



# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 2 Issue 17

October 17, 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.

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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.



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## Never Alone (God is in the Roses<sup>1</sup>)



Just under 23 million children are living in single-parent households in the United States. According to Pew Research, at a rate of just under 25%, our na-

tion has the world's highest rate of children living in single-parent households. This is nearly three times the overall average of around 7%.<sup>2</sup>

Before someone blames this situation on a lack of Christian values it's important to point out that this percentage is about the same regardless of religious affiliation.

Anyone who has experience raising children has some idea of how daunting this responsibly can be when their work is divided among two or more.

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## Never Alone (God is in the Roses<sup>1</sup>)..cont from page 1

A single parent takes on a role that requires a couple of superpowers to pull off. Fortunately, many parents find that they have just enough superpower to pull it off quite well.

Tamara Mason, a licensed social worker, writing for *YourTango*, lists seven capabilities that can really help single parents thrive rather than just get by. She begins her list with the importance of a positive attitude. Then, realizing that it is human nature to see everyone else's pasture as greener, Tamara encourages single parents to focus on what they can do.<sup>3</sup>

The story of Judith is a story of international conflict and intrigue. The book is found in a relatively obscure portion of the Christian Bible known as the Apocrypha. This section is left out of many biblical translations of the Old Testament because the writings weren't included in the official list by the early church. The book was considered worthy of study but fell short of their assessment as divinely inspired text.

Reading the story this past week reminded me of stories I've read in the NY Times or Washington Post. In this story, two nations are in a cold war that is heating up. Each is lining up allies to increase their power and influence.

The nation of Assyria, led by King Nebuchadnezzar, gets turned down by the countries it was counting on as allies. This included the Nation of Judah, where Judith lived.

Her leaders concluded that Assyria had no chance to win a war against their rival nation, Medes. But to everyone's surprise and dismay, Assyria prevailed. And Nebuchadnezzar vowed to take revenge against all of the countries that chose not to become his ally.

Hindsight often appears to be 20/20. If Judah had only sided with the Assyrians, they could have been on the winning team. Instead, they're now under attack. But in their defense, it hadn't been that long since they had returned from exile and rebuilt their community and city.

The Judean leaders tried sending a peace delegation to stop the pending attack. Still, Assyria wasn't willing to back down. Their military forces were marching towards Jerusalem, the capital of Judah. And the people of Judah were terrified.

A national day of prayer was called. So the people gathered at the temple dressed in sackcloth and with ashes on their heads. Sackcloth and ashes were a sign of mourning. It was a heart-warming scene. An entire nation coming together as one voice and praying to God for deliverance from their enemies. One nation, under God, praying that the liberty and justice they desired wouldn't be taken away from them by a relentless enemy led by an arrogant king.

Judith was a widow. Her husband died from heatstroke while overseeing the annual barley harvest. She was still grieving his death while stepping up to the responsibilities and obligations of a single-parent household. Scripture doesn't tell us the age of their children, other than there was clearly not a child old enough to run the family business.

Judith was well-liked and respected in her community. She had a reputation for wisdom. Perhaps this meant that she was an older woman. Yet, the writer makes a rather big deal over her feminine beauty. Apparently, when Judith entered the room, people took notice. And Judith's story focuses on the powerful men noticing her beauty.

The leaders of Judah were put on notice by the Assyrian General that war was imminent. As a result, Judah's supply chain collapsed, interrupted by their enemy. Anxiety and worry over the inevitability of Assyria's attack took a toll on morale and unity. As a result, the Judean leaders planned to surrender.

But Judith disagreed with their decision. Why would God rescue them from calamity only to turn them over to a ruthless enemy who would take away everything they had? "Surely God will come through," Judith argued. "Don't give in so soon!"

**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!

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**\*\*\*CHARGE CONFERENCE:  
 PLEASE GET ALL YOUR FORMS IN TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE..ONE MORE WEEK BEFORE CHARGE CONFERENCE...**

Oct 18	Mon	6:00pm	Leadership Team
Oct 19	Tues	10:00am-12:30pm	Food/Water Distribution
Oct 20	Wed	12Noon	Pastor Book Club
		11am-12Noon	Food Giveaway at South Flint Soup Kitchen
Oct 21	Thu		
Oct 22	Fri	7pm-10pm	Open Mic Nite
Oct 23	Sat	12Noon	Food Not Bombs
Oct 24	Sun	10:30am	New Beginnings
			Contemporary Worship

(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](#).)

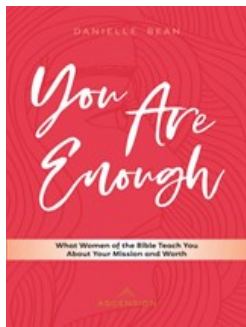
## Asbury Worship Series Better Together



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### 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  
Anthony, Jim  
Jonathon, Terrance  
Mirium  
Cyndi  
Christine & Norma

Welcome Team  
Ushers  
Production Team  
Children  
Worship Leader  
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,

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For our new series, *Better together*, our life group chose a book by a lesser-known yet influential female writer named Danielle Bean.<sup>1</sup> 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.

Matt DePalma Farms Manager  
Chris Freeman South Campus Bldg Mgr  
Israel Unger Finance Director  
Kim Sims Connections Suprv  
Terrance Williams Arts Center Mgr  
Katelin Maylum Sr Mgr Local Food

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

<sup>1</sup> [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.<sup>1</sup>

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](mailto: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](http://FlintAsbury.org).

Pastor Tommy

<sup>1</sup> 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?

Judith hatched a plan. Was her plan also God's plan? I'm guessing she wasn't totally sure that God was behind her plan. But I'm convinced that Judith believed that whatever way it went, God was with her. And she was willing to accept whatever resulted. So despite every reason to doubt, Judith thought that God would not stand by and all Judah be destroyed.

Danielle Brown writes in *You are Enough* that "Judith understands that God's ways are different from [human] man's ways, and she trusts that God will save her people from their enemies." But if this is true then what can Judith do to help?

Judith was a natural at leading worship but likely never realized this particular superpower in herself. I suspect that until she stood in front of her neighbors that day, Judith didn't know what words would come out of her mouth. She may have made some notes ahead of time. Perhaps the girl had an outline. She may have even practiced her speech. We simply don't know. What we do know is that the people worshiped with her and that "all the people said amen."

I won't spoil the plot. Instead, I encourage you to read Judith on your own. Allow yourself to become an insider in the story. Imagine yourself as Judith. What superpowers does she have that you feel like your missing? What superpowers do you have instead?

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.

O my God...You have planned it all-what is happening now, and what is yet to be. Your plans have always been carried out...All the people replied Amen, Amen!

Judith 9:4-5, 13-20

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](#).

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Pastor Tommy

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Kids Count Data Center, © Annie C. Case Foundation, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Tamara Mason. "7Critical Skills Single Parents Need To Master (Plus 2 You Can Totally Skip)," © YourTango, April 02, 2019.

## Life groups questions & notes:

*O my God... You have planned it all—what is happening now, and what is yet to be. Your plans have always been carried out.... All the people replied, Amen, amen!*

Judith 9:4-5, 13:20 (GNT)

### NOTES FROM WORSHIP

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### QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read the Book of Judith. You will need a Bible that includes the Apocrypha. The story of Judith is both intriguing and inspiring. What do you admire most about Judith? What are some similarities between you and Judith? What are some similarities?
2. Read the article in this week's Circuit Rider, *Never alone*. Are you a single parent or have you been i the past? What's it like being a single parent? Do you ever feel alone. In what ways did Judith display the capabilities of a successful single parent? Do you believe that she had young children at home? Why or why not? Can you imagine yourself doing some or all of the things that Judith did to save her country?
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”

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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](https://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.

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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

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Pastor Tommy

<sup>1</sup> 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!!!**

MORE INFORMATION

EMAIL KATELIN @  
**KATELIN@FLINTASBURY.ORG**  
810-239-3427

**SNACKS  
PROVIDED!**

