

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 14

JULY 14, 2024

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.

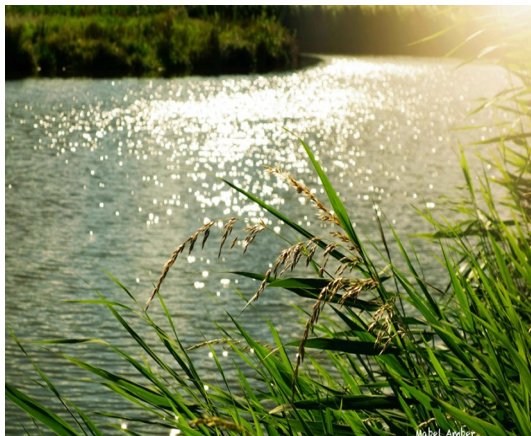
However, a hungry Barracuda shatters their dreams.

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**EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
WEEK!!**

DONATE

Ways (Like a river)



According to the National Geographic Society, "A river is a ribbon-like body of water that flows downhill from the force of gravity." There are over three million rivers in the world, according to the US Geological Survey. And each river carves its own

path towards its destination, pulled by the same invisible force that makes life on earth possible.

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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 are 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 15 - 21



July 15	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
		6:00pm	Leadership Team
July 16	Tue	10:00am	Food Distribution
July 17	Wed	11am-1pm	Angel Closet at South Flint Soup Kitchen
July 18	Thu		
July 19	Fri	8:30-till gone	Food Distribution at SFSK
July 20	Sat		
July 21	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"



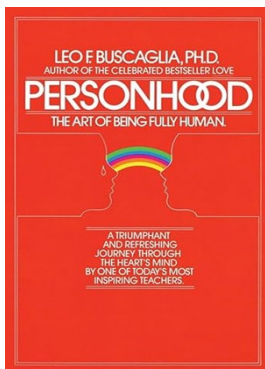
Next Sunday we begin a new series based, in large part, on *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*, by Leo Buscaglia, PhD.

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.

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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*.

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

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."

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.

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Leadership in Worship & Service

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

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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:

Which one acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robber? The one who was kind to him. Go and do the same.

Luke 10:25-37

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

Five horizontal lines for taking notes.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

- 1. Read Luke 10:25-37. Are you familiar with this story? Any surprises when you read it this time? What stands out for you? How does Jesus connect His story to eternal life?
2. Read this week's articles titled Ways. What experiences have you had interacting with persons of different religions? Are you able to tell their Way by watching what they do? What about your Way? How do your actions reflect your beliefs?
3. How can the members of your group help you this week and ongoing 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



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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

The writer of Ecclesiastes makes the claim, "Every river flows into the sea, but the sea is not yet full. The water returns to where the rivers began, and starts all over again." Which isn't technically true. But, as a metaphor, rivers get the writer's point across that history repeats itself.

However, rivers also illustrate fluid change. Since the water flows toward the sea, each time you enter the river, you're in different water.

People often describe differing religions as rivers, with each one flowing toward a common destination. Our comparison suggests a subtle, yet undeniable pull, outside of human control, to which all are affected. Most rivers flow to the sea, but not all. Nevertheless, this common idea symbolizes the commonality shared by different religions.

Rivers also have special meaning in religions. Because Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, no trip to the Holy Land is complete unless one visits the Jordan to reenact our baptism. For Hindus, the Ganges River is personified by a goddess, Ganga Ma. And is thought to be a purifier of sins and granter of salvation. For Buddhists, rivers serve as metaphors for the path to enlightenment. And since the Mekong River flows through multiple Southeast Asia countries, it is a source of life and a path that connects various Buddhist communities.

And religions offer a path. A Way towards a destination.

Taoism is one of several ancient religions that either explicitly or implicitly offer its followers a prescription for living known as "the Way." Taoism was founded by Lao Tzu who described the way in a rather short book of scripture sometime around the 3rd or 4th century. The Way is described in less than 6000 words. Taoists oppose violence, oppression and power.

Confucianism, founded around 550 BCE, offered no formulas for humanity or divine commandments focusing instead on tangible, day-to-day activities, complexities and dilemmas of life. One of its axioms says simply, "What you do not wish others should do unto you, do not do unto them." Confucianists pursue their role in ordering and harmonizing the world.

Around the same time as Confucius lived in China, in India, Prince Siddhartha Gautama left behind great wealth and power on a quest to eliminate suffering. Followers live by a moderate, but comprehensive and practical system of ethics known as the "Middle Path." The goal of Buddhists is to achieve harmony with the ultimate Oneness.

Followers of the ancient religion Hindu strive for truth, goodness, and righteousness. And their scriptures offer a way for followers to live in harmony with the world and others.

Mohammed lived by example, a life exemplifying justice and charity. His revelation, compiled into the Koran, offers a way that calls for Muslims to offer hospitality and show kindness and respect to others. Followers experience a deep feeling of community.

The Way adopted by Hebrews profoundly influenced Islam and Christianity. Followers of Judaism seek to create a happier world for all towards a divine unity where each person has freedom of choice and is, therefore, solely responsible for wrong choices, misdeeds transgressions and loss of self.

These are just a few of the observations made by Leo Buscaglia in this week's chapter from our companion book. Neither of us dare think we can speak about what others believe without risking misrepresentation. Our observations are from a distance, so any comparisons are void of nuances that differentiate one worldview from another.

Nevertheless, we expect common threads since all religions are rooted in a human interpretation of the mysterious power that binds humanity together and explains our origins and the expectations of the God who created us. As such, each religion offers a way of life that recognizes our humanness and desperate need to know ourselves and to be all that we can be. *Page 14*

According to Luke, one day Jesus was asked by an expert on interpreting scripture about the Way to eternal life. Jesus responded with a question. "How do you interpret what scriptures tell us?" The expert quickly answered by quoting text. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind", the man said and, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Which one acted like a neighbor towards the man attacked by the robbers? The one who was kind to him. Go and do the same.

Luke 10:36-37

This expert knew the scriptures upon which followers of Judaism look to for their Way. He had this in common with Jesus, who acknowledged He agreed with the expert's answer that comes from two different places in scripture.

Luke tells us the expert was testing Jesus. After all, he already knew what he believed, but wanted to know what Jesus believed. What did they have in common? Perhaps Jesus knew the expert's question was meant to challenge Him. To draw out whatever discrepancy, no matter how insignificant, that existed between their respective worldviews.

If Jesus was annoyed, His words didn't show it. Instead, Jesus told the man, in front of all present, "Good answer," And Jesus encouraged the man to go and do what he said he believed.

But Luke's story doesn't end there. The expert responded with another question. "Who is my neighbor?" he asked. Who are my people, my neighbors? Which others are included in the group I'm to love as much as I love myself?

Jesus tells a story to illustrate. A man is robbed and left dying from his injuries. It's understood the injured man was one of them because he was traveling from Jerusalem. Two people walked by, crossing to the other side of the road. They belonged to the same religious group as the expert. They shared the same religious beliefs. They followed the same way. And both passed by the person in desperate need.

Jesus then says a Samaritan stops and helps the man. Hold on! Samaritans are the other. In fact, they're among the worse other. They believe different things, worship differently, and don't do good deeds for people from Jerusalem.

Jesus didn't seem to care what the Samaritan believed. He focused on what the Samaritan did for the person in need.

In fact, actions dominate this story. The expert's question was about what he needs to do. Not what he believes. And who is

included in his circle? So Jesus tells a story illustrating that beliefs only matter when put into action.

As Christians, we believe Jesus is the Way to eternal life. And that this is all that's needed for salvation. Hold on! If this is true, and I believe Jesus is the Way, why wasn't Jesus worried about what the Samaritan in His story believed?

Because, while beliefs matter, without action, beliefs are simply theory at best and likely a sign we're lying to ourselves and others. To believe in Jesus is to model our lives after Jesus.

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](#).

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Pastor Tommy

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.

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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. *Finding Nemo*. © Pixar Animation Studios, 2003



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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



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Healthy food to fuel your
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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

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