



ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 3 Issue 2

April 2, 2023



EVERYONE HAVE
A WONDERFUL
AND SAFE
EASTER WEEK!



Bottled Water (The Happiness Report)



Majestic Lake Tekapo in New Zealand with lupins blooming

My parents told me more than once, "It's better to give than to receive." Of course, as a child, this idea doesn't make as much sense. After all, children depend on others giving them love and basic needs and usually don't have anything other than love to give back. Over the years, however, I've learned that the wisdom my

parents passed on to me from their ancestors was spot on.

It is better to give than receive. But it's challenging to provide any more than what you have in your possession.

Ten years ago this month, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that set aside March 20 to be observed annually as "International Day of Happiness." I quickly recalled a line from a Bobby McFerrin song that declared, "Don't worry, be happy!"

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A New Era (Are you Committed)



"We've been waiting for you?" Has anyone said these words to you? Perhaps your parents when you arrived home late, or a time when you arrived late for supper? This question is loaded with supposition. Context is everything.

Asbury CDC was formed as a Michigan non-profit corporation in the fall of 2011. Earlier that

year, on Palm Sunday, our message featured the simple phrase, "Are you committed?" Well, are you committed? Are you all in? Do you plan to stick with us? Are we in this together?

In this case, these are questions of loyalty to an idea, a direction, and a vision. Our series topic was the Abundant Community. It was the Season of Lent, and our celebration of Palm Sunday was reminiscent of past years, complete with palms suitable for waving and setting the mood.

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In Eric Nilsen's book *Understanding Social Justice*, he defines classism as "the discriminatory treatment and oppression of various segments of the society, merely based on their socio-economic background." For example, classism means a waitress may be treated differently than a doctor at a store simply because it is believed that there are appreciable differences between the two. Such as the waitress makes less money than the doctor and has less money to spend. While both may be true, the judgment is based on perceived socio-economics.

The libertarians among us would argue that it is the shop owner's right to treat potentially better customers with more money to spend with more care and attention. After all, the waiter can shop elsewhere unless it's the only shop in town for what he needs. But what about discrimination that affects access to fundamental human rights based on a person's wealth?

If we agree that healthcare is a human right, it should be accessible to everyone. Yet, studies show that healthcare quality in the U.S. depends on a person's wealth. Wealthier persons generally receive better care and live longer.

This Sunday, we celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem to confront the political and religious leaders. If this happened today, who would Jesus confront? Some would point to leaders of institutions that don't put Jesus first. Others might single out inclusive churches. Some of us believe that Jesus would confront the conservative Christian right.

Honestly, the evidence suggests that we all deserve the wrath of God based on our own merit. However, this is not to excuse us from working on the changes needed for justice. Are you committed?

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and a day when we recall the impact-filled entry of our Lord into the city of Jerusalem. There were two different crowds gathered. First century was steeped in traditions that favor wealth and power over humility and equity. Thus, the difference in the crowds represented two ends of the economic spectrum who lived in different realities. For one group, the elite, life was abundant in comfort and access to resources. For the other, life was steeped in scarcity and lack.

Palm Sunday and the events following happened during the Jewish festival of Passover when thousands of visitors show up for the festivities. Estimates of the size of the crowd vary. René Schlaepfer, Lead Pastor of Twin Lakes Church, uses a number the ancient Jewish writer Josephus calculated. His estimate was over 2.5 Million based on a count of over 250 Thousand lambs brought into the city for the festival. This number is several times larger than the estimated population of Jerusalem during the first century, of approximately 40,000.

Soon after Jesus entered the city, His opponents planned his expedient death. This time he had gone too far. Jesus had the nerve to March on the capital city and challenge the very foundation that powers of domination depend on for their effectiveness.

It doesn't seem possible for one man to take on both the imperial power of Rome, the largest war machine in history and at the same time, take on the religious authorities of God's chosen people. But He did and paid for it with His life. Well, at least at first, it appeared this way.

Reverend Schlaepfer connects the dots between a large number of lambs, the festival, and why a large crowd gathered to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. Passover had evolved from a remembrance of the Hebrew escape from slavery into an independence day celebration of Judas Maccabees' triumphant revolt against the oppressive Seleucid Empire. The Palm branch symbolizes freedom from oppression and a return to justice.

If Jesus was the long-anticipated Messiah, freedom from Roman oppression would come soon. The crowd was hyped up, reflecting the fervor of the entire festival crowd.

Soon after His arrival, Jesus headed for the place where non-Jews were allowed to pray, near the Temple, which doubled as stockyards for the lambs belonging to the temple authorities.

The legally approved and licensed lambs were expensive, but they were the only lambs declared suitable for sacrifice. It was an exclusive market that favored the well-off and well-connected. Pilgrims arriving with their lambs had to pass an inspection conducted by the authorities selling their own lambs. Not surprisingly, many imported lambs didn't make the grade, significantly increasing the sale of state-owned lambs.

Hosanna; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Mark 11:9

But not everyone could afford a lamb, neither a lamb of their own nor an overpriced lamb offered by the elite. For them, pigeons were offered at a fraction of the cost of a lamb.

Of course, temple merchants only accepted local currency. Therefore, Roman coins had to be exchanged for Temple currency at an exchange rate favorable to the merchants. A perfect scam where theft is legal and protected by law. And apparently offensive to Jesus.

Meanwhile, the Roman governor visited Jerusalem to oversee peacekeeping during the festival. In contrast to the entrance Jesus made, high-ranking officials came into Jerusalem in style amid a demonstration of military power. Residents and visitors proved their allegiance to Rome and improved their political connections through their presence at Governor Pilate's arrival.

The pieces fell into place in ways that surprised even the closest followers of Jesus. Later, it would all make sense. But Palm Sunday and the days following proved full of surprises. Are you committed?

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

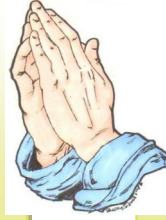
Our series was inspired by and relies on content provided by [CleanWaterfortheWorld.org](#).

Content for this series is also based in part on: Eric Nilsen. *Understanding Social Justice*. © Eric Nilsen, 2022. Independently published. Braveman P, Acker J, Arkin E, Proctor D, Gillman A, McGeary KA, Mallya. "Wealth Matters for Health Equity." © Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, September 1, 2018. Retrieved from: [link](#).

René Schlaepfer. "The Palm Sunday Mystery." *Jesus Journey: 40 days in the footsteps of Christ*. © 2012 René Schlaepfer, Twin Lakes Church. Retrieved from: [link](#).

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kevin Croom
Sylvia Pittman
Richard Oram



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Virginia Bigger Nancy Elston
Norma Buzzard Chris Freeman



EXCUSE OUR MESS WHEN COMING INTO OUR ASBURY BUILDING.. WE WILL BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS ...BUT WE WILL STILL BE HOLDING SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY!

Our Asbury Offices are working out of the Library Conference Room at the present time. If you need to get a hold of us, please use our email at FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com and I will try to follow up with your questions/concerns as soon as I am able to.

Connie

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.





Our Asbury member Nancy Elston was admitted into Hurley Hospital last week. She is in Room 724, Bed 1. Please keep her in your prayers. And she is welcome to visitors, but call first!

Also, please pray for Chris Freeman who is now at Briarwood Nursing Home, and continue prayers for Virginia Bigger. She is now home but still recovering.



**COMING UP THIS WEEK
APRIL 3 – APRIL 9**

- April 3 Mon 3:00PM Staff Meeting
- April 4 Tues 10:00am-12:30pm Food Distribution
- April 5 Wed 11am-12Noon Angel Closet at South Flint Soup Kitchen - see flyer on page 17 for more information—(no appts needed)
12Noon Pastor Book Club
- April 6 Thu 1:00pm United Women in Faith
6:30pm Holy Thursday Service at Calvary UMC (2111 Flushing Rd)
- April 7 Fri 12Noon—Good Friday Service at St Paul's Episcopal Church (711 Saginaw St)
- April 8 Sat
- April 9 Sun EASTER SUNDAY
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"



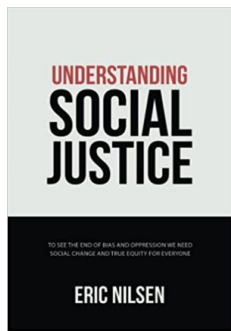
The Season of Lent is a special time of year for many churchgoers, and Lent is celebrated in various ways. For many, Lent represents a time of deep reflection. For others, Lent is a time for dieting or giving up favorite foods. The day before Lent begins is commonly referred to as "Fat Tuesday") as some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

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

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.

So what does it mean to be happy? Google this expression, and you will find that happiness includes feelings of joy, satisfaction, contentment, and fulfillment. Likely, we don't need anyone else to tell us when we're happy since we're the first to know it. However, sometimes we need to be reminded that we have every reason to be happy when we're not. Although these reminders don't always help.

The World Happiness Report 2023 was published this year to coincide with the world's annual observation of happiness. This report researches happiness and ranks countries by assessing and assigning a national happiness score. Of course, countries like Afghanistan and Lebanon, which scored at the bottom, may not be happy about the published results. But, on the other hand, they must know they're not happy.

Finland was ranked the happiest country, followed closely by Denmark, Switzerland, and Iceland. The United States made the top 20, coming in at number 16. One position behind Canada and just ahead of the United Kingdom. So we must all be pretty happy, all things considered.

When I think about happiness, the word that comes to the top for me is satisfaction. Unlike the Rolling Stones' lyrics that "can't get no satisfaction," when the dust settles, don't we all just want to find satisfaction? But how?

We've used this word a lot at Asbury over the past ten years. Finding satisfaction is the ultimate outcome found in our mission statement, which reads:

*Our goal 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.*

We pursue our mission using an approach based on three assumptions about human nature. The first is that every person has something to contribute. Some capability, that when animated, a passion rises up from within them that motivates them to utilize their gift.

Our second assumption is that happiness, in other words, satisfaction comes when we share our capabilities. The opposite, keeping the fruit of our abilities for ourselves, leads to a lack of satisfaction and addiction. This happens because, convinced that a little more will satisfy us, we engage in a vicious circle of more but never find satisfaction.

Our third assumption is critical and surprising controversial for some. Our satisfaction rises when we sincerely invite and welcome others into our community. Each person who joins our community

brings capability that they can share. The result is a rising level of satisfaction for everyone.

The happiness report validated our assumptions. Let me explain.

One of the surprises from the happiness report was a substantial increase in neighbors helping neighbors. The technical term used in the report is "altruistic." Chapter four of the report defines it this way: "A person is altruistic when they help another person without expecting anything in return." According to the report, altruistic behaviors include helping strangers, donating money, giving blood, and volunteering. And the report found a definite connection between happiness and the willingness of people to help others.

When lead was discovered in water coming into Flint's homes, the pursuit of happiness was put on hold. Our attention and energies turned to survival. Without safe water, a city cannot survive, much less flourish. Access to safe water is a starting point for every human endeavor.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS & MORE:

Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Mark 11:9

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

Handwriting lines for notes.


QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

- 1. Read the story of Palm Sunday in Mark 11:1-11. If you're interested in how the other gospels describe what happened read Matthew 21:1-10, Luke 19:28-40, and John 12:12-19. Where would you be if you were in Jerusalem when Jesus arrived? Before you answer, remember that this was a huge festival with activities everywhere in the city. Were you a visitor or a resident? What were you expecting Jesus to do after He arrived?
2. Read this week's articles titled A new era. As Christians we believe that Jesus ushered in a new era in human history. What do you believe His arrival into Jerusalem was about? Imagine the governor arriving at the same time as Jesus, but on the other side of town. Where were you in question 1? Would you stand against the pressures to be there to welcome the governor and welcome Jesus instead? Are you committed to your beliefs?
3. How can the members of your group help you this week and on-going to help you to be more receptive to hearing and understanding the Word of God? Pray for each other to have the Holy Spirit bless you with more courage.

“Feed Flint”



“Feed Flint”



A meal goes a long way for a senior living alone, a family struggling to make ends meet, or a child fearful of empty shelves at home. But for the residents of Flint who carry the effects of lead-tainted water, nutrition is critical. Feed Flint provides locally grown, chemical-free, fresh produce to residents living in and around Flint. And we're hoping that you can help us provide 10,000 meals this summer.

Feed Flint includes takeout meals, produce boxes with recipes, and home deliveries as part of our work to guide and support families in moving to sustainable abundance. The reality is that Michigan's food insecurity levels got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this summer's recovery is leaving behind those at the most risk of having to miss meals.

Flint families continue to struggle with the ongoing effects of the water crisis.

We're bringing together the resources of the Asbury Community Development Corporation. This includes Asbury Farms, the South Flint Soup Kitchen, the Asbury Community Help Center, multiple food pantries, and our Sizzling Culture Mobile Food Trailer. Our plan is to care for our neighbors when they need it most. We accept all people as they are, and our doors are always open to anyone.

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

Our Sizzling Culture program provides jobs and new skills to our city's youth. This includes year-round employment. Our staff and most of our volunteers come from the neighborhoods we support. We call this sustainable abundance because families move from need-based on scarcity to enough based on community-generated abundance.

Our work is also about food and justice. Our vision is a revitalized community where every resident can use their talents and passions for the common good, where children grow into active citizens. And all residents can enjoy safety, good health, and a culture that fosters life-long learning and satisfying lives. This summer, help us address food insecurity and strengthen Flint's budding local food system by supporting the Feed Flint campaign. Thank you for taking the time to see what we're doing and considering how you can help.

**Donate to our Feed Flint Campaign by visiting:
flintasbury.org/feed-flint-donate**

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.



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!

South Flint Soup Kitchen

ANGEL CLOSET PROCEDURES

YOU MUST BRING PROOF OF
INCOME WITH YOUR NAME AND THE
DATE (FROM THIS YEAR ONLY)
CLEARLY LISTED ON THE PROOF.
**CLIENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE ANGEL
CLOSET SERVICES IF THEY MEET
THE FOLLOWING:**

HOUSEHOLD SIZE ANNUAL INCOME:

1 - \$17,667

2 - \$23,803

3 - \$29,939

4 - \$36,075

**IF YOU DON'T MEET THESE
REQUIREMENTS OR HAVE A PROOF
PRESENT, THERE WILL BE A SMALL
ADMINISTRATION FEE OF \$5.**

QUESTIONS??? CALL 810-239-3427

Bottled Water (The Happiness Report) ..cont from pg 7

Last week, our theme scripture turned our attention to the town of Jericho. The community leaders sought out help from the prophet Elisha for help. Their residents suffered from unsafe water.

The Lord has healed these waters. They shall no longer cause death ... and sure enough! The water was purified.

2 Kings 2:21-22

Modern-day Jericho is located on the West Bank. The city came under Palestinian control after the Oslo Peace Accords. Jericho is one of the earliest continuous settlements in the world, dating perhaps from about 9000 BCE.

Centuries after the first settlers dug a well, built homes, and created communities, a group of Hebrew slaves camped on the outskirts of the massive wall that encircled Jericho. Led by Joshua, successor to Moses, whom God sent to lead slaves to freedom, God broke down the walls so they could enter the city.

After a few more centuries pass, Jesus walks through Jericho encircled by a crowd who chose to travel with him. The news of His anticipated arrival was heard by a man named Zacchaeus. A person despised by his community for his willingness to exploit his neighbors in cooperation with Roman officials. At that time, Palestine was occupied by Roman forces, and the residents of Jericho were heavily taxed.

Zacchaeus didn't want to miss seeing Jesus come by, so he chose a tree close to the road going through the center of town. From his vantage point, he could clearly see Jesus among the crowd. However, Zacchaeus likely didn't anticipate that Jesus could also see him.

Instead of criticizing Zacchaeus or embarrassing him in front of the people he cheated, Jesus asks to eat supper at his home. Although missing from the story as it is written, we can be sure that when Jesus arrived, He was given water to wash with and drink. Perhaps water from the same well that Elisha symbolically poured salt in to restore it to health centuries earlier.

Many wells have provided water for generations. Residents come and go, many prosper while others don't, but wells serve their purpose through it all. Giving access to water from below the ground's surface, where it accumulates after passing through numerous layers of filtration.

Scripture is filled with symbols packed with meaning and opportunities for connecting with God and finding satisfaction in life. Water clearly stands out as synonymous with life itself. So is salt, which Jesus uses to describe all who follow Him and share the good news through what we do for each other.

God wants you and me to be satisfied with life. After all, God created us and everything that we need and desire. And God is clearly pleased with all that He has done.

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

Our series was inspired by and relies on content provided by [CleanWater-fortheWorld.org](#).

Content for this series is also based in part on: Eric Nilsen. *Understanding Social Justice*. © Eric Nilsen, 2022. Independently published. "World Happiness Report 2023." © Sustainable Development Solutions

SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN

APRIL GIVEAWAYS

Angel Closet - April 5th &
19th, 11am-Noon (\$5 or
proof of income, see back
of flyer for details)

Food Giveaways - April 12th
& 26th, 11am-Noon

No appointments needed!

3410 FENTON ROAD
(3 BLOCKS NORTH OF ATHERTON)
FLINT, MI 48507

810-239-3427



Easter at



TOY GIVE AWAY

CENTER FOR HOPE
812 ROOT STREET, FLINT
THURSDAY, APRIL 6
3 PM - 5 PM
(CENTER FOR HOPE PARKING LOT)
DRIVE-THRU ONLY.
CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT.

ANNUAL EASTER BASKET GIVEAWAY

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN
735 E STEWART AVE. FLINT
SUNDAY, APRIL 9
1 PM - 2:30 PM
EASTER DINNER WILL BE SERVED.
TOYS AND BASKETS GIVEAWAY INSIDE NESK
CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT.

Wishing you a blessed Easter!



Good360



EASTER CELEBRATION TOY GIVEAWAY

APRIL 8, 2023 | 12 PM-2 PM
6340 N. GENESEE RD. FLINT 48506

Thank you to Toys for Tots and
Good360 for helping us put a
smile on the faces of so many
children this Easter!

Drive up service.

Children **MUST** be present to receive toys



Good360
GOODS FOR THE GREATER GOOD™





HOLY WEEK

gg115466236 GoGraph.com



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES!

PALM SUNDAY—April 2nd
at ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10:30AM



HOLY THURSDAY—April 6th

at CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2111 Flushing Rd Flint MI
6:30PM



GOOD FRIDAY –April 7th
ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
711 Saginaw St Flint MI
12NOON



EASTER SUNDAY-April 9th
at ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1653 Davison Rd Flint MI
10:30AM

