

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 18

AUGUST 18, 2024

Wisdom (God's Preferences)



Chapter 5, in our companion book, is about wisdom. In particular, the wisdom of choosing a life partner. Jones tells a group of young adults how they can tell a lot about a person by the “leaves” they drop. Jones uses leaf as a metaphor for clues offering insight into a person’s likes and dislikes.

“Wisdom can be gathered in your downtime,” Jones tells the curious listeners gathered around him at the local golf course. *Page 2*

Gratitude (Reducing worry)



Walker Miles teetered on an edge between hope and depression. But his hope was nothing more than a chance for happiness. An elusive sense of joy was always beyond Walker’s grasp. His mind filled with worries, Walker’s first wife compared him to

Eeyore, the pessimistic friend of Winnie the Pooh.

But Walker’s life was about to steer onto a different road. Unsure why he backed up to ask an elderly man if he needed help, Walker found himself with an uninvited passenger sitting next to him.

Page 13

**EVERYONE
HAVE A
WONDERFUL
WEEK!!**

DONATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Gratitude	1
Wisdom	1
Wisdom	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
Gratitude	13
Gratitude	14
Wisdom	15
Kroger Community Rewards	16
Empowering the Future—CDC	17

And "One of wisdom's greatest benefits," Jones added, "is accurate discernment — the learned ability to immediately tell right from wrong...Good from evil. Acceptable from unacceptable."

It is possible to summarize Chapter 6 in one sentence. What we do matters. Jones sits with an elderly woman on a bench made by her late husband. Willow had recently concluded it was time for her to join her husband. She reckoned her usefulness was over. Now, Willow was "hanging around like somebody's forgotten holiday wreath, still on the front door in March." It was time for her life to be over.

When Willow shares her dismay with Jones, she gets pushback. "Who gave you permission to decide that you had nothing more to do, nothing more to offer?" Jones replies, catching Willow completely by surprise.

Wait! Aren't we in charge of whether we choose to be useful? Don't we choose our actions based on our own assessments?

The answer is yes, but our answer to the question doesn't negate Jones' point.

Our decision doesn't change whether we're leaving something undone. Whether we don't do what God wants us to do. People often reject God. Often, it's unintentional on our part. We either forget the point Jones made to Willow or we simply respond with faulty discernment.

Which takes us back to the prior chapter and one of wisdom's greatest benefits.

Good intentions and a dose of wisdom aren't enough. We need daily inoculations against our human weaknesses that compete with wisdom. Spiritual disciplines, including prayer and reading scripture, offer help. Jones explains to his audience how friends can offer another source of wisdom.

I suspect God hates abortion and cries with each one. I also suspect God hates rape, incest, divorce, climate change and lies. So I believe God is on the side of reproductive freedom, reducing our consumption of meat and prefers renewable energy over fossil fuels. I believe God is a progressive.

But does God interfere in elections? And if God gets involved, does God stick with U.S. elections? If so, which candidate is God's choice for president?

First, according to Pew Research, about half of us believe God doesn't get involved with elections. The rest either don't believe in God at all or believes God plays favorites to the point of influencing outcomes. A small percentage think God's preference is based on policy.

Their findings were nearly identical after the elections of Obama and Trump. I think God loves diversity.

The Rev Billy Holland, in an article for the Jackson Sun, a newspaper serving East Tennessee, writes, "Instead of trying to change everyone else, let's ask God to help us become the person He has called us to be. It's a good possibility that a portion of what we think is being interpreted through a lens that is dusty and out of focus. Have we considered embracing humility, setting aside our party bias, and sincerely praying that God would reveal the individual He wants us to vote for? Can we agree that God knows who would be the best person for the job?"

I have my preferences, but since I can't see the future and God can, I'll need to settle for my best guess and cast my vote the best I can. Since character means a lot to me you can likely guess my preference. *Page 15*

IN OUR PRAYERS

Virginia Bigger Richard Oram
 Sylvia Pittman Jonathon Misner
 Mirium Watson Terrance Williams



FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE
 HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Dean Lamoreaux
 Norma Buzzard Nancy Elston



COMING UP THIS WEEK
AUGUST 19 - 25



Aug 19	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
		6:00pm	Leadership Team
Aug 20	Tue	10:00am	Food Distribution at Asbury UMC
Aug 21	Wed	9am till gone	Food Distribution at SFSK
Aug 22	Thu		
Aug 23	Fri	9am-3pm	Phlebotomy Class in Asbury Library
Aug 24	Sat	9am-3pm	Phlebotomy Class in Asbury Library
Aug 25	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 "Perspective"

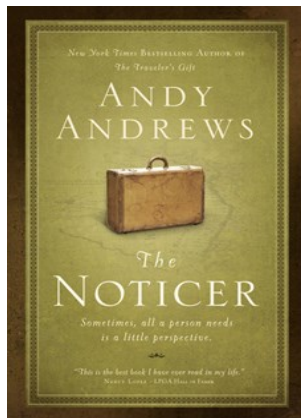


On the first Sunday in August, we begin a new series titled *Perspective*. Our series is based, in large part, on a book by Andy Andrews titled *The Noticer*. Perspective is a theme Andrews weaves throughout his book as his main character, Jones, shares wisdom with the people he meets. The advice Jones offers revolves around helping others to gain perspective.

Artists Mark Willenbrink, Mary Willenbrink, Vanessa Wieland and Maria Woodie, in an article posted on the ArtistsNetwork website, shared this insight:

Page 5

Book Club News



We finish our current worship series, *Human*, on Sunday July 28. Leo Buscaglia's book *Personhood* guided along the way.

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

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.

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

Upcoming Worship Series — “Perspective” ..

We have probably all heard (or even uttered) the phrase, “That really puts things into perspective.” Perspective is all about relativity; when you pull back and look at the larger picture and take a different view, maybe things aren’t so bad, or maybe there’s a solution where it seemed like there was not before. Drawing with perspective will help you understand the big picture of your work and perspective drawing for beginners is much easier than you think.

In their article, the artists offer an introduction to the use of perspective in various art forms. Noting that while the techniques and possibilities of utilizing perspective in art are many. In our companion book, Jones takes illustrates the art of offering new perspectives to persons struggling with life challenges.

Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Luke 10: 41-42

Luke tells a story about a time when Jesus visited His friends Mary and Martha, along with His disciples. Martha busied herself preparing a meal and offering hospitality to their guests. Meanwhile, Mary sat with the men listening to Jesus.

Martha was not happy with her sister and complained to Jesus that she was not helping. Jesus said to Martha, “You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed.”

Jesus offered Martha a different perspective to consider. And, of course, Jesus tells you and me to consider different perspectives when we’re a hot mess.

Jesus tells us elsewhere that trouble will find us but He offers a peace that transcends all challenges and a Way of love that brings His peace to all humankind.

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

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


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

Article contributions by Mark Willenbrink and Mary Willenbrink, Vanessa Wieland and Maria Woodie. “Learn to Draw by Putting Things into Perspective,” © ArtistsNetwork, 2024. Retrieved from: [Link](#)

“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 asked His followers, "What about you? Who do you say I am?"

Luke 9:18-20

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

Five horizontal lines for taking notes.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

- 1. Read Luke 9:18-20. How do you answer the question Jesus asked His disciples? What does your answer say about what you believe to be true about God's will?
2. Read this week's articles titled Wisdom. Where do you turn to gain wisdom? What is wisdom for you? Where does wisdom help you the most? How do you decide who you're voting for?
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



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More Information :



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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

Welcome to episode two of our series, *Perspective*. This week, our theme is gratitude and why it comes from the same root word as grace. These two ideas, eternally linked, became the answer to Walker's dilemma. But he needed Jones to help him see the connection.

"It's time to stop letting your history control your destiny," Jones advised Walker. "The first thing you need to know is that you worry — or you feel this crazy fear — because you're smart."

While it may seem smart to worry, Jesus reminds us that worry doesn't change outcomes and certainly doesn't increase our lifespan. Although doing something about the reason for your worry might.

Jones told Walker, "Worry ... fear ... is just a misuse of the creative imagination that has been placed in each of us...it is your own imagination with which you are doing battle ... Worry is focus! But it is focus on the wrong things." Is this all it takes to quit worrying? I just change my focus?

Americans, I'm told, are most worried about inflation. Although, In their "What Worries the World" report for July, Ipsos noted a substantial increase in the number of

respondents who believe the U.S. economy is in good shape. And inflation seems under control and some prices are even falling.

But not food prices.

According to a Washington Post article published this past February, the price of groceries increased 25% over the past four years. Inflation was around 19% during the same period. Fortunately, the amount we pay for most other commodities is coming down, but not for rotisserie chicken. However, grocery price increases dropped below 2% from almost 12% the year before.

Factors outside the control of legislation, presidents, and even the Federal Reserve have a larger impact on the price we pay at the grocery store. So this means political promises to bring down food prices are pure bull excrement. Politicians don't set the prices ringing up at the grocery store checkout.

On the other hand, one factor affecting food prices we all take part in is climate change. Farmers rely on cooperating weather patterns which no longer cooperate. Another factor is Russia's war against Ukraine substantially affected food prices globally.

Jones also told Walker, "The seeds of depression cannot take root in a grateful heart." This makes sense according to a rather large number of studies that looked at the effect of gratitude on well-being.

After all, there is a lot for us to be thankful for, including the possibility of reducing our worry by focusing on gratitude.

An article posted in 2019 by the Foundation for Economic Education boldly claimed, "Showing gratitude can serve as a light that can help lead us back to where we need to be when we get lost in darkness." The article cited results from an Indiana University research among college students struggling with anxiety and depression.

Followers of Jesus Christ know not only there is much to be grateful for, there is also joy and a peace that transcends human understanding. Most of us are familiar with Psalm 23. In this short poem, God expresses divine grace promised to each of us.

First, God is the good Shepherd leading us to that which we need and crave. And God offers us abundance. And although we share scarcity, we can also share abundance.

Often, in our upside-down economy, we see the greedy enriched and the humble shut-down. As we know it, the world rewards military might with prestige and wealth.

The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

Psalm 23

The world resists the leadership of the divine Shepherd in favor of promises made by louder voices, with what sounds to be larger and quicker returns. The logic is hard to resist, and believers are also prone to falling for its lure.

After all, don't we accumulate more by holding onto what we have and taking it away from others? While this strategy sometimes works in the short term, the answer is no.

Provision in God's economy comes from showing our gratitude for God's abundance by sharing. And abundance comes from serving each other. So when scripture says, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need." we hear a testimony of someone who truly believes that this is the only way to live.

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

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Abha Bhattarai and Jeff Stein. "Inflation has fallen. Why are groceries still so expensive?" © Washington Post, February 2, 2024. [Link](#).

Whatever or whoever gave insight to Solomon, the young man displayed great wisdom in asking God for wisdom to lead well. Solomon realized he was too young to know what to do. He wasn't ready to lead. When God asked Solomon what he most desired, Solomon asked for wisdom so he could govern justly. A wise choice, it turned out. God piled on wealth as a reward for Solomon's unselfish request.

And later, Solomon would prove to the world that even wisdom fails us if we allow arrogance and entitlement to cloud our wisdom.

Wisdom helps us discern God's will from our own. A trait clearly missing in most of humankind, including many Christians. And the gospels offer substantial illustrations of wisdom in action, along with many clues about God's character and preferences. The better we know Jesus and consider the choices He made, the better our chances of doing the same.

Jesus once asked His followers, "What about you? Who do you say I am?"

We answer Jesus' question with our claims of knowing God's will. Just before this conversation Jesus had with His disciples, they witnessed numerous miracles where Jesus healed the sick and fed the hungry.

The disciples saw Jesus' grace in action. They witnessed how His compassion took precedence over tradition. They didn't see bias or prejudice.

Paying attention to God's character helps us better recognize God's wisdom. We often blame our choices on God. Fortunately, God's grace has no limits. And God's love knows no boundaries.

*Jesus asked His followers;
"What about you? Who do
you say I am?"*

Luke 9:20

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Pastor Tommy

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Billy Holland. "Who does God want to be President?." © Jackson Sun, October 30, 2020.

Retrieved from: [link](#)

Gregory A. Smith. "About a third in U.S. see God's hand in presidential elections, but fewer say God picks winners based on policies." © Pew Research, March 12, 2020.

Retrieved from: [link](#)



Where shopping and giving come together and you can help!

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Or, call Kroger Customer Communications at

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enrolled

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by **Kroger**

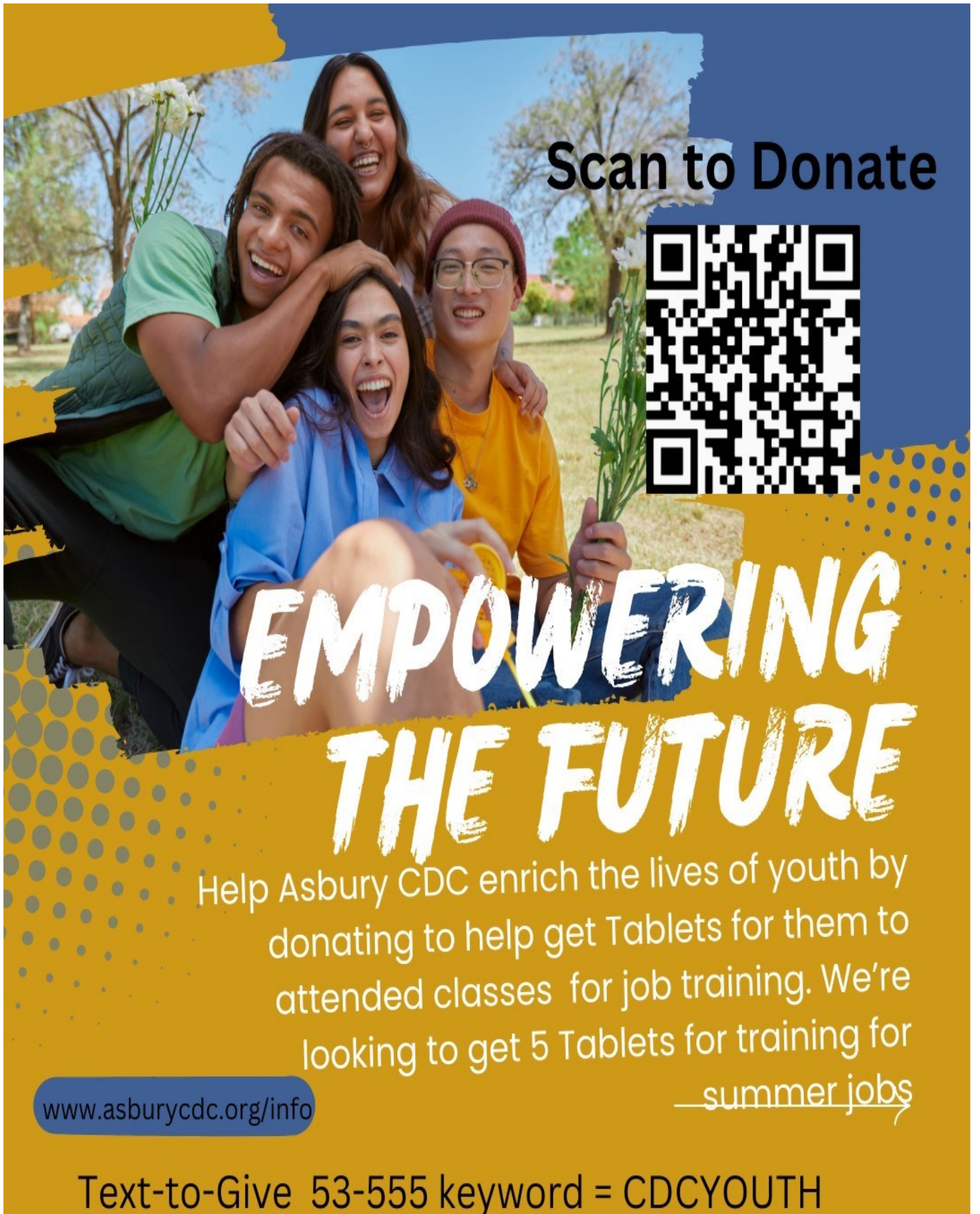
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We're giving **\$2 million**

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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



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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!

