

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 29

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Friends (Common good)



This past week, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine spoke to the United Nations General Assembly. Currently, there are 193 Member States, plus Vatican City and Palestine, each with a single vote on matters coming before this group,

representing nearly every sovereign nation on the planet. With a passion unique to a leader of a country devastated by war, President Zelensky reminded his listeners, “The deepest understanding of war is always found in the home it destroys.”

Page 2

2nd Chance (Voices)



This week’s reading from our companion book begins with Keely in a courtroom. Keely is alone. Her one phone call to her younger brother reminded her she was on her own. Keely had no close friends or family willing to help her. And she was facing a judge notorious for harsh sentencing.

Keely meets briefly with her public defender during an unusual court recess and learns the reason for her arrest. As a result, Keely no longer has a job. Keely’s future looks hopeless. She needs a miracle.

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**EVERYONE
HAVE A
SAFE
WEEKEND!!**

DONATE

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Friends (Common good) *cont. from pg 1*

In his speech, Zelensky urged unity of purpose to help bring an end to Russia's war against Ukraine, in particular, and an end to all wars in general. Two years earlier, Zelensky presented a plan he called the Peace Formula at the G20 Summit in Indonesia. The G20 Summit includes world leaders representing billions of citizens from all parts of the globe.

Russia is more than twenty times larger than Ukraine. Russia is an aggressive bully on the world playground. And Ukraine is an under-resourced nation standing up to Russia. So, Ukraine depends on having friends willing to help.

Zelensky reminded his listeners that every nation participating in the peace summit had a voice and vote. "All were equal," he said, and "that is what Russia hates the most and cannot control. That's why Russia says the Peace Formula doesn't suit it."

Global politics are extremely complicated, requiring a search for truth, a willingness to listen and compromise—similar ingredients for friendships and lasting peace.

In this week's reading from our companion book, Andy meets Keely and is not impressed. But Jones sees something Andy doesn't see. Jones sees potential as Keely learns the importance of truth and its connection to wisdom. "Wise people are rarely

offended by the truth," Jones tells Keely. "A wise person seeks to make peace with the truth, especially when it's personal and even when it hurts."

We also get to know a little more about Pastor Burke Ruark. The pastor is struggling with his call and tired of fighting the voices in his head. One voice in particular kept reminding him, "He was obviously a watcher, not a doer; a sometimes, not an always. He was an I will try, not an I will." Pastor Ruark had a reputation for strong leadership but wonders if it was all a sham.

And, of course, we're introduced to the focal point of Jones' Five and Dime, the "Peace Table." "This will be the table around which we will solve the world's problems," Jones tells Keely. "Along the way, however, we're going to solve some of our own."

Pastor Ruark, Andy, Keely, and Ollie plan to attend their first meeting. Friendships begin with listening and being present with one another. The Peace Table is quite large, measuring approximately seven by five feet. The table can accommodate a lot of people. But what will happen when word gets out? Will there be room for everyone who wants to come?

Sometimes, the misconception from those who stay home and miss church on Sunday mornings is that there isn't room for them.

More accurately, the seats are full of people who pass judgment on the rest of us.

Sometimes, the misconception of those who don't claim an affiliation with a church is that the persons who do show up in church on Sunday morning want to take away their gender identity or tell them who they're supposed to love or not love to marry or not to marry.

Sometimes, people who choose to avoid gathering with others do so because they believe that those of us who do gather for worship want to control their bodies and make life choices for them.

Sometimes, those of us who gather on Sunday mornings are mischaracterized as putting our burdens on everyone else rather than accepting the forgiveness Jesus offers us.

The sad truth is that the church is often caught up in the political divide, trying to legislate what others are expected to believe.

One of the stories in all three synoptic gospels involves a charge that Jesus was offending God, which is rather ironic to those of us who know that Jesus is God.

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
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 6



Sept 30	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
Oct 1	Tue	10am-until gone	Produce will be available each Tuesday (until further notice), along with canned goods
Oct 2	Wed		
Oct 3	Thu	11:00am	Memorial Service for Stephanie Warden followed by a luncheon downstairs
Oct 4	Fri		
Oct 5	Sat		
Oct 6	Sun	10:30am	New Beginnings Contemporary Worship

*** For those of you that were not aware, Stephanie Warden, Norma Natrass's niece, passed away a few weeks ago in Grand Haven. There will be a memorial service for her, here at Asbury, on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 11:00am.

*** PLEASE WORK ON 2024 CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORTS TO TURN IN TO ME...

(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 — “Miracles”

“Blow the trumpet and sound the alarm,” the Prophet shouts, “The day of the Lord is coming soon!” What follows sounds like a list of campaign promises, too good to be true. However, unlike politicians who say whatever to mind that might cause people to like them, every Word from God is truth with impact.

Blow the trumpet and sound the alarm. The day of the Lord is coming soon!

Joel 2:1

God says, “You will know that I am among you and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other ... I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message. Your old people will have dreams and your young people will see visions.”

We’re not sure just how many miracles Jesus performed. Somewhere around 40 show up in the four gospels, depending on how you count them. But we’re told Jesus performed many more than were recorded.

And Jesus was not finished.

You and I are also equipped for miracles, according to scripture. But if this is true, where are they? Why can’t we stop climate change before it destroys us?

We can! But it takes a movement inspired and led by God’s Spirit.

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

September 8	Chapters 1 to 4
September 15	Chapters 5 to 8
September 22	Chapters 9 to 12
September 29	Chapters 13 to 16
October 4	Chapters 17 to 20
October 11	Chapters 21 to 24
October 18	Chapters 25 to Epilogue

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.

“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:

Because of the crowd, however, they could find no way to take him in.

Luke 5:17-25

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

1. Read Luke 5:17-25. Have you ever felt like your access to Jesus was blocked by others? Do you know anyone this is happening to now? What can you do to be a good neighbor and friend?
2. Read this week's article titled Friends. What do you believe stands in the way of peace in your family, community, or city? What might help bring about peace? What should the church do to facilitate global peace?
3. How can the members of your group help you be more receptive to hearing and understanding the Word of God this week? 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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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

Jones is back in town, but he is also in jail. Andy receives a call in the middle of the night to pick him up. Jones is tight-lipped about the circumstances of his brief incarceration. After arriving to bail him out, Andy learns his friend opened an unusual business in one of the resort town's most high-profile shopping districts.

As summer nears, a practical joker becomes bolder and more inventive with each prank. Could Jones be behind some of it? Why is it every person Jones meets has a secret they will reveal only to him?

Based on a true story, Just Jones wraps fiction, allegory, and inspiration into stories about people needing miracles. Andy and Jones invite us on a journey. Along the way, we're reminded of the importance of perspective, the power of connection, and the ability we all have to help make miracles happen. To make the impossible happen.

We have a few books. But both new and used copies are available through most book retailers and libraries. The price on Amazon for a new hardcover edition, as of the publication of this article, is \$13.22. Used copies are available for less, and the Kindle version is \$9.99.

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

September 8	Chapters 1 to 4
September 15	Chapters 5 to 8
September 22	Chapters 9 to 12
September 29	Chapters 13 to 16
October 4	Chapters 17 to 20
October 11	Chapters 21 to 24
October 18	Chapters 25 to Epilogue

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. *Just Jones: Sometimes a Thing Is Impossible . . . Until It Is Actually Done*. Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2020.

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

Second chances exist," Judge Gritney began. "That having been said, it is a common misconception that everybody deserves one. On the contrary, they do not. In fact, considering the human condition and our many sins, most of us do not deserve a second chance."

Keely understood and didn't expect one. And so she didn't notice a miracle was unfolding. "A second chance is an expression of grace," Judge Gritney explained. "It is unmerited favor. When bestowed from one person to another, a second chance involves the undeserved generosity of the giver."

Judge Gritney offers Keely a conditional second chance. She is willing to give her probation only if someone offers her a job. Keely needs a redeemer, but who is willing to redeem her?

Luke tells a story about a man living with demons. The more direct translation describes the man's condition as being possessed by demons. The idea of demons can mean a lot of things. Most often, I think of those persuasive negative voices that sound oddly familiar and get louder when things appear to be falling apart. Often with a chorus of "I told you so,"

Whatever voices the man was hearing inside his own head, the voices owned him. His daily life was dictated by internal voices that did not have his best interest in mind. No longer welcomed among others, the man spent time in shackles and alone in the caves outside of town.

In this story, Luke offers unusual details regarding the multiple spirits demonizing the man Jesus heals but very little about the man himself. Similar to other miracle stories, we're left to speculate about the man's life leading up to meeting Jesus.

The only hope for this man from Gerasa was a miracle. He needed a redeemer.

Luke tells us that when Jesus stepped off the boat in Gerasa, he was met by a man living outside of town. When he saw Jesus, the man gave a loud cry, threw himself down at his feet, and shouted, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God! What do you want with me? I beg you, don't punish me!"

What an unusual greeting! How did the man recognize Jesus? Had they met before? And what past experience troubled this man enough that it caused him to presume punishment from God? Luke doesn't share this detail, so I presume it wasn't anything in particular.

Rather, his self-condemnation came from the chorus of voices in his head singing about his unworthiness.

Luke tells us this was a sign that healing was already beginning. Like an orchestra director, Jesus ordered the voices to stop. It was time for the man to be free. His redeemer had arrived.

"What is your name?" Jesus asked him. "My name is Mob," he answered. Luke shares that the man answered Jesus this way because he had lived with so many voices for so long.

What follows is either a bizarre sacrifice of livestock or a carefully crafted story packed with opportunities for further insight. Jesus sends the voices into a herd of pigs, which run off a cliff and drown.

The end? Of course not! Witnesses ran to tell the townfolks what they saw. When the spectators arrived, they found the ostracized man sitting with Jesus as though he were attending his first day of school.

In one story, Luke tells us that Jesus is in some unnamed person's home. It's standing room only inside, and the crowd is blocking the door. Jesus was surrounded by Pharisees and teachers of the law. He is a guest in someone's home and is hemmed in, surrounded by persons closely connected with political power and a rather narrow interpretation of scripture that they imposed on everyone else. Their understanding of truth was clear and pervasive in the first century. Believe what they believe, and God will bless you with health and wealth.

In their view of scripture, God picks favorites, and they're in that group. And they wanted the force of law to back their beliefs.

The "right believers" are several persons deep, making it impossible for anyone else to enter the house. Remember that everyone in this crowd appears to be doing okay for themselves. They walked there on their own power, were likely in good health, and were well fed.

They believed that their good fortune was a reward for their faithfulness to following the rules as they interpreted them.

Where are the less fortunate? Somewhere at the back of the crowd, I suspect. Out of sight and unable to see or hear Jesus with many righteous people in their way.

An unnamed man, unable to walk, is carried by four neighbors to the house in the hope that Jesus can heal him. We aren't told anything more about the man's condition. However, it's likely the crippled man also blamed his condition on his failure to follow God's rules based on the common belief that God used disease and disabilities as punishment. Given this, it's amazing he knew four people who were willing to take him to Jesus.

*Because of the crowd,
however, they could find no
way to take him in.*

Luke 5:19

However, too many "good" people were in the way. But the group finds a way to get the crippled man up on the house's roof. So the crippled man is lowered from the roof onto the floor in front of Jesus.

Jesus says to the crippled man, "Your sins are forgiven," creating a synchronized gasp among the crowd. The Pharisees and law teachers began muttering to each other that what Jesus said to the man was offensive. Jesus violated their narrow view of the world.

So Jesus responded with the words the man most needed to hear, knowing that He was hemmed in by persons focused on pursuing their version of right beliefs. He was sure to hear objections to His declaration.

"Is it easier to say Your sins are forgiven or to say Get up and walk?" Jesus asks the crowd. Which demonstration of power is more compelling? Of course, healing someone who is obviously crippled is immediately verifiable, while forgiveness is less so.

The good news of Jesus Christ is that each and every one of us is dearly loved by our Creator, and forgiveness is ours for asking. Wisdom involves the search for truth, offering a path to lasting peace.

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

Parts of our series are inspired by Andy Andrews. *Just Jones: Sometimes a Thing Is Impossible . . . Until It Is Actually Done*. Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2020. "There can be no just peace without Ukraine." © The Kyiv Independent, September 26, 2024. Retrieved from: [link](#)

So they celebrated his recovery and worshipped Jesus? While this would make for a great ending, their recovery waits for a later chapter. Instead of sharing the man's joy, Luke tells us the townfolks were afraid and asked Jesus to leave. And he did.

They found the man from whom the demons had gone out sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind.

Luke 8:35

The man wanted to go with Jesus. Perhaps he was worried that His cure only worked in Jesus' presence. But Jesus gave the man a mission. "Go tell others what I've done for you," Jesus told the man. And this is how the story ends, or at least this particular chapter in the man's life.

Jones shows up in court as Keely's redeemer. She needs a job, and Jones needs results that Keely can achieve. Keely is free to go. But her voices go with her, waiting for the next time Keely feels alone and unloved.

Most of us suffer from one or more voices that often contradict reality. These voices can be pervasive and persuasive, and sometimes, they lie in wait until we're facing adversity. Sometimes, we just need a second chance.

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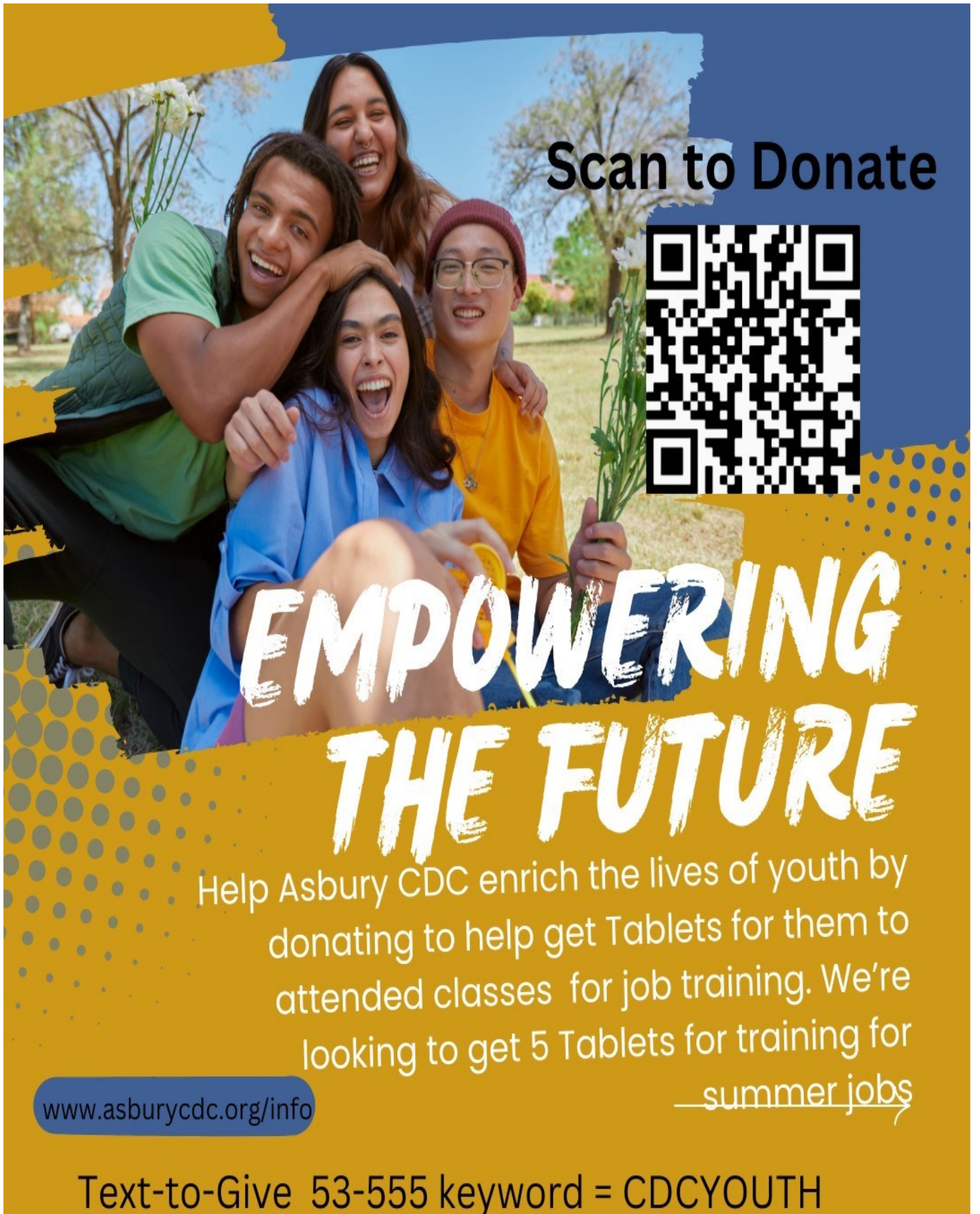
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www.asburycdc.org/info

Text-to-Give 53-555 keyword = CDCYOUTH



WE WILL BE HAVING TWO HALLOWEEN
TRUNK-R-TREATS ..

ONE WILL BE AT SOUTH FLINT SOUP KITCHEN
ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH AND
THE OTHER ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST AT
ASBURY UMC ..

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE CANDY FOR
THESE EVENTS, FEEL FREE TO BRING THEM TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE, AT LEAST ONE WEEK
BEFORE, MONDAY-FRIDAY,

OR YOU CAN CALL US AT 235-0016,

