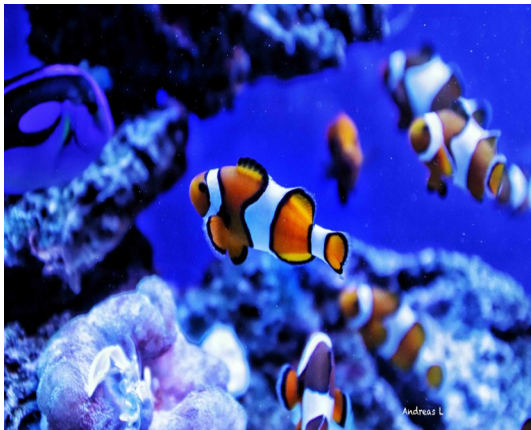


ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 7

Finding Nemo (Life's seasons)



In the beloved animation, Finding Nemo, released by Pixar Animation Studios in 2003, a worried and over-protective father, Marlin, searches for his lost son. As the movie begins, Marlin and his wife, Coral, are anxiously awaiting the hatching of their family.

However, a hungry Barracuda shatters their dreams.

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

JULY 7, 2024

**EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
WEEK!!**

DONATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Suffering	1
Finding Nemo	1
Finding Nemo	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
Finding Nemo	15
Kroger Community Rewards	16
Empowering the Future—CDC	17

When Marlin regains consciousness, Coral and all the eggs are gone but one. Marlin vows to not let anything happen to his only son, Nemo. Unfortunately, Nemo needs independence to find himself, adding tension between child and parent. On his first day of school, an amateur scuba diver who is happy to add a colorful clown fish to his collection captures Nemo. Nemo joins the other creatures in a saltwater tank in the office of his captor.

Much of the movie involves Marlin's search for Nemo aided by Dory, an exotic blue tang who frequently suffers from short-term memory loss.

Unlike fish and other animals which race from egg to adulthood in days, week or months, humans required years of nurture, oversight and constant care before finally reaching adulthood. But in our companion book for this series, Leo Buscaglia writes, "The adult with a capacity for true maturity is one who has grown out of childhood without losing childhood's best traits."

So what are childhood's best traits?

My favorite is curiosity. Few things escape a child's attention. Admittedly, as an adult, curiosity doesn't take away control without our permission. Children, on the other hand, have little control.

According to Matthew, Jesus said we need to be child-like. Here, Jesus isn't talking so much about child-like curiosity. Rather, the focus is on child-like dependence and innocence. As children depend on their caregivers for life's necessities, so we need to recognize we're just as dependent. Perhaps childhood's best trait is their child-like humility.

In this week's chapter from our companion book, Buscaglia takes us through five seasons of maturation common to all humans. Within each season, we either satisfy our search for self-actualization or miss out on great treasure.

Households everywhere witness the repetition of Nemo's adolescent curiosity. Adolescence is a season of struggle as we realize our dependence restricts our need to search for who God created us to be. Their search usually puts teenagers on a collision course with adults. Particularly adults who are unsure of their own identity.

I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

But when Nemo freed himself and reunited with his father, Marlin no longer saw him as an awkward adolescent. His son proved his abilities to take care of himself. Marlin matured. Just as important, Nemo returns to school with a new understanding of the world around him gained by curiosity.

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 8 - 14



July 8	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
July 9	Tue	10:00am	Food Distribution
July 10	Wed		
July 11	Thu	1:00pm	United Women in Faith
July 12	Fri		
July 13	Sat		
July 14	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"

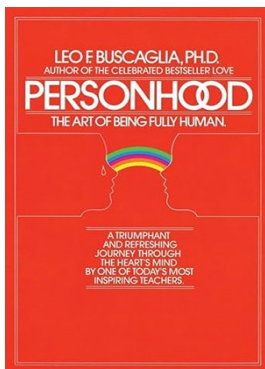


Next Sunday we begin a new series based, in large part, on *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*, by Leo Buscaglia, PhD.

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.

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

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
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

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.


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

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS & MORE:

I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:1- 7

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

1. Read Matthew 18:1-7. What child-like attributes do you believe Jesus wants adults to have? Why?
2. Read this week's articles titled Finding Nemo. What attributes found in children are your favorites? Which season of life are you experiencing? Are you finding yourself? Where are you looking? What does maturity look like for you?
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

To donate: 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

- 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.

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

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

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 led 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.

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 FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com 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

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](#)

Buscaglia describes the “fully functioning mature person” as an adult who sees life as “a series of choices, the selection of which they must determine, and for which they are singularly responsible.”

However, humans don't flourish in isolation. We seek companionship.

Humans look to others for validation and continued growth. But it is important that intimate relationships combine strengths and energies with other mature persons to assure the continued growth towards the maturity of each partner.

This is because maturity is a process that never quite ends. A continuing journey that takes us from total dependence on others for choices, to independence, where we make choices. And life holds us accountable even when it may look like we are getting away unaffected.

Sometimes life's adventures take us to places where we are held captive. But each moment offers new choices to claim freedom from allowing others to infect our joy. This axiom holds, even amid intimacy with another person.

And our journey towards maturity continues even after we reach that point where we realize that our days ahead are much fewer than our years. Often referred to as the circle of life, our physical presence draws to a close.

But life isn't over. Jesus promised that our child-like curiosity never has to end. Jesus promised to return for us to spend eternity maturing in His presence.

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 FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com 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

Parts of our series was inspired by Leo Buscaglia. *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*. NY: Random House, 1986. *Finding Nemo*. © Pixar Animation Studios, 2003



**community
rewards**



**Where shopping and giving
come together and you can help!**

Learn more at

KrogerCommunityRewards.com
Or, call Kroger Customer Communications at

**1-800-KROGERS, (576-4377)
OPTION #3**



Eligible Organizations

Kroger Community Rewards is open to organizations that are tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Participants include school groups, churches and synagogues, youth sports, food banks, animal support groups and many others. Kroger does not make donations to individuals.

Get your favorite local organization

enrolled

today! Enrollment applications can be downloaded at Kroger.com

**The Kroger
Community Rewards
Program is designed to be
the easiest fund-raising
program in town! Simply
swipe your Plus Card and
earn rewards!**

**ZERO
HUNGER
ZERO
WASTE**

by **Kroger**

**Add the South Flint
Soup Kitchen to your
Kroger Rewards Card
and Help Feed Flint**

**We're giving
\$2 million**

to local area non profits

Use your Kroger Plus Card
and earn rewards for your
favorite organization.

**Where shopping and giving
come together and you can help!**



Scan to Donate



EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

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

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
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

For more info: Contact Tyonna McIntyre-Owner

FOOD GIVE AWAY

FREE

UPCOMING
DATES

July 19

Aug. 21

Sept 18

Oct. 16

Nov. 20

Dec. 18

SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN

southflintsoupkitchen.org

FROM 9 AM UNTIL GONE!





LIVING WATERS UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IS HOSTING A FLEA MARKET!!

WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 27TH 11AM TILL 2PM

WHERE: CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2111 FLUSHING RD FLINT

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US! THERE WILL BE ALL SORTS OF ITEMS TO HOUSE
FROM INCLUDING: CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOTE BAGS, SHOES, JEWELRY, HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS AND MORE ...

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT THE FRANKLIN AVENUE MISSION.

TABLE RENTALS ARE \$20, AND YOU CAN RESERVE ONE BY JULY 20TH AT 810-394-2755.

