

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 27

OCTOBER 27, 2024

Neighbors (Will you be?)



Jesus was not a climate scientist or activist. He didn't have to be. Neither was he a vegan or vegetarian.

Jesus didn't need to wear labels for everyone around Him to know how much He loved creation. It was apparent in His everyday life.

Jesus was pro-life, but He didn't carry posters, lobby for changes in the law, or protest outside of doctor's offices.

Page 2

Abundance (Enough for all)



As we come to the end of our *Miracles* Series, we also reach the final chapter and epilogue of our companion book, *Just Jones*. Our next series, *Life*, begins the last Sunday in October.

In this week's reading, Ollie's guilt in pulling off his big prank is about to be re-

vealed. Blair Monroe Houston called a press conference, presumably after realizing that tires now covered the flag pole where the state flag of Texas would otherwise be raised. Crowds assembled despite the sweltering heat, and the media was on hand for the big reveal.

Page 13

EVERYONE
HAVE A
SAFE
WEEKEND!!

DONATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Abundance	1
Neighbors	1
Neighbors	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
Abundance	13
Neighbors	14
Abundance	15
Kroger Community Rewards	16
Empowering the future	17

Jesus was also pro-choice. He gave each person the freedom to decide for themselves. And He loved each of us regardless of our individual choices.

He wasn't complicated. In fact, Jesus simplified the complicated network of laws down to two that matter most. Love God and each other. These two imperatives guided His decisions and undergirded His teachings, encouraging us to do the same.

We don't need to guess what Jesus would do, given the circumstances we face each day. Instead, we can and should use His examples, words, and actions to illustrate what it means to love God and each other. And do likewise.

Welcome to our new series, *Life*. Over the next five weeks, we'll look at perhaps the most pressing issue facing us collectively: How to respond to climate change. We begin our first episode one week before election day.

Millions have already cast their vote. Cyndi and I voted by mail as we have for each election since it became possible to do so. We both used Jesus' two imperatives to guide us in selecting candidates within the realities of our two-party system.

We voted pro-life, choosing candidates who we believed to be most likely to face the challenges as leaders well-grounded in love for God and neighbor. In particular, we chose candidates who openly support changes in our laws and practices that protect and preserve our planet while allowing each of us the freedom to choose how we make decisions regarding our bodies. For us, this is what it means to be pro-life.

Moreover, the United States does not exist in isolation. The world looks to our country and leaders as examples of what it means to be a good neighbor. Our country was founded on the principles of personal freedoms that don't infringe on the freedom of others to worship God as they choose and to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The writer of Luke shares a story that is among the most recognizable illustrations of what it means to be a good neighbor. He tells us that one day, Jesus was confronted by adversaries, hoping Jesus would say something controversial enough to condemn himself. A lawyer from the group asked Jesus a question that he calculated would enrage a large group of people regardless of His answer. "What must I do to receive eternal life?"

"What do the Scriptures say?" Jesus responded. "How do you interpret them?"

The lawyer answered brilliantly. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

"I agree," replied Jesus.

But the lawyer wasn't satisfied, Luke tells us. He shot back a follow-up question. "Who is my neighbor?"

Ah yes! Who qualifies as the target of the love I'm to show to others? This is important, isn't it? Am I expected to show the same love towards the people of other tribes as I show towards my own? What about the people of Ukraine? What about people I don't know? What about immigrants?

Jesus responded with a story choosing the main characters, persons in highly respected positions who are expected to set examples for others to follow. And one person from a different tribe altogether. In fact, the main character came from a group despised by His listeners.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Virginia Bigger Fay Lapp
 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
 OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3**



Oct 28	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
Oct 29	Tue	10am-until gone	Produce will be available each Tuesday (until further notice), along with canned goods
		4-7:00pm	SFSK Trunk-r-Treat
Oct 30	Wed		
Oct 31	Thu	4-7:30pm	Asbury Trunk-r-Treat
Nov 1	Fri		
Nov 2	Sat		
Nov 3	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](#).)

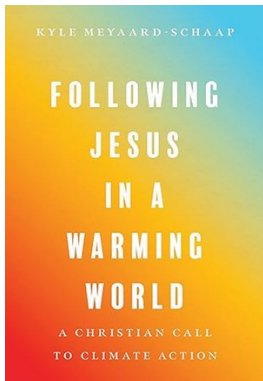
Upcoming Worship Series "Life"



On the Sunday before we celebrate everything scary for Halloween, we begin a new series titled *Life*. Speaking of everything scary. The debate is long over, and the consensus is that climate change is real and taking an increasing toll on our lives together. The time for Christians to be a part of the solution is long overdue.

One other scary note is that the election is coming up fast. While climate change may not be visible on the ballot, as voters, we need to know where the candidates stand on this issue and what they plan to do about it. We owe this to ourselves and to future generations.

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

Upcoming Worship Series — “Life”

Our next series looks at our changing climate, assisted by a book written by a fellow Michigander, Kyle Meyaard-Schaap. *Following Jesus in a Warming World* will be the companion book for our new worship series beginning on Sunday, October 27th. We will spend the weeks leading up to Advent looking at what Scripture says about our role in caring for our planet.

Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it.

Genesis 2:16

Millions of Christians took a stance they claimed to be pro-life. Honestly, while their position is understandable, the focus was more on decisions that shouldn't be theirs to make. More important, climate change is taking away life. Taking action to care for our planet is a pro-life position.

Here is the outline of our series and each week's reading assignment if you want to read our companion book as we progress through our series:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Neighbors	October 27	Luke 10:25-37	Intro & Ch 1
A Love Story	November 3	John 1:1-18	Ch's 2 & 3
Good News	November 10	Luke 4:16-22	Ch's 4 & 5
Habits & Idols	November 17	Matthew 6:24-34	Ch's 6 & 7
Investing	November 24	Matthew 25:14-30	Ch's 8, 9 & 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

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

“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:

Which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?

Luke 10:25-37

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

1. Read Luke 10:25-37. Imagine yourself in this story. Where do you fit? Why? Who are the neighbors that you find hard to offer help to?
2. Read this week's article titled *Neighbors*. Do you know where the candidates you support stand on climate change? Are their views consistent with your own? What do you see as your role in climate change?
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



Show Your Support For Your Local Farm

We need your help to purchase fencing to keep our furry friends from eating up all our crops and not sharing with us.

How You Can Donate

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

Donate Now



More Information :



(810) 235-0016



funding@flintasbury.org

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.

Here is our schedule of chapters for this book:

October 27	Introduction & Chapter 1
November 3	Chapters 2 & 3
November 10	Chapters 4 & 5
November 17	Chapters 6 & 7
November 24	Chapters 8, 9 & Epilogue

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

The image Ollie sent to Ms Houston of himself with a stack of tires came from a burner phone. She knew he was guilty, but the picture alone was insufficient evidence.

As we come to the end of our companion book, we also learn the story of how the peace table came to be. The story is both a reminder of the rich heritage of people who initially inhabited the land and the brutality that came with the initial immigrants from Europe.

Our nation's history began with taking land from existing inhabitants. God's beloved with very similar needs, struggles, dreams, and aspirations. The story offers a stark contrast to the lesson Ollie learned from Jones. "Love is more powerful than hate."

It's also a stark contrast to the stories taking place in areas ravaged by our two most recent hurricanes. There is also a juxtaposition to be made, however, between the reckless lies and conspiracy theories impeding rescue and recovery efforts versus the heroism of ordinary citizens trying to participate in an unfolding miracle. Fortunately, love is more powerful than hate.

All four gospel writers tell at least one story about Jesus providing an abundance of food to feed a hungry crowd when there wasn't enough available to feed themselves. It's the flavor of a story passed down through generations about family cooks able to feed the neighborhood despite meager resources. The stories tell about the legendary generosity, skills, and loving spirit of beloved ancestors.

The gospel stories, likewise, tell us a lot about the nature of God. In His response to human needs, God illustrates divine love. While, at the same time, offering an economics lesson.

As with other stories found in scripture, we're invited to join as one of the characters and to see ourselves juxtaposition the grace God offers. We're invited not to feel shame or rejection, however. We're invited to imagine a kingdom like none other. God's plan is for the future rather than a plan to take us back to the past. We're invited to imagine heaven on earth. Most of all, we're invited to know that love is more powerful than hate.

In John's telling, after Jesus noticed a large crowd was following, Jesus asked His disciples where they might buy enough food for everyone to eat. One of the disciples, Philip, said it would cost a lot just to offer a little to each person. Philip's brother, Andrew, found a small boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. Not even enough for the disciples' supper.

So they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten.

John 6:1-15

Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us the disciples suggested Jesus send the crowds away to fend for themselves. In their versions, Jesus tells His disciples to feed the people. Like John, Mark tells us the cost of food came up. In all cases, their starting point was five loaves and two fish to feed a crowd of more than five thousand. Not nearly enough for everyone to eat.

The story started to sound like an insensitive joke you may have heard or told. There were three men: a Priest, a highly respected political figure, and a man you probably don't want to meet on the street. But as the story continues, it's clear just how serious Jesus is about the illustration He's making.

Who will stop to check on the man lying in the ditch? Who sees this man as a neighbor?

The Priest and politician walk on by, crossing to the other side of the street to avoid eye contact. Perhaps the injured man won't see them. And if they're seen, the observer may conclude they didn't notice a person in distress. After all, they live busy and important lives.

The third man is a Samaritan. Jesus is Jewish. So is the man who asked Him the questions, as are the vast majority, if not all, of those listening, had a long-standing feud with Samaritans. But guess who stops?

Not only that, the Samaritan goes the extra mile. Which, by the way, is a phrase from another time when Jesus gave to illustrate what it means to love others. The Samaritan tends to the injured man and takes him to a safe place to mend.

Which one of these three acted like a neighbor toward the man attacked by the robbers?

Luke 10:36

"Which one of these men was a neighbor to the man in need," Jesus asks. The answer is obvious. The one who didn't ignore the plight of a stranger in need.

"Go and do likewise," Jesus says. And so we should.

Our planet is in trouble after centuries of neglect and abuse. This puts us and our neighbors in jeopardy. Millions are already suffering the effects of climate change. Mostly, those who are unable to get out of whatever ditch climate change has forced them into.

Vote, not just with your allegiance to a person. Vote, not just for yourself, but vote with your neighbors and future generations in mind. Vote with your obedience to a God who loves creation enough to live among us. Let us not go back to the past. Instead, let us work together to protect the planet that God put under our care.

You can join us each Sunday in person or online by clicking the button on our [website's](#) homepage—[Click here to watch](#). This button takes you to our [YouTube channel](#). You can find more information about us on our website at [FlintAsburyChurch.org](#).

A reminder that we publish this newsletter that we call the *Circuit Rider* each week. You can request this publication by email. Send a request to FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com or let us know when you send a message through our [website](#). We post an archive of past editions on our website under the tab Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

Parts of our series are inspired by Kyle Meyaard-Schaap. *Following Jesus in a Warming World: A Christian Call to Climate Action*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2023.

But everyone enjoyed a bounty of abundance, leaving more after supper than they had in the beginning. It was indeed a miracle of abundance and a divine mystery regarding where the extra fish and bread came from.

Throughout human history, scarcity has created conflict over who eats and who remains hungry. At times, wars broke out over water access. More often, battles were fought over who owned the land.

In our next series, *Life*, we're reminded that none of us own the land or its resources. Like the feeding of five thousand or so by Jesus, we're guests who show up hungry for both food and purpose. And God tells us to provide from the abundance provided.

Jones tells Ollie, "What's possible is often determined by what you believe. On the other hand, what is impossible can always be determined by what you believe. Most times you won't see it until you manage to believe it."

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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.



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OPTION #3**



Eligible Organizations

Kroger Community Rewards is open to organizations that are tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Participants include school groups, churches and synagogues, youth sports, food banks, animal support groups and many others. Kroger does not make donations to individuals.

Get your favorite local organization

enrolled

today! Enrollment applications can be downloaded at Kroger.com

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

**ZERO HUNGER
ZERO WASTE**

by **Kroger**

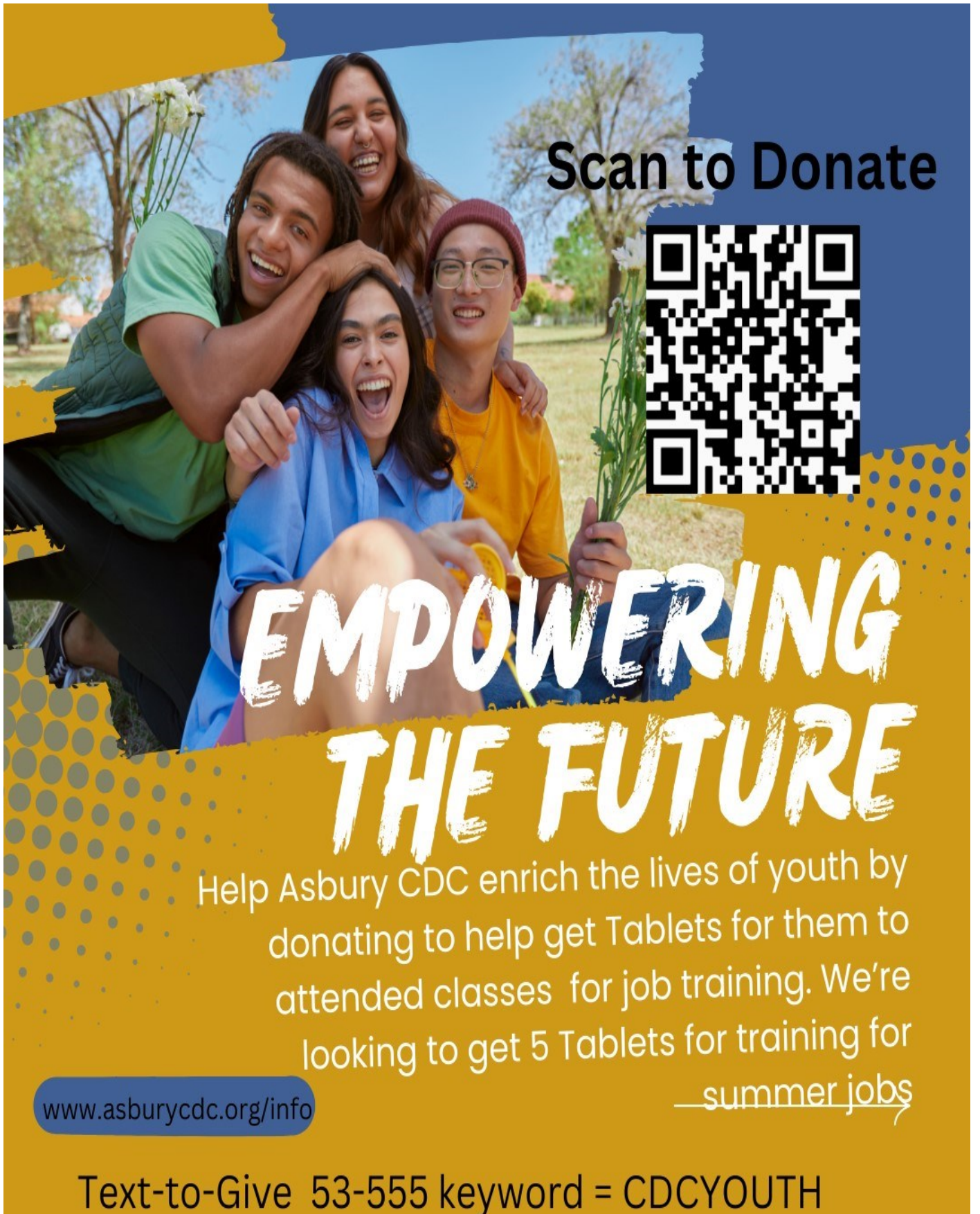
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We're giving **\$2 million**

to local area non profits

Use your Kroger Plus Card and earn rewards for your favorite organization.

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come together and you can help!**



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EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Help Asbury CDC enrich the lives of youth by donating to help get Tablets for them to attended classes for job training. We're looking to get 5 Tablets for training for summer jobs

www.asburycdc.org/info

Text-to-Give 53-555 keyword = CDCYOUTH



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,



Southside Community Resource Hub

TACO & NACHO FUNDRAISER

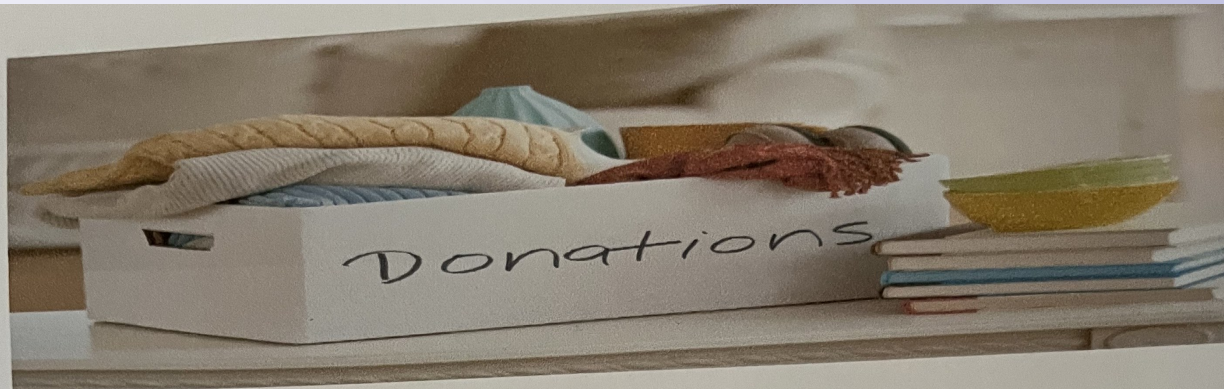
SUPPORT OUR UPCOMING EVENT WARMTH FOR WINTER

NOVEMBER 2ND 2024 - FROM 12-4

*Walking Tacos will be \$4.00 and Nachos will be \$6.00
they will come in beef or turkey condiments are included.*

4506 FENTON RD FLINT, MICHIGAN 48507

For more information or to place orders please contact me at 810-347-6633.



Southside Community Resource Hub Inc

Is Planning an event for Homeless Awareness Month

We are asking for new and lightly used winter items. HAM is recognized during the month of November, so we are trying to collect as many items as possible from October 1st-31st 2024.

Items needed:

- Scarves
- Socks
- Gloves
- socks

ALL SIZES

For more information contact

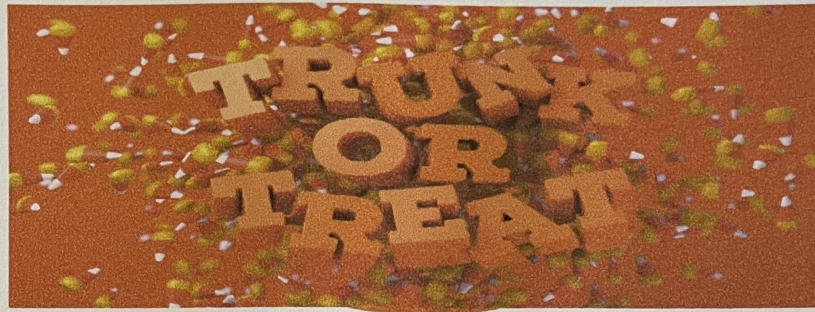
Tyonna McIntyre- Owner 810-347-6633

Tiffany DePriest-VP 810-348-0518

Website: www.southsidecommunityresourcehub.net

Drop off location: 4400 Kings Lane Burton, MI 48529

Time: 9am-5pm inside of the office, there will be a box available.



**UNITY OF FLINT 2ND ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT
EVENT**

**WHERE: 4506 FENTON RD FLINT, MICHIGAN
48507**

WHEN: OCTOBER 26TH 2024

TIME: 4 PM – 6 PM

**THE EVENT IS LOCATED IN THE PARKING LOT!
PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE ON ADJACENT
STREETS AND IN THE PARKING LOT NEXT TO THE
CHURCH.**

THIS IS A FREE PUBLIC EVENT!

CONTACT: REV. BRIAN DRAFTON GRIFFIN

810-884-1518 FOR MORE INFORMATION