

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

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Pursuit (Truth)



Have you ever missed your exit on the interstate?

Larry, my late older brother, loved to tell a story about a time he and my sister, Ann, were driving to visit our parents. Ann was behind the wheel while my brother slept in the passenger seat. She didn't want to

wake him, even though she realized something wasn't right, so she kept driving.

Eventually, she woke our brother and said, "I think we're lost."

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Dignity (Truth)



As Father's Day approaches, I can't help but think about my own father.

I admired many things about him. He worked hard. He was humble. He treated people with respect. He believed a person's character mattered more than their status. Looking back, I realize much of what he

taught me about life came not from what he said, but from how he lived.

My father's faith was practical. I never heard him quote scripture. I never heard him discuss theology. Yet he often repeated sayings that sounded a lot like the wisdom found in Proverbs.

Last week, I shared one of his favorites, "You can't know a man until you've walked a mile in his shoes."

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This will be up for auction at our Art Fair..



DONATE

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Larry looked around and quickly realized they weren't just a few miles off course. They were in a state they had never intended to enter.

The problem wasn't that the car had stopped moving. It was moving just fine. The problem wasn't that Ann wasn't a good driver. She is a safe and conscientious driver. The problem was that somewhere back along the highway, they missed the right exit.

I suspect most of us have had a similar experience. I know I have. We become distracted. We assume we're headed in the right direction. We keep making progress. Then one day, we realize we're not where we intended to be.

This week, we come to one of the most familiar phrases in the Declaration of Independence: "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration doesn't guarantee happiness. It protects our freedom to pursue it. Which raises an important question. What are we pursuing?

Every day, our culture points us toward another exit. "This is what will make you happy." "This is what you've been missing." "If you can just get here, then you'll finally be satisfied."

Before taking another exit, it might be wise to ask yourself a simple question: Check your exit.

An interstate is full of exits. Life is too. But, not every exit leads where we hope. Also, have you ever noticed how quickly yesterday's dream can become today's disappointment?

We work hard for something we've wanted for months, sometimes years. We save our money. We anticipate the day it finally becomes ours. A new vehicle. A larger home. A promotion. A new phone. A long-awaited vacation.

For a while, we're excited. We should be. There is nothing wrong with enjoying life's blessings.

But then something happens. The excitement begins to fade. Before long, we're looking toward the next purchase, the next accomplishment, the next goal, the next thing that promises to make life complete.

Most of us have lived that story.

It's one reason advertisers spend billions of dollars every year convincing us that happiness is just one more exit down the road. If only we had a little more. A little newer. A little bigger. A little more impressive. We keep driving because the next exit promises what the last one couldn't deliver.

That same pursuit plays out on a much larger stage.

The Declaration of Independence protects our freedom to pursue happiness. But it wisely leaves another question unanswered.

Where is happiness actually found?

Perhaps that's why the story of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool has captured so much attention.

A reflecting pool has one purpose: to reflect. It draws our eyes beyond itself. We see the Washington Monument stretching toward the sky. We see the Lincoln Memorial standing as a reminder of a nation still striving toward its highest ideals. Sometimes, if we look carefully enough, we even see ourselves.

Maybe that's why this week's story has lingered in my mind. It raises a question far more important than the future of a reflecting pool.

What are we reflecting?

That is hardly a new question. More than six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Jeremiah watched Judah's leaders pursue grand projects while neglecting justice. God challenged King Jehoiakim through the prophet: "Your father gave the poor and needy their rights, and all went well for him. That is what it means to know me." (Jeremiah 22:16)

Virginia Bigger	Paula Gamble
Sylvia Pittman	Richard Oram
Miriam Watson	Jonathon Misner



Dean Lamoreaux Norma Buzzard
Nancy Elston

COMING UP THIS WEEK: JUNE 29 — JULY 5

June 30	Tue	9:00am-until gone	Produce will be available each week, along with canned goods, until further notice
		12Noon-6pm	Taco Tuesday (see flyer pg. 26)
		3:00pm	CDC Board Meeting

July 2 Thu

July 3 Fri



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!

July 4 Sat

July 5	Sun	10:30am	New Beginnings
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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 "Mortgaged"



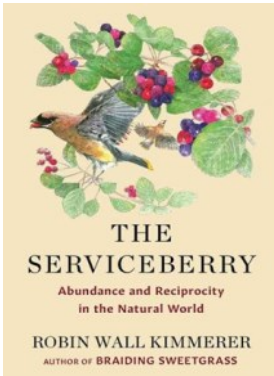
Most of us think of a mortgage as a loan on a house. We receive something valuable today and agree to pay for it over time. At its best, a mortgage helps build a future. A family finds a home. A community grows stronger. An investment today creates something of lasting value tomorrow.

But not every mortgage builds the future.

Sometimes we trade what matters most for what matters now. We sacrifice lasting goods for temporary pleasures. We exchange truth for convenience, relationships for success, stewardship for profit, and contentment for endless accumulation. We consume gifts we did not create and borrow against tomorrow, leaving someone else to pay the bill.

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Book Club News



Beginning July 12, we begin a new worship series titled *Mortgaged*.

You likely already know what a mortgage is. We

borrow from the future in order to enjoy something today. Sometimes that borrowing helps us build some-

thing lasting. A home mortgage, for example, may create stability and opportunity for generations.

But not all mortgages work that way. Throughout this series, we'll explore a simple but important question: What are we borrowing from the future, and what are we leaving behind?

To accompany our conversations, we will be reading *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural*

World by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Many of you may recognize Kimmerer as the author of the bestselling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. A botanist, teacher, and gifted storyteller, she invites readers to look at the natural world not merely as a collection of resources to consume, but as a community of relationships built on gift, gratitude, and mutual care.

At the center of the book is a simple observation.

When a serviceberry tree produces fruit, it does not create scarcity. It creates abundance. Birds eat. Animals eat. People eat. Seeds spread. New life grows. The tree participates in a cycle of generosity that benefits the entire community.

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Anthony & Jim	Ushers
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Christine	Cafe

Upcoming Worship Series — “Mortgaged”

Whether we realize it or not, every life leaves an inheritance.

The question is not simply whether we are borrowing. The question is: What are we leaving behind?

Scripture begins with a gift. Before there was work, there was a garden. Before there was ownership, there was trust. Before there was abundance to enjoy, there was abundance to steward.

Everything we cherish—our lives, our families, our faith, our communities, even the earth itself—has been entrusted to us by God. We did not create these gifts. We received them.

Every generation must answer the same question: What will we do with what we've been given? Beginning July 12, we'll explore that question together in *Mortgaged*, a new worship series about stewardship, inheritance, gratitude, community, and joy. Together we'll wrestle with questions that touch every part of life:

What has God entrusted to us?

How much is enough?

What do we owe one another?

Can we love a future we may never see?

What kind of life bears fruit?

Along the way, we may discover something surprising. Stewardship is not primarily about giving things up. It is about discovering a better way to live.

Our culture often promises that joy can be purchased through more—more wealth, more possessions, more influence, more success. Yet Jesus points us toward a different kind of abundance. The deepest joy is found not in what we accumulate, but in what we cultivate. Joy grows in relationships. It grows in gratitude. It grows when we participate in God's work of bringing life, hope, and healing into the world.

That is why one question will guide us throughout this journey:

Are we leaving behind a harvest—or a bill?

Upcoming Worship Series — “Truth”

Our companion book for this series is *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

You did not choose me ... I choose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures.

John 15:16

Drawing on the life of the humble serviceberry tree, Kimmerer invites readers to imagine an economy shaped not by endless consumption, but by gratitude, reciprocity, and shared abundance. Though not written as a Christian book, it beautifully complements our exploration of biblical stewardship and the common good.

Whether you join us for worship, participate in a Life Group, read the companion book, or simply come with an open mind and heart, we invite you to become part of the conversation.

Summer is a season of gardens, orchards, berries, and harvests. It reminds us that every seed matters, every season has its purpose, and every harvest begins with someone willing to plant.

What kind of future are we cultivating?

Are we leaving behind a harvest—or a bill?

Here is our schedule of episodes for our series. Sometimes details change based on what's going on in the world or simply because God has a better idea:

<u>Episode</u>	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
One	July 12	Entrusted	Genesis 2:4–15
Two	July 19	Enough	Luke 12:13–21
Three	July 26	Inheritance	Deuteronomy 34:1–12
Four	August 2	Common Good	Acts 2:42–47
Five	August 9	Harvesting	John 15:1–17

Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We share our weekly episodes on [Facebook](#) and our [YouTube channel](#), and go live at 10:30 a.m. You can find these links and more information about us, or join our live broadcast on our [website](#), FlintAsburyChurch.org.

Pastor Tommy

Our companion book for this series is Robin Wall Kimmerer. *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. New York: Scribner, 2024.



“Feed Flint”

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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:

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

NOTES FROM WORSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS:

1. Read John 10:10 and this week's Circuit Rider article titled Pursuit.
2. This week, reflect on your own life travels. Do you have a destination in mind that promises to bring you joy and happiness? If not, pray for guidance. If so, check your exit.
3. How can your group members help you be more receptive to hearing and understanding the Word of God this week? Pray for one another to be blessed by the Holy Spirit with greater courage.



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Kimmerer asks what might happen if we learned to see our lives through a similar lens. What if fulfillment comes not from accumulating more, but from participating more fully in relationships of generosity? What if the things we value most cannot be bought or sold? What if the future is something we are called to nurture rather than consume?

These questions lie at the heart of our faith as well. Scripture consistently reminds us that life is a gift, that creation is entrusted to our care, and that our neighbors are not competitors but companions. You do not need to read any or all of this book to follow our series. However, the book is a short and accessible read. We simply invite you to read along as we explore these themes together. Here is a suggested reading schedule:

Sunday's	<u>Chapter (s)</u>
July 12	Intro & Ch 1
July 19	Ch's 2 & 3
July 26	Ch 4
August 2	Ch's 5 & 6
August 9	Ch 7 & Invitation

Whether you read every page or simply join us for worship, we hope this book expands your imagination and helps us ask a deeper question together:

What kind of future are we creating for those who come after us?

We'll have a few books available for purchase at \$10 each. Additional copies of the hardcover edition are available through Amazon for \$11. This book is available in paperback, but at a slightly higher cost on Amazon. You should also be able to find this book at the local library.

Our Book Club does not meet as a group. However, our weekly messages reference that week's chapters or themes. 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

Robin Wall Kimmerer. *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. New York: Scribner, 2024.

At the time, I thought he was simply encouraging empathy. Years later, I realized he was teaching something much deeper. Before we judge another person, we should try to understand their story. Before we dismiss someone, we should remember that we rarely know the burdens they carry.

It is a lesson our world badly needs.

This Sunday, as we continue our *Truth* series with a message titled *Dignity*, I find myself grateful for fathers and father figures who taught us, not only with words, but also by the example of their lives.

Over the past few months, I've been intrigued by what I've read about and heard from Senator and pastor Raphael Warnock. Senator Warnock often speaks about his father.

His father was a veteran, a pastor, and a hardworking man who spent years repairing and restoring automobiles. He was not wealthy or influential by society's standards, but he taught his children lessons about character, responsibility, and respect for others.

Good fathers teach dignity.

Not necessarily through sermons or lectures. They teach it by how they treat people. They teach it by showing respect to those with less power than they have. They teach it by whether they recognize the worth of every person they encounter.

Many of us learned those lessons from our parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, and pastors. The question is whether our society is still teaching them. Warnock has argued that America is experiencing a spiritual crisis. I believe he is right.

In a recent interview, Warnock posed a question: "Do our deeds match our creeds?" It is a simple question, but an important one. And it keeps coming up.

Many people, especially younger generations, have become skeptical of organized religion. There are many reasons for that decline, but one is difficult to ignore. People notice when our deeds do not match our creeds.

Warnock suggested that the true test of faith is found in our commitment to those with the least power and the fewest resources. The prophets asked that question. Jesus asked that question. The church has been wrestling with that question ever since.

It is also a question worth asking of ourselves.

A spiritual crisis does not necessarily mean fewer people believe in God. America remains a deeply religious nation. Politicians quote scripture. Churches remain active. Public officials regularly invoke God's blessing.

The crisis runs deeper. We are becoming less capable of recognizing the dignity of one another.

The evidence is all around us. It is as though our focus has become distorted. We see labels more clearly than people. We revert to categories before we discover stories.

We hear it in the language that dominates public life. Entire groups of people are described as threats before they are recognized as human beings. Immigrants are discussed as problems to solve. Members of the LGBTQ+ community are too often reduced to issues to be debated rather than neighbors to be known. Political opponents are treated as enemies rather than fellow citizens. The poor are often blamed for their circumstances while wealth itself is celebrated as evidence of virtue.

We see it when fear becomes more persuasive than compassion. We see it when outrage attracts more attention than understanding. We see it when public policy increasingly asks, "How do we protect ourselves from them?" instead of, "How do we care for one another?"

We see it whenever a person's race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status becomes more important than their humanity.

This is how prejudice works. This is how discrimination works. This is how societies become divided.

The process always begins the same way.

People notice when our deeds do not match our creeds. They notice when faith is used to judge rather than to heal. They notice when some groups are welcomed while others are treated with suspicion. They notice when public expressions of religion are accompanied by rhetoric that portrays entire groups of people as threats rather than neighbors.

These attitudes are not just words. They have shaped policy. And they have ushered in a spiritual crisis. They have determined who receives protection, who receives assistance, whose voices are heard, and whose suffering is ignored.

The result is not merely political division. It is a loss of dignity.

We have become less curious about one another's stories. Less willing to listen. Less capable of empathy. More likely to define people by labels than by their humanity.

Senator Warnock is not the only prophetic voice raising these concerns. Others, including Pope Leo, have repeatedly warned against cultures of exclusion, indifference, and fear. Though they speak from different contexts, their concern is remarkably similar.

A Society cannot remain healthy when some people are treated as though they matter less than others. This is why I believe we are facing a spiritual crisis. The process always begins the same way.

We stop seeing people.

The truth is, this is not a new problem.

I see that you are very religious in every way. For as I walked through your city and looked at the places where you worship, I found an altar on which is written, "To an unknown God."

Acts 17:22-28

Nearly two thousand years ago, the Apostle Paul arrived in Athens, one of the great intellectual and religious centers of the ancient world. Everywhere he looked, he found temples, shrines, and altars dedicated to various gods. The city was deeply spiritual, but not in the way Paul understood faith.

Based on our earlier observations, most of us expect that Paul would begin with criticism. Instead, he begins with curiosity.

Standing before the people of Athens, Paul says: "I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked through your city and looked at the places where you worship, I found an altar on which is written, 'To an Unknown God'" (Acts 17:22-23).

Paul disagreed with much of what he saw in Athens. Yet before he challenged their beliefs, he recognized their humanity. Before he spoke, he listened. Before he condemned, he observed.

Paul saw people.

That approach did not begin with Paul. Centuries earlier, the prophets challenged those who claimed to worship God while neglecting justice and compassion. Through the prophet Isaiah, God declared: "Learn to do right. Seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Help the orphans. Stand up for the rights of widows." (Isaiah 1:17)

The prophet Micah summarized God's desire even more simply: "Do what is right, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Jesus continued that same tradition. When others saw sinners, Jesus saw people. When others saw outcasts, Jesus saw people. When others saw enemies, Jesus taught his followers to love them.

Again and again, Jesus refused to reduce human beings to labels.

That is why Paul's speech in Athens eventually arrives at one of the most important truths in scripture: "From one person God created all human beings and made them live over the whole earth." (Acts 17:26)

Paul reminds us that our identity is not found in our nationality, race, politics, wealth, religion, gender, or social status. Rather, "It is through Jesus that we live and function and have our identity" (Acts 17:28). Our identity

begins with God because every person shares the same Creator and bears the image of God. Every person possesses dignity.

Dignity is not something we earn. It is something we recognize.

Perhaps that is why dignity begins with seeing. Paul invites us to sharpen our focus—not on labels, but on the people God created and loves. To see what God sees is to recognize the dignity already present in every person.

This week's companion reading is one of the most interesting chapters in Walter Isaacson's *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*. The chapter is titled "Endowed by Their Creator."

Many Americans assume the founders shared a common Christian faith. Isaacson points out that reality was far more complicated. Some were deeply religious. Others were skeptical of traditional doctrine. Many disagreed sharply with one another about theology. Yet they found common ground on one revolutionary idea: Human dignity does not come from government. Nor does it come from wealth. Dignity does not come from social status. It does not come from race, nationality, or family heritage.

Dignity comes from something deeper.

That conviction found its way into the Declaration of Independence: "All men are created equal" and are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

The founders often failed to live up to those words. The existence of slavery is painful evidence of that failure. Women were excluded from political participation. Native peoples were frequently denied their humanity. The contradiction was obvious.

Yet the ideal endured.

Generation after generation, Americans returned to those words to challenge slavery, segregation, discrimination, and exclusion. Why? Because the Declaration pointed beyond government to something larger.

Long before Jefferson put pen to paper, Paul stood in Athens and proclaimed: "From one person God created all human beings and made them live over the whole earth." The source of dignity was never government.

The source of dignity was God.

The founders did not fully realize that vision. Neither have we. But the vision itself remains worth pursuing. A healthy society is not built upon fear of those who are different. It is built upon the recognition that every person possesses dignity that cannot be earned, purchased, granted, or taken away.

If our spiritual crisis begins when we stop seeing people, then healing begins when we learn to see them again. Perhaps that sounds simple. But in practice, it may be one of the hardest things we are called to do.

The challenge before us is surprisingly simple: sharpen your focus. See what God sees.

It requires us to look beyond labels. Beyond political parties. Beyond race and nationality. Beyond religion. Beyond gender and sexual orientation. Beyond wealth and social status.

It requires us to remember that every person we meet has a story, a struggle, and a dignity that comes from God. My father understood that. Raphael Warnock's father understood that. The prophets understood that. Jesus embodied that. Paul proclaimed it in Athens.

The founders attempted to write it into the very fabric of our nation. The challenge now belongs to us. Will we define people by categories? Or will we recognize the image of God within them?

Will our deeds match our creeds? Will we continue contributing to a culture of fear and exclusion? Or will we help build a culture of dignity?

The future of our communities, our churches, and our democracy may depend on how we answer those questions.

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.](#)

This article is part of a weekly newsletter called the Circuit Rider. You can request this publication by email by sending 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 Connect - choose [Newsletters.](#)

Pastor Tommy

The series concept and some content come from Walter Isaacson. *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*. NY: Simon & Schuster, 2025.



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Jeremiah reminds us that greatness is not measured by what we build, but by whether people flourish because of our leadership.

Not long afterward, the prophet Ezekiel confronted Israel's shepherds. A common metaphor, in scripture, for the nation's political and religious leaders. Rather than caring for the weak, healing the sick, or seeking the lost, they had used their positions for their own benefit. Their leadership reflected self-interest instead of God's compassion.

Reading those ancient prophets, it's difficult not to recognize why so many people today feel unsettled. We know something isn't quite right. We see it in the headlines. We hear it in our conversations.

We even catch glimpses of it in recent elections, where many voters seem to be searching for a different kind of leadership. Whatever our political views, that longing itself tells us something important. Human beings instinctively hunger for leaders who help people flourish.

That brings us to Jesus.

Jesus heals a man who had been blind since birth. Instead of celebrating, the religious leaders interrogated him, pressured his parents, and eventually drove him from the synagogue.

Like the prophets before Him, Jesus also talked about shepherds. "The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy," He says. "I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness." (John 10:10)

Jesus doesn't simply expose what false shepherds do. He reveals what God's leadership looks like.

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

If the road you're traveling steals life, divides people, or leaves your neighbors behind...Check your exit.

Where others take life, Jesus gives it. Where others divide, Jesus restores. Where others pursue themselves, Jesus pursues us.

The Declaration of Independence protects our freedom to pursue happiness.

Jesus shows us what that pursuit has been pointing toward all along: not a life centered on ourselves, but a life lived in all its fullness.

Several years ago, our congregation explored the ideas found in a book titled *The Abundant Community* by John McKnight and Peter Block.

We didn't simply read the book. We practiced it. Together, we learned to see our neighborhood differently.

Most communities are taught to begin with a simple question: "What's wrong here?" Professor McKnight and community organizer, Peter Block, suggested a better one: "What capabilities are already here?"

It's a remarkably hopeful way to see the world. Instead of beginning with problems, begin with people. Instead of focusing on deficiencies, discover gifts. Instead of asking what we lack, ask what God has already placed among us. That vision sounds remarkably like the life Jesus describes.

Life in all its fullness isn't measured by how much we accumulate for ourselves. It grows as we discover our gifts, share them generously, and help others discover theirs.

That's true for individuals. It's true for churches. It's true for communities. And it's true for nations. The pursuit of happiness isn't ultimately about getting more. It's about becoming more fully alive together.

Every day we choose which exits to take. Some exits promise success but leave us isolated. Some promise security but leave us fearful. Some promise greatness but leave our neighbors behind.

Jesus points us toward another road altogether—a road where our lives become a gift to others. Perhaps that's what happiness has been pointing toward all along.

Sooner or later, every interstate traveler comes to another exit. Some lead to restaurants. Some to gas stations. Some to rest areas. Some lead us home. Life is much the same. Every day, we make choices about what we will pursue, what will shape us, and ultimately what our lives will reflect.

The Declaration of Independence wisely protects our freedom to pursue happiness. Jesus invites us to pursue something even deeper. Life. Not merely existence. Not endless consumption. Not the next possession, promotion, or public recognition. But, life in all its fullness.

Perhaps that's why the prophets called leaders to seek justice before monuments. Perhaps that's why Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd instead of a king. And perhaps that's why the greatest joy we will ever experience isn't found in asking, "What can I get next?"

It's found in asking, "Whose life can I help flourish?"

May our lives reflect the One who came not to steal, kill, or destroy, but to give life. And when the next exit appears, may we have the wisdom—and the courage—to choose the one that leads there.

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The Declaration protects our freedom to pursue happiness. Jesus shows us where life is found.

Before you follow another promise...Before you just keep driving...Check your exit.

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.

This article is part of a weekly newsletter called the Circuit Rider. You can request this publication by email by sending 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 Connect - choose [Newsletters](#).

Pastor Tommy

The series concept and some content come from Walter Isaacson. *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*. NY: Simon & Schuster, 2025.

JOIN US AT OUR ART AUCTION: "PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE"

ART AUCTION

Planting Seeds for the Future

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH



LOCATION:
1613 Jane Ave,
Flint, MI. 48506



TIME:
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



**SILENT AUCTION
ENDS AT 3:00**



REFRESHMENTS
& APPETIZERS



MUSIC



COMMUNITY
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PARTNERS

Bid on art. Support community. Grow the future.

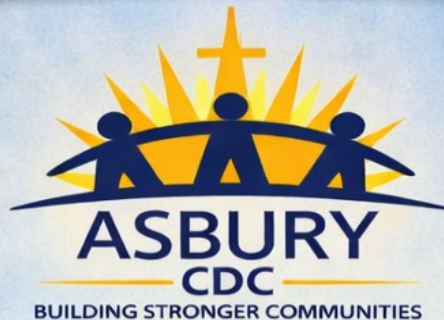
Happy 15th Anniversary to **ASBURY** **CDC**



Here's to many more!
To Give



Asbury CDC Celebrates 15 Years of Impact!



Asbury Community Development Corporation (Asbury CDC) is a nonprofit 501c(5) organization located on Flint's east side, dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents. through food access, community development, and workforce opportunities.



In partnership with **The Ally Challenge** — Supporting Community Growth

Together **supporting** Urban Farming & Youth Workforce Development!

Through initiatives such as Asbury Farms, South Flint Soup Kitchen, The Help Center and Food Pantry, and the Sizzling Culture Youth Workforce Development Program, Asbury CDC provides fresh produce, nutritious meals, emergency assistance, job training.

The Ally Challenge Events

- **Family Fun Night**
Thursday, August 27 • 5:00PM - 7:30PM
- **Folds of Honor Friday**
Friday, August 28
Opening ceremony & Parachute Jumper
- **Concert @17** presented by
Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
Estimated start time: 6:30PM
(featuring Wildflowers)
- **Ally Community Concert**
Saturday August 29
- **Zhenders Chicken & Waffle Brunch**
Sunday, August 30
Free for Sunday Ticket Holders

DONATE NOW:

theallychallenge.com/chipin

FREE MEALS
ALL SUMMER LONG
(For all kids under 18 years old)

WHERE: South Flint Soup Kitchen 3410 S. Fenton Rd Flint

WHEN: June 22, 2026 through August 22, 2026

TIMES: 1:00pm—1:20pm (Monday-Friday)

MEALS: Lunch (Food Truck)

(Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is an equal opportunity provider)



FREE MEALS AT FLINT ASBURY UMC!!

**FREE MEALS
ALL SUMMER LONG**

(For all kids under 18 years old)



WHERE: Flint Asbury UMC 1653 Davison Rd

WHEN: June 22, 2026 through August 22, 2026

TIMES: 12:35pm—12:55pm (Monday-Friday)

MEALS: Lunch (Food Truck)



(Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is an equal opportunity provider)



**African Drum and Dance
Parent Association presents**

TACO TUESDAY FUNDRAISER

In June

**EVERY TUESDAY
IN JUNE:**

**June 2, June 9,
June 16, June 23,
and June 30.**



**TIME:
Noon to 6PM**

**Tacos start
at only \$2!**

WHERE:

**Asbury United Methodist Church
1653 Davison Road
Flint 48506**

Contact:

**Baba Kevin Collins
at (810) 394-3880**





In Collaboration With
Prayer 🙏 Chain Partners

Flint, Michigan

www.flintprayerchain.org



**FLINT
STRONG**

For The Sake Of Our City



Breakthroughs



HOSTED BY
PRAYER CHAIN ORGANIZATION
PASTOR SCOTT BECK

SUPPORTED BY ♥
MAYOR SHELDON NEELEY
... More Than 50 Pastors And Leaders

JUNE 27, 2026

@ BUSH PARK DOWNTOWN FLINT

12:00 NOON TIL 3:00 PM

WE ARE REDEDICATING
OUR CITY
THROUGH UNITY, PEACE AND LOVE ♥

REBUILDING 🔥 RESTORING WITH 🔥 FERVENT RESILIENCE

JEREMIAH 1:10 AMP

"I will destroy, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant."