

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

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Grace (Miracle of belief)



In order for an event to be a miracle, according to the Catholic Church, the event must be unusual, instantaneous, spontaneous, and complete. And there must not be a natural explanation. Also, others must see the event, and it must be a mystery that can

only be the result of an act of God.

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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.

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**EVERYONE
HAVE A
SAFE
WEEKEND!!**

DONATE

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Grace (Miracle of belief)

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But they won't take my word for it or yours. Miracles are confirmed through a process involving experts in recognizing miracles. The experts collect eyewitness statements and documentation. A group organized and commissioned by the Vatican examines this evidence. The investigation includes multiple peer-reviewed diagnoses by medical experts.

If a majority of group members agree that a miracle occurred, the event is classified as a miracle and sent to a commission of theologians for ratification. This group sends their decision to the Pope for the final decision. The event officially becomes a miracle through a step called canonization.

In our reading from our companion book for this week, Blair Houston Monroe calls the FBI to investigate her stolen Star of Texas. With no clues to go on, their investigation lasted only three days. The embittered woman offers a \$25,000 reward, but with enough strings attached that she is certain no one will ever collect it. Who and how was a total mystery.

Ollie finally talks to Jones about his bitterness towards Blair Houston Monroe. When Ollie was nine, she once told him

that his dad was a coward and in hell. Ollie was too young to understand the ignorance of what he was told but old enough to hold a grudge.

Jones offers Ollie an important life lesson. Love is always more powerful than hate. Ollie's dad is not in hell. It doesn't work that way. But Ollie will someday find himself at a crossroads where he will decide if he is willing to take the path of love.

Meanwhile, Ollie is hard at work collecting old tires and hiding them in the woods. Something's brewing

Miracles performed by Jesus get a pass on the canonization process since He is the ultimate and actual miracle-doer. Nevertheless, look up a list of miracles performed by Jesus, and one is missing. I presume it isn't classified as a miracle because it happens too frequently, and it doesn't seem the least bit impossible. Still, scripture says that it's only possible with God's intervention.

Luke tells a story about Jesus and His followers traveling through Samaria, which has a special place in scripture. First, Jews and Samaritans were like oil and water. Their dispute dates back to the time when Ancient Israel split into two kingdoms.

The Northern Kingdom kept the name Israel, while the Southern Kingdom called itself Judea.

The division between the two groups of people widened after Assyria conquered Israel. Assyria used a strategy of assimilation to manage their empire. The families of Israel eventually merged with families from other parts of the Assyrian empire.

Judea eventually fell to the world power that conquered Assyria. Babylon used a different strategy to rule over its vast empire. The political leaders, professionals, and scholars of Judea were captured and relocated to the capital of the empire. They weren't expected to merge with other families, however. And they were able to hold onto much of their culture and religious beliefs.

None of this history seems to justify the bitterness and disdain each held for the other, however. Jews simply didn't associate with Samaritans.

But this isn't the miracle. Jesus occasionally told stories where a Samaritan was the hero. Perhaps Samaritans had a special place in His heart.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Virginia Bigger
Sylvia Pittman
Mirium Watson

Fay Lapp
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 14 - 20



Oct 14	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
Oct 15	Tue	10am-until gone	Produce will be available each Tuesday (until further notice), along with canned goods
Oct 16	Wed		
Oct 17	Thu		
Oct 18	Fri		
Oct 19	Sat		
Oct 20	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"

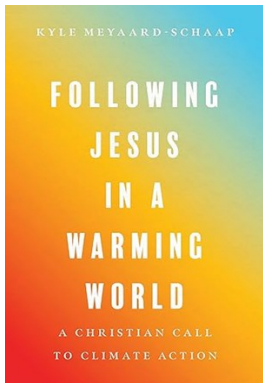


On the Second Sunday in September, we begin a new series titled *Miracles*. Our series is based, in part, on a book by Andy Andrews from his Noticer Series, titled *Just Jones*.

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, *Miracles*, on Sunday, October 20. As our companion book, we used Andrew's book *Just Jones*, a sequel to

The Noticer. Feedback on his books was extremely positive.

I'm pleased to announce that *Following Jesus in a Warming World* will be the companion book for our new worship series beginning on Sunday, October 27. We'll spend the weeks leading up to Advent looking at what scripture has to say about our role in caring for our planet.

While listening to news coverage of the most recent hurricane to hit Florida's coastline, I was dismayed

by an exchange the reporter had with a local resident. When the reporter connected the size of the storm to climate change, the resident pushed back. "Not all scientists agree," she said.

While technically true, surveys of thousands of scientists determined that somewhere around 99.9% agree that climate change is real. So why do some politicians and lots of Christians believe otherwise?

What does scripture say?

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

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Upcoming Worship Series — “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.


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:

If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask Him, and He would give you life-giving water.

John 4:5-30

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

1. Read John 4:5-30. If this is a familiar story, try reading it while looking for something you hadn't noticed before. What did you catch this time?
2. Read this week's article titled Grace. How do you define a miracle? What makes something a miracle for you? What miracles have you experienced? Share your belief story.
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 ...

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Our clients need bottled water for cooking,
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their teeth with, and MORE!

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday

11:00am-12 Noon at South Flint Soup Kitchen,

3410 Fenton Rd (3 blocks north of Atherton Rd)

Flint MI 48507

Any questions, please call 239-3427 or 235-0016 or

Email us at southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com

To donate: www.mightycause.com/feedflint



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How You Can Donate

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- Scan QR Code

Donate Now



More Information :



(810) 235-0016



funding@flintasbury.org

This question motivated climate activist Kyle Meyaard-Schaap to publish a book for Christians. After spending years speaking to and equipping Christians to work for climate action, he's optimistic. Younger Christians, waking up to the realities of climate change, want to help but aren't sure how. You may be in the same boat.

His book offers hope to Christians paralyzed by the scale of the crisis by helping us move from paralysis to meaningful action. *Following Jesus in a Warming World* serves as a field guide for Christian climate action. However, his book is not grounded in a sense of guilt or drudgery. Rather, we're encouraged to experience the joy of caring for creation.

Next week, we'll publish a schedule of chapters for our new series.

We'll have a few books available for purchase, but both new and used copies are available through most book retailers and libraries. As of the publication of this article, the price on Amazon for a new paperback edition is \$13.49. Used copies are available for less, and the Kindle version is \$12.82.

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

Kyle Meyaard-Schaap. *Following Jesus in a Warming World: A Christian Call to Climate Action*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2023.

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

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 unpleasing 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?

The group arrives at a village called Sychar. Jesus sits by a well while the others go to find food. And this is where the miracle begins.

While Jesus is sitting there, a Samaritan woman comes to the well to draw water. But it's the middle of the day. At that time, women took care of fetching water but did so in the morning when it was cooler and to have water on hand for the day.

A lot has been written speculating on why this woman went to the well when no one else was there. The well was like a barbershop or hair styling salon. It was also a social setting where news was passed, ideas were shared, and a community was built.

She certainly wasn't expecting a Jewish man to be sitting by the well. But there He was.

The woman was stunned when Jesus asked the woman for a drink of water. A man speaking to a strange woman wasn't right. A Jewish man speaking to a Samaritan woman was over the top. But He did.

None of this is miraculous. But listen to what happens next. The two strangers engage in a brief exchange of meaning-packed words that illustrate their separation. They are divided by gender, culture, religious belief, and national alliance.

And then a miracle happens. They find common ground when the woman recognizes who asked her for water. The woman receives the divine gift of living water. Not because of anything she did or did not do.

Jesus obviously receives a pass on what qualifies as a miracle. But how does this story represent a miracle?

The gospel writers share another story about a wealthy man who asks how a person gets into heaven. Afterwards, when Jesus is asked how it is possible for anyone to meet the standard, He replies, "Everything is possible for God."

Jesus is asked the question after he gave an observation that was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of the needle than for a well-off person to get into heaven. This makes the idea impossible to our contemporary ears.

If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink; you would ask him; and he would give you life-giving water.

John 4:5-30

However, Jesus was likely referring to a very narrow gate somewhere in Jerusalem. Camels pass through only after all of the load they are carrying is removed.

We are all burdened down with baggage that keeps us on this side of the gate.

Fortunately, miracles happen every day, even if they are not officially canonized.

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.

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

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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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