



# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

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## Revolutionaries (Compassion to action<sup>1</sup>)



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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## Purpose (Next Steps<sup>1</sup>)



Meryl Feinstein grew up surrounded by expectations reinforced by her parents, her school, and others. The expectations were straightforward. Meryl was expected to go

to college and get a job. So explaining to a Washington Post journalist how she managed to start her own business she called the Pasta Social Club was difficult.<sup>2</sup>

Her decision was a total surprise to everyone, including herself. After all, she had a steady job that took care of her needs, plenty of support from friends and family, and had the respect of her colleagues. So why throw everything away and start over as a culinary entrepreneur. And whoever heard of an online, hybrid supper club and pasta-making school?

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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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## Purpose (Next Steps<sup>1</sup>) ....cont from page 1

At least in part, the answer may lie in a theory proposed by a psychologist during the early years of World War II. Meryl's story is more familiar than we might realize. With her basic needs taken care of along with security, friends, and self-esteem, coming to know more about herself took center stage. And she just had to figure it out.

Where is your attention focused most of the day? Do you spend a lot of your time figuring out where and how you'll have dinner? Are you spending a lot of your day focused on whether your home or apartment is safe? Do you worry a lot about your relationship with the people around you? Do you worry about what people are saying about you behind your back?

These are all essential subjects. And if you answered yes to one or more of these questions, I'm impressed that you're taking the time to read this article. At least, according to research by psychologists studying human behavior.

Abraham Maslow first proposed his ideas about what makes us tick in a paper titled "A Theory of Human Motivation." In his thesis, Dr. Maslow described human motivation utilizing a five-tier model of human needs that catches our attention and drives our focus.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Saul Mcleod, in an article published on the website Simply Psychology, offers a layperson's view of Maslow's hierarchy of needs.<sup>4</sup>

Maslow's assertions are represented as a pyramid with our physiological needs for food and clothing shown at the base. The idea is that our needs lower in the hierarchy must be satisfied before our focus turns to needs higher up.

For example, our need for safety comes into focus once we've had dinner after leaving our favorite clothing store with the latest fashion. This is when we pay closer attention to the poorly lighted parking lot where we left our ride.

Our physical hunger satisfied, sporting our new outfit, and feeling safe, most of us will think about visiting a friend or even going to church. And feeling loved after worship, we may check out how we look in the mirror. We want to know, "Which version of me are others seeing?"

Eventually, according to Maslow, a tiny percent of us can pursue a state that is labeled "self-actualization."

Self-actualization is about reaching our full potential. Finally, we've reached a point where we feel satisfied with life and our role in it. Unfortunately, Dr. Maslow estimated that a mere two percent of us actually ever reach this point. While his research is arguably inconclusive, in terms of the scientific method and highly biased towards people like himself, psychologists, life coaches, consultants, and therapists continue to include Maslow's hierarchy of needs in their dialogue.

So what does this have to do with scripture? The answer is everything. An important theme woven throughout scripture is that God does things on purpose. And this includes creating you and me. Each of us was made on purpose and has a role that God has in mind for us.

So why doesn't God just tell me what to do instead of beating around the bush? I'm glad you asked. The short answer is "free will" means that we're given a choice, but this doesn't mean that God is silent and uninvolved. And scripture is full of stories about God's interventions.

Ruth is a relatively short book found in the Bible named after one of the main characters. Much of our interest as Christians in these ancient stories is that we learn about the human ancestry of Jesus Christ. Likewise, people of the Jewish faith know of Ruth as an ancestor of King David. Both connections are essential for our own self-actualization.

The book begins by explaining that Naomi, her husband, and two sons immigrated to the Kingdom of Moab from their home in the village of Bethlehem because there wasn't enough food available. The storyline moves quickly at this point. Both sons marry Moabite women, Naomi loses her husband, and both sons die.

**Wherever you go, I will go;  
wherever you live, I will live.  
Your people, and your God  
will be my God.**

**Ruth 1:16**

Within the first couple of paragraphs, we learn that Naomi packs a U-Haul and moves back to Judah, where she has relatives.



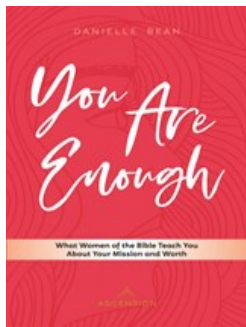
## Asbury Worship Series Better Together



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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.

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,

## Revolutionaries Compassion to action<sup>1</sup>).. *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. <sup>2</sup>

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. <sup>3</sup>



**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. <sup>4</sup>

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.

A catastrophe of pandemic proportions overwhelmed Naomi's family, and the telling of her story glosses over the emotional devastation that was undoubtedly present.

But after living in Moab long enough for her sons to marry and leave widows behind, Naomi wasn't alone in her grief. So as Naomi says her goodbyes to her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, both women offer to go with her to Judah.

Naomi doesn't see the point in either of them tagging along since Moab is their home. They have relatives they can count on for help and possibly remarry and begin a new family. Naomi is too old to remarry, she argues, and it's best if they go their separate ways. Anyway, Naomi adds, it's clear that God turned against her, so it's best not to be associated with someone like her.

Reviewing the women's situation using Maslow's hierarchy of needs, they're clearly at the bottom levels of the pyramid. They're worried about food, clothing, security, belonging, and self-esteem. Any ideas about God's purpose, starting a new business, or celebrating accomplishments must wait.

Jesus said that if you focus your attention on food, clothing, and safety, then your focus is taken away from what really matters, which is not about you per se. What really matters is your relationship with God which brings us right to the top of the pyramid of needs.

In Matthew, Jesus says, "This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need to stay alive, or about clothes for your body" (Matthew 6:25).

Can you imagine yourself letting go of any worries that you have about lunch or dinner? This may be hard if you depend on the Eastside Mission or the South Flint Soup Kitchen for your meal. What if something happens and they aren't open the day that you need food?

The point isn't that God doesn't expect you to get involved in making sure that you have food on the table. Go read the story, and you'll learn that Ruth went to the fields herself and gathered the grain after the harvesters finished. She and Naomi likely baked bread even when their feet and back hurt from a hard day's work.

Jesus reminds us in Luke that "Five sparrows are sold for two pennies, yet not one sparrow is forgotten by God. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!" (Luke 12:6-7).

Jesus tells us that instead of focusing on those things at the bottom of the pyramid, we need to "Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what God requires of you (Matthew 6:33).

What is your next step? Last Sunday, we welcomed Lisa and John as new members of Asbury Church. They both saw their next step as getting directly involved in the leadership of our church. Discovering and realizing our purpose is seldom a one-time epiphany but more of a journey of next steps.

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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> "Finding her purpose through pasta," © *Washington Post*, July, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Abraham H. Maslow. *A Theory of Human Motivation*. Mansfield Centre, CT: Martino Publishing, 2013. Originally published in the *Psychological Review*, 1943.

<sup>4</sup> McLeod, S. A. (2020, March 20). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. © *Simply Psychology*, March 20, 2020.

## Life groups questions & notes:

*Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.*

Ruth 1:1-4:22 (GNT)

### NOTES FROM WORSHIP

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### QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read Ruth 1:1-4:22. Why do you think that Ruth decided to go with Naomi instead of staying in Moab? Have you ever been faced with a similar decision? What did you consider in making your decision? Why is it important for Christians to know about Ruth's story?
2. Read the article in this week's Circuit Rider, *Purpose*. What are the things that occupy most of your thoughts during the day? What factors are determining your focus? What is your role in making sure that you have adequate food and clothing? Security? Do you feel as though you belong? How would you rate your opinion of your own self-worth? Do you feel as though you are serving a divine purpose? Why or why not? What is your next step?
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.

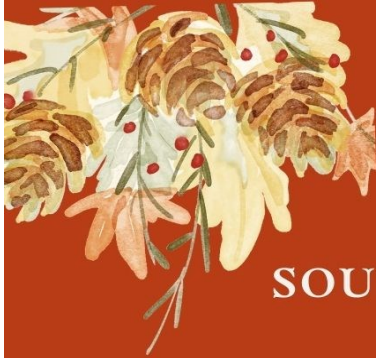
Asbury Farms provides locally grown produce used to create fabulous and nutritious meals. Our seed-to-table approach is community-based. This not only helps families make it through emergencies and crises. We help move families towards sustainable abundance.

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](https://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](mailto: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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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> Esther Castillejo. "S. Madagascar on the verge of climate change-induced famine." © ABC News, November 1, 2021.
- <sup>3</sup> Ronda Yeomans. "Environmental group profile: Who are the Red Rebels?," © *The SWellesley Report*, Mass, Wellesley, MA, November 7, 2020.
- <sup>4</sup> Fredreka Schouten. "Joe Manchin has made millions from coal." © *CNN News*.



## DOWNTOWN YMCA

The Kyle Kuzma Foundation and Community Foundation of Greater Flint have partnered with the YMCA of Greater Flint to ensure 150 families do not go hungry this Thanksgiving. Families in need are encouraged to sign up to receive all the fixings for a full Thanksgiving Dinner!

### How to Sign Up:

It's a first come-first serve. You can get added to the list by visiting the website, calling or emailing. Details are below.

### What's included:

A voucher for a turkey that can be redeemed at every major grocery store- Meijer, Aldi, Kroger and Walmart; green beans, gravy, mashed potatoes, dressing, cranberry sauce, mac & cheese and a fresh baked pie!

### Sign Up Today:

Please sign up as soon as possible. A waiting list will be created and boxes that are not picked up will be offered to families on the wait list.

- Website- [www.flintymca.com/turkey/](http://www.flintymca.com/turkey/)
- Email- [pambailey@flintumca.org](mailto:pambailey@flintumca.org)
- Phone— 810-232-9622, ext 107