

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 28

JULY 28, 2024

Love (Do unto others)



In our last episode, we briefly looked at several world religions. In our abbreviated tour, we discovered a version of the golden rule weaves a common thread among the major world religions, as does a shared idea for what it means to be human.

Page 2

**EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
WEEK!!**

DONATE

Roles (Seed Scatterers)



I have noticed our dogs often have little seeds clinging to their fur this time of year. One or more of the plants they came in contact with used them as carriers to scatter their seed to other places and expand their prodigy.

We're all seed scatterers and pollinators simply by exploring the world around us.

Plants use us as couriers to take their potential prodigy to new destinations. Hopefully, to places where nutrients and water are abundant. This is who they are and what God intended for them.

Page 13

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Roles	1
Love	1
Love	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
Roles	13
Roles	14
Love	15
Kroger Community Rewards	16
Empowering the Future—CDC	17

Love (Do unto others) *cont. from pg 1*

In this episode, we focus our attention on Christian ideas of what it means to be human. Like other religions, love of self and others plays a central role in Christian ideals. Leo Buscaglia writes, "There are no strings attached to Christian love." God's love is unconditional and so must our love be if we truly model our lives after Jesus.

Christianity differs from other religions in one very dramatic way. We believe God lived among us fully human. And we strive to model our own lives after His example. This means being human for Christians is to reflect God's image in the daily choices we make.

One does not have to believe Jesus is God in order to model your life after Him. But without God's help it is impossible to reach such high standards for loving others. It is only through God's grace that we recognize Jesus is our Way to eternal life.

Unconditional love forms the foundation for the Way Jesus offers for eternal life. We're called to love God and others unconditionally. And Jesus offers a living demonstration of unconditional love.

We began our series with the question, "What does it mean to be human?" And discovered a state of humanness psychologists call self-actualization. Simply be the best version of ourselves we can be.

This does sound simple, so what doesn't it happen for more of us? And what does love have in common with self-actualization?

Leo Buscaglia suggested this addition to loving others as we love ourselves. "Give unto God and the world all that you are and all that you can be." We enter the world eager to be the best version of ourselves, totally dependent on love for survival and ready to discover all that's out there to love.

Then life gets in the way. We get hurt, and our humanness takes over, beginning with our instinct for survival. Perhaps we touch a hot pan, recoil and store away for daily use to not touch hot pans. Since the pan is inanimate, it can't love us back. And the hurt came out of our own action. It's a learning experience. We heal and only occasionally forget and repeat our mistake.

More often, our burn isn't physical, but emotional, and comes from other humans. Sometimes, harsh words from someone we love wounds us. Sometimes, the hurt includes physical harm. The scars left behind may not always be visible to others. And others feel the impact of the wound, usually without understanding its source. They too may feel wounded or rejected by us.

Here in lies the problem. Humans naturally tie strings to love driven, at least in part, by our own desire to be loved. And life experiences point us toward love qualified by exchange. Quid pro quo. I'll love you if... And this simply doesn't work as well as we might think.

Let us love one another; because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:7-12

IN OUR PRAYERS

Virginia Bigger
 Sylvia Pittman
 Mirium Watson
 Jonathon Misner
 Terrance Williams



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
 HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Dean Lamoreaux
 Norma Buzzard
 Nancy Elston



COMING UP THIS WEEK
JULY 29 - AUGUST 4



July 29	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
July 30	Tue	10:00am	Food Distribution
July 31	Wed		
Aug 1	Thu		
Aug 2	Fri		
Aug 3	Sat		
Aug 4	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"

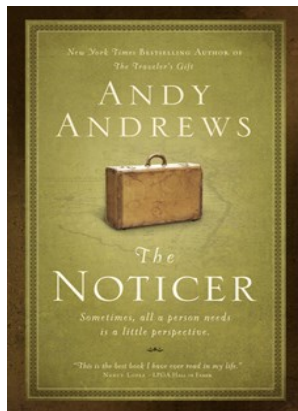


Next Sunday we begin a new series based, in large part, on *Personhood: The Art of Being Fully Human*, by Leo Buscaglia, PhD.

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, *Human*, on Sunday July 28. Leo Buscaglia's book *Personhood* guided along the way.

August 4, is *The Noticer* by Andy Andrews..

Andy Andrews is the author of multiple New York Times bestsellers, including *The Traveler's Gift* and *The Noticer*. He is also an in-demand speaker, coach, and consultant for the world's largest organizations. ABC's Good Morning America featured *The Noticer*, and this popular book appeared on bestseller lists around the world after being translated into over 40 languages.

The Noticer is a story about common wisdom based on real people. Jones is a mysterious old man who has a knack for showing up in people's lives at just the right time. Each time, providing priceless lessons about love, life, and the importance of perspective.

The setting is Orange Beach, Alabama. It is an ordinary town filled with ordinary people. Which means like all humans on the planet, they have their share of problems. Ordinary problems like marriages teetering on the brink of divorce, young adults giving up on life, businesspeople on the verge of bankruptcy, as well as the many other obstacles that life seems to dish out to ordinary folks.

Our companion book for our new worship series beginning on Sunday,

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 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:

Jesus got up and gave an order to the wind and to the stormy water; they quieted down, and there was a great calm...Who is this man who gives orders to the winds and waves, and they obey him!

Luke 8:24-25

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

Five horizontal lines for taking notes.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

- 1. Read Luke 8:24-25. What storms do you anticipate going through in the future? Are you going through any now? What are you hoping God does for you now or later?
2. Read this week's articles titled Roles. What are some of the roles that you have? In what ways do your roles affect your identity? Which roles are the most important to you? Which roles are the most authentic for you? Are they the same or different?
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

Life's difficulties often seem impossible to overcome. But Jones has a gift for seeing what others miss. This includes the wisdom that there is no such thing as a dead end. More often, problems only take a little perspective in order to recognize the miracles in our moments. Our struggles hide the seeds of greatness.

Jones has a knack for showing up when things look darkest. Jones is a mysterious, elderly man with white hair, always carrying a battered old suitcase. "Your time on this earth is a gift to be used wisely," he says. "Don't squander your words or your thoughts. Consider even the simplest action you take, for your lives matter beyond measure...and they matter forever."

Based on a remarkable true story, *The Noticer* blends fiction and allegory in an entertaining and inspiring guide for a better way.

We have a limited number of books. But both new and used copies are available through most book retailers and libraries. The price on Amazon as of the publication of this article is \$11.49 for a new paperback. Used copies are available for less.

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

August 4	Chapters 1 & 2
August 11	Chapters 3 & 4
August 18	Chapters 5 & 6
August 25	Chapters 7 & 8
Sept 1	Chapters 9 & 10

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

Andy Andrews. *The Noticer: Sometimes, all a person needs is a little perspective*. Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2011.

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

Like bees, butterflies and pets, "We, too, gather the pollen on our clothes and unsuspectingly carry the plant to spread its life beauty to new uncharted areas," writes Leo Buscaglia in this week's chapter from our companion book for this series.

Seed scatterers is just one of many roles creatures have. Each role comes out of our identity. A combination of how we see ourselves and how we're seen by others. Mother, sister, aunt, father, brother, uncle are just a few common roles. Husband, partner, companion, friend and more. Some roles presume an intimacy with others. Some roles, not so much. But all require some level of connectedness.

Each role comes with expectations. Plants hope we will dust off our clothes in an area where their seeds or pollen can do what it was created to do. Friends want us to be the sort of friend they hope for. Employers want us to be good at our job.

But, Leo Buscaglia warns us, "We cannot always be what others want us to be, for what they want may not be what we are and that is all that we have. It is often easier for us to become what others desire, but in so doing, we relinquish our dreams, abandon our hopes, and ignore our needs. This leaves us feeling abandoned, weakened and impotent, without a genuine self."

We're each born with a basic human right to be whom God created us to be. While this right is sacred, it is too often not given its intended respect. Instead, we give into pressure to be who others want us to be, participating in roles that further shape us.

Life experiences leave a mark on us but need not mar our identity. Buscaglia reminds us we choose how we respond. "We cannot stop a hurricane, silence a storm, or keep a loved one from leaving us. But it is our response and reaction to these catastrophic experiences that will determine whether we will continue to survive and grow toward becoming a fully functioning person."

Being a fully functioning person isn't a burden we begrudgingly bear or a privilege we choose, among other important priorities. Instead, life is experienced. And while God blesses us with memories, they make poor substitutes for life as it happens. Right now is life's greatest gift.

Luke tells a story about a time when Jesus was sleeping in a boat while His friends panicked. A sudden storm was tossing their boat and water was pouring in over the sides. Waking up the sleeping Jesus, they exclaimed, "We are all going to die!"

In Mark's telling of the story His friends add in their time to desperation, "Don't you care?"

Jesus got up and gave an order to the wind and to the stormy water; they quieted down, and there was a great calm... who is this man who gives orders to the winds and waves, and they obey him!

Luke 8:24-25

I have been there and I'm guessing you have been there too. A time when something bad is happening, a place where you felt vulnerable. But if you're reading this, you're still with us. Perhaps bruised and still limping from whatever catastrophe that nearly took you away.

Life can seem so uncertain, and it often is. But isn't it the uncertainty that helps us to experience life as it comes? The past doesn't reoccur, and the future is uncertain. Both are versions of stories that are never quite reality. But this moment is real.

Buscaglia reminds us, "Even the most insignificant act we perform will have some effect upon the world." Of course, humanity has a profound impact on our planet and we experience this impact through almost unpredictable weather events. But these are changes created by the collective. As such, our individual acts aren't really visible.

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.

Love is an act of free will. We are given the freedom to make choices, including choosing who we love. However, as Christians, in modeling our lives after Jesus, we strive to make decisions according to God's will.

Jesus tells us unconditional love extends beyond those who love us back, including our enemies. Including persons who have done us harm. This includes those with whom we disagree and even those whom we firmly believe are inconsistent with God's will.

This sort of love is hard, but conditional love is not God's intent. Scripture is clear. God is love. Also, God wants us to love ourselves unconditionally. And this is one place where self-actualization is critical.

Our best self is being the best version of ourselves. The version reflecting God's image. And we reflect God's image when our love shows through.

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.



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**



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

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

**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

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!





Dear Friends in Christ in the Michigan Conference:

Shocked and saddened by the shooting at a political rally for former President and current presidential candidate Donald Trump, where one attendee was killed, the shooter was also killed, many were injured, including the former president, and many more were traumatized, I issued a brief statement inviting prayer and a renewed commitment to ending violence and nurturing peace.

Many expressed appreciation for the statement. Others raised concerns. In the statement, I referred to former President Trump three times, but in the final sentence, I dropped the adjective “former.” This was an error in proper usage, for which I take responsibility and apologize. What breaks my heart is that some read this phrase in a way that incites further political threats and violence. While I have heard former presidents also referred to as “President,” this is technically incorrect usage. In our current political environment, some consider this a statement about the legitimacy of the current president. Let me be crystal clear. We have one current president running for reelection and one former president who is also candidate for president.

In this deeply divisive time, I not only hear Jesus call for us to be peacemakers and to hunger and thirst for righteousness, but I also hear his words, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” The logic of Jesus’ words — love and pray — equally applies to opponents. Where are we as a church if we cannot pray for those with whom we have strong disagreements? I have often disagreed with the policies and pronouncements of various administrations and have offered public statements about this. I do not think I can offer moral critique if I cannot also pray when an act of violence endangers a politician’s life.

I continue to invite prayer for our nation, prayer for all affected by this heinous shooting, and a deepened commitment, in the name and spirit of Jesus, to kindness and peacefulness while we also strive toward justice and beloved community.

Grace and Peace,

David Alan Bard, Michigan Area Bishop