

# ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 6

OCTOBER 6, 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.”

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## Hot Water (Being coffee)



According to several sources, the expression “hot water” to mean something more than heated water was first used over 500 years ago. No one is certain where the expression came from, but everyone can identify with the idea it conveys.

The Grammarist website explains that Idioms, such as this one, add spice to our speech and writing, making it easier for others to understand what we’re trying to say. Nevertheless, much like agreeing on the actual temperature when water is hot, warm, tepid, or otherwise, isn’t the same for everyone.

*Page 13*

**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**  
**OCTOBER 7 - 13**



Oct 7	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
Oct 8	Tue	10am-until gone	Produce will be available each Tuesday (until further notice), along with canned goods
Oct 9	Wed		
Oct 10	Thu	1:00pm	United Women in Faith
Oct 11	Fri		
Oct 12	Sat		
Oct 13	Sun	10:30am	New Beginnings Contemporary Worship

**\*\*\* 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"

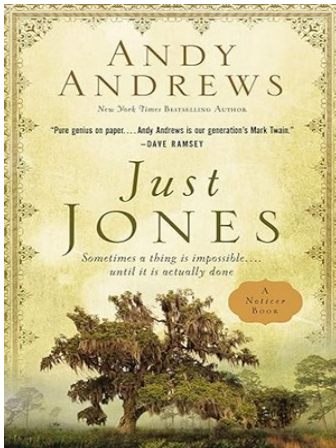


On the Second Sunday in September, we begin a new series titled *Miracles*. Our series is based, in part, on a book by Andy Andrews from his *Noticer Series*, titled *Just Jones*.

In our last series, we used the first book from the *Noticer Series*, where Andrews introduced the importance of perspective. While this theme continues in this series, our primary focus is on the miracles performed by Jesus. We hope to gain new perspectives with each miracle we engage.

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## Book Club News



We finish our current worship series, *Perspective*, on Sunday, September 1st. We used Andy Andrew's

book *The Noticer* as a companion

book. Feedback on his book was extremely positive.

I'm pleased to announce our companion book for our new worship series beginning on Sunday, September 8, is a sequel to *The Noticer*. In *Just Jones*, Andy Andrews continues the stories of a stranger reaching out a helping hand to others.

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.

*Just Jones* is Andrew's third book in *The Noticer* series. His stories about the main character affecting the lives of the persons he meets inspire us and help us with new perspectives on our own issues.

## 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 — “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 6	Chapters 17 to 20
October 13	Chapters 21 to 24
October 20	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](http://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](https://flintasbury.org/feed-flint-donate)**

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS & MORE:**

*They let down their nets and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break.*

Luke 5:1-11

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

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**QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:**

1. Read Luke 5:1-11. Try to imagine yourself in the boat that day. How would you feel when Jesus asked you to try fishing again after a long night without success?
2. Read this week's article titled *Hot water*. Share some experiences you've had being in hot water. How did you feel at the time? Were you able to see your experience as an opportunity?
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](mailto:southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com)

To donate: [www.mightycause.com/feedflint](http://www.mightycause.com/feedflint)



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- Text "FARMCDC"
- to 53-555
- Scan QR Code

**Donate Now**



More Information :



(810) 235-0016



[funding@flintasbury.org](mailto: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 6	Chapters 17 to 20
October 13	Chapters 21 to 24
October 20	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](http://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](http://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](mailto:southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com)

In an article published just this week in *Popular Mechanics*, Caroline Delbert noted the results of a study that discovered most of us can distinguish the difference between hot and cold water by sound when it's poured. And most of us associate a degree of trouble when someone describes their situation as being in hot water.

For now, let's use this expression generally for circumstances that make us uncomfortable and leave the nuances for our own life experiences.

In this week's chapters from our companion book, Jones catches Ollie lying by noticing how he looks right as he concocts his story and scratches his itching nose. Ollie suddenly found himself in hot water. Something was bothering him, but he was not ready to talk about it.

The big news around Orange Beach is that someone stole Blair Houston Monroe's Star of Texas from her front lawn. Meanwhile, the daily meetings around the Peace Table at Jones' Five and Dime are gaining popularity. Even Blair Houston Monroe attended until she was asked to leave after accosting Ollie. Coincidentally, her Star of Texas disappeared the very next day.

Meanwhile, Keely's finding her progress toward a better future is often sabotaged by her old self. Feelings of unworthiness draw her attention to her past, "hoping old answers will create a new future."

Jones assures her, "The new Keely does not need advice from the Keely who caused so much trouble. The Keely you are becoming should not seek approval from the old Keely."

Along life's way, everyone finds themselves in hot water at times. "But you don't have to let hot water define you," Jones tells Keely. "Instead, make something of the experience. During times of hot water . . . be coffee."

Of course, Jones' advice needed some explanation. What does it mean to be coffee?

The first thing I do each morning is turn on the coffee pot. I know it takes time for the water to get hot enough to make coffee. When ground coffee beans are immersed in hot water, coffee emerges from the combination. It's "only in hot water does coffee realize its potential," Jones explains.

In a *Psychology Today* article, Polly Campbell writes, "Doing the difficult or unfamiliar challenges us to manage our feelings of discomfort, and when we do, we benefit."

Campbell shared her personal experience with embarrassment. Showing up for a class with the only red ukelele and producing sounds displeasing to anyone, she recalled the butterflies and clammy hands that signaled her discomfort. Fortunately, she stuck it out and succeeded not only in learning how to play but also in learning a valuable lesson about the benefits of

being more like coffee when she found herself in hot water.

Studies led by Kaitlin Woolley at Cornell University and Ayelet Fishbach at the University of Chicago discovered that people who embrace discomfort rather than think of it as a problem do better. They didn't say "be coffee" while in hot water, but their studies proved Jones' point.

Jones also said, "Sometimes a thing can seem impossible. Until it is actually done." I detect a connection between hot water and the impossible. And both feel like rejection.

A lot like the rejection felt when turned down for a job. Even a job for which we're not really qualified for. And a fear of rejection can produce all kinds of negative outcomes for us and those around us. Anyone looking for a job without experience knows the frustration of rejection.

Speaking of job searches, when Jesus began His public ministry, he chose a dozen or so people to follow and learn from Him. Given the magnitude of what Jesus came to do—to save the world—wouldn't you think that His short list of candidates would be the top drawer of people who could speak, write with eloquence, and win arguments? People who have what it takes to be extraordinary?

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](#).

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](mailto: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 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](#)

Luke tells a story in his Gospel about Jesus selecting some of His original followers. Jesus is teaching by the lakeshore, and the crowds are pushing towards Him to hear what He has to say. Jesus notices a couple of fishing boats have come to shore. So he walks over and climbs inside one of the boats that belonged to a man named Simon.

Jesus asked them to push off, and they did. None of the men that Jesus saw return from fishing that day, I presume, were extraordinary. After all, we read that their boats were not filled with fish. In fact, we learn that they didn't catch a thing.

Also, I'm not sure if extraordinary people simply push off when asked by a stranger who decides that it would be better to teach from their boat instead of standing on the beach with the crowds.

After Jesus finishes talking to the crowd on the shore, He tells the guys to take the boat out into the deeper water and let down their nets. "Master," Simon answered, "we worked hard all night long and caught nothing."

Jesus pushed back on Simon, James, and John, insisting they go further out into the deeper water and try fishing again. Well, these guys had already quit for the day, cleaned their nets, and were headed home. But they weren't having fish that night.

*They let down their nets and caught such a large number of fish that the nets were about to break.*

Luke 5:6

Luke tells us that they caught so many fish that the nets were about to break, and they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that they were about to sink.

Something extraordinary happens to these three ordinary men. It's not that they were in hot water, just deeper water. As fisherpersons, this wasn't a source of discomfort. The hot water was back on shore when they put away their gear with nothing to show for their hard work.

Little did they know that this was just the beginning. Their hot water turned to deep water and then became an invitation to follow Jesus. They were making coffee.

Jesus told Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on, you will be catching people." Luke said the men pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Jesus follower is one of those want ads that say, "No Experience Necessary." Even better. If there were ads for Disciples during Jesus 'public ministry', they would say something like "We train."

When Jesus chose the men and women who started the very first church, He went with the ordinary. He also chose people who were unlikely to have the necessary skills. Jesus invited them to experience hot water as a benefit. They learn how to make coffee.

Even if we never done anything well in our lives, Jesus gives us assignments beyond us, and we succeed despite our inexperience.

Not because of our own talent and capability but because of who Jesus is and the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Jesus chooses the ordinary to do the extraordinary. The only qualification is to show up. The fisher guys didn't come to Jesus' office for an interview. Jesus went to their place of work.

And whether the place you hang out is top drawer or a place you would rather not be, Jesus can find you there and offer you the opportunity of a lifetime. No experience is required.

This week, rethink the view that you have of yourself. You are not ordinary at all. In God's eyes, you are extraordinary.

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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.  
Caroline Delbert. "Our Brains Use Secret Physics to Hear the Difference Between Water Temperatures." © Popular Mechanics, October 3, 2024. Retrieved from [link](#)

Polly Campbell. Reviewed by Ekua Hagan. "What We Gain by Being Uncomfortable." © Psychology Today, June 21, 2022.



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[www.asburycdc.org/info](http://www.asburycdc.org/info)

Text-to-Give 53-555 keyword = CDCYOUTH



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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  
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