



ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 2 Issue 7

November 7, 2021

Revolutionaries (Compassion to action¹)



The Republic of Madagascar sits in the Indian Ocean, approximately 250 miles off the coast of East Africa. The residents of this island nation are experiencing a climate-change-induced famine that might

have gone unnoticed were it not for journalists and concerned groups advocating for action. The United Nations World Food Program reports that nearly 500 Thousand children are facing severe hunger.

According to a 2018 census, there are roughly 25 Million persons who call Madagascar home.

If you're still arguing over whether our climate is changing for the worse due to human activity, this article may cause your temperature to rise. Speaking of increasing temperatures, this is just one of the changes that affect climate, and temperatures are rising steadily. Moreover,

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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.

DONATE

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Trust (Braving the cost of trust¹)



According to the dictionary Google uses, the word "trust" means a "firm belief in the character, strength, or truth of

someone or something." Not to be confused with a "Living Trust," which legally binds others to your wishes when you're

not around to check on them. Trusting another person is a big deal and full of risks. Trusting my F150 to pull the equipment trailer with the tractor on it is a lot easier.

But people aren't things and how much trust we put into each other is tricky business.

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Trust (Braving the cost of trust¹)..cont from page 1

I once had a mentor who told me that he trusts nearly everyone — to do what comes naturally. Of course, this assumption means my mentor trusted some persons not to be trustworthy. I think what he trusted most was his intuition. And this works for some of us.

In addition to finding the definition of trust, my Google search suggested numerous websites where I could learn more about the legal aspects of ensuring that your wishes get done in your absence. A legal Trust sounds like the opposite of trust.

Perhaps my mentor was on to something. Trust comes much easier with a legal contract. That is, provided you have an enforceable contract, a good lawyer, and the temperament to litigate. When did trusting become so expensive?

This week's theme is about trust that doesn't involve lawyers. We're talking about a trust that doesn't have to go to court for resolution. A level of trust that even when all indications are that our trust was in vain, we trust nonetheless. Is this even possible?

Charles Feldman, a community mediator and business consultant, defines trust as "choosing to risk making something you value vulnerable to another person's actions." ² Okay, now I see the reason a legally binding contract is so important. The flip side of trust is distrust, where we believe that what we hold as valuable in terms of our vulnerability is not safe with another. Ouch!

So what does it take to build a level of trust where I'm willing to give someone the kryptonite that could destroy me?

Dr. Brené Brown, in an episode of one of Oprah Winfrey's Super Soul sessions, offered an acronym for the foundations of trust — BRAVING. Her acronym required a lot of letters because building and holding trust is hard work. It's more complicated than sticking to a diet but like dieting, gaining trust requires developing healthy habits.

**Boundaries — Reliability—
Accountability— Vault —
Integrity — Non-judgment —
Generosity**

For us to trust each other, we need to set and keep boundaries.

We must reliably do what we say we're going to do. We hold ourselves accountable. We keep secrets — not just the secrets between us, but we do the same for others as well. We demonstrate integrity through our courage in making choices that reflect our values. We don't judge each other when we're struggling. And Grace is a given, so we always presume the best by generously giving Grace.

Trust reminds me of the simple requirement that God gave humankind — love each other. Trust, like eating healthy, is not complicated unless we're trying to cheat on our diet. Trust is easy unless we're trying to be untrustworthy while hoping that others will still trust us.

Since trusting each other is so tricky, let's shift our attention to trusting God. What might it look like to trust God? How well does God do on Brené Brown's BRAVING test of trustworthiness?

Scripture answers this question with stories.

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 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. If you don't have a mask, we can provide one for you, just ask the office.

Thank you and everyone stay safe!

Nov 8	Mon	6:00pm	Worship Team
Nov 9	Tues	10:00am-12:30pm	Food/Water Distribution
Nov 10	Wed	12Noon	Pastor Book Club
		11:00am-12N	Angel Closet at South Flint Soup Kitchen (Appts only)
Nov 11	Thu		
Nov 12	Fri		
Nov 13	Sat	12Noon	Food Not Bombs
Nov 14	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](#).)

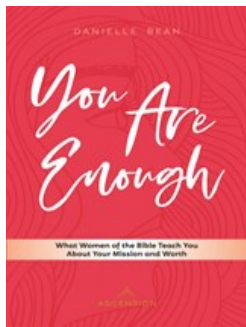
Asbury Worship Series Better Together



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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	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,

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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.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.

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

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,

Revolutionaries Compassion to action¹).. *cont. from pg 1*

entire species are becoming extinct at an increasing rate. Madagascar is a biodiversity hotspot where nearly 90% of species are unique to this country, and the effects of climate change are negatively affecting life. ²

If you're still arguing over climate change, may I suggest that you take your next vacation to Madagascar, where the effects of climate change are up-close and personal? Of course, another option is to help clean up after one of the numerous devastating forest fires or the aftermath of one of the severe storms that pass through every week. The choices of where you can go to see the impact of climate change affecting real people are increasing daily.

Better yet, join the movement to do something about it finally. Become a climate revolutionary, and your grandchildren will love you for it as passionately as they will hate you if you choose instead to let them down.

We're burning daylight debating an argument that ended at least a decade ago. And our continuing debate is distracting us from recognizing that our house is on fire. Meanwhile, we're arguing over whether to have hamburgers or prime rib for dinner. The debate is kept alive by the very persons contributing the most to the damage. They have a lot to protect in the form of wealth and power.

Let's name a few of them.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, CO2 emissions, the primary cause for a warming planet, have increased by

approximately 90% since 1970. The emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% of this increase.

The United States contributed the most CO2 emissions of any country, more than twice the amount China contributed, a distant number. And China has four times as many people. Meanwhile, critical legislation to support waits for action with one party sitting on their hands and the other party held hostage by at least one compromised politician.

Let me introduce you to the Senator from West Virginia, Joe Manchin. His long-standing financial ties to the coal industry fuel his opposition to funding targeted to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Last year, he made more than \$491,000 from Energysystems, the coal brokerage business he founded. ³



A local chapter of Red Rebels demonstrates in Wellesley on to call attention to environmental issues.

Meanwhile, a revolution was energized in large part by youth and joined by millions of parents and grandparents who refuse to pass on an irreversibly damaged planet without demanding actions to stop the damage.

One particularly noticeable group calls itself the Red Rebels. Clothed in blood-red robes members, of this group use artful drama to draw attention to the situation. ⁴

Successful revolutions take teamwork when momentum is dependent on raising awareness among many persons who believe that they are unaffected by the issues. But success begins with relatively minor acts of bravery.

Depending on who you ask, Mirium was around six years old when her brother Moses was born. Her family lived in Northeast Africa during a time of great distress. Her ancestors immigrated to Egypt as a result of widespread famine. They found ample food and opportunity in the fertile valleys along the Nile River, and their numbers increased rapidly. Their increasing numbers created concern among the people of privilege.

The king ordered the enslavement of all immigrants. But as their numbers continued to grow, the ruler invoked harsher campaigns to stop their growth. This campaign included killing all male infants born to enslaved women.

The mother of Moses knew that it was only a matter of time before the authorities would discover her son. So she decided to put her baby in a basket that she hid among the reeds along the river's shore. But, unfortunately, Scripture is silent on her plans beyond this seemingly foolish idea.

One of my favorite stories is about a nameless widow who lived in the village of Zarephath. This single mother was near her wits-end, making a life for herself and her son out of nothing. The cupboard was nearly empty thanks to persistent drought.

According to the events leading up to this story, God caused this drought as punishment for the people breaking their promises to remain faithful to God. The Prophet Elijah predicted the drought in the form of a curse.

Elijah has troubles of his own. His primary worry was that king Ahah and queen Jezebel sent soldiers after Elijah to capture him, dead or alive. So God sent Elijah to Zarephath to hide out at the home of the nameless widow.

Elijah arrived hungry and tired from his trip. Aware of the extreme importance of hospitality in their culture, Elijah doesn't think twice about asking to be fed. But even Elijah's modest request was too much for a nearly empty pantry. "Sure, I can feed you our last meal," was the widow's response. "We're going to starve anyway. So why not finish the job!"

At first, Elijah surely thought he had the wrong widow. Except that Elijah was accustomed to a mysterious God who creates abundance from scarcity. So without hesitation, Elijah assures the widow not to worry.

The widow went and did as Elijah had told her, and all of them had enough food for many days.

1 Kings 17:15

The worried mom prepares a meal for Elijah, herself, and her son with what she had left in her pantry. Afterward, God restocks her pantry with enough for another meal. And promises that grocery delivery will continue for as long as necessary. No subscription necessary, no contract, and no need to resubscribe month-to-month.

But what did it take for this single mom to trust Elijah enough that she would share all that she had left with him based on an absurd promise that God takes care of her needs? According to Dr. Brown, it takes BRAVING.

God, in the widow's experience, always kept healthy boundaries. God was reliable — not just once, but time after time. Perhaps the widow knew the stories of God keeping divine promises to Abraham and his ancestors.

God holds people accountable and seemed to have no problem with us doing the same. God hears and knows all of our secrets along with everyone else's secrets but doesn't divulge them. And God wrote the book on integrity, demonstrating courage in the face of resistance and insults.

And while God alone is the judge of divine justice, we know that God later lived among us, not to judge

us, but to save us from ourselves. Fortunately, God does not judge us for our actions but generously offers each of us grace to repent and try again.

The widow didn't trust Elijah. He hadn't demonstrated the braving that would build such trust. But fortunately, the widow trusted the One who sent him.

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

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 Charles Feldman, *The Thin Book of Trust*. Bend, OR: Thin Book Publishing Company, 2008.

³ Dr. Brené Brown. "Anatomy of Trust." © Oprah Winfrey SuperSoul Sessions, April 27, 2020.

Life groups questions & notes:

The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him.

Exodus 2:1-16 (GNT)

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read Exodus 2:1-16. Have you ever seen an older brother or sister watching out for a younger sibling, even though they were quite young themselves? Does This come natural? Have seen very young children wanting to help suffering strangers? Where does their motivation originate from? Why do so many adults seem to lose their compassion for helping others? Have you lost yours?
2. Read the article in this week's Circuit Rider, *Revolutionaries*. What are some things that you can do that will reduce your impact on the environment? What makes these actions difficult? What are some things that we can do as a church that will reduce our collective impact on the environment? Are you willing to help implement your ideas? Are you a revolutionary?
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”



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.

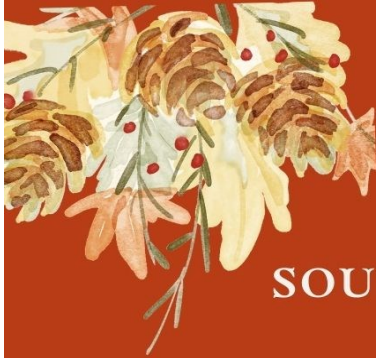
We're bringing together the resources of the Asbury Community Development Corporation. This includes Asbury Farms, the South Flint Soup Kitchen, the Asbury Community Help Center, multiple food pantries, and our Sizzling Culture Mobile Food Trailer. Our plan is to care for our neighbors when they need 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....

*November Angel
Closet & Food
Giveaway Dates*

Food Giveaways - 11/3/21 & 11/24/21
11am-noon

Angel Closet - 11/10/21 & 11/17/21
APPOINTMENT ONLY, email or call
to book an appointment.

Questions??? Call 810-239-3427 or
email southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com



South Flint Soup Kitchen
3410 Fenton Road
3 blocks north of Atherton
Flint, MI 48507





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

Miriam kept watching over her baby brother as the princess and her attendants approached the river's shore, near where baby Moses was floating. Spotting the basket floating in the tall grass, the princess asked one of her attendants to bring it to her. The baby's cries evoked passion from the princess even though she realized that the baby undoubtedly belonged to one of the slaves nearby.

Miriam was nearby and saw her chance. "Should I go find one of the slave women willing to nurse and care for the child for you?" Miriam blurts out. The princess decides to keep the child, and Miriam returns with his mother, who is to be his caregiver. And Moses is raised within the safety and security of the royal household.

However, the trappings of wealth aren't able to overcome the sense of justice within Moses. As an adult, he took compassion on a slave beaten by one of the supervisors, and his intervention resulted in his need to flee Egypt. However, Moses will later return as God's ambassador to lead the slaves to freedom.

Revolutions are started and gather momentum through multi-generational actions. Younger children frequently see what adults easily miss.

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The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him.
Exodus 2:1-16

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² Esther Castillejo. "S. Madagascar on the verge of climate change-induced famine." © ABC News, November 1, 2021.

³ Ronda Yeomans. "Environmental group profile: Who are the Red Rebels?," © *The SWellesley Report*, Mass, Wellesley, MA, November 7, 2020.

⁴ Fredreka Schouten. "Joe Manchin has made millions from coal." © *CNN News*.

KEY TO THE CITY *



Representatives of churches awarded Flint's Key to the City on October 21, 2021. Rev Dr. Tommy McDoniel and Pastor James Cogman (in the back row on left).

(photo taken by Je/Nae Green, Flint Bethel UMC)