

# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 30

## Seeing Ahead (Bent over)



It can be argued that human motivation to meet needs exists at hierarchical levels of criticality. That is, we must meet our most basic needs at the base of the hierarchy before we're motivated to pursue needs at a higher level. So if we're deprived of food, water or shelter, we will first

deal with our deprivation before we concern ourselves with higher needs.

Welcome to episode one of our new series, *Human*. Page 2

## Suffering (Why?)



In Psalm 91 we read God's promise to put angels in charge for protection wherever we go. And These angels will hold us up with their hands to keep us from hurting our feet on the stones. This promise applies to anyone turning to God for safety.

If this is true, why is there suffering?

Adam Hamilton writes in our companion book for this series, "When life does not align with our assumptions about God, we can lose faith altogether." Certainly, when we hold God accountable for everything bad that happens, we're likely to question God's goodness. And this may cause us to miss out on the peace and joy that comes from a close relationship with God.

Page 13

JUNE 30, 2024



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Suffering	1
Seeing Ahead	1
Seeing Ahead	2
Coming up this week	3
In our prayers	3
Upcoming Worship/Book Club	4
Upcoming Worship Series/Book Club	5
Feed Flint	6
Feed Flint	7
Life Group Questions	8
Bottled Water Drive for SFSK	9
Support your local farm	10
Book Club News	11
Ways to Give to SFSK	12
Suffering	13
Suffering	14
Seeing Ahead	15
Kroger Community Rewards	16
Empowering the Future—CDC	17

## Seeing Ahead (Bent over) *cont. from pg 1*

According to a Review of General Psychology survey, published in 2002, Abraham Maslow was the tenth most cited psychologist of the 20th century. Maslow is famous for introducing the concept of human motivation being driven by satisfying needs hierarchically. He first introduced his idea in a paper titled "A Theory of Human Motivation."

The needs at the top of the hierarchy are more apt to be thought of as concerns for people of privilege. The rest of us are busy trying to make ends meet. However, our need to be all that we can be is a part of our humanity. Self-actualization is important for everyone. Just like hunger, we must satisfy our need to be seen by others and ourselves as the person God created us to be in order to feel satisfied.

Kendra Cherry, writing for *VeryWellMind*, offers a tutorial on Maslow's pyramid, including some of the criticism and expansions on his theory. Maslow's pyramid helps to explain why Jesus focused so much on helping those without to meet basic needs and insists His followers do likewise.

But Jesus never stopped there. Luke tells us that Jesus was in church one day when He noticed a bent-over woman in attendance. Jesus stopped what He was doing and attended to her affliction. Immediately, the woman straightened up and praised God for her freedom.

The officials were indignant about what Jesus did and reminded the crowd that He was wrong to do so on a church day. But the crowd ignored them. What they witnessed blew them away. However, they focused on the physical miracle overlooking the rest of the story.

This story is short and easily passed by as yet another example of Jesus healing a person only to be criticized by His critics. The healed person goes on with life, Jesus goes on with His ministry, and His critics go on looking for a way to discredit Jesus and put Him in His place.

But scripture is too full of life to be dismissed without impact. There is so much more to this story when we dig deeper into its meaning. Beginning with what it means to be bent over.

When a person is bent over, it is difficult to see ahead. A lot of us walk around bent over, unable to see beyond our next step. And this month's celebration of the LGBTQ+ community offers plenty of examples.

In a *People's Magazine's* article titled "Everything You Need to Know About Pride Month," Andrea Wurzburger and James Mercadante offer historical context, while reminding us the ACLU reports 515 pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation are under consideration around the U.S. You may remember two years ago Florida's Governor proudly signed legislation dubbed as the "Don't Say Gay" law.

Another example are Oklahoma lawmakers, who, earlier this year, introduced over 50 bills targeting the LGBTQ+ community. One bill, according to an Oklahoman article, penalized public school employees for asking a student their pronouns. Meanwhile, the state's chief education officer is now requiring all schools to incorporate the Bible and the Ten Commandments into curriculum.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kevin Croom                      Jonathon Misner  
 Sylvia Pittman                    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**  
**JULY 1 - 7**



July 1	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
July 2	Tue	10:00am	Food Distribution
July 3	Wed		
July 4	Thu	<b>HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!</b>	
July 5	Fri		
July 6	Sat		
July 7	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 "Personhood"



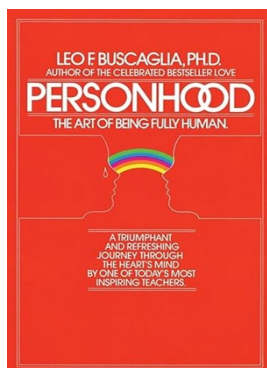
Next Sunday we begin a new series based, in large part, on *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*, by Leo Buscaglia, PhD.

We often talk about salvation as beginning with spiritual rebirth. More importantly, the results of spiritual rebirth is seen by others as we change our focus from ourselves to others.

A downside emerges when our enthusiasm results in losing ourselves. However, while Jesus often asks us to leave our baggage behind, He never asks us to leave who we are behind.

Page 5

## Book Club News



We finish our current worship series, *Doubt*, on Sunday June 23. We were guided along the way by Adam Hamilton's book, *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*.

*Being Fully Human*, by Leo Buscaglia, PhD.

Felice Leonardo Buscaglia (March 31, 1924 – June 12, 1998) spent his early childhood in Aosta, Italy, according to Wikipedia. But as an adult, he was known as "Dr. Love."

Education at the University of Southern California.

The Professor was known for introducing himself on elevators. With his back to the door he would say something like, "This might be the only chance I'll ever get to meet you and I don't want to miss this chance."

Our companion book for our new worship series beginning on Sunday, June 30, is *Personhood: The Art of*

Professor Buscaglia earned this title by his passion for offering insight to others as an author, motivational speaker, and professor in the Department of Special

In *Personhood*, Buscaglia offers an historic view of the ethical principles guiding our common humanity. He emphasizes our individual responsibilities, through our own uniqueness, for completing our contribution to a vast universal tapestry. The full actualization of the world depends on yours and my self-actualization. Therefore, the challenge facing all of us is to work at being fully human.

## Asbury Staff

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Kevin Croom	Executive Director/CDC
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	Sr Prog Mgr Local Foods
Terry Kinze	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

Page 11

## Upcoming Worship Series — “Personhood” ..

Dr. Buscaglia’s life passion was for all of humanity to reach our full potential of personhood. Because of his focus and training, the context he knew was psychological science. The foundational understanding for much of his view of humanity came from the works of Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs.

Buscaglia writes in his book’s forward:

Loren Eiseley describes our world as a place “where even a spider refuses to lie down and die if a rope can still be spun to a star.” Like the spider, there are those of us who refuse to stop spinning, even when it would appear to be far more sophisticated to be without hope. Our rope, though perhaps frail, can still be spun with optimism, curiosity, wonder, love and the sincere desire to share a trip to the stars. Our goal is worth the struggle, for in this case, the star to which we aspire is full humanity for all.

My context comes from my knowledge and passion for following Jesus Christ. My own experience of rebirth is direct correlation between spiritual awareness and self-actualization.

*No one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again ...*

John 3:3

Our theme text for this series comes from the 3rd chapter of John’s Gospel which begins with the story of Nicodemus. He is confused when Jesus begins their conversation with the idea of spiritual rebirth.

Likewise, I’m guessing that most persons are confused by the idea of self-actualization.

Here is the outline if you want to read the chapters from our companion book, as we progress through our series:

June 30	Chapters Intro-I
July 7	Chapter II
July 14	Chapter III
July 21	Chapter IV (through Connectiveness)
July 28	Chapter IV & V

I pray that you will join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We share our weekly episodes on [Facebook](#) and 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 [FlintAsburyChurch.org](http://FlintAsburyChurch.org).


Pastor Tommy

Leo Buscaglia. *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*. NY: Random House, 1986.

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

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS & MORE:**

Jesus placed His hands on her, and at once she straightened herself up and praised God.

Luke 13:10-17

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

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**QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:**

1. Read Luke 13:10-17. In what ways can you identify with the bent over woman? The crowds? The officials?
2. Read this week's articles titled Seeing ahead. What are some areas where you're bent over and unable to see ahead? What does self-actualization mean for you? What needs do you have that aren't being met? What are you doing to satisfy those needs?
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.





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)



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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

We'll have a limited number of copies of *Personhood*. But copies are available through most book retailers and libraries. The price on Amazon as of the publication of this article is \$13.99 for paperback, published in 1986. Used copies are available for under \$10.00. The original hardcover, published 10 years earlier sells for just over \$6.00.

Here is the schedule of chapters for our *Human Series*:

June 30	Chapters Intro-I
July 7	Chapter II
July 14	Chapter III
July 21	Chapter IV (through Connectiveness)
July 28	Chapter IV & V

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. You can 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

Leo Buscaglia. *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*. NY: Random House, 1986.

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)

So, who's at fault here? Does God break promises?

First, who's at fault depends on the circumstances. There is no doubt humans are responsible for a great deal of suffering. The most obvious example is climate change. The suffering caused by climate change is the fault of human unwillingness to manage our planet as God intended.

Isn't it interesting that Satan quotes Psalm 91 to Jesus while coaxing Him to jump off the top of the temple? Of course, Jesus didn't fall for it. And neither should we.

Last week, our message lead us to the harmony found in pray and work. Instead of treating prayer like an order for what we want, we use the gifts and capacities God provides to do the work needed to meet our desires.

The obvious answer to climate change is to adjust our lifestyle to reduce our carbon footprint. Of course, frustration comes when we realize one person changing isn't enough. But it's a start. And voting for candidates running for public office with track records and promises to work for legislation that broadens our collective impact is another monumental step.

But not all suffering comes from climate change, nor is all suffering directly caused by human failure. However, suffering, because of climate change, is echoed with daily news reports of record-breaking temperatures, rainfall, violent storms and massive fires.

Health concerns rank near the top in causing suffering. Of course, climate change also negatively affects our health. According to Priya Joi, a science journalist, climate change directly affects our health. Her list includes: greater spread of insect-borne diseases, water and food scarcity, poor air quality, displacement and migration and mental health.

I have no doubt that our failure to care for our planet is sin. I also believe God isn't punishing us with bigger and badder storms. But God isn't shielding us from the consequences of our actions.

Hamilton writes, "Every act of unkindness, neglect, abuse, and violence; every act of cruelty and inhumanity and every war is a reflection of our brokenness and sin as human beings, and the failure of our rule over this planet God has given."

Unkindness, neglect, abuse and violence all create suffering. War, in particular, causes vast suffering. None of this is part of God's plan for us. Rather, the fault is human failure to live as God intended.

Louisiana shocked the nation by passing legislation requiring that schools post the Ten Commandments in every classroom. The arguments for this action vary, as do the arguments against. Displays must include language that the commandments were a part of classroom curriculum for three centuries.

*We will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.*

Genesis 1:20-31

As I read the articles and listen to the proponents explain their justification I'm skeptical. How about posters to promote care of our planet instead? Obviously, three centuries of focus wasn't effective for our generation of leaders.

But on this topic, Hamilton points us to number 3 on the list that's often obscured by common interpretation. I grew up with the belief that God did not want us to curse and that using God's name for impact was strictly forbidden. While God may feel this way and this may be a good idea, it's important not to miss the bigger picture.

The Good News Translation translates the Hebrew text this way: "Do not use God's name for evil purposes." When we blame God for human acts that cause suffering for others, we're on the wrong side of this directive.

Of course, natural disasters occurred before the damage accumulated enough to change our climate, but with less frequency. And humans don't cause every storm. Nor are earthquakes the result of human failure. Some suffering happens when there's simply no one to blame.

For example, the complexity of our individual existence is mind-boggling, as 30 trillion cells work cooperatively to sustain life as we know it. It's no wonder that breakdowns happen. And most of the time, our bodies adapt, fight off infections and restore order.

However, sometimes a damaged cell replicates and cancer emerges. Fortunately, medical science continues to discover ways to assist our bodies with healing. A lot of human suffering comes because of health concerns that may not be directly attributable to anything we did or didn't do.

Nevertheless, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that cancer is oftentimes the result of human abuse of our planet's resources and our bodies.

Our bodies are not indestructible and were not built to last forever. But our souls do.

And this is where our series on doubt begins and ends. God promises to be with us through it all and forever. Matthew tells us the birth of Jesus fulfilled the promise God made through the prophet Isaiah that a son will be born and named Immanuel, or "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is God living among us.

God's Spirit is present everywhere and always. So even though suffering comes, it is never the last word. Jesus lived, died and lives again. Death is not the last word. God lives on and so do we. Amen.

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).

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Pastor Tommy

Parts of our series was inspired by Adam Hamilton. *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*. Nashville: Abington Press, 2023.

Priya Joi. "Five key links between climate change and health." © Priya Joi, March 22, 2023. Retrieved from: [link](#)

What a difficult predicament lawmakers in Oklahoma created. The Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction argued teaching the Bible is necessary “to have an understanding of the basis of our legal system.” If this is true, then enacting laws that discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community is inconsistent with our basis of law.

This is what it means to be bent over. These are examples of the sort of evil spirits that cause us to walk bent over and unable to see ahead.

Luke tells us that when Jesus placed His hands on the bent over woman, at once she straightened herself up and praised God.

Jesus did more than heal the woman’s physical condition. Jesus restored her potential to be the person God created her to be. The woman arrived at church that day with some of her most basic physical needs unfulfilled. But she left church free to pursue her need for self-actualization. She rejoined her community with new insights into God, herself, and the world around her.

Luke does not tell us what happened next. We can fill in the blanks with our own story. What comes next for us when we’re able to be all that God created us to be?

*Jesus placed His hands on her, and at once she straightened herself up and praised God.*

Luke 13:13

In our companion book for this series, Leo Buscaglia reminds us, “We can choose to be born again at any time and accept the challenge of the selves we have yet to meet.”

But he also warns us we’ll face pressure to conform to the needs of others. And pressure to conform as others try to squeeze us into their narrow mold. A mold created by the visions of bent over persons.

In his book, Buscaglia writes, “We usually discover that the emotional impotence, apathy, and the lack of understanding and resistance to change we see in others is really our own... We are they. We create our own private trap and are blind to the fact that it is of our own making.”

As we conclude the celebration of Pride Month. Let us praise God for each other’s uniqueness. And may God place His hands on us so we also can see ahead.

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).

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Pastor Tommy

Parts of our series was inspired by Leo Buscaglia. *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*. NY: Random House, 1986. Kendra Cherry, MEd. Reviewed by David Susman, PhD. “Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs.” © VeryWellMind, April 02, 2024. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Andrea Wurzbarger and James Mercadante. “Everything You Need to Know About Pride Month.” © People Magazine, June 5, 2024. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Alexia Aston. “Oklahoma legislature considering over 50 bills targeting LGBTQ+ issues. What do they say?” © Oklahoman, April 26, 2024. [Link](#)



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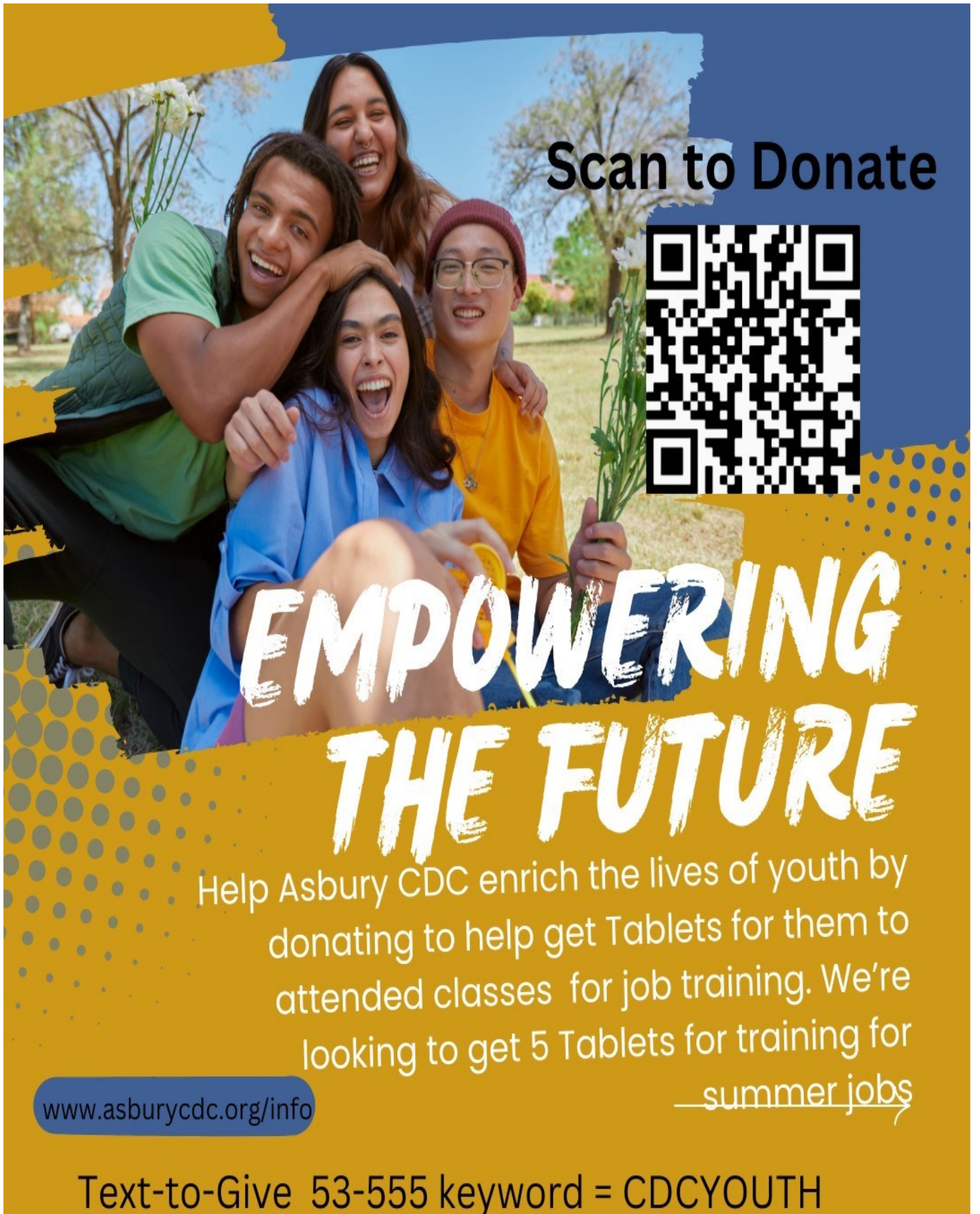
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Help Asbury CDC enrich the lives of youth by donating to help get Tablets for them to attended classes for job training. We're looking to get 5 Tablets for training for summer jobs

[www.asburycdc.org/info](http://www.asburycdc.org/info)

Text-to-Give 53-555 keyword = CDCYOUTH

Flint Asbury Community Development Corporation

# South Flint Soup Kitchen

3410 Fenton Rd. Flint, MI 48507

Meet up

Eat up!



Ages  
0-18

Mon - Weds - Friday

**Breakfast**

9-10am

June 17 - Aug 30

**Lunch**

12-1pm

[www.SouthFlintSoupKitchen.org](http://www.SouthFlintSoupKitchen.org)  
[www.FlintAsburyCDC.org](http://www.FlintAsburyCDC.org)



# MEET UP and EAT UP!!

Healthy food to fuel your  
summer... Free!

Served at: Asbury UMC 1653 Davison Rd Flint

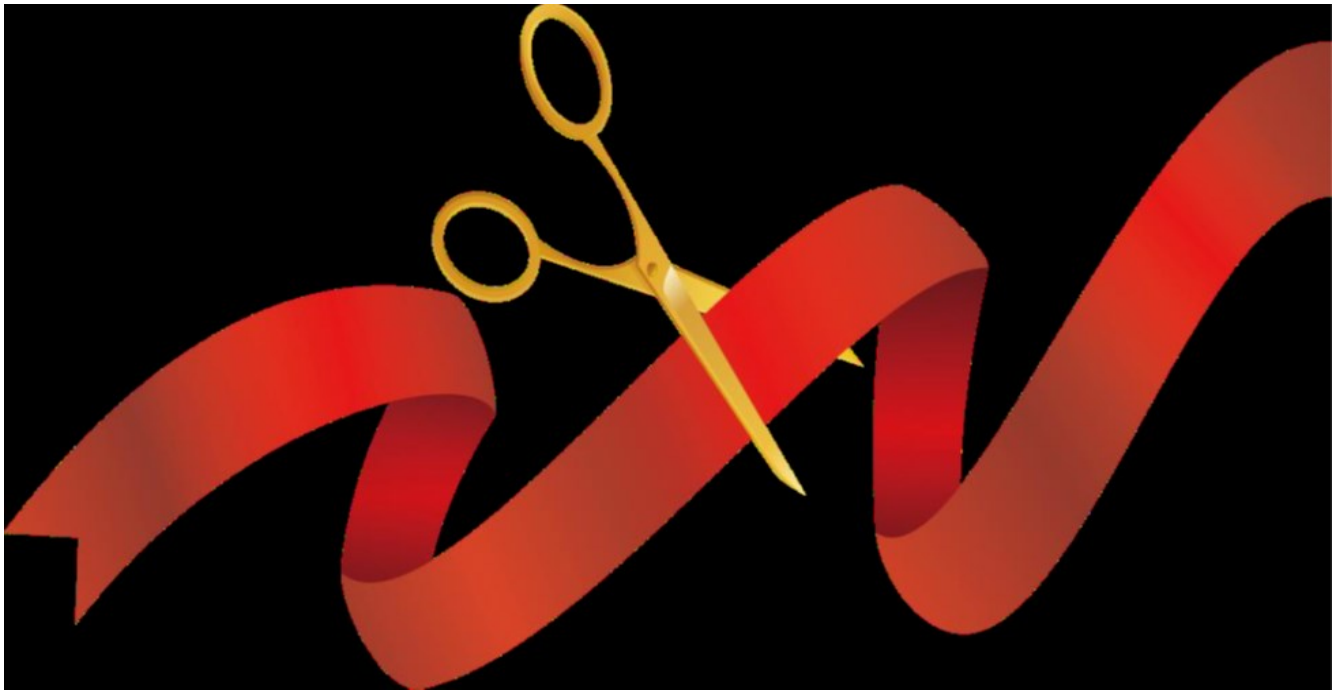
When: Summer 2024

Meals: Breakfast 8:30am—9:30am

Lunch 12Noon-1:00pm

Days meals are served: Monday—Friday

For more information: (810) 235-0016



## ***Southside Community Resource Hub***

***3410 Fenton Rd***

***Flint, MI 48507***

***Work: 810-239-3427***

***Cell: 810-347-6633***

***You're invited***

***July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024***

***10 am - 1pm***

***Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on the location of my new business.***

***For more info: Contact Tyonna McIntyre-Owner***