

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 2 Issue 14

August 14, 2022

Curious (Peas and Carrots)



"Aren't you curious," her friend asked. "Of course, I'm curious," she replied, "but don't you know that curiosity killed the cat!"

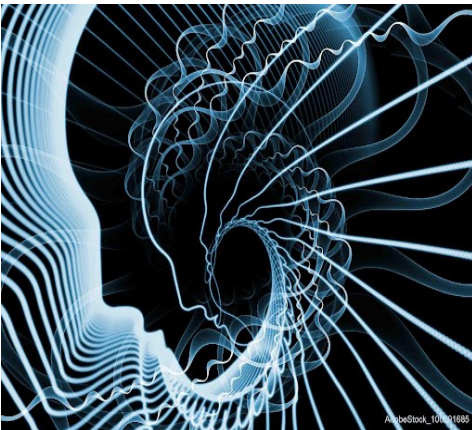
We all know that curiosity killed the cat. At least according to conventional wisdom. However,

this expression began as a line in Ben Jonson's city comedy "Every Man in His Humour." In his play, William Shakespeare said, "care killed the cat," as one of the cast members. The line appeared again the following year in Shakespeare's play "Much Ado about Nothing."

The underlying theme for the phrase could be about fretting over things that shouldn't warrant expending that much energy. But I think it means that worry breeds anxiety, and anxiety is a health hazard likely to end your life earlier than not. On the other hand, curiosity more often reduces anxiety.

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And (Living with discomfort)



Discomfort is one of those words that requires a scale to explain. In particular, there is a point where discomfort and pain intersect. But it's essential to be discriminant in using these terms and recognize that they are both very personal.

Doctors and healthcare professionals try hard to help us communicate using a common scale for pain so they can better prescribe a course of action that offers relief. Nevertheless, I can't know for sure if you describe your discomfort as a "five" that you're feeling the same level of discomfort as me when I use the same number.

Nevertheless, since communication our level of discomfort is so personal, we are in control, to a large

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



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extent, of what gets written on the prescription pad to help us deal with our pain.

I'm tired of using the word "epidemic", but what else do you call it? Overdoses in Michigan are ten times higher than they were in 2000. And overdoses from opioids took the lives of nearly 47,000 people in the U.S. annually through 2018. The data is still being analyzed, but experts anticipate that this number has doubled since the COVID pandemic began.

In their book, *I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening)*, Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers write, "The trouble with opioids is that they are both life-giving and life-taking at the same time." An opioid can be a drug prescribed for a patient to ease physical pain. And a drug known to be dangerous to our wellbeing, heroin, is also an opioid.

Opioids are an example of a paradox. Painkillers can be life-saving for many patients, but all opioids can take a life when abused. Beth and Sarah note that "27 percent of opiate abusers get the drugs by prescription, and 49 percent get them from friends and family." But too often, opioid abuse begins with a prescription to ease suffering.

Most, if not all, health insurance plans willingly pay for opioids while limiting access to physical therapy. And insurance coverage for non-medical pain management techniques is rare. So the alternatives for managing pain are limited.

This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.
1 Corinthians 2:25

My choice of "And" as a title for this week's message is a recognition of paradox. A paradox is a situation where two things are valid at the same time that we ordinarily would choose "Or" as the proper connecting word. With a paradox, either this is true, or that is true becomes this is true, and that is true.

John's Gospel begins with just such a paradox. Jesus is divine, and Jesus is human. This statement defies the traditional experience that humans cannot be divine. Similarly, God is Spirit and invisible, concrete and visible. Our belief that God's essence is three in one may be life's ultimate paradox.

The concreteness and directly relevant life and teachings of Jesus Christ resonate with our humanity. We know that Christ gave His life out of love so powerful that its intensity seems beyond reach. We identify His finiteness and take comfort in His infiniteness.

God represents the power it takes to create everything. A source of energy that boggles the mind. An infinite power that is incomprehensible.

And the fluidity of the Holy Spirit is both comforting and frightening at the same time. A paradox in its own right, God's Spirit is everywhere at once. In the beginning, the Holy Spirit was the arbiter of God's creative power. And yet the Spirit is as personal as our very breath that allows life to continue.

God is a paradox beyond our abilities to grasp, leaving us in a perpetual state of discomfort. Yet God asks us to rely on divine grace as the only reliable hope. And too many of us find this commitment to be too much. So we turn elsewhere to ease our discomfort and our pain.



In Our Prayers

Kevin Croom
 Sylvia Pittman
 Shirley Craig
 Richard Oram
 Chris Freeman



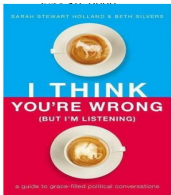
FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Nancy Elston
 Norma Buzzard
 Elaine Lamoreaux

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!

8/8/2022

We lost an Asbury family member—
 Mary Nations passed away Monday evening.



Mary's funeral arrangements will be:

Miles Martin Funeral Home in Mt Morris.

Visitation will be Tuesday, August 16th from 4:00 to 8:00pm.

Funeral will be Wednesday, August 17th with 10:00am visitation and funeral at 11:00am.

Following she will be taken to Flint Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mary's son Tim, has asked me to relate this to those that would like to join them for a luncheon afterwards. It will be at New Covenant Church 13176 N Linden in Clio.

COMING UP THIS WEEK
AUGUST 15 –AUGUST 21

- Aug 15 Mon 6:00pm Leadership Team Meeting
- Aug 16 Tues 10:00am-12:30pm
 Food/Water Distribution
- Aug 17 Wed 12Noon Pastor Book Club
- Aug 18 Thu
- Aug 19 Fri
- Aug 20 Sat 11:00am-2pm Shots, Sundaes & Salads
 (see page 17 for more info)
- Aug 21 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"

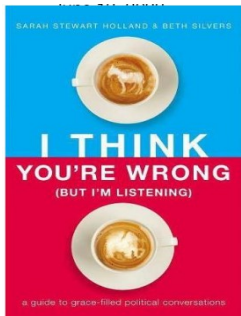


It's tempting to declare that we're beginning a new series on the first Sunday in July. It's tempting for many reasons, so why not just call our next several Sundays by a catchy title and announce a "new" topic? And I love new beginnings.

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.

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
- Kim Sims Connections Suprv
- Terrance Williams Arts Center Mgr
- Katelin Maylum Sr Prog Mgr Local Foods
- South Flint Soup Kitchen

Leadership in Worship & Service

- Tony, Mirium Welcome Team
- Anthony, Jim Ushers
- Jonathon, Terrance Production Team
- Miriam Children
- Cyndi Worship Leader
- Christine & Norma Cafe

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.

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.

So curiosity helped the cat live a longer, happier life.

However, when curiosity is truth-seeking, the consequences of information may come with discovering you were wrong. This makes humility an essential companion for curiosity. "They go together," as Forest Gump's mother would say, "like peas and carrots."

As we near the end of our *Masterpiece* series, we need to elevate curiosity to the level of spiritual discipline. This is because curiosity makes us more aware of the world around us. And more aware of how policies affect us. And what we learn when we're curious helps us to make informed decisions about how we cast our votes.

Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers write about the need for "transformative conversations." In other words, "the kind of conversation that can break open Washington's gridlock and open up a world of political possibility." Transformative conversation "requires personal humility in the form of genuine curiosity," they argue.

Aren't you at least a bit curious about what is causing inflation?

I purchased my first home directly from the seller. The owner understandably wanted assurance that he wasn't wasting his time on a prospective buyer who couldn't afford to pay a fair price. So to learn a little more about my background, he engaged me in a conversation about a subject with which he was familiar.

Since I worked in the computer industry, the seller quizzed me on the benefit of using computers in business. For him, running a profitable business was straightforward. "I buy a bushel of

tomatoes for \$15 and sell the bushel for \$20," he said. "And I make a \$5 profit," he concluded. "It isn't any more complicated than that, so why would I need a computer?" he asked.

"Do you pay taxes?" I asked. "Of course I pay taxes," he answered. Taxes are just one complicating factor. "Do you import any of the things you sell?" I asked without needing a reply. "Some items require that additional taxes are paid on the goods, whether or not you're able to sell them." The simple transaction of selling a tomato doesn't require a computer. However, import a container of tomatoes from Mexico, and things get complicated in a hurry.

The taxes added to goods that move from one country to another are called tariffs. For example, the U.S. charges 17.5% on tomatoes imported from Mexico. We also charge tariffs on most goods coming from China. The average tariff on Chinese imports is over 19%.

If a producer charges one dollar for a product, the new price is at least \$1.19 higher. This is because U.S. tariffs on imports from China were increased substantially under the prior administration in response to a promise to create a fairer deal for U.S. companies. Ever wonder what causes inflation?

What thoughts go through your head when you hear foreign policy or trade? Your reaction to these terms is flavored by your knowledge of what they mean. But more so how they affect you. A candidate for office who promises to balance our trade with China is making a claim about how policy impacts the imports from and the exports to that country. And for most of us, the impact feels as far away as the country itself.

Until we go to the grocery store or stop for gas.

We feel the impact of foreign policy every day. Our trade policies affect the price of coffee, tea, and many other items that we depend on to improve our lives. For example, gas prices increased after the U.S. and many other countries stopped importing oil from Russia. With substantially less oil available, gasoline and diesel prices rise. And when diesel increases, so does the cost of transporting tomatoes.

The very essence of business is simple, and so is foreign trade. Until we factor in the impact that it has on our everyday lives. The U.S. and our allies stopped importing Russian oil to reduce Putin's funding for his war against Ukraine. Millions of lives are at stake. I don't like paying 4 dollars a gallon for gas, but I understand why it's happening.

She thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it ...

Genesis 3:1-7

One of the best-known stories in scripture may have a connection to curiosity and cats. God told the first humans that they could harvest fruit from any of the trees and eat any of the plants. But there was one tree that was off limits because its fruit revealed the knowledge of everything.

Curiosity got the best of the first humans, and they ate the fruit anyway. Among the very first insights, they gained was shame. And things got more complicated from there (Genesis 3:1-7).

Since God made all that there is, God's creative energies underwrite the various substances that ease pain. From the poppies harvested to create natural opioids and their laboratory cousins, God's creative power makes opioids, alcohol, tobacco, and other substances we turn to ease our discomfort possible.

Opioids affect how we feel pain offering relief. What a wonderful creation for persons suffering from chronic pain. However, this same benefit leads an increasing number of persons toward an early grave, wrecking lives and relationships.

Sarah and Beth remind us that "We don't like that there is no one person or group to blame for the problem." However, "politics is not a collision of good and evil; it's a painstaking analysis of valid, competing priorities. Whether we are discussing policy goals or philosophical ideas, let's allow space for the ways in which this difficult issue can seem to point to contradictory and competing truths."

Not all discomfort is bad. Ask anyone training for the CRIM. But pain is usually a sign of a problem to be acknowledged, researched, and a solution put into motion. It is important to recognize the difference.

As we conclude our *Masterpiece* series it is my prayer that each of us recognize that we are created by a loving God as a work of beautiful art. And that we strive to work together so that each of us has the opportunity to share God's art for the good of all.

You can join us each Sunday in person or online by clicking the button on our [website's](#) homepage - [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

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"About the Epidemic." © State of Michigan Website, 2022. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Life Group Questions & Notes:

This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:25 (GNT)

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-29 and John 1:1-4. What do these texts have in common? In what ways does the beginning of John's Gospel lead Paul to write what he did to the Church in Corinth regarding God's wisdom? In what ways is God's foolishness wiser than human wisdom?
2. Read this week's article titled *And? Think of a paradox that is familiar to you? What happens if you substitute "or" for "and" in the truths that the paradox? What experience do you have with painkillers? Do you deal with chronic pain or do you know someone who does? What are some ways that we can create more helpful policies regarding opioids? Are you okay living with discomfort?*
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

AUGUST FOOD GIVEAWAYS AND ANGEL CLOSET DATES

FOOD GIVEAWAYS - AUGUST 3RD & 31ST - NO
APPOINTMENT NEEDED, 11AM-NOON

ANGEL CLOSET - AUGUST 10TH & 24TH -
APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN
3410 FENTON ROAD
3 BLOCKS NORTH OF ATHERTON ROAD
FLINT, MI 48507
810-239-3427

WWW.MIGHTYCAUSE.COM/FEEDFLINT

FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT AND IS AN IMMEDIATE AND
TANGIBLE WAY TO HELP SOMEONE. EVERY
DONATION OF FOOD CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!!





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 ***

But before you get the wrong impression I'm not trying to justify their actions. Only that I would have done the same thing. And their curiosity came with consequences. According to traditional interpretations of the story, this was humanity's first sin because they ignored God's warning.

Interpreting ancient oral myths is fascinating because so much is packed into the story, but even more is left unsaid. The story itself is short and void of details and context. Nevertheless, it offers a simple explanation for the balance we find between good and bad consequences, along with a myriad of other life lessons.

And this may be the most crucial point. Curiosity is the beginning of knowledge and an invitation to adventure. Curiosity is the journey we take in pursuit of truth.

In the letter called 2 Timothy, we read that we are to "Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The pursuit of truth requires massive doses of curiosity as we work towards discerning the truth found in scripture and elsewhere. Add a double portion of humility, and you're headed towards rewarding adventures.

Curiosity is not an invitation to ignore divine warnings. Instead, curiosity is an invitation to live a richer, fuller life, informed by truth rather than whatever someone made up to gain your support.

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"*The Interesting Meaning and History of the Phrase 'Curiosity Killed the Cat'*." © Interesting Literature, 2022. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Laura Reiley. "A new tariff on Mexican fresh tomatoes starts Tuesday. Get ready for prices to skyrocket." © New York Times, May 7, 2019. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Jim Tankersley, Ana Swanson and Alan Rappeport. "Biden Weighs Tariff Rollback to Ease Inflation, Even a Little Bit." © New York Times, June 14, 2022. Retrieved from: [link](#)

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.

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!!!!

Bring home only the veggies you love!

First Pick-Up Date: Saturday, July 16th, 11am-1pm and until further notice. We will post if anything changes.



Want more information??
Email: kelly.jewett@outlook.com

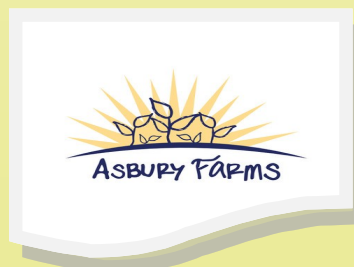


We were stoked to be kicking off our very first Asbury Farms Sliding Scale Food Box Program last week! Get the most local, organic, delicious produce!! Grown on the East Side!

Pick what veggies you want, how much you want and pay what you can between \$12.00 — \$24.00.

Every Saturday from 11:00am to 1:00pm
1601 Jane Ave Flint MI

Look for the big banner that says "SALE" ...





WE OFFER
VACCINES

MODERNA & PFIZER

AND COVID
TESTS

ICECREAM SUNDAE

WITH SYRUP +
SPRINKLES

**AUGUST
20TH
11:00 AM
- 2:00 PM**

GAME

FREE THROW SHOT CONTEST +
PRIZES FOR 1ST AND 2ND PLACE



PLACE

ASBURY METHODIST
CHURCH, 1653 DAVISON RD

Sponsored by: Dort Financial Credit Union, Ruth & C.S Mott and United Way

What would you do if you could do one project to improve our community that benefits all of us? Would your project take care of blight by removing abandoned and dilapidated buildings and houses? Would you enhance or eliminate streets where all of the homes are gone? Perhaps you would plant flowers on every street corner.



What resources would your project require? For example, would you need special equipment or knowledge? How many people will need to work together, so your project is possible?

We can do a lot together. But it takes cooperation and resources. And some of our dreams may require a miracle. But building a community of abundance and opportunity requires that we work together.

We have a dream for community here at Asbury, And we strive to connect our neighbors to God, to each other, to our shared earth and to each person's created purpose.

Our vision is a revitalized community where every resident can use their talents and passions for the common good, where children grow into citizens who contribute to building and maintaining a vibrant neighborhood, and all residents are able to enjoy safety, good health, a culture that fosters life-long learning and satisfying lives.

If your vision for our community is captured in this ambitious statement we hope that we can find a way to work together for our common good.

Our new series takes us through September. In *Together* we'll read parables told by Jesus in Luke chapter 13. We begin our series on August 21 with the Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9). And we ask the question, what does this story tell us about growing together?

After all, we're at the peak of harvesting at Asbury Farms. How did our farm team manage to grow so much?

Over the next few weeks, we'll explore the parables in Luke 13, looking for clues and inspiration that help us discover, plan, and accomplish great things together.

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