

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 3 Issue 26

February 26, 2023

Lost (Bias and Social Justice)



We begin our new series, *Thirsty*, talking about social bias. This is important since, as we dive deeper into the subject of clean water, we'll need a language with definitions for clarity in our discussions. Our goal is to bet-

ter understand clean water as an issue of social justice, why clean water matters to God, and our role.

Eric Nilsen writes, "We all have biases. Bias is a natural human trait that results from our intrinsic tendency to classify individuals. We do this to process information quickly and make sense of the world around us."

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EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
AND SAFE
WEEK!



Innocence (Line crossing)



We've reached the end of our series, *Help my unbelief*, and celebrate Ash Wednesday this coming week as the season of Lent begins. Lent is intended as a time of deep inner reflection about God and our connection with God.

During Lent, many of us will dig deeper into our beliefs about God while pondering the question, "Just what do I believe?" After all, how can we not believe that God is the creative power in control of the natural world? How can we not believe that God created sunrises and sunsets, waterfalls, and waterfowl?

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Ah, but there are people. Humans who piss in streams and throw their fast-food packaging out their windows for others to pick up. People who exploit others for their own gain. People who lie about anything and everything to get what they want. All of this makes us skeptical and suspicious. So why doesn't God do something about those people?

For most of us, the worst takes place elsewhere. So while we may be startled, we're thankful we weren't directly affected. While pictures and headlines may tell frightening stories, they're not life-threatening until it happens nearby.

For example, my interest in unmanned objects flying over North America increased significantly when a U.S. pilot shot one down over Lake Huron near the Michigan border. So far, these objects appear to be non-threatening and mostly annoying. But our lack of clarity leaves ample room for conspiracy theories to gain traction. What is going on? Should we be worried?

However, far more serious and real is the increase in gun violence that seems to be happening everywhere at once.

Again, evil can seem more like something that happens elsewhere. That is until it comes closer to home.

This past week a gunman killed three students on the campus of Michigan State University. He critically wounded five others before taking his own life. The murdered students were teenagers when our communities were shocked by the killing of high school youth in nearby Oxford.

We take notice when evil comes that close to home. We respond we take sides, we make choices, and we wonder. How is God good but allows so much evil to happen?

This question has baffled humans since the beginning, and we find an explanation in scripture passed down through the generations. The story was told by elders to grandchildren and shared around campfires for centuries before it was written down for our reflection centuries later.

However, the story reads more like a Disney children's movie ad than the hard-hitting, action-packed cinema that keeps us glued to a screen. It is a "once upon a time" story with few lines.

Nevertheless, each word gets surgically analyzed, and its meaning is interpreted in an effort to shape our daily lives. Still, for most of us, it's just a story.

As chapter three of Genesis begins, God has created the very first humans. In two chapters, nothing became something, and science tells us that millions of years passed as life flourished on earth. However, debating over missing details of what happened how and when distracts us from our earlier question. How did it come to be that humans choose to destroy each other and the planet we depend on for life?

According to the story, God warned humanity that there is a line that shouldn't be crossed. Some knowledge, the logic goes, leads to temptations that can weigh on our curiosity and some wear us down. And we are both curious. After all, this is how we learn to heed the warning of our server not to touch the plate they put in front of us using a hot pad. But we touch it anyway.

As soon as they had eaten it, they were given understanding and realized that they were naked.

Genesis 3:7

Googling "What does it mean to lose your innocence" yields this definition: "A loss of innocence is usually thought of as an experience or period in a person's life that leads to a greater awareness of evil, pain, and/or suffering in the world around them."

And that's what we learn from scripture. One person crosses a line God drew in the sand despite warnings, and recruits another person to join her. One lesson that emerges is that humans always have a choice when inflicting suffering on others.

But this explanation doesn't fully explain a shooters' motives, even when the prosecutor lays out a compelling argument.

According to the *New York Times*, Payton Gendron, age 19, apologized for killing ten innocent people because of skin color. And he blamed his rampage on the content he read on social media. Nevertheless, the Judge ruled that the shooter deserved no mercy and would never be free again.

Blaming his loss of innocence on social media doesn't reverse the damage, and the Judge ruled that there would be no second chances. Like Eve

choosing to eat the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, the consequences are irreversible.

Law enforcement made the arrest, and prosecutors presented sufficient evidence to convince jurors to agree on guilty. This case is cut and dry. The perpetrator is over 18, of sound mind, and made his decision without coercion.

Are there no laws against posting content that influence disastrous decisions? Not really, since otherwise, case backlogs would overflow with accusations against a long list of influencers. And many of the names on such a list hold enormous power over large numbers of people who take their rants much more seriously than they do. But is there a line in the sand, drawn by God, that some chose to cross?

If so, why doesn't God build a wall instead of drawing a line?

Barnabas Piper offers this assurance in the Afterword of his book, "If you hang on to your relationship with God, you will find happiness beyond explanation on the other side." Perhaps this is all that's left after Eve's crossed the very first line. We need to "hang in there" and believe that God's grace is sufficient for all of us.

Perhaps this is where faith, belief, and trust converge. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, we hold onto as much belief as we can muster, that God is still in control of the outcome, even after one of us crosses the line.

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](#).

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

Content for this series is based in part on: Barnabas Piper. *Help My Unbelief: Why doubt is not the enemy of faith* © Barnabas Piper, 2020. Charlotte : The Good Book Company.
Jesse McKinley and Dan Higgins. *"Buffalo Gunman Sentenced to Life in Emotional and Dramatic Hearing."* © New York Times, Feb. 15, 2023. Retrieved from: [link](#)

In Our Prayers

Kevin Croom

Sylvia Pittman

Chris Freeman

Richard Oram



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Nancy Elston

Norma Buzzard

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 "Thirsty" This series promises to be informative, challenging and inspiring.. And I hope you all will join us each Wednesday at 12Noon.



**COMING UP THIS WEEK
FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 5**

Feb 27	Mon	6:00pm	Worship Team Meeting (via Zoom)
Feb 28	Tues	10:00am-12:30pm	Food Distribution
Mar 1	Wed	12Noon	Pastor Book Club
Mar 2	Thu		
Mar 3	Fri		
Mar 4	Sat		
Mar 5	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](#).)

Upcoming Worship Series "Thirsty"



The Season of Lent is a special time of year for many churchgoers, and Lent is celebrated in various ways. For many, Lent represents a time of deep reflection. For others, Lent is a time for dieting or giving up favorite foods. The day before Lent begins is commonly referred to as "Fat Tuesday") as some of us indulge by eating a pastry known as a Paczki.

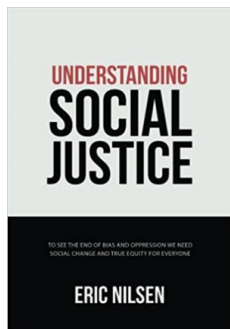
We launch our new series on Wednesday, February 22, with an Ash Wednesday service at Court Street Church. The themes for our series is shared among Flint Area United Methodist Churches. Our series is based on content provided by a local non-profit, Clean Water for the World.

At Asbury Church, we're calling our series *Thirsty*.

Book Club News

As the Season of Lent

progresses we put our belief into practice inspired by a new series, *Thirsty*. A lot of our content for our series is inspired and provided by the nonprofit



CleanWater-fortheWorld.org. Access to clean water is necessary to sustain life. Therefore, clean water is a social

justice issue when access is denied.

In order to help us navigate the complexities of social justice while digging into what scripture has to say about God's view on clean water, we're turning to journalist and author Eric Nilsen.

Author of *Democracy From Then to Now* and *Understanding Social Justice*, Nilsen has lived and worked in different parts of the world. His experiences give him an informed perspective and knowledge of different cultures, religions, and societies. These experiences inspired him to share his knowledge and

viewpoints with us through our study of one of his books.

Understanding Social Justice offers us a clearer understanding of issues, their causes, and the need to address and resolve them. Eric Nilsen offers an opportunity to make a passion for human rights a way of life. And to motivate us to pursue social justice for everybody.



If you are serious about switching from equity talk to equity walk and making the world a fairer and more just place where everyone can thrive, you first need to comprehend how and why prevalent and ingrained in our society.

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
Mike Sampson	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

Upcoming Worship Series - "Thirsty" ...cont from pg 5

We launch our new series on Wednesday, February 22, with an Ash Wednesday service at Court Street Church. The themes for our series is shared among Flint area United Methodist Churches. Our series is based on content provided by a local nonprofit, Clean Water for the World.

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Water is a powerful metaphor in scripture. From the creation story in Genesis to the river of the water of life in Revelations that sparkled like crystal, water is crucial to life. Life is unattainable without water, but not all water is suitable for human consumption.

In this series, we'll dig into a few water stories from scripture as we explore the obstacles preventing access to clean water for everyone. And we'll learn about responses and how we can help ourselves and others.

The *Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church*, adopted in 2016, calls access to clean water a human right. Yet, estimates of water usage predict that global water demand could surpass sustainable supply by 40 percent by the end of the decade. This prediction is based on energy production utilizing 75% of total water consumption combined with rising energy usage and population growth.

In the U.S., we take access to clean water for granted. At least we did until 2016, when residents of Flint discovered that our public water supply was unsafe to drink.

Speaking of Thirsty. Did you know Flint is not the only U.S. city dealing with lead in their public water? According to the NRDC, high levels of lead are showing up in the public water of Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Newark, New York, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C. Another study estimates that over half of U.S. residents drank water with detectable levels of lead between 2018 and 2020.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the number of lead service lines to be between 6 to 10 million. However, a 2021 NRDC survey estimates a number closer to 12 million. Either way, there is a lot of damage left to undo.

Lead is a national crisis, and President Biden has called for eliminating all lead service pipes. But is this enough?

Most Flint residents are familiar with the dangers of lead. We took the time to learn about lead because too many of us ingested lead by drinking water coming out of our public water source. In 2016, Flint appeared in headlines worldwide when it became public that children were testing for high lead levels. In fact, lead levels had doubled since the city water began coming from a different source.

If life itself is a human right then so is access to clean water. I invite you to join us for this series that promises to be informative, challenging, and inspiring.

We welcome Pastor Brian Willingham from Bristol / Burton Christ Churches who plans to be at Asbury on March 12.

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

Clean Water for the World, a Michigan nonprofit. Find more information at CleanWaterfortheWorld.org.

The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2016. © Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016.

Keith Mulvihill. "Causes and Effects of Lead in Water," © NRDC, July 09, 2021. Retrieved from: Link.

Our bias is part of what makes us human. Even when we don't have a choice, we still have a preference. And there is nothing wrong with preference unless our bias leads to harming others. For example, stereotypes refer to bias that categorizes persons based on their skin color, age, gender, race, or other characteristics, presuming commonality.

Attitudes, on the other hand, are based on feelings. Therefore, our attitudes result in positive or negative feelings about the traits we associate with others.

Often our bias is said to be implicit, meaning we're not conscious that we have a bias. In other cases, we are aware, and our bias is explicit. Again, there is no judgment of right or wrong at this point because bias isn't always harmful.

But bias can be deadly when attitudes prejudice groups of people and discriminatory actions result in harm. For example, access to clean water, a human necessity, is greatly affected by racial and ethnic prejudice. Yet scripture is filled with stories illustrating God's disdain towards attitudes and actions that harm people or our

planet. Moreover, divine justice removes any and all prejudice and discrimination.

Yet, people, time and time again, turn away from God's guidance in favor of our own biases. We prioritize ideas, needs, choices, and opportunities inconsistent with God's directive to love God first and to love each other without fabricating exceptions based on bias.

Nevertheless, advocating for policy that reflects divine justice is often exhausting and depressing. Elijah's story offers a great illustration.

Elijah was a prophet who stood against public and political pressure to advocate for policy prioritizing God's ways. And as a result, he became a threat to the reigning monarchy. We pick up on Elijah's story at the low point of his career.

Public opinion, led by the reigning king and queen, had shifted its priority elsewhere from faithfulness to God. Scripture refers to such a shift as

worshiping false gods. On the surface, the problem with false gods is that they turn people's attention to religious rituals that worship another god.

However, divine wisdom is more often found below the superficial. A closer look reminds us that is a big problem with an allegiance to false gods is preferences and attitudes that foster harmful and unjust ways.

A contest initiated by Elijah doesn't end well for the home team. And Elijah is on the run with a price on his head. Elijah's idea backfired. His victory didn't change public opinion, and he gave Queen Jezebel justification for mandating that Elijah be punished.

Suddenly an angel touched him and said "Wake up and eat". Elijah saw a loaf of bread and a jar of water.

1 King 19:5-6

Life Group Questions & Notes:

Suddenly an angel touched him and said, "Wake up and eat." Elijah saw a loaf of bread and a jar of water.

1 Kings 19:1-6

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read 1 Kings 19:1-6. If you're not familiar with what happens before this story you may want to read the previous chapter. Can you empathize with Elijah's feelings of depression?
2. Read this week's articles titled *Lost*. What is a bias that you hold onto that affects what you presume to be true about a person you first meet? Is your bias positive or negative? What are your attitudes towards groups of people that may affect what you presume about a person in that group? Do you hold onto stereotypes? What can you do to disprove them and help you put them aside? Do you believe that access to clean water is a right? Explain your answer.
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

FLINT ASBURY WATER BOX IS IN FULL OPERATION
SERVING FRESH WATER – PLEASE JOIN US
ON TUESDAYS FOR A 5 OR 2.5 GALLON OF WATER.
STOP BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00AM AND 1:00PM.



COMING SOON FLINT ASBURY DELICIOUS AND WHOLESOME MEAL KITS!!!

STAY TUNE ...

WILL POST MORE IN

OUR WEEKLY ASBURY

CIRCUIT RIDER!!





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 ***

In this reading of social justice, you will find a broad analysis of the big issues around social justice, and new insights that will challenge your understanding of what justice really means.

For Lent, our group will dig deeper into each week's message utilizing reference materials from Clean Water for the World, *Understanding Social Justice*, and our Sunday message. Our goal is to wrestle with obstacles preventing access to clean water and reflect on possible solutions. Stories from scripture offer guidance on every aspect of life. Interpreting and applying biblical truths, however, require prayerful discernment that is best done in a group.

I invite you to join us each Sunday for worship as we explore what it means that access to clean water is a human right. I invite you to join us for this series that promises to be informative, challenging, and inspiring. And I pray that you'll join us each Wednesday as we dive further into each week's teaching.

If you prefer to avoid groups or live too far away, I encourage you to join us via Zoom for our Wednesday gatherings. Alternatively, you can call in by phone, be heard, and hear what others say by calling (929) 436-2866 -- enter the meeting ID, 282 039 5568#.

We are a diverse group and are 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 or enter a prayer request on our website's homepage — FlintAsbury.org.

Pastor Tommy

Clean Water for the World, a Michigan nonprofit. Find more information at CleanWaterfortheWorld.org.

Eric Nilsen. *Understanding Social Justice*. © Eric Nilsen, 2022. Independently published.

☆☆ **WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AT APPLEWOOD?!**

EXPERIENCE APPLEWOOD AS A VOLUNTEER!!

Have you been looking for a way to serve your community? The Ruth Mott Foundation is adding to our roster of dedicated Applewood volunteers for the 2023 season.

Applewood was built in 1916 as the historic home of Charles Stewart Mott and his family. Today, it's a community resource open to visitors from May through October near the Flint Cultural Center.

Volunteers at Applewood play a vital role in programming and customer service. The benefits of volunteering are learning new skills, meeting new people, and serving your community.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering or signing up, please visit applewood.org and scroll to the Volunteer section.

If you have questions, please contact Julia, Manager of Visitor Services, at jpopler@ruthmott.org.

Visit applewood.org to apply!



The farm's new twist on a
CSA Food Box!!!!

Bring home only the veggies you love!

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” ...

Elijah is alone in the wilderness, physically exhausted from running, and emotionally drained. Depression overpowers Elijah, and he cries out to God to end his life. Elijah hit bottom.

Fortunately, an angel appears, and instead of a pep talk, the angel tends to Elijah's most basic needs: water, food, and rest. Elijah needs to regain his strength before he can regain his confidence.

Note how there is an economy of words found throughout scripture. Stories get told using only the most essential details. In this case, Elijah's story includes details about three of life's most basic needs.

So doesn't it make sense that we also prioritize basic needs? But not just for ourselves and our family and friends. And not just for people who support the decisions we favor or who look like us, sound like us, dress the same way we dress, and eat the same foods. Social justice doesn't favor one group over another because God doesn't favor one group over another.

Basic needs are critical for everyone regardless of their group or our bias towards them. Nevertheless, our policies and practices suggest that we suffer from similar struggles that Elijah took issue against.

According to research conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, access to clean water in the U.S. is affected by bias. Their study discovered a correlation between safe water violations and sociodemographic characteristics. Race stood out as the most consistent bias. Communities with higher percentages of residents who are people of color are 40 percent more likely to be plagued by water systems that constantly violate clean water laws.

The residents of Flint are familiar with what happens when our public water is presumed safe but isn't. In our case, policies and practices failed to adequately protect the public from consuming unsafe water.

Eric Nilsen reminds us, "True social justice would be impossible to achieve in the presence of our biases, preconceptions, and negative stereotypes." And makes this charge, "Therefore, the onus is on us to reflect, identify our biases, and positively address them on an individual level."

Our new series concludes on Easter Sunday. Meanwhile, I pray that you'll choose to join us on our journey towards clean water for the world.

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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Content for this series is also based in part on: Eric Nilsen. *Understanding Social Justice*. © Eric Nilsen, 2022. Independently published. Margie Kelly, Eric Whalen, and Fabiola Nunez. "New Drinking Water Report: Communities of Color More Likely to Suffer Drinking Water Violations For Years." © NRDC, Sept 24, 2019. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Keith Mulvihill. "Causes and Effects of Lead in Water," © NRDC, July 09, 2021. Retrieved from: [Link](#)



Your hobby farm probably started as a way to get back to your roots, literally. It was a way for you to reconnect with nature, your food, and the land and a way to create a sustainable lifestyle. And you're probably aware that there is a growing demand for organic produce and healthy living.

Thus, the idea of turning what was once a hobby into a business enterprise is a smart one. And there are several ways of going about monetizing your farm, depending on what you enjoy doing, what your farm will support, and what the need is in your area. Below, Asbury Farms explains more about how to develop your passion into a hobby farm.

Choose the Products You Will Sell

The first step is deciding what you want to sell. You can sell vegetables, eggs, honey, or other goods that you produce on your farm. If you are not sure what will be popular with the public, then ask your friends and family for their opinion.

Besides produce, you might consider selling crafts like [wreaths made from items on your farm](#), homemade soap, beeswax candles, handmade birdhouses, or whatever craft you enjoy.

You can have a U-pick for strawberries, a Christmas tree farm, or a pumpkin patch with hayrides. But of course, all of those would mean your farm has easy access to a road and a town within easy commute.

Determine Your Target Audience

Next, you need to think about where your audience is. Do you want to sell at a farmers market, a grocery store, or through a CSA, [Community Supported Agriculture](#)? Next, how much time do you want to spend on sales? Do you want to be more hands-on and sell at markets in person? Or do you prefer the convenience of selling through an online shop?

If you're selling online, HostGator explains that you must make sure your website [lists all of the items](#) that you want to sell as well as what they will cost per item or by weight (if it's something like honey). You also need to include information about where the product is coming from (your farm) so customers know they are getting quality goods from an ethical source.

You may decide to get involved in a community organization like [Asbury Farms that resources local farms](#) to feed those in need. Look into similar programs in your area to give back to the community.

Make Your Marketing Efforts Count

Make sure that you have a website that is [easy to navigate](#) and provides information about your farm. This will attract customers who want to know more about the products that you have available.

Use social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to get the word out about what you have to offer in terms of products or services. These platforms are free and easy for anyone with an internet connection, so they are accessible to a wide range of people. Share pictures of what goes on there on a regular basis, and include videos. You can also [make a YouTube channel](#) to provide how-to tutorials.

As you are selecting content for your social media and other digital marketing posts, be sure to focus on SEO (search engine optimization) practices. You'll want to use the right key words and phrases in your content and metadata so that search engines pull your content when people search for those phrases. It's important to know that PDFs are more SEO compatible than other file formats, so use them for your posts. [You can convert](#) most files over to this format using a free online conversion tool. It's as simple as dropping in the file and saving the newly formatted version.

How to Structure Your Business

The next step is deciding what kind of business entity will work best for your needs. How much capital do you need, and how much time do you want the business to take up in your life? Will it be a sole proprietorship, partnership, LLC, or S-Corp? Many small businesses [prefer to structure as S Corps](#), which is not a separate type of business entity like a corporation or an LLC. Instead, it is a tax election that you make with the Internal Revenue Service. It is taxed as a regular corporation but not as a partnership, and it keeps the business separate from its owners, which means that you [don't have to pay self-employment taxes](#).

Turn Your Garden into a Growing Business

If you are a homesteader who is looking to monetize your hobby farm, you have everything you need in your own backyard, literally. Just decide what you want to do and what your area will support, choose the business structure best suited to you, market like crazy, and your hobby can soon turn into a very enjoyable and profitable business.