

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 3 Issue 27

News (Beautiful are the feet)

AUGUST 27, 2023



I still remember the hours following the tragedy at the Boston Marathon in 2013. Many of us in Flint knew some of the runners and anxiously awaited the news that our colleagues were unharmed. Three people, including an eight-year-old boy, were killed, and hundreds were injured when two bombs exploded ten seconds apart near the finish line.

Page 3

EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
WEEKEND!

DONATE

Proof (Pudding proof)



One of life's more disappointing moments is when we bite into something that looks scrumptious only to discover that the taste does not match the presentation. Often, our disappointment may be based on prior experience and less on the merit of whatever we're biting into.

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I feel that way about thornless blackberries. The shiny black fruit that looks like the blackberries I carefully picked while trying to avoid pricks from thorns was sweet. The blackberries Cyndi and I picked the other day were tart and noticeably void of sweetness. They looked ripe and brought back joyful memories, but the taste did not match the presentation.

In an article for the Hindustan Times, journalism student Tania Bagwan shared her research into the expression “the proof of the pudding is in the eating.” Pile-up tart blackberries on top of your culinary creation without sweetener and the eating may not be so pleasant.

In her article, Tania points out that the phrase “the proof of the pudding is in the eating,” isn’t necessarily about pudding or eating. Instead, she writes “it says that the real worth or success of something cannot be determined unless it has been tried and tested, all appearances and promises aside.”

I’m more accustomed to the shortened version of the phrase — “the proof is in the pudding.” And according to the dictionary.com “The proof is in the pudding is an expression that means the value, quality, or truth of something must be judged based on direct experience with it—or on its results.”

In our companion book for this series, one of Angela Hunt’s fictional characters is Shimon, who is married to a sister of Jesus named Damaris. In this week’s chapters, we read about a ritual that confirms Shimon as a member of an elite religious order known as the Pharisees.

This group believes God sets their members a part to teach and hold others accountable for living according to the laws of Moses and certain interpretations. They dressed differently and supposedly held themselves to the highest standards of compliance with their beliefs.

Angela Hunt describes a scene that occurs during the ritual that encapsulates our catch phrase:

Then, with the innocence of a child, Shiri spoke in a voice loud and high enough to echo through the building: “Why is Uncle Shimon acting like he does not know us?” She might have turned to say something, but James did not give her a chance. He stood, turned to Shiri, and said, “Because he no longer considers himself one of us, little niece. We are the am ha’ aretz, the common and ignorant, while he fancies himself one of Adonai’s elite.”

What does it mean to be one of God’s elite?

Meanwhile, rumors and reactions to Jesus were becoming more frequent. Particularly, regarding the possibility that He was the promised Messiah.

Not surprisingly, witnessing tragedy leaves a lasting imprint on our mental health even when we're not one of the victims. The mental health of those present at the event was negatively affected, even if they didn't know any of the injured or the runners and did not suffer injury. Likewise, having a personal connection with individuals affected can negatively impact our mental health.

But there is another group whose mental health is negatively impacted that was neither present nor personally connected. According to a study conducted by researchers at the University of California in Irvine, persons consuming more than six hours of news coverage during the week following the event were more likely to suffer from acute anxiety stress than those of us who had personal connections but spent less time listening and watching news coverage.

Writing for BBC News, journalist Zaria Gorrivett writes:

It turns out that news coverage is far more than a benign source of facts. From our attitudes to immigrants to the content of our dreams, it can sneak into our subconscious and meddle with our

lives in surprising ways. It can lead us to miscalculate certain risks, shape our views of foreign countries, and possibly influence the health of entire economies. It can increase our risk of developing post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression.

Like empty calories, the amount of news we consume negatively affects our health. Gorrivett observed, "We are constantly simmering in a soup of news, from the moment we wake up in the morning to the moment we close our eyes each night."

The quantity of news we take in is much more than the news we may watch on local networks. The internet and social media provide a river of made-up and real news. And an increasing number of these sources offer to notify us of news and announcements they deem essential.

The Prophet Isaiah had this to say about news, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say "Your God Reigns!"

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.

Isaiah 52:7

Perhaps this is why most of us want to share good news right after we hear it. We want beautiful feet. Yet, while we may prefer to deliver good news over bad news, the reality is that we gravitate toward bad news. According to research, we actually pay more attention to negative news, and this tendency is likely connected to survival instinct.

There are numerous studies and examples that collaborate the harm caused by indulging in negative news. For example, medical professionals worry that we're less likely to notice the early warning signs for forms of cancer that we believe rarely occur. Yet, the news coverage of cancer, rather than actual statistics, is our go-to source for whether one form of cancer occurs more often than another.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kevin Croom
Sylvia Pittman
Jonathon Misner

Miriam Watson



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Dean Lamoreaux
Norma Buzzard
Nancy Elston

COMING UP THIS WEEK
AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 3



- Aug 28 Mon** Meet Up and Eat UP
(runs through September 1st)
(Monday -Friday)
9am-10am Breakfast
12N-1pm Lunch
2:00pm Staff Meeting
- Aug 29 Tues** 10am-12N Food Distribution
- Aug 30 Wed**
- Aug 31 Thu**
- Sept 1 Fri**
- Sept 2 Sat**
- Sept 3 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 "Belonging"



Don't shoot the messenger," she said noticing the look of pain on the faces of those let down by her news. No one I know wants to deliver bad news.

The Prophet Isaiah seemed to understand this human reality when he said "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring the happy news of peace and salvation." Who would not want to hear the good news of peace and salvation? Who would not want to hug the person bringing such a message.

Book Club News



Our companion book for our new worship series is Angela Hunt's second book in her Jerusalem Road Series. The

Shepherd's Wife retells the gospel stories through the eyes of two sisters.

The sisters have one thing in common. Their older brother is a traveling prophet spreading controversy wherever He goes that He claims to be good news. But for whom? The sisters live at different ends of the economic and social hierarchy.

Pheodora married a shepherd. A man who cares for livestock and spends weeks at a time away from home. They live in poverty and are vulnera-

ble to a system that preys on the less powerful. Shepherds and the families of shepherds are not invited to proper social gatherings.

Damaris married into money. Her husband, Shimon, is on the path toward becoming a Pharisee. A powerful group of prestigious and influential men held in high regard by society and suspicious of her older brother.

The wives of Pharisees aren't supposed to socialize with shepherd's wives.

Pheodora's husband is forced to borrow money to pay an arbitrary tax at an exorbitant interest rate. Failure to pay his debt results in imprisonment, leaving Pheodora to provide for her children

Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel	Pastor
Kevin Croom	Executive Director
Connie Portillo	Office Manager
Kim Sims	Finance Director
Sylvia Pittman	Empowerment Arts
Jim Craig	Board & Leadership Chair
Mike Sampson	Farms Manager
Terrance Williams	Arts Center Mgr
	Sr Prog Mgr Local Foods
	South Flint Soup Kitchen

Leadership in Worship & Service

Tony & Mirium	Welcome Team
Cyndi	Worship Leader
Anthony & Jim	Ushers
Jonathon & Terrance	Production Team
Yasheah & Mirium	Nursery
Christine & Norma	Cafe

Upcoming Worship Series— “Belonging” ..cont from pg 5

In the 2nd book of Angela Hunts Jerusalem Road Series, we meet two sisters at different ends of the social hierarchy. Damaris married into money. Her husband, Shimon is on the path towards becoming a Pharisee. A powerful group of prestigious and influential men held in high regard by society.

Pheodora, on the other hand, married a shepherd. A man who sleeps with livestock and is away from home more often than not. Scarcity is the prevailing condition of their household. Her husband, Chirac belongs to a group of men not invited to social gatherings.

The sisters have one thing in common, however. Their older brother. A traveling prophet spreading controversy wherever He goes that He claims to be good news.

Well good news for shepherds at least. Pharisees failed to see what was so good for those who already had more than they needed. The good news that Yeshua brought turned the usual rules of social expectations upside down. What kind of a world would it be if shepherds and Pharisees sat at the same table for supper?

Welcome to our series, Belonging. We begin our exploration of pharisees and shepherds the first Sunday in July. Our companion book, *The Shepherd's Wife*, offers a fictional story, based on scripture, that challenges us to explore the good news of the Gospel from fresh perspectives. I hope that you'll join us each Sunday. You can find a copy of Angela's Hunt's book online, in bookstores, or at your local library.

I hope that you will join us each Sunday. You can find a copy of Angela Hunt's book online, in bookstores, or at your local library.

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

Angela Hunt. The Shepherd's Wife. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2020.

Gorvett notes that the possibility of adverse outcomes almost always overshadows a perception of positive results. Politicians prey on this condition to increase media coverage of their campaign messages, often manipulating facts or outright lying to improve their popularity.

The news that Jesus was born was told to shepherds tending to their livestock. Luke tells us that Angels told them they could find the baby in Bethlehem and that His birth was good news for all humanity. The shepherds not only found the baby, but they told everyone that would listen about the news.

Despite the cultural precedence at the time that shepherds could not be trusted, Luke says that "all were amazed" by what the shepherds said.

The last to hear the good news was the religious leaders who insisted that attention to ritual detail take precedence over caring for those needing help. As Jesus Himself spread the good news of God's arrival among humanity, this group would hear His message as bad news.

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 [FlintAsburyChurch.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 Angela Hunt. *The Shepherd's Wife. Jerusalem Road Series*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2020.

Zaria Gorvett. "How the news changes the way we think and behave." © BBC News, May 12,2020. Retrieved from: [link](#)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS & MORE:

The deeds I do by my Father's authority speak on my behalf.

John 10:25

NOTES FROM WORSHIP


QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS

1. Read John 10:22-42. What things that Jesus did do you remember most? Why? Which ones validate that Jesus is the Son of God?
2. Read this week's articles titled *Proof*. Do actions speak louder than words for you? What are some examples where your words and actions aren't in synch? What does it mean for you that Jesus is your Savior?
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**

South Flint Soup Kitchen



Bottled Water Drive

ALL SUMMER LONG!

Our clients need bottled water for cooking, going with sack lunches, to bathe and brush their teeth with, and more!

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday
9:30am-Noon at South Flint Soup Kitchen, 3410
Fenton Road (3 blocks north of Atherton Road)
Flint, MI 48507

Questions? Call 810-239-3427 or email
southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com

To donate: www.mightycause.com/feedflint





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 ***

while finding a way to free her husband. Where is the good news that her brother is talking about for her?

Although Hunt's book is fictional, her attention to details in scripture challenges our knowledge of the Bible. With each character, we meet the questions that percolate inside us. What parts of her description are likely genuine, and which are made up?

Angela Hunt has published over 100 books, selling nearly 5 million copies worldwide. Angela, a New York Times bestselling author, received the Times Book Club Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. She has a Ph.D. in biblical studies in theology and is well-versed in biblical text. Angela can be found online at www.angelahuntbooks.com.

Our Book Club is not meeting as a group this summer. Stay tuned for more Book Club news towards the end of summer. You can contact our office with questions, by phone or simply type your question or enter a prayer request on our website's homepage — FlintAsburyChurch.org.

Pastor Tommy

Angela Hunt. *The Shepherd's Wife*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2020.

Cash or checks can be sent to/dropped off at South Flint Soup Kitchen, 3410 Fenton Road, Flint, MI 48507. Please make checks out to South Flint Soup Kitchen!

Online at www.mightycause.com/feedflint

Cash App \$SFSK48507

Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday 9:30am-Noon. Calling ahead is not necessary, but our needs change frequently, so calling ahead of time is a good idea!

Give time! We need volunteers!!! Volunteers arrive at 9:30am and are done by 12:30pm. Tasks include handing out lunches, assisting in the Angel Closet, light cleaning, putting together items to pass out to clients, and more.

Visit our Ebay store! Our handle is southflint84

We have old school Beanie Babies (tags still attached!) and vintage graded baseball cards currently. Look back frequently for the addition of new items!

Refer people!!

Questions??? Call 810-239-3427

or email southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com

In one exchange, Jesus is asked point-blank if He is the Messiah. Although the expression did not exist yet, Jesus responds with His version of "The proof is in the pudding" when He answers, "The deeds I do by my Father's authority speak on my behalf."

The deeds I do by my Father's authority speak on my behalf.

John 10:25

The crowd turned from inquisitive to violent as they focused on what Jesus said while ignoring His actions. After all, the experts, the Pharisees, publicly condemned the notion that Jesus was the Messiah. I suspect they believed the Messiah would come from their group. Either way, wouldn't they be the first to know, given their inside track as one of God's elite?

Jesus appeals to the crowd's anger with logic. "Even though you do not believe me, you should at least believe my deeds, in order that you may know once and for all that God is in me and that I am in God."

There are many who believe that Jesus illustrated, through His actions, what it means to live a moral and righteous life. Yet they stop short of accepting that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who is God living among us.

In this week's text, Jesus is offering grace to any among us who have doubts He is also God. If this is where you are, you're blessed that you tasted the pudding and discovered the truth that the proof is in the eating.

God's grace is sufficient for us all. And it can take a lifetime to accept that Jesus is your Savior, too. But you don't have to wait. The joy of knowing Jesus is your's for the asking. So ask today and start living the life and plans that God has for you.

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Tania Bagwan. "Where does the phrase "the proof of the pudding is in the eating" originate from?." © Hindustan Times, Mar 14, 2022. Retrieved from: [link](#)



9TH Annual
Family Promise
BENEFIT
CONCERT

live music
FEATURING

1 FIFTY

Sunday, 09.10.2023 / 3PM

Riverview Park Band Shell
Downtown Flushing

230 S. Cherry St., Flushing MI

Donations
go to:



Ending homelessness...one family at time.

Hosted by:

