

# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 3 Issue 26

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

## Surely (When God Speaks)



Do you always say what you mean?

The answer for the vast majority of us is no. Even the most literal person is apt to offer a partial truth to flatter someone or to shorten a conversation. We say things we don't mean. We don't say things we mean. And too often we're just plain mean.

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EVERYONE  
HAVE A  
WONDERFUL AND  
SAFE  
WEEKEND!!

**DONATE**

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WELCOME SANDY KNAACK TO ASBURY UMC!

SANDY IS A CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER FROM  
PAINT CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

THE TITLE OF HER SERMON IS:

“ALL OF US GOD'S ‘AS IS’ PEOPLE”

SANDY WILL BEGIN HER SERMON WITH A  
SCRIPTURE FROM *JOHN 3:16-18 NIV*.

## Surely (When God Speaks) *cont. from pg 1*

Frankly, since human words are often more mean than meaningful, we often have trouble listening to each other. Our listening skills are particularly compromised when we don't want to hear what's being said or we're too busy to pay attention.

Psychiatrist Morgan Scott Peck offers this insight in his best-selling book, *The Road Less Traveled*, "You cannot truly listen to anyone and do anything else at the same time."

But the truth is we're often busy multitasking: texting, checking our email, surfing the internet, or planning what we will say while the other person is talking, or what we will do once the conversation ends.

Our current worship series is titled *Words*. While not all communication requires them, the words we speak or write are powerful. And so are words we don't say or write.

In this week's chapters from *Woman of Words*, the Temple police arrest Mary and Matthew. They bring Matthew before Theophilus, the High Priest, who warns him to stop assisting Mary with writing the stories of Yeshua. They bring Mary before the former High Priest, Annas, who Nicodemus warned was the real power broker behind the scenes.

In a show of power, Annas reads aloud excerpts from stolen manuscripts, shedding light on what happened to the missing stories.

Mary tells Annas her Son is the Messiah. When questioned how she was so certain, she shared how an angel told her what was to happen before Yeshua's birth. Her Son had no earthly father, for He was the Son of God.

After Matthew's release, he shares these thoughts while observing the people going about their day's busyness. "Outside the Temple, righteous Israel was on full display in the blue robes of the Pharisees, the richly embroidered garments of the Sadducees, and the spotless white robes of the Essenes... Mingling among these pictures of piety were ordinary people like me and Peter and Mary—those who knew they were sinful creatures but who wanted to please HaShem [God] above all else... These were the wounded our Messiah came to redeem, and they were the people for whom Mary and I were writing."

Matthew's musing sets up the irony of Mary's arrest ordered by Annas, who also was the first to question her Son after His arrest. "How do you know this?" was the High Priest's question after Mary told Him that Yeshua is the Messiah. "I've seen Him," Mary replied.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kevin Croom  
Sylvia Pittman  
Jonathon Misner

Terrance Williams  
Mirium Watson



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE  
HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Dean Lamoreaux  
Norma Buzzard  
Nancy Elston

**COMING UP THIS WEEK  
NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3**

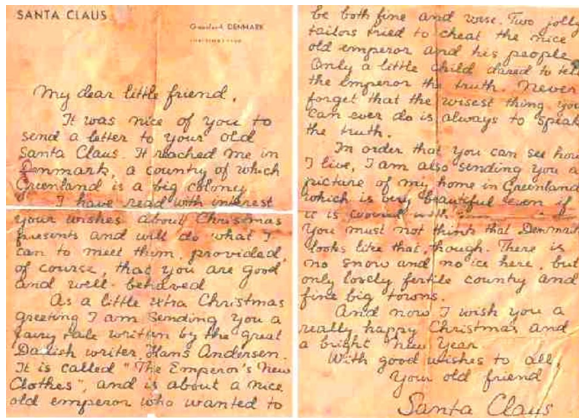


Nov 27	Mon	2:00pm	Staff Meeting
Nov 28	Tues	10am-12N	Food Distribution
		3:00 PM	CDC Board Meeting
Nov 29	Wed		
Nov 30	Thu		
Dec 1	Fri		
Dec 2	Sat		
Dec 3	Sun	10:30am	New Beginnings Contemporary Worship

**THANK YOU SANDY KNAACK FOR JOINING US TODAY!!**

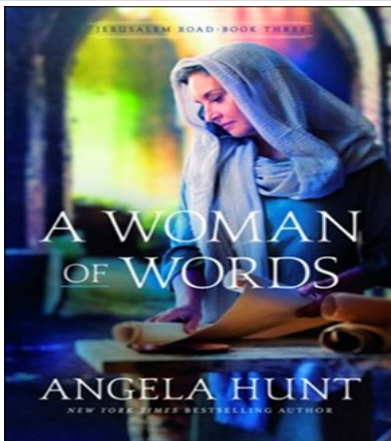
(We are live on [Facebook](#) and our newly launched [YouTube channel](#). You can find these links along with more information about us on our website at [FlintAsbury.org](#).)

## Upcoming Worship Series "Letters"



One of my favorite activities to do the week of Thanksgiving is to watch movies with a Christmas theme. Hallmark produces most of the movies I choose. There are more choices than time to watch them all, but the commonality between them reminds me of the similarities of messages found among greeting cards. A man or woman is in a place where they would not ordinarily be. Some obstacle or challenge presents itself. They meet someone, and somehow pieces fall into place and they live happily ever after.

## Book Club News



Our companion book for our new worship series is Angela Hunt's third book in her

Jerusalem Road Series. *A Woman of Words* recounts the time after the Resurrection of Jesus when the church first takes root as His followers share the good news.

The narrators are two familiar characters. Matthew was a tax collector named Levi when he first met Jesus. One of the least likely candidates for ordination. But Jesus saw in Matthew what others could not.

and perhaps, least understood of all the persons who travelled with Jesus. Angela Hunt fills in the gaps using her imagination and an in-depth knowledge of scripture and speculation about scripture.

James, Peter and John ask Matthew to move to Jerusalem and help with the growing church. He dreams of preaching and performing miracles, but finds his dreams postponed after speaking with Mary, Yeshua's mother. Mary asks Matthew to help her write down the stories of Yeshua while the eyewitnesses are still available to be consulted.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is one of the most recognized,

## Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel Pastor  
Kevin Croom Executive Director/CDC  
Connie Portillo Office Secretary  
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 — “Letters” ..cont from pg 4

I have often thought of creating a worship series based on one or more Hallmark movies. After all, many of their themes remind me of the ups and downs of many stories found in scripture.

Christmas is a time of anticipation. Most of us have preferences for how the season should play out based on imperfect memories of past holidays. And although we can picture the expected outcome, life happens in ways we had not anticipated.

Welcome to our series *Letters*. If you prefer books to movies, I encourage you to read along with me as our imagination wanders from the pages of Nancy Naigle’s book to ancient times, when persons and communities also faced life-altering decisions.

Weeping we sat beside  
the rivers of Babylon  
thinking of Jerusalem.

Psalm 137:1

Of course, the movie, *Christmas in Evergreen: Letters to Santa*, is available from the Hallmark Channel if this is your media of choice.

As I searched through Hallmark’s library, reading dozens of summaries, Babylon kept popping up in my subconscious. In scripture, Babylon is a city, a region, and an empire. Most of all, Babylon is a place of exile.

Abram and Sarai, better known as Abraham and Sarah, were originally from Babylonia. It was in Babylon that the community attempted to build a tower tall enough to reach heaven. The people of Judea were exiled in Babylon.


As with most movies, biblical stories are about specific people. While, at the same time, the stories reveal things about ourselves. We’re not only invited to take on roles as we experience the story, we are the story.

As the daughter of military parents, Lisa Palmer lived an unsettled life. And as an adult, she wanted to return to Evergreen, the town where she was born, to spend Christmas. Lisa’s family left Evergreen when she was seven. Before her family left, Lisa put a letter to Santa in the box at Daisy’s General Store asking that she could spend every Christmas in Evergreen. Daisy, the store owner, suggests she make a slight, but subtle change to her letter that every year be “like” Christmas in Evergreen.



“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](https://flintasbury.org/feed-flint-donate)



South Flint Soup Kitchen ...

## BOTTLED WATER DRIVE



All Year 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

11:00am-12 Noon at South Flint Soup Kitchen,

3410 Fenton Rd (3 blocks north of Atherton Rd)

Flint MI 48507

Any questions, please call 239-3427 or 235-0016 or

Email us at [southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com)

To donate: [www.mightycause.com/feedflint](http://www.mightycause.com/feedflint)





## Show Your Support For Your Local Farm

We need your help to purchase fencing to keep our furry friends from eating up all our crops and not sharing with us.

### How You Can Donate

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- Text "FARMCDC"
- to 53-555
- Scan QR Code

**Donate Now**



More Information :

 (810) 235-0016

 [funding@flintasbury.org](mailto:funding@flintasbury.org)

Reluctantly, he agrees, although the two face numerous complexities. For one, Gaius Caesar, more commonly known as Caligula, decides to raise a statue of himself in the Holy Temple. And he is willing to kill every man in Israel if needed.

Matthew's attention turns to saving his people. Meanwhile, Mary encourages him to come to terms with his past. When they finally near the completion of their project, Matthew realizes that the job he reluctantly accepted might be his God-given destiny.

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](http://www.angelahuntbooks.com). Our Book Club does not meet as a group. However, our weekly messages reference that weeks chapters. You can anticipate spoiler alerts unless you keep up with the pace. I've purchased ten books but when they're gone you can still purchase your own copy or visit your local library.

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](http://FlintAsburyChurch.org).

Pastor Tommy

Angela Hunt. *A Woman of Words*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2021.

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](http://www.mightycause.com/feedflint)

Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday 11am-12Noon. 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.

Refer people!!

Questions??? Call 810-239-3427

or email [southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com)

The people of Judah’s exile in Babylon came because of turning to other gods and losing their connection with the One True God. While in exile, they longed for holidays like they had when God was an everyday presence in their lives.

Christmas is particularly situated as a time of longing for God’s presence. Anticipating what might be possible when God lives among people, beginning as a helpless baby born in a place that new parents would not choose.

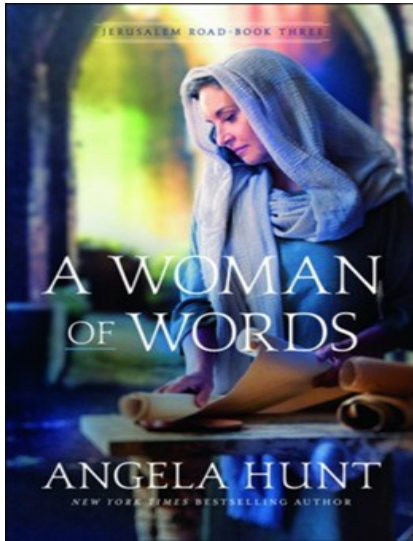
May your holiday be like Christmas in Evergreen. May your Christmas be filled with the peace and joy that Christ alone brings to all believers.

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

Nancy Naigle. *Christmas in Evergreen: Letters to Santa*. Hallmark Publishing..© Crown Media Family Networks, 2019.





Welcome to the first episode of our new worship series, Words. Each week there is a reading assignment in our companion book, *Woman of Words* by Angela Hunt.

Reading along with us is completely optional. I plan to recap each week's chapters and focus on one or more of the author's references to stories found in scripture.

Nevertheless, we chose this approach to our series based on experience. Those who read the companion book report a deeper connection to scripture.

We begin with the first four chapters. Matthew, an apostle of Jesus is asked by Peter and John, also apostles, and James, a brother of Jesus, to move to Jerusalem to help.

Here is the schedule for episodes two through eight:

Oct 8	Chapters 5 - 9
Oct 15	Chapters 10 - 15
Oct 22	Chapters 16 - 21
Oct 29	Chapters 22 - 28
Nov 5	Chapters 29 - 33
Nov 12	Chapters 34 - 40
Nov 19	Chapters 41 - 45

Cyndi and I are on vacation Sunday, November 26. The Season of Advent begins Sunday, December 3 with a new worship series.

Our Book Club does not meet as a group. However, our weekly messages reference that week's chapters. You can anticipate spoiler alerts unless you keep up with the pace. I've purchased ten books but when they're gone you can still purchase your own copy or visit your local library.

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](http://FlintAsburyChurch.org).

Pastor Tommy

Angela Hunt. *A Woman of Words*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2021.



NEW  
CHRISTMAS TRADITION!!

Beginning December 1st, read one chapter  
Of the Book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account  
Of Jesus's Life and wake up  
Christmas morning knowing WHO  
And WHY we celebrate!

Michele Weston, President  
United Women in Faith



In the Book of Isaiah, God reminds us, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways." In fact, the thoughts of God are so different, so much more powerful, so much more wise, so much more loving, that even to compare what we say to what God says is utterly foolish.

When God speaks, all of creation is affected. God's word is as reliable as the rules of nature. The rain soaks the thirsty ground, nurturing the seed which brings life out of the ground. This is the way God intended it so this is how it works.

"My word ... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it," says the Lord. It is not a gamble. It is not about probability and statistics. God's word is a sure thing. God gets God's way all the time.

**The Word I speak will not fail to do what I plan. My Word will do everything I send it to do.**

**Isiah 55:11**

In the first part of Isaiah, something went terribly wrong, and the people had ceased being faithful to the covenant that God made with King David. God reduced the land to briars and thorns under divine judgment. God's acts of grace later removed this judgment, but only if the people repent of their hypocrisy and listen carefully to God's Word. As they do, there is a reversal of fortunes as God extends the everlasting covenant made with David to God's people.

Jesus Christ is the Word of God. Jesus lived among people and accomplished that which God intended.

Are you listening?

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](http://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](mailto:connect@FlintAsbury.org) or let us know when you send a message through our [website](#). We post an archive of past editions on our website under the tab, Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

Our series was inspired by and relies on content provided by Angela Hunt. *A Woman of Words*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2021.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUYING  
HOMEMADE SALSA .... HOMEMADE SALSA???!  
WOULD YOU AT LEAST LIKE TO TRY IT??



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL THE ASBURY CHURCH  
OFFICE 810-235-0016

PRICES ARE: 12 oz. \$4.99

24 oz \$8.99

THE GREEN SALSA WILL BE MILD.

THE RED SALSA WILL BE HOT.