

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 2 Issue 6

March 6, 2022

Fruit (The Lamb and the Lion)

The separation of Church and state is just one of many battlegrounds that prompt public debate among legislators and persons who spend regular time in pews. For example, an opinion piece written by three professors at the University of Virginia School of Law claimed that churches benefiting from Payroll Protection funding violated this sacred separation. Their article, which appeared in the *New York Times*, was titled "The Quiet Demise of the Separation of Church and State". The words found in the First

Amendment to our Constitution states that the country shall have no official religion. But there is more to this debate because the language is vaguely precise:



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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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Stew (Turn "what" into a meal?)



I was diagnosed with myopia shortly after I started High School. I noticed that I was having trouble reading what the teacher was writing on the chalkboard. Worse, I

couldn't see the scoreboard from mid-court. So the coach had to yell out how much time was on the clock if I had the ball too far away from the game clock.

The solution for the classroom was for me to wear corrective lenses. But I never got accustomed to wearing glasses on the basketball court. This frustrated my coach, but at least it kept us talking during games.

As I grew older, my distance vision got worse, and a correction was the only option. After a few laser surgeries, including removing

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cataracts, I can pass the vision test when I renew my driver's license. But I have to close one eye to do so.

I keep a pair of glasses in my truck that I often wear while driving at night. The crisper view further ahead of my path gives me comfort. The problem is that everything inside the truck is blurry. I have to remove my glasses to make out the directions on my GPS.

Seeing whatever is in front of our faces and recognizing things in the distance are both important. It's hard to place one over the other. So I'm grateful for the sight that I have.

In a 2015 article for BBC, David Robson shares his discovery while researching why he needed an increasingly stronger prescription to see at a distance. His article sums up the possible causes for myopia in an increasing number of persons. "Short-sightedness is an industrial disease," says Ian Flitcroft at Dublin Children's University Hospital. ¹

More research is necessary to help uncover the solution to prevent myopia. Meanwhile, the consensus is that spending more time outdoors correlates with better eyesight. The usual suspect of too much reading was ruled out by researchers. So keep on reading and spend time outdoors whenever possible.

But there's another form of myopia that eyeglasses can't correct. And it is nearsightedness that affects every one of us at different times. This myopia describes our

reluctance to look out into the future beyond the choice facing us at the time. However, for many, the problem is not their physical limitations. Instead, they're faced with a necessity to focus on the immediate. And don't have the luxury of considering the future cost.

The story of Esau selling his birthright for a pot of stew reads like an episode in a situation comedy. The twin brother Jacob has a pot of lentil stew on the burner when Esau returns from a hunting trip hungry. The smell of dinner cooking aroused Esau's desperation for a meal, and he pleaded with Jacob to share.

Unfortunately, Jacob was a plotter. You know the type. Usually, a step ahead when negotiating with unsuspecting victims and always calculating a way to gain an advantage. Esau was the firstborn in a culture that used birth order in determining inheritance. The penalty was steep for second place.

Jacob offered to share his stew with his brother, but there was a catch. "Trade me your inheritance, and the stew is yours," said Jacob. What would possess a person to overpay by such a large amount just to satisfy their hunger at the moment? The answer, of course, is complicated.

The easy, stereotypical answer is that Esau simply wasn't very bright. While Esau was strong and a skilled hunter, he sat in the classroom with other students struggling

to grasp the lessons. Esau didn't bother to consider the consequences or the cost, not seeing more than a few minutes ahead. This scenario puts Jacob in the role of predator, taking advantage of his not-so-smart brother. Undoubtedly, this scenario gets played out every day and billed as an ordinary course of doing business.

The more complex interpretation, which is more likely because it is widely applicable, involves human nature. We are all Jacob and Esau at different times, depending on our own circumstances.

First, let's take Esau's claim that he was hungry enough to be desperate at face value. Food is necessary for survival, and after missing enough meals, our body's craving intensifies as a means of survival. Do you remember the long lines replayed on the evening news during the early days of the pandemic? Do you recall the near-empty shelves even in the big box grocery stores and meat and toilet paper rationing?

Parents are willing to sacrifice anything to feed their children. Hunger brings desperation that creates necessary nearsightedness intended to protect us from starvation. Our brain ensures that our focus is on satisfying our needs, and our creative energies collectively work on a solution. This scene gets played out every day in communities suffering from food insecurity.

In Our Prayers

Kevin Croom
 Sylvia Pittman
 Shirley Craig
 Richard Oram



**FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
 HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE**

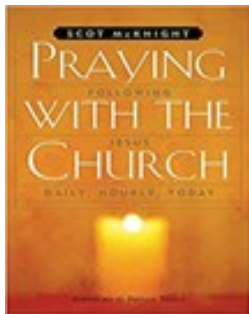
Nancy Elston Elaine Lamoreaux
 Norma Buzzard Mary Nations

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.



This month's book series is called, "Praying with the Church" by Scot McKnight.

Thank you and everyone stay safe!

COMING UP THIS WEEK

- Mar 7 Mon
- Mar 8 Tues 10:00am-12:30pm
Food/Water Distribution
- Mar 9 Wed 12Noon Pastor Book Club
Angel Closet (by appointments only)
South Flint Soup Kitchen (810-239-3427)
- Mar 10 Thu
- Mar 11 Fri
- Mar 12 Sat 12Noon Food Not Bombs
- Mar 13 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](#).)



Feedflint hoop house ready for harvest ... credit Asbury Farms

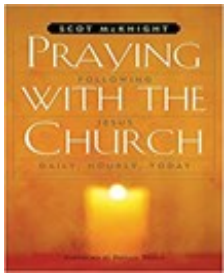
The Season of Lent is a special time of year for the church. The diversity of ways in which churches around the world experience this season offers insight into the different ways that people experience the holy. For many, Lent represents a time of struggle illustrated by giving up favorite foods after celebrating Fat Tuesday with their favorite Paczki or other treats.

Take a trip through Wikipedia's commentary on Fat Tuesday, and you learn about a few of the different ways Christians celebrate on the day before Lent begins. For example, did you know that Queen Elizabeth is more likely to call it "Pancake Day?" But why all this talk about food as preparation for celebrating Lent?

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Book Club News

Our group finishes with *Postcards from Babylon* on the first Wednesday in March. Our next selection, *Praying with the Church* by Scot McKnight, will take us through Holy Week. Altogether we plan to spend seven weeks with this book.¹



Prayer is a practice that the vast majority of us have in common. Although we pray in many ways and for vastly different reasons, there are common elements. Chief among them is a lingering doubt about whether how we pray affects the outcome.

Let's answer this question upfront — it doesn't. However, attitude is criti-

cal. And Jesus tells us that persistence is essential. Nevertheless, we all can use some work in this area of our spiritual lives.

Whether you're a regular on Sunday mornings, only attend on an occasional holiday, or don't cross the threshold of a church building without coercion, there is something for everyone in this conversation.

For these conversations, we join with three other Flint area churches. We're planning two sessions each Wednesday. Our regular Noon sessions are co-led by Pastor Jeremy from Court Street. A 2nd session is planned for Wednesday evenings, led by Pastor Carol from Hope and Pastor Greg from Calvary. Both sessions follow the same outline so you can attend whichever sessions best fits your schedule from week to week.

The write-up found on Amazon has this to say about our next book: Scot McKnight, best-selling author of *The Jesus Creed*, invites readers to get closer to the heart of Jesus' message by discovering the ancient rhythms of daily prayer at the heart of the early church. "This is the old path of praying as Jesus prayed," McKnight explains, "and in that path, we learn to pray along with the entire Church and

not just by ourselves as individuals." *Praying with the Church* is written for all Christians who desire to know more about the ancient devotional traditions of the Christian faith, and to become involved in their renaissance today.

Professor McKnight has published over 80 books in his 40 plus years as a teacher and theologian. He is known for getting to the heart of theological concepts through practical and memorable illustrations from everyday life. In his book, we're invited to learn about the prayer practices of Jesus. In addition, our study takes a peek at prayer practices among Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Anglicans.

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, delighted when new people 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

¹Scot McKnight. *Praying with the Church*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2006.

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
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



"Hungry"... Asbury Worship Series ...cont from pg 4

We launch our new series on Wednesday, March 2, with an Ash Wednesday service at 6 PM. Our message for our kickoff is called *Rocks*, which reflects the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness when Satan tries to get to Jesus through his empty stomach. Jesus doesn't fall for it, but this wasn't a bad attempt on Satan's part. We tend to make bad decisions when we're hungry.

Speaking of hungry. Did you know that a substantial number of families living in the City of Flint experience food insecurity daily? This means that these families face significant obstacles when putting meals on their tables. Now, this is a problem under any circumstances, but for the residents of Flint, access to nutrition is crucial. A state of emergency was declared in January 2016 due to a series of water contamination problems that included lead leaching into public drinking water.

No one knows how many of the nearly 100,000 Flint residents were affected by drinking lead-tainted water. However, healthcare professionals estimate that between 6,000 to 12,000 children were likely exposed to lead.

According to a study published by Genesys Medical Center, childhood lead poisoning has serious health consequences and disproportionately affects vulnerable children and pregnant mothers. In addition, lead poisoning is irreversible and affects many developmental and biological processes.

Lead exposure is linked to lowered IQ (intelligence), reduced academic achievement, behavior problems such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), lack of impulse control, aggression, and more. The Flint Water Crisis will have lifelong, multi-generational consequences.

While there's no actual cure for lead poisoning consuming a balanced diet rich in particular nutrients has been found to mitigate most of the adverse effects of lead. This is encouraging news that brings hope. Except that too many families can't access this life-saving antidote that most of us take for granted.

FeedFlint is focused on breaking down the barriers that create food insecurity for residents of Flint. Asbury Farms turns blighted, vacant properties into gardens of fresh fruit and vegetables. Our produce is distributed through numerous restaurants and partner organizations, including the South Flint Soup Kitchen, Asbury Community Help Center, FlintFresh, the Latinx Center, Boys and Girls Club, Hurley Food Pharmacy, and Oak Street Health.

Learn how you can help at FeedFlint.org.

Lent is much more about what we're gaining than what we're giving up. Pancakes are great. My favorite uses heavier grain flour stuffed with blueberries and pecans and topped with pure Michigan Maple Syrup. But we can't live on pancakes alone. We need other nutrients. And Lent is about ensuring we get what we need for holistic health.

That's why Asbury and three other Flint area churches are teaming up both on this series and on a unique study that kicks off on Wednesday, March 9. We're planning two times, one at Noon and the other in the evening. Everyone is invited to participate. See our Book Club News article for more details.

Our new series, which will take us through March and end with Easter, is focused on food. We all require food to live, and let's face it, good food is a real treat. But we also need spiritual food that comes from the Word of God. So anticipate a balanced diet and a variety. On two Sundays, March 13 and 27, the four pastors are on the road.

Expect Pastor Jeremy Pastors from Court Street UMC to be at Asbury on March 13, and Pastor Greg Timmons from Calvary UMC on March 27.

I pray that you will join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We share our weekly episodes 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

Fruit (The Lamb and the Lion) cont. from pg 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Legal interpretation by judges is required to apply generalities to specific instances. As a result, the Federal Supreme Court makes judgments that include detailed statements reflecting their collective wisdom in many situations. Of course, most of this wisdom is left in the footnotes when it comes to public debate. Nevertheless, the opinion piece argued that "Constitutional interpretations forged during times of crisis tend to persist after the danger has eased."

Thousands of churches saw little or no conflict with this form of connection with government and accepted financial assistance without hesitation. On the other hand, the reaction of church leaders and their constituents to governmental restrictions as measures to stop the spread of COVID brought the delicate issue of Church and state to the forefront.

Church leaders around the globe took a stance that the Government should not have the power to cancel

worship, even in response to a pandemic. Numerous religious leaders in the U.S. found themselves on both sides of the separation argument. Benefiting from salary support using public funds while pushing back on any efforts on the part of the Government to restrict in-person gatherings.

For example, according to a Reuter article, the Church led by the former president's spiritual advisor, Paula White, was approved for a loan of \$150,000-\$350,000. And the payout to the City of Destiny Inc., where White is a pastor, paled in comparison to Lakewood Church, Joel Osteen's megachurch, which reportedly pocketed \$4.4 Million in payouts.

The Virginia lawyers are quoted in numerous other articles. After all, they saw the debate coming. In their opinion article, they argued that "The entanglement of church and state will bring predictable conflicts: efforts by religious groups to control government and by the government to control religious groups."

Fortunately, most clergies followed the advice of healthcare professionals and found ways to worship without the usual in-person gathering.

The Church struggled with connections to Government throughout history, and the complications exist across the spectrum of religious worldviews. The Christian Church

suffered persecution as a perceived threat to Roman authority for over 300 years until the Edict of Milan made Christianity a legal religion throughout the Roman Empire in 313.

As Christianity spread across Europe and Asia, church leaders and their congregations faced varying degrees of persecution and government sponsorship. For example, according to an article in the current issue of *Christianity Today*, churches in Russia celebrated their 1,000th anniversary. Their celebration was particularly joyous given the relatively recent history of persecution against the Church in Russia.

According to *Britannica*, Christianity was made the official state religion in Russia in 988. And in 1270, the Church was given tax-exempt status. However, the Church of Russia created a rift with the head of the Russian Government in the 18th century. The arguments began with a power struggle to require that the Church have supreme power over all civic affairs.

Over the years that followed the government tightened control over church leadership in Russia, but otherwise allowed peaceful coexistence until a new form of authoritarian government emerged in 1917. Justified by separation of Church and state, church properties

Access to food involves both availability and the means of access. The pandemic reminded us that even if we have the money to purchase food, our money does us no good if the shelves are empty. And if we live in a community without a grocery store, we face obstacles that most people in this country don't face.

But even if the shelves at the local grocery store are full, if we can't afford to put the items in our cart to put a meal on the table, then full shelves do us no good.

Who is Jacob in this case?

When Esau returned from hunting hungry and had no apparent access to food, Esau's power over Jacob as the firstborn shifted to Jacob, who now held power over Esau. Jacob used his power as barter to take Esau's birthright from him. The question of right or wrong is an ongoing debate, and we take sides depending on our situation. And this part of the story is worth debating. But it's not the only lesson found in this story.

Whenever we hold power over others, there is a temptation to use our power in ways that allow us to hold onto our power and sometimes to gain more. If you've spent time on the serving size of a soup kitchen, you've experienced a power imbalance. Are you willing to switch sides with those you're serving? Are you willing to hand your soup ladle to the family that hadn't eaten for a day?

It's a rare person who would say yes to handing over their position of power and surrendering their security. Even if it meant that a stranger, or a family member, would no longer be in a position of depending on someone else for food. Fortunately, God doesn't ask us to do this.

“Look, I'm dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”

Genesis 25:31

But it seems that God wants us to be aware of the power imbalance and safeguard against the temptation to exploit it. Moreover, we are called to share what we have, and to do so in ways that remove walls that power differentials create between us.

The scene that played out in the kitchen that day between Jacob and Esau had lasting consequences. A day of reckoning did come for Jacob as it does for you and me. Jacob used short-term desperation to exploit his brother. Esau took a myopic view of his circumstances that cost him dearly over the longer term.

I invite you to join us for worship during this season of Lent as we consider the ways that scripture addresses the subject of food. In addition, we'll continue to celebrate Black History with celebrity guest interviews. We gather in the Asbury Arts Center in person and online on YouTube and Facebook. Video replays are available to watch later.

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 our [YouTube channel](#). You can find 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 David Robson. “Why are we short-sighted?” © BBC January 16, 2015.

Life Groups Questions & Notes:

“Look, I’m dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”

Genesis 25:29-34 (NLT)

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS


- 1 Read Genesis 25:29-34. If you have time read the entire story of Jacob and Esau. While unflattering for every family member their family’s story contains elements of our own families. Which of the two brothers can you best identify with? Why?
2. Read the article in this week’s Circuit Rider, *Stew*. How is your ability to see at a distance? I don’t just mean your eyesight. Rather, how far are you able to see future opportunities and consequences that your current decisions affect? Is food security an issue for you? If so, what options are available for you to address your needs? If not, what can you do to help others facing food insecurity?
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

SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN

MARCH GIVEAWAY DATES



Angel Closet – APPOINTMENT ONLY!

March 9th & 23rd

Call 810-239-3427 or email
southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com for
an appointment.

Food Giveaways – NO APPOINTMENT
NEEDED!! **11am-Noon**

March 16th & 30th

**SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN
3410 FENTON ROAD
3 BLOCKS NORTH OF ATHERTON ROAD
FLINT, MI 48507**

MASKS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY, IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE,
ONE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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 ***

"were seized, and thousands of clergy were arrested. However, peace was restored in 1927 when church leaders agreed to refrain from criticizing government policies and instead support nationalism as a Christian virtue.

The Church in Russia rebounded again in 1943. Although clergy were occasionally arrested, the number of churches increased significantly. Unfortunately, this period of peace was short-lived, and persecution began anew until eliminated under Mikhail Gorbachev.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the churches again flourished. But it wasn't until 2019 that the Church of Ukraine was formally recognized as independent of the Church in Russia.

There continue to be close ties between church leadership in Russia and Vladimir Putin, according to a *New York Times* article published in 2020. For example, an impressive cathedral dedicated to Russia's armed forces opened its doors for the first time on the Day of Remembrance and Sorrow. However, the grand opening was originally scheduled to take place on the 75th anniversary of the Red Army's victory over Nazi Germany and feature a military parade.

Moreover, the original plans called for mosaics of Mr. Putin, his minister, and other state figures, including the Soviet wartime leader Stalin, to adorn the interior. The idea was to symbolize the intimate relations between Putin's regime and the Church. But this idea was eventually scrapped.

The original Church emerged at a time as a counter to religious leaders openly pledged allegiance to governmental leaders in exchange for access and security. Brian Zahnd reminds us of the power of otherwise overlooked phrases when he draws our attention to Caiaphas, the Chief Priest when Jesus was arrested. "We have no king but Caesar," Caiaphas told Pontius Pilate, as he argued that Jesus was guilty of claiming power that belongs only to the supreme leader of Rome.

Zahnd comments that Caiaphas wanted "an invitation to the imperial palace, a trip to the White House, an Oval Office photo-op." But unfortunately, access to power often requires allegiance to governmental leaders over faithfulness to God.

On my better days, I think of Caiaphas as doing the best he could, given the circumstances.

Unfortunately, his words and actions reflected trust in the power to harm and the need to compete for victory. He chose to utilize the gifts and talents provided to him by God to exert control over his enemy, whom he wrongfully saw as Jesus.

Perhaps the outcome would be different had Caiaphas not missed Pilate's earlier conversation. In their discussion, Pilate asked Jesus if it were true that Jesus claimed to be a King. Jesus responded that if He were an earthly king His followers would fight for His release. Instead, Jesus reigns over an emerging kingdom of peace.

But we all miss most conversations that shed light on the complexities of life. So it's not about what we know but who we know. If we know and recognize Jesus as Lord, the rest of the complexities work themselves out whether or not we're in the know.

Pastor Brian makes a telling observation noting that "Christian is a great noun But a lousy adjective." To be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ means that we're doing things the way that Jesus teaches us. We utilize our

God-given gifts and talents, together with the resources God trusted in our care to live the Way of God's kingdom.

Some trust in war chariots and others in horses, but we trust in the power of the Lord our God.

Psalm 20:7

Following the Way is difficult in a country with vast resources, a strong national pride, and a propensity to utilize intimidation to get our way. And too many of our leaders are accustomed to getting ahead of their competition at all costs. Many are willing to compromise any sense of divine ethic in their quest for power. Nevertheless, scripture teaches us that God's justice always prevails.

Psalm 20 addresses this dilemma directly by reminding us that while some trust in tanks and missiles, the faithful trust in the power of God. Those who depend on their own ability to dominate their enemies will stumble and fall, says the Psalmist, while the faithful will rise and stand firm (Psalm 20:7-8).

I invite you to join us for worship as we study the Way that Jesus teaches us to live as followers. This month, in particular, we celebrate Black History month with celebrity guest interviews. We gather in the Asbury Arts Center in person and online on YouTube and Facebook. Video replays are available to watch later.

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

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Pastor Tommy

- ¹ Nelson Tebbe, Micah Schwartzman and Richard Schragger. "The Quiet Demise of the Separation of Church and State." © New York Times, June 8, 2020
- ² Andrew Higgins. "A 'Breakdown of Trust': Pandemic Corrodes Church-State Ties in Russia." © *New York Times*, May 5, 2020.
- ³ "How Christianity Came to Ukraine and Russia." © Christianity Today, March 2022.
- ⁴ Brian Zahnd. *Postcards from Babylon: The Church In American Exile*. Spello Press, 2019.



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Invite you to join us in a Special Lenten Project

"FORTY DAYS ~ FORTY ITEMS"

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 is the first day of Lent. I have a challenge for you!

Each day of Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need (or doesn't fit) and put it into this trash bag*. At the end of the forty days, we will donate these items to The Angel Closet at our South Flint Soup Kitchen. This way you will be able to share them with someone who can really use them!!

So instead of "giving up" Chocolate or French Fries for Lent, please give from your heart so we can help with clothes for our neighbors at The Angel Closet. Plus you'll be getting a head start on your own spring cleaning!

*All items must be clean and not torn or ripped or stained. We are giving these items away to our clients and if you won't wear it, we don't want to have them wear these items either.

If you have any questions, please call UMW President Michele Weston at (810) 624-1184.



\$1 raffle with
proceeds going
toward Asbury
Empowerment
Arts Center!

3rd Annual Asbury Flint Film Showcase

Join us for a night of
popcorn, drinks & amazing
local & independent flicks!



**Friday, March
25th**

Doors open at 6:30pm
Event starts at 7pm

FREE
ADMISSION

Asbury Church
1653 Davison Road ★
Flint, MI 48506



Questions or wish to
submit a film? Call Katelin
at 810-239-3427 or email
katelin@flintasbury.org



OPEN MIC
ASBURY CHURCH



March 18th

EMAIL OR CALL KATELIN WITH QUESTIONS

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

\$1 RAFFLE FOR ASBURY EMPOWERMENT ARTS CENTER

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