast on our [website](#) at FlintAsbury.org.

Pastor Tommy

¹ Danielle Bean. *You are Enough: What Women of the Bible Teach You about Your Mission and Worth*. West Chester, PA: Ascension Publishing,

#MeToo (God knows your story)... *cont. from pg 1*

Facebook and other social media outlets, such as Twitter, have given voice to anyone taking the time to create an account. However, the number of persons who see a post varies, which offers a substantially greater voice to a small number of users. For example, the latest number I've seen who follow Ariana Grande on Instagram is 270 Million. One photo the celebrity posted a while back garnished 10 Million likes within an hour.

Nevertheless, social media provided a sounding board for the #MeToo movement that went viral in 2017 after Alyssa Milano encouraged women to speak out about their experiences in a post on Twitter. And the movement spread quickly.

Tarana Burke using the social media platform MySpace first used the phrase MeToo in 2006. Tarana, who was sexually abused as a child, is an activist from New York who offers help to other women with similar experiences to her own to stand up for themselves.

The movement resulted in numerous surveys to determine how widespread experiences of sexual harassment might be. While results varied depending on the definitions offered, the consensus suggests that most women and a large percentage of men have experienced sexual harassment. For example, an

NPR survey found that over 80% of women experienced some form of sexual harassment in their lifetime.

Perhaps more disturbing is the prevalence of sexual violence. The World Health Organization estimated that as many as one-third of all women worldwide are victims. In addition, a 2017 poll by ABC News and The Washington Post found that 54% of American women report receiving "unwanted and inappropriate" sexual advances. With 95% saying that such behavior usually goes unpunished.

What might God post on a divine social media account on this topic?

There are a lot of stories in scripture about men and women who can use #MeToo in their posts. In this week's episode, we highlight two that took place in the royal household of King David. Bathsheba and David's daughter from a different mother, Tamar, were victims of sexual assault and abusive power.

When King David sent for Bathsheba to come to his chamber, there is no evidence to support that David's advances were welcomed. Scripture doesn't suggest that Bathsheba was in a bad marriage nor that she willingly consented. And although scripture doesn't point out the extreme imbalance of power

between king and subject, it doesn't take imagination to recognize it.

But we do learn that David was attracted to Bathsheba. Apparently, the image of a beautiful woman bathing was too much for the king to resist. If Bathsheba said no, she would be putting herself at significant risk. The power imbalance was extreme. Her husband, Uriah, also answered to the king and served at his pleasure.

The story would have ended there were it not for Bathsheba's pregnancy while her husband was away, serving in the military. The cover-up that ensued resulted in Uriah's murder at the direction of David. After a formal time of grief, Bathsheba became another of David's wives.

So was the cover-up successful and the story of how Bathsheba became David's wife forever swept under the rug?

However, Nabal's refusal to offer hospitality was an offense that struck deep into societal expectations. More important, Nabal offended God when he refused to return kindness as retribution for the safety he received. Moreover, in David's intent to exact revenge without regard to the collateral loss of innocent lives, foolishness was prepared to battle with arrogance to the death.

Abigail rose to the occasion. The presence of her story in scripture is evidence that she responded in the affirmative to divine appointment. She was more than a trophy wife to an arrogant and foolish man. Abigail was a God-appointed hero.

Prostitutes vary significantly in their stories and reasons for their place in the sex trade. The vast majority arrived circumstantially as victims. Over 90% of prostitutes work for a middle-person negatively referred to by the slang term "pimp." Prostitution is not limited to women, nor are feminine attributes a qualifier. At least 20% of prostitutes identify as male in their gender identity.

The stories in scripture affirm that regardless of whether a person is a victim or believes they are whatever they have chosen to become, God sees past our vocations and choices. Whether a "real housewife" with an attitude and a bank account, a

single mother uncertain of herself, or an addict, God has an opportunity in mind for each of us to consider.

What is the opportunity that God is offering you?

Plan to join us this month for Part one of our new series, Better together. We plan to hear from several women found in the Old Testament and their contemporary versions we can actually see and hear from between now and Thanksgiving. Bring a friend with you.

We have a new button on the homepage of our [website](#) - [Click here to watch](#). This button takes you to a viewer to allow you to join live or watch later in the week. We're also live on our newly launched [YouTube channel](#). You can find these links along with more information about us on our website at [FlintAsbury.org](#).

A reminder that we publish this newsletter that we call the *Circuit Rider* each week. You can request this publication by email.

Send a request to connect@FlintAsbury.org or let us know when you send a message through our [website](#). We post an archive of past editions on our website under the tab, Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

¹ Much of the content of this series is based on the book: Danielle Bean. *You are Enough: What Women of the Bible Teach You about Your Mission and Worth*. West Chester, PA: Ascension Publishing, 2018.

² Brenda Myers-Powell . "My 25 years as a prostitute," © BBC News, June 39, 2015.

Whenever you did this for one of the least important...you did it for me!

Matthew 25:40

Life groups questions & notes:

As she offered them to him, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me!" "No," she said. "Don't force me to do such a degrading thing! That's awful!

2 Samuel 13:11-12 (GNT)

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-39. The story of Tamar is hard to read but we read it any way because her story needs to be told and retold. Why do you think that Tamar's story is included in scripture? Was Tamar vindicated? Do you have a similar story? Who has heard your story?
2. Read the article in this week's Circuit Rider, #MeToo. Are you a part of the #MeToo movement? Have you ever posted on Facebook or some other social media outlet with this hashtag? How did sharing your story help you? How do hearing the stories of others help you? Where is God in all of this hurt? What might God say in a post that included #MeToo?
3. How can the members of your group help you this week and on-going to help you to be more receptive to hearing and understanding the Word of God? Pray for each other to have the Holy Spirit bless you with more courage.

“Feed Flint”



“Feed Flint”

Page 10



A meal goes a long way for a senior living alone, a family struggling to make ends meet, or a child fearful of empty shelves at home. But for the residents of Flint who carry the effects of lead-tainted water, nutrition is critical. Feed Flint provides locally grown, chemical-free, fresh produce to residents living in and around Flint. And we're hoping that you can help us provide 10,000 meals this summer.

Feed Flint includes takeout meals, produce boxes with recipes, and home deliveries as part of our work to guide and support families in moving to sustainable abundance. The reality is that Michigan's food insecurity levels got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this summer's recovery is leaving behind those at the most risk of having to miss meals.

Flint families continue to struggle with the ongoing effects of the water crisis.

We're bringing together the resources of the Asbury Community Development Corporation. This includes Asbury Farms, the South Flint Soup Kitchen, the Asbury Community Help Center, multiple food pantries, and our Sizzling Culture Mobile Food Trailer. Our plan is to care for our neighbors when they need it most. We accept all people as they are, and our doors are always open to anyone.

Asbury Farms provides locally grown produce used to create fabulous and nutritious meals. Our seed-to-table approach is community-based. This not only helps families make it through emergencies and crises. We help move families towards sustainable abundance.

Our Sizzling Culture program provides jobs and new skills to our city's youth. This includes year-round employment. Our staff and most of our volunteers come from the neighborhoods we support. We call this sustainable abundance because families move from need-based on scarcity to enough based on community-generated abundance.

Our work is also about food and justice. Our vision is a revitalized community where every resident can use their talents and passions for the common good, where children grow into active citizens. And all residents can enjoy safety, good health, and a culture that fosters life-long learning and satisfying lives. This summer, help us address food insecurity and strengthen Flint's budding local food system by supporting the Feed Flint campaign. Thank you for taking the time to see what we're doing and considering how you can help.

**Donate to our Feed Flint Campaign by visiting:
flintasbury.org/feed-flint-donate**

SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN
PRESENTS...

OCTOBER FOOD GIVEAWAYS & ANGEL CLOSET

3410 Fenton Road, Flint, MI 48507

Food Giveaways - October 6th & 20th
11am-noon

Angel Closet - Appointment only,
October 12, 13, 14

A list of items needed, sizes and a
mask required for entry.

To book an Angel Closet appointment, call or
email:

810-239-3427

SOUTHFLINTSOUPKITCHEN@GMAIL.COM



ASBURY FARM FRESH

- TRY OUR WEEKLY VEGGIE BOX FOR \$10.00 -

SIGN UP FOR A FREE ASBURY FARMS ACCOUNT TODAY

AND

Receive a \$15 credit on your account for your first purchase

CREATE YOUR OWN VEGGIE BOX

Select what goes in your box from each week's harvest. Get \$5 off your next order when you fill your box with \$15 of produce.

WANT US TO DECIDE FOR YOU?

Choose Veggie Box Subscription and we will fill your order with a variety of each week's harvest. Pay when you pick up your box. **A \$15 VALUE FOR \$10.**

*** CONVENIENT PICKUP AT ASBURY OR AT THE SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN ***

God sends the prophet Nathan to call David out. Of course, this was before the time of Twitter and Facebook and before hashtags were a thing. But the result is that we're still talking about it.

Tamar's story was destined to stay under the rug with the other dirt. She was raped by her step-brother, who was infatuated with her. In Tamar's case, scripture is clear that she was raped and went public with the news. Which prompted immediate action from her older brother, who came to her rescue while silencing her protest.

What might God say in a Twitter post about this story?

Scripture leaves out most of the details allowing us to speculate based on our own experiences. Sadly, millions have similar stories. And most don't have millions of followers on social media to hear their stories.

Plan to join us this month for Part one of our new series, Better together. We plan to hear from several women in the Old Testament and their contemporary versions we can actually see and hear from between now and Thanksgiving. Bring a friend with you.

You can join us each Sunday online by going to the button on the homepage of our [website](#) - [Click here to watch](#). This button takes you to a viewer to allow you to join live or watch later in the week. We're also live

on our [YouTube channel](#). You can find these links along with more information about us on our website at [FlintAsbury.org](#).

"No," she said. "Don't force me to do such a degrading thing"!

2 Samuel 13:12

A reminder that we publish this newsletter that we call the *Circuit Rider* each week. You can request this publication by email. Send a request to connect@FlintAsbury.org or let us know when you send a message through our [website](#). We post an archive of past editions on our website under the tab, Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

¹ Much of the content of this series is based on the book: Danielle Bean. *You are Enough: What Women of the Bible Teach You about Your Mission and Worth*. West Chester, PA: Ascension Publishing, 2018.



**ASBURY CHURCH
PRESENTS....**

OPEN MIC

LIVE STREAM OPEN MIC
07 PM TILL 10PM

**RAFFLE
\$1**

10.22.21

LOCATED AT ASBURY CHURCH

**1653 DAVISON ROAD
FLINT, MI 48506**

**No need to sign up ahead
of time!**

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

**SNACKS
PROVIDED!**

MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL KATELIN @
KATELIN@FLINTASBURY.ORG
810-239-3427