

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Volume 4 Issue 3

NOVEMBER 3, 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.

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Guards (What's your story?)



Our lives are a story in themselves. But not just any story. Each one of us is an image-bearer of an even greater story. It is the story of creation and our role in guarding and protecting its beauty and grandeur.

Sadly, our individual stories often go untold. Not because they're not interesting. Our stories go untold because other stories overshadow our own. We're expected to listen and be mesmerized by the stories of a handful of others.

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**EVERYONE
HAVE A
SAFE
WEEKEND!!**

DONATE

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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
NOVEMBER 3 - 10



Nov 4	Mon	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
Nov 5	Tue	ELECTION DAY	
		10am-until gone Produce will be available each Tuesday (until further notice), along with canned goods	
Nov 6	Wed		
Nov 7	Thu		
Nov 8	Fri		
Nov 9	Sat		
Nov 10	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.)

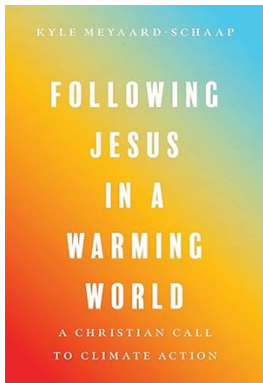
Upcoming Worship Series "Life"



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?

Asbury Staff

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Tony & Mirium Welcome Team
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:

In the beginning, the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1-18

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

1. Read John 1:1-18. As you read these verses, reflect on your own understanding of the creation stories in Genesis. How are these two stories connected?
2. Read this week's article titled Guards. What is your understanding of our role in protecting and preserving creation? How does your understanding of the creation story inform your view of 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.



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going with sack lunches, to bathe and brush
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Flint MI 48507

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

Email us at southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com

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More Information :



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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

You likely know one or two. They're quick to tell you their own grievances and capacities. They are self-centered narcissists. In their opinion, the world revolves around them.

Of course, we all need a dose of self-confidence. We need enough self-confidence to know our story matters and to want others to know and love us. Our stories shape us. How our story fits into the greater story adjusts and colors how we see the world and how we hear the greater story. It is our filter that allows qualified information in and keeps the rest from changing our minds.

When the imbalance of self-confidence reaches a point of doing harm, psychologists call it narcissistic personality disorder. Persons suffering from this condition are extremely thin-skinned despite a rather grandiose sense of self-importance.

Jenette Restivo, in an article published by the Harvard Medical School, states that persons with this condition demand excessive admiration and have an unreasonable expectation of being treated favorably or for others to comply with their demands and expectations.

The harm comes when their behavior turns to exploiting others to achieve their own ends, particularly since they lack empathy and are unwilling to identify with the needs of others.

Mary Trump, a clinical psychologist, writes about her uncle: "This is far beyond garden-variety narcissism. Donald is not simply weak. His ego is a fragile thing that must be bolstered every moment because he knows, deep down, that he is nothing of what he claims to be."

Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, in our companion book, explains how evangelical Christians came to support a candidate for president who exhibits all of the symptoms associated with a narcissistic personality disorder. Most evangelicals agree with the former president's denial that climate change is real, or at least that the problems aren't caused by human negligence.

Yonat Shimron, writing for the Washington Post, "Among White evangelicals, the view that the Earth is in crisis dropped — from 13 percent in 2014 to 8 percent," according to a Public Religion Research Institute survey conducted in 2023.

"Nearly half of White evangelicals (49 percent) still believe climate change is caused by natural patterns in the environment," notes Shimron in her article.

Schaap argues, "When it comes to climate change, we have been formed by stories other than the story of God... However we received it, the message was plain; we don't need to care about the Earth because the Earth has no eternal significance ... from the beginning, the pursuit of oil in America has been inseparable from Christianity."

Schaap concludes, "Our faith is not informing our climate politics; it's the other way around."

In the first Genesis story, God turns chaos into order and declares creation good seven times during the process. The number seven is significant. Creation is complete; it is whole, and it is holy. Creation is as good as it gets.

But in the midst of creating all creatures, God chose to create humankind. We are image bearers, co-dependent with the rest of creation but not independent or above creation.

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](#).

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In the 2nd creation story, God forms the first human from the soil of the earth. The scene is intimate. For God, creation is personal. Out of the dirt, God forms Humankind from *adamah*, "soil people." God then places the soil people into the garden as caretakers. We are the guardians who are given an awesome responsibility as guards of all the good God created.

This is the bigger story that should inform how we view climate change. We are the on-duty guards, and our sense of urgency should reflect our role and obligation.

In the beginning, the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

When sin entered into our world, relationships suffered. Not only relationships between humans but our connection to creation itself was badly damaged. But there is good news. God is reconciling all of creation.

The Gospel of John reminds us of the greater story. "In the beginning was the Word," writes John. "Word" is translated from *logos* in Greek. It is the force that brings life into the world. Schaap writes, "The logos was the ever-present energy—variously described by the competing philosophical schools as wisdom, logic, rationality, or beauty—that both created the world in the beginning and sustained it from one moment to the next."

John reminds us the Word is the source of life and a light shining in the darkness. God will reconcile all of creation, repairing the brokenness and making the old new again. The earth was not created with planned obsolescence in mind. The earth was created out of love.

The earth and its guardians are part of God's love story.

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Jenette Restivo. Reviewed by Stephanie Collier, MD. "Narcissistic personality disorder: Symptoms, diagnosis, and treatments." © Harvard Medical School, January 8, 2024. Retrieved from: [link](#)

Yonat Shimron. "U.S. faith groups do not view climate change as a crisis, new poll finds." © Washington Post, October 6, 2023. Retrieved from: [link](#)



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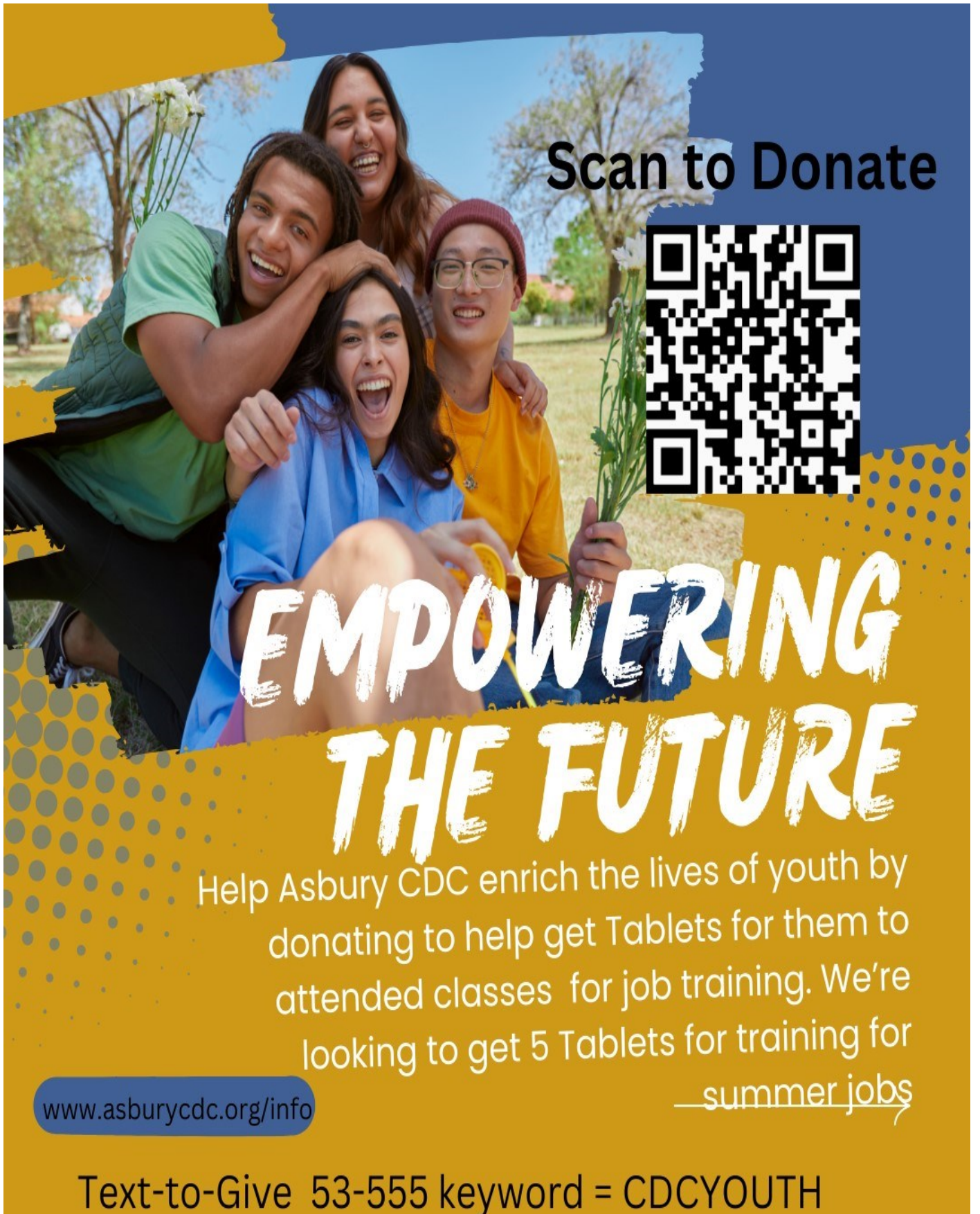
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4TH ANNUAL

PRE-VETERANS DAY

MOTORCADE EVENT

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- o MOTORCADE WILL MEET AT FLINT CITY HALL AT 9:00AM
- o PARTICIPANTS WILL LINE UP & PROCEED TO
- o BERSTON FIELD HOUSE 3300 SAGINAW ST. AND FINALLY
- o MOTORCADE PROCEEDS TO MICHIGAN HEROES MUSEUM 1250 WEISS ST, FRANKENMUTH.

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RACHEL HARRIS @ 810-777-4881

KEYNOTE SPEAKER GENESEE COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR DERRICK BRITTON

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