

# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 2 Issue 10

## Basics (Common Ground)



Mid-term elections are coming up this November. The label means that the president's four-year term is half over. This year, all 435 U.S. House of Representatives seats are on ballots, along with 35 of the 100 Senate positions.

Mid-term elections are coming up this November. The label means that the president's four-year term is half over. This year, all 435 U.S. House of Representatives seats are on ballots, along with 35 of the 100 Senate positions.

One, if not the most, significant factor determining the outcome of midterm elections is the president's popularity rating. Most voters, loyal to their respective parties, vote a straight ticket regardless of

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## Nuanced (Through the keyhole)



Looking back at themes over the past several months, I noticed that we began 2022 in a conversation about the political divide in our country. For example, in my January 9 article, I wrote about the anniversary of the January 6 attack on the U.S. capital. But the most impact-

ful research for me was what I learned about the process of dehumanization.

Brené Brown writes that "Once we see people on 'the other side' of a conflict as morally inferior and even dangerous, the conflict starts being framed as good versus evil. Dehumanization is the most significant driver of insurrection and it always starts with language."

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*July 10, 2022*



You may continue to wear your masks when in the building, if you feel more comfortable, but is not necessary.

**DONATE**

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As the year progressed, it became apparent that our collective mental and emotional health was under attack. The impact of the pandemic, exacerbated by blatant illustrations of injustice and dehumanization as a political strategy, pushed us out of our windows of tolerance. We found ourselves cast into the chaos of disconnection from people we care about but whose political views we simply can no longer tolerate.

After Easter, we began a journey of discovery to reclaim our well-being and to walk through the keyhole with a fresh perspective. Our journey was guided initially by Aundi Kolber and her insightful book, *Try Softer*. We called our journey *Masterpiece* to draw attention to the divine intention that resulted in our being. We are each a masterpiece created by a loving God on purpose. But we enter a broken world that often-times conspires to take us away from our divine purpose.

The late Chadwick Boseman, in his commencement address at Brown University in 2018, offered this insight into purpose based on his personal experience as an actor:

Purpose is an essential element of you. It is the reason you are on the planet at this particular time in history. Your very existence is wrapped up in the

things you are here to fulfill. Whatever you choose for a career path, remember, the struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose.

Meanwhile, political conversations are usually off-the-table in mixed companies where "mixed" is equated to blue and red. Finding ways to get along proved difficult enough without having my character questioned because I believe that deadly weapons shouldn't be readily available to the public at large.

Over the past decade, Asbury has emerged as a community leader in finding ways for residents to connect with God, each other, themselves, and our planet. Connections that take place in mixed company. We offer help to whoever asks, regardless of their political or religious views and regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. And we don't check ID or membership cards.

This reality makes disagreements both imminent and essential. We're trying to get it right as much as possible, which means we need diverse people and ideas.

As we begin part three of our series, *Masterpiece*, we're risking the potential of even more ridicule than we've received for our pursuit of "all means all." Why? Because we're planning to

talk about a few of the more controversial political topics. This includes abortion, climate, gun control, healthcare, public support (formerly welfare), immigration, racism, trade, and voting. Of course, all of this is within the context of the separation of church and state.

Our goal has nothing to do with influencing how people vote. We're trying hard not to take sides while being honest about our biases. Our goal is to improve our ability to engage in conversations with people with different opinions and who vote differently than us. However, if you're agenda is to restrict voting in any way, this is one area where you may want to disengage. We live in a democracy so far, and democracies need everyone to have a voice and vote. But it's your choice. This is the beauty of freedom.

And the timing couldn't be better as our first Sunday corresponds with our nation's celebration of freedom. According to history.com, Philadelphia was the first city to celebrate this day on July 4, 1777. The Revolutionary War was fought and won by immigrants who came to this continent to find a better life. And for most, it was a new beginning.

In Our Prayers

Kevin Croom  
 Sylvia Pittman  
 Shirley Craig  
 Richard Oram  
 Chris Freeman

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE  
HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Nancy Elston      Elaine Lamoreaux  
 Norma Buzzard      Mary Nations

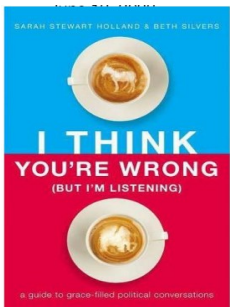


PASTOR BOOK CLUB NEWS

Pastor Book Club is still meeting via Zoom, but we are also gathering in the Asbury Library Conference Room at 12Noon every Wednesday, unless otherwise noted.

Please call the Church Office for more information, as things could change (810-235-0016).

This month's book series is called, "I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening)". A guide to grace-filled political conversations, by Sarah Stewart Holland & Beth Silvers.



Thank you and everyone continue to stay safe!

**COMING UP THIS WEEK**  
**JULY 11 –JULY 17**

- July 11 Mon 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting
- July 12 Tues 10:00am-12:30pm  
 Food/Water Distribution
- July 13 Wed 12Noon Pastor Book Club  
 Angel Closet (appointments only) at  
 South Flint Soup Kitchen (239-3427)
- July 14 Thu
- July 15 Fri
- July 16 Sat 12Noon Flint Food Not Bombs
- July 17 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 "Masterpiece"

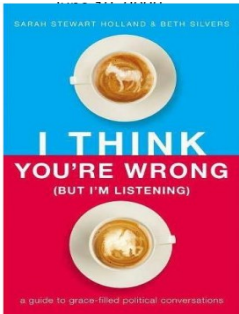


It's tempting to declare that we're beginning a new series on the first Sunday in July. It's tempting for many reasons, so why not just call our next several Sundays by a catchy title and announce a "new" topic? And I love new beginnings.

Instead, welcome to Parts three and four of a series we began the Sunday after Easter called

## Book Club News

On the Wednesday after Easter, we began a new



adventure into the slow but rewarding process of self-discovery assisted by author and therapist

Aundi Kolber and her book *Try Softer*. In parallel to our worship series

*Masterpiece*, our Book Club went deeper into the process of self-discovery. Our journey, so far, is proving to be an exciting exploration of who we are behind our layers of protection.

We continue our exploration beginning in July, assisted by two friends with differing political views but somehow manage to stay good friends. How is this even possible in a world intentionally divided by political candidates into blue and red hats and t-shirts?

Join us each Wednesday in July and find out as we read and discuss the book *I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening)*.

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.

Our book choice was written by two working moms from opposite ends of the political spectrum. And their hope is that we can learn that politics don't have to divide us. Instead, we can try to bring the same care and respect that we show at other times to discussions about policy.

## 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 McDoniel | 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      |



## *Asbury Worship Series - Masterpiece ...cont from pg 4*

*Masterpiece.* The reason for not creating a more robust line of demarcation between then and now is that we're not finished.

Now that we've begun the work on ourselves that leads to better emotional and mental health, we deserve to feast on the benefits right away. Our rewards begin with taking our newly discovered truths about ourselves on the campaign trail. After all, it's summer, and COVID is finally becoming more of a bad memory than a current threat. In-person gatherings are returning so let's get together and debate the issues.

In parts three and four we continue exploring the masterpiece God is forming in us, assisted by two friends with differing political views but somehow manage to stay good friends. How is this even possible? After all, isn't the world intentionally divided into blue and red?

In our book club article, we learn that the book that parts two and three of our series is based on was written by two working moms from opposite ends of the political spectrum. And our hope is that we can learn that politics don't have to divide us. Instead, we can put what Jesus teaches us into practice in our debates about policy.

I promise that the next several weeks will be challenging. Even if for no one else other than your pastor. I'm a somewhat reluctant participant in this notion of finding agreement with the other side. I've spent most of my life competing in races for which there can be only one winner.

Nevertheless, I also long for a time when debate doesn't bring out the worst in people. So I'm all in for this next leg of our trip. And I hope you are as well.

We'll follow the outline of the book our series is based on. *I Think You're Wrong (but I'm Listening)* brings politics into the front door of the church. But not as a way to influence who you vote for. But, I hope you'll make sure you vote with the confidence that you know where you stand on the issues that matter most to you.

Our theme scripture for this next chapter comes out of John's Gospel. In chapter three we read the story of a Jewish leader named Nicodemus. The chapter begins by providing political context. Nicodemus belonged to the party of the Pharisees. And Jesus was more of an independent who understood both sides of the argument and loved even those with whom He disagreed.

Imagine that!

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](http://FlintAsbury.org).

Pastor Tommy

*Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth A. Silvers. I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening): A Guide to Grace-Filled Political Conversations. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2019.*

## Basics (Common Ground) ... cont. from pg 1

approval ratings. However, the "swing" votes that determine elections are generally cast according to the president's approval ratings.

And the result is more often a stalemate in Congress, given the propensity for blaming the sitting president for anything that isn't going as we hoped. It doesn't seem to matter that a president's power is intentionally limited and that only Congress can turn policies into law. Nor does it seem to matter that what happens in other parts of the world profoundly affects our well-being.

And given President Biden's approval rating, the experts anticipate a shift in power in the Senate and potentially in the House of Representatives to the other party. If this holds true, we can expect almost nothing out of Congress for another two years based on past performance. And for some, this may seem to be a reasonable compromise. Really?

On the other hand, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a couple of rulings that should affect the election outcome even more than the president's popularity. A woman's right to choose an abortion and several other rights could change the dynamics as voters consider where candidates stand on these essential matters.

In Michigan, all State Representative seats are on the ballot, along with all 38 Senate positions. The Republican party has enjoyed control of the

House and Senate in Michigan for twelve years. Michigan has never had a year where Democrats controlled the house and Senate and a governor from the same party.

Which team are you on?  
What is the color of your team's jersey?

Before you answer this question, I want you to first take some time to consider not wearing your jersey. Try disconnecting from your party's rhetoric as you contemplate some of the more thorny problems plaguing our community, state, and nation. Imagine life without a party designation. Imagine a scenario where ideas are evaluated on merit without regard to a party platform.

Once you've committed to a team, having a rational conversation about challenging issues is much more difficult. So let's try the one Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers offered in chapter two of *I Think Your Wrong (But I'm Listening)*. Is it the government's responsibility to provide assistance to persons in need? If so, then how should this goal be accomplished?

This question has been debated since settlers first set foot on the North American Continent. Without going into the details, most of us compare the support provided through our Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) today with programs adopted by numerous states in the early 1900s.

"Mother's pensions" systems generally provided cash assistance to mothers of young children to allow them to focus on raising their children. This tie-back is painful for many of us since this benefit was initially limited to white women. Transitioning from a racially biased support system to one that doesn't discriminate based on race was painful. This transition exposed how deeply entrenched systemic racism was woven into our cultural fabric.

However, while we made substantive, bi-partisan progress in passing the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, the legislation passed at that time is woefully incomplete. Support for those in need is complicated and involves several factors that most of us take for granted.

One area that affects the viability of solutions is jobs. It's estimated that 5 Million factory jobs have been eliminated since 2000. Flint was already hard-hit even before automation reduced the number of jobs needed in manufacturing with the loss of over 80 Thousand jobs. When public assistance comes with a work mandate, the availability of jobs that pay living wages becomes a critical success factor. And since jobs increasingly require new skills, education is also vital.

Providing support for basic needs is messy, and we must bring our collective best efforts

Independence from the rule of authoritarianism offered a freedom that is only possible in a democracy. But, while the idea of democracy is logical, we've learned that most decisions that matter are highly nuanced. Democracy is frustrating if your intent is to control the opinions of others or to hold onto power that isn't the will of the people for you to have.

Like most radical ideas, the revolutionary war wasn't popular at first. It took ordinary people stepping up and people in power-sharing voice with them for this initial resistance to an authoritarian government to blossom into an experiment in democracy. Thomas Paine was one example.

Thomas Paine was born into poverty and left school at 13 to help support his family. He was fired from a couple of jobs during his young adult years because of his activism promoting higher wages for himself and his coworkers. At age 34, Paine somehow managed to convince Benjamin Franklin to write a letter of recommendation that helped him immigrate to America and land a job as a journalist in Philadelphia.

Paine's breakthrough came during the first year of the conflict, which initially consisted of a relatively small group of colonists. Encouraged by Franklin and a local physician, Paine wrote a 45-page pamphlet that laid out an argument against authoritarian-style government

as represented by the King of England. His pamphlet also included a vision for starting a new form of government representing and serving the people's will.

His pamphlet, titled *Common Sense*, reflected Paine's belief that God gives each person a conscience. And our collective conscience makes a better guide for government than the will of the privileged minority that currently held power over the colonies.

Paine's humble background allowed him to write in a way that resonated with ordinary people. The masses were a diverse group of people who fled oppression to find new opportunities to live in peace based on their own creative energies. Yet there is no statute of Thomas Paine in our nation's capital. This is ironic since his example represents the ideals that make democracy possible.

But what about Paine's premise that God gives all of us a conscience? If this is true, how is dehumanization that destroys democracy even possible?

In Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, he writes this plea

**Be always humble, gentle and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another.**

**Ephesians 4:2**

Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant of one another. Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together. There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all people, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all (Ephesians 4:2-6).

While Paul, in this paragraph, doesn't get into the subject of grace, he lays out the anticipated results of allowing God to guide our thoughts and actions. So we begin this part of our work towards discovering the masterpiece God created that is us with this challenge from Ephesians.

But the diversity within our country's borders magnifies one of our core founding principles. A desire to practice the faith of our choice. Paul was Jewish and helped to lead a revolution that we now call Christianity. Our faith is one worldview among many that populate our country. And this alone brings nuance to our conversations.

Life Group Questions & Notes:

Some of those at the table were indignant. "Why waste such expensive perfume?" they asked. "It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor!" So they scolded her harshly. But Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me. 8 She has done what she could...

Mark 14:4-8 (GNT)

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

Handwriting lines for notes.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

- 1. Read Mark 14:3-9. Where does your mind take you as you read this story? Was the criticism of the woman justified? Why or why not?
2. Read this week's article titled Basics. What obstacles get in the way for you in discussing difficult subjects involving governmental policy? Who are you willing to share your opinions with and why this group versus others? What are some of your ideas for how to support the basics for those in need? What are "basics" in your view?
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

Food Giveaways  
and Angel Closet

July Dates

Angel Closet -  
APPOINTMENT ONLY  
July 13th and 20th  
Call 810-239-3427 for an  
appt.

Food Giveaways - NO APPOINTMENT  
NEEDED! July 6th and 27th 11am-Noon

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



**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 \***

to the debate. But unfortunately, partisan politics cannot solve this problem and is more likely to implement unworkable solutions.

Scripture offers a plethora of illustrations that act as a mirror and insights into finding solutions to complicated problems.

For example, all four gospels include a story about a time when someone pours oil on Jesus in a show of intense intimacy, gratitude, and love. John's gospel tells us that it was Mary, brother of Lazarus and sister of Martha. In the stories told in the other three accounts, the woman is unnamed.

In Luke's telling, the woman is described as sinful, and she washes Jesus' feet with her tears, dries his feet with her hair, and then pours expensive perfume on them. Mark and Matthew appear to tell versions of the same story in which the woman pours the perfume on Jesus' head. In the various versions of these stories, Jesus is at the home of either Simon, a man suffering from a skin disease, or a member of the Pharisees' political party.

One detail is found in all four — complaints were voiced by one or more persons. In all but Luke, the complaint was that the perfume used was expensive and wasted. In Luke's version, Jesus shouldn't let a woman with her reputation get close to Him.

The other common element found in all four — Jesus defended the woman's actions sharing a different way of looking at the same reality.

Yes, the perfume was expensive, and others could be helped if only the woman had made a "better" choice. So why does Jesus come to her defense? And what might this mean for our own judgments regarding decisions made by persons in need when we believe there's a better option?

First, Jesus didn't say that those making claims that the money could have gone to a better purpose were wrong in their assessments. Expensive perfume is elaborate and perhaps best left for persons with a lot of disposable income to utilize. And while we're not told the economic status of the women, any of them would have benefited from a different choice in their own needs.

And then Jesus drops what may be the most frustrating observation found in scripture. As part of His reasons for allowing the woman to make her own choice regarding the resources she is given, Jesus says that "You will always have the poor among you" (Mark 14:7).

What? Why can't our social safety nets eliminate poverty? Can they just go find a job like everyone else?

Nowhere in scripture do we read that "this too shall pass" when it comes to persons in need. Our human systems fail at their very core whenever we respond with anything less than unconditional love. And as a result, we need programs that offer the basics to persons in need. Scripture insists that those in need be provided with the basics necessary for life without qualifications.

Leave her alone ..You will always have the poor among you...she has done what she could.

Mark 14:6-8

Meanwhile, we have work to do with all of our policies. We must find solutions to our educational systems, healthcare, racism, and more problems. And we need to come together on the same team to find solutions that work. Disagreement should be a strength that is

leveraged to find better solutions to complex problems rather than a liability.

The people on the other side of the political aisle are not our opponents in life. They are our neighbors, friends, and family members. We have much more in common than differences. So let's try to find common ground.

But I'll leave you with a boundary that we set last week. If you come to the table with dehumanizing attacks or attempts to keep some of us from voting, we can't have a productive conversation. So instead, bring your worst fears and your best ideas for how to mitigate them. And I'll come with mine.

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](mailto: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

Content for this series is based in part on: Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth A. Silvers. *I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening): A Guide to Grace-Filled Political Conversations*. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2019.

The write-up found on Amazon has this to say about the authors of our next book:

Sarah Stewart Holland, along with Beth Silvers, cohosts Pantsuit Politics podcast, featured in the New York Times, the Atlantic, and named by Apple Podcasts as one of the Best Shows of 2021. Sarah and Beth speak frequently to universities, businesses, and civic organizations about improving political dialogue. Both attended Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky.

Sarah Stewart Holland received her Juris Doctors from American University. She began her career as a congressional staffer, campaign aide, and blogger and social media consultant. She lives in Paducah, Kentucky, where she served a term as a city commissioner and volunteers as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate for children. Beth Silvers received her Juris Doctors from the University of Kentucky. She lives in Union, Kentucky, and serves on several local boards of directors.

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](http://FlintAsbury.org).

Pastor Tommy

*Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth A. Silvers. I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening): A Guide to Grace-Filled Political Conversations. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2019.*

Aundi Kolber. Try Softer: A Fresh Approach to Move Us out of Anxiety, Stress, and Survival Mode--and into a Life of Connection and Joy. Carol Street, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2020.

**Providing a HOT MEAL and/or local, organic  
PRODUCE weekly.**

**SATURDAYS starting around 12NOON**

**Asbury United Methodist Church**

**1653 Davison Rd, Flint (810) 235-0016**

**Flint Food Not Bombs** is a loose-knit group of independent collectives, sharing free vegan and vegetarian food with others. **Flint Food Not Bombs** believes that access of food among other necessities of life-should be viewed as a right, not a privilege. Yet in a nation with a military budget many times that of other nations, people continue to go hungry. This is immoral and unjust.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**

**Facebook.com/flintfoodnotbombs**

**Twitter.com/flintfub**

**Email: flintfub@protonmail.com**

**Website: foodnotbombsflint.wordpress.com**

**We're currently looking for volunteers so we can expand. If interested,  
send us a message! Solidarity!**

**A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense  
than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.—MLK**





Summer is getting into full swing  
at the farm!!!

Coming soon, the farm's new twist  
on a CSA Food Box!!!!

You pick what you want, bring home only the veggies  
you love!

First Pick-Up date:

July 16th, 11am-1pm



Want more information??

Email: [kelly.jewett@outlook.com](mailto:kelly.jewett@outlook.com)



There is much to talk about, but we need to set some ground rules, clear boundaries, and allow the Spirit of God to have as much control as possible. Giving up control is never easy. But neither is listening to someone with whom we disagree.

One more thing. I briefly mentioned boundaries earlier, and I don't want to lose the importance of boundaries in any political conversation. But unfortunately, we've seen far too much dehumanization over the past several years. This is a rigid boundary that we plan to hold in all our conversations. And this may mean that we simply refuse to listen to ideas that dehumanize others or attempt to prevent some of us from voting.

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through our [website](#). We post an archive of past editions on our website under the tab, Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

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