

# THE ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

## Delivering Water

Every week our Asbury neighborhood connection team go out to deliver water to families in need. They brave the rain and cold to make sure families have supply of water for the week.



## Volunteer Spotlight Corner

The spotlight for this edition is on someone that quietly serves wherever he is needed - **Tony Craig**. Seen here serving spaghetti for students visiting from Central Michigan University. Tony is one of our Sunday ushers, a Trustee and a faithful servant of his Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you Tony for all that you do.



## Justice, Mercy & Humility

*No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8 (NLT)

This text from Micah is among the most recognizable from among the prophets, perhaps because it does such a succinct job of telling us what God expects from us. Its helpful to read the context and to be reminded that our offerings are never a substitute for giving of ourselves. Other translations, such as the New International Version will read that *ōwhat is rightō* is about justice translating the Hebrew word *mishpat* to act justly. Several translations use the word *mercy* for the Hebrew word *cheded* which is also kindness. To walk humbly, from the Hebrew word *tsana`* means to walk in humility.

As I break this down to actionable, tangible things that we are called to do I begin with that it might mean to act justly? The Psalms tell of God's justice, peace and righteousness? The Hebrew word *mishpat* shows up a lot in the Psalms and elsewhere in scripture. When we cry out for justice what do we have in mind? The Micah text combines attitude and action into phrases. We are to do justice or to act justly. This requires first an attitude of justice. This text is not calling for a one-time act. Rather, this text calls us

## Neighborhood Connection

Every week truckloads of food and water are delivered to Asbury for distribution. Asbury serves thousands of families each month in our parking lot, but hundreds of families are unable to come to us so we go to them. If you know of a family in need, or have any questions, you may call Reggie at 810-308-8648.



## Asbury Food Pantry

Every week individuals and families turn to Asbury to help them supplement their food supply. Asbury is a partner with the Genesee County Food Bank where we can purchase at a big discount. WE NEED YOUR HELP with food items, including meats, and diapers. We also need your financial contributions.



## FlintAsbury.org

Join in on the conversation taking place on our blog. Pastor Tommy posts his reflections during the week along with other special guests. Let us know if you have information or other content that you wish to share.

to a way of being. We were created to be just. Unfortunately, human weakness causes us to put our own needs and wants ahead of the sacrifice needed for justice.

I have a favorite illustration that helps me when I think about the difference between justice and mercy, which the Micah text also calls us to be. Mercy can be thought of as saving people from drowning. Pulling folks out of the river, so to speak. This is indeed an act of kindness. An act of compassion. Acts of justice is about those actions needed to prevent people from being thrown into the river. Sometimes justice can be thought of as working on root causes rather than treating symptoms. Prevention as opposed to emergency relief. Both are needed. There is a pearl of wisdom that says it can be hard to work on fire prevention in a building that is already burning.

We are to love mercy according to the Micah text. This phrase sounds almost passive. So many things we love are things that we desire but our not good for us. We may love exercise but if we sit on the couch watching TV, perhaps our reality is that we love TV more than exercise. A well-worn commercial phrase from the company Nike is "Just to do it." This phrase suggests that sometimes we need to stop hoping that we will do that which we need to do and just do it.

We need to love mercy in both attitude and action. When we see someone drowning we need to pull them out of harm's way. When we see people, systems and practices that put persons in harms way we need to take action. It is helpful to talk about humility but it is more helpful to demonstrate humility in our actions. God calls us to walk in the way of our Lord, Jesus Christ. To be the person God created us to be.

Pastor Tommy

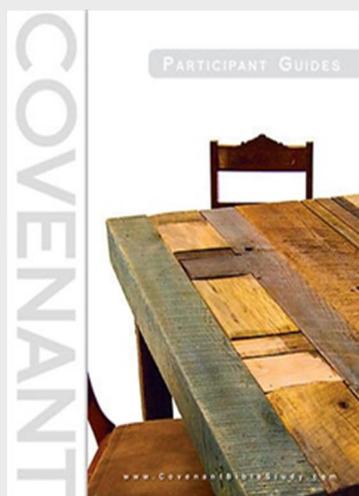
## Flint Cares by Kay DeMoss, Senior Editor-Writer, Michigan Area

When people hear the name, "Flint," their first thought is, "Crisis." But Rev. Tommy McDoniel, pastor of Flint Asbury United Methodist Church, says that he wants their first thought to be, "Caring."

"Yes, problems continue," McDoniel begins, "but we often overlook the caring side. In some ways the worst circumstances here in the city have brought out the best in people." Citing a new initiative FlintCares.com, the pastor is glad to be part of a movement to rebrand Flint from a place with problems to a place known for addressing their problems with compassion.

"The need for water will eventually end," McDoniel says, "but the caring must go on for a lifetime." And the United Methodists and other churches in Flint have been a trusted part of the caring response since the water emergency was first recognized. McDoniel says the State has called upon Asbury and other churches when they need a base of operation because, "They know that people feel better going to a place that's familiar and that they consider safe." Collaborations have abounded. Asbury partners with Mott Community College Workforce, the

## Book Club News



We will soon finish with Part 3 of our study, *Trusting the Covenant* ending with Daniel & Revelation. The prophets and books of ancient history are rich in Biblical tradition and are too often not well understood. It is always the right time to join in. Your insights and questions are welcomed.

Our goal is to continue to "widen our circle" and so we hope that you will join in on our discussion. We meet each Tuesday at Noon. Come join us for a light lunch, fellowship and discussion. Our food selections have been fantastic and we always have plenty to share. We are always on the lookout for our next book, video lesson or topic. Your participation and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Jan 31 Nehemiah

Feb 7 Daniel 1-4

Feb 17 Daniel 6, 7 & 9

Feb 21 Revelation 1-3

The Books of Daniel and Revelation are focused on what happens when all is finished. This makes them the least understood of our Scriptures.

Chamber of Commerce, and Michigan Works among others. The common denominator is caring.

Asbury is one of eight United Methodist congregations that opened their buildings and their hearts to neighbors in need. In January 2016 the Crossroads District announced the opening of Water Resource Centers at those sites that are still operational today.

Now, a year later, needs for filters, test kits and bottled water are still being met. But the focus is shifting in a number of ways. PODs (points of distribution) have been efficient and effective. McDoniel estimates that Asbury still gives out about 1,000 cases of water a week from the parking lot

"But we soon knew that many of our neighbors were not in those lines," he remarks. So Asbury organized home delivery for those who have no car. "Water is heavy. Not possible to carry for someone traveling six blocks with a walker and impossible for the homebound."



Rev. Paul Perez, Detroit Conference Director for Mission and Justice Engagement, reports that a grant of \$14,500 has been made from the Bishop's Appeal for Flint. Flint Asbury will use the money to purchase a mini-bus that will serve multi-purpose, delivering water and transporting people. Perez is part of an oversight group making allocations from the Bishop's Appeal that includes contributions from United Methodists and others from around the globe. The Bishop's Appeal for Flint stands at around \$500,000.

At present, McDoniel's 20-year-old Ford pickup is trucking water into the neighborhood. "At about 30 miles an hour," he adds. There is a crew of six persons who make home deliveries every Friday, week in and week out, to between 125-150 households. The mini-bus will expand their ministry beyond moving pallets of water to serving passengers, giving rides to those needing medical attention or wanting to attend cooking lessons at the church.

Another way Asbury and other care-givers are assisting beyond bottled water involves meeting health needs, both physical health and mental health. Tracking done out of the University of Wisconsin Medical School has created a national database of health outcomes. McDoniel notes, "Their research shows, in terms of how long and how well people are living, Genesee County ranks last in the state. Reasons behind that ranking are poverty, environmental factors, substance abuse and things like access to fast food. "Flint is a food desert and changing that has been at the core of my ministerial call from the beginning," the pastor asserts.

So Asbury's weekly home deliveries include food. "The food is specifically chosen by healthcare professionals," the pastor says, "for the way they mitigate



## Worship Guide

Traditional Service  
 10:00 AM  
 WELCOME  
 JOYS AND CONCERNS  
 OPENING HYMN  
 CALL TO WORSHIP  
 ANTHEM  
 READING OF SCRIPTURE  
 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE  
 HYMN OF PREPARATION  
 TEACHING  
 PASTORAL PRAYER  
 OFFERING & BLESSING  
 CLOSING HYMN  
 BENEDICTION  
 POSTLUDE

## Change in Worship Service

Bible Study	10:00 am
Traditional Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Break	11:00 am
New Beginnings	11:30 am

## In Our Prayers

Curtis Young	Rachel Bastine
Norma Buzzard	Carmen Misner
Merle Supernaw	Barbara McIvor
Shirley Moose	Nancy Elston
Austin & MarySuffle	Shirley Craig
Mary Armstrong	Sarah Tanner
Elizabeth Wright	Judy Tanner
Charlayne Oram	Mary Lyons
Jonathon Misner	

*FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE  
 HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE*  
 Sharon George Elaine Lamoreaux

the negative effects of lead. Once lead is in the body it cannot be eliminated but some of the negative effects—impaired cognition, behavioral problems, high anxiety—can be reduced by eating foods rich in iron, calcium and vitamin C.

McDoniel has been in Flint for seven years and is well aware that malnutrition plagued the community well in advance of the water crisis. "We had lots of soup kitchens and food give-aways in the past," he says, "but those were not focused on the nutrients that will keep lead from destroying lives. Ironically, the lead-contaminated water has brought things like good nutrition into focus in a way that now can be addressed positively."

This means Flint's children will be living longer lives. "United Methodists are stepping up to devastation and turning the situation around for the well-being of the community in the name of Christ," McDoniel states.

As the churches address concerns for physical and mental health, spiritual care has not been forgotten. "When people come into the house of God for water or hear that a volunteer is a United Methodist, I know that touches their lives with something bigger and beyond this world," McDoniel concludes.

## Ways to get involved...

**Worship** helps us to connect with God through music, scripture, biblical teaching, prayer, reflection, adoration and fellowship.

**Video & Sound Support** — We are looking for persons willing to support worship and other events by running our media control center. Training available.

**Music Ministry** — Join the Asbury Choir or Praise Team. We are looking for vocalists and musicians.

**Community Gardening** — The Asbury Center for Nutrition has several gardens, orchards and a hoop house that need your attention.

**Neighborhood Connect** is a ministry that assesses individual gifts and passions and looks for ways to bring people together in ways that improve relationships and our community.

**Food & Water Giveaway** — Join us on Thursdays at 8:30 AM to help give away food and bottled water.

**Pantry** - We need food items, including meats, paper products; personal items diapers, and financial support.

**Social Media** allows us to tell others about the work that God is doing. All of us can help enhance our presence in the social media by posting on our Facebook and utilizing our website for blogging.

**Student Housing** - the Asbury House offers local college students a way to use their gifts and passions together with their faith in building a better neighborhood.

**Women's Circles** - The women of Asbury meet regularly in small groups.

**Pastor's Book Club** meets each Tuesday at 12 for fellowship, food and learning.

**Sunday Bible Study** meets each week at 10 am to review & discuss scripture.



**Coming up this week ...**

Jan 30	Mon		
Jan 31	Tues	9:00am	Water Resources Mtg at Food Bank
		12Noon	Pastor Book Club
Feb 1	Wed	11:00am	UMW
		4:00pm	Youth Recreation
Feb 2	Thurs	10:00am	Water Delivery
		6:30pm	Choir Practice
Feb 3	Fri	8:00am	Taking it to the Streets (planning meeting)
Feb 4	Sat	12Noon	Youth Recreation
Feb 5	Sun	10:00am	Bible Study
		10:00am	Traditional Worship
		11:00am	Coffee Break
		11:30 am	New Beginnings Worship

Look for announcements scrolling on our screen prior to the start of worship. Email announcements by the Friday before to FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com

**In our worship service**

Greeter	Christine
Children's Time	Laura
Candle Lighting	Karen
Usher	Anthony, JoAn, Jim
Media Support	Jim
Nursery	Carolyn
Coffee Break	
Worship Leader	Laura 10:00am

**Last Week for Worship**

Attendance 50    Offering \$7,279

**Coffee Break**

Plan to meet outside the sanctuary each Sunday after the first service for coffee, tea, snacks, conversation and so on. The music will start when it is time to wrap up and head in for *New Beginnings*.

**Asbury Staff**

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel	Pastor
Jim Craig	Church Council Chair Asbury CDC Board Chair
Connie Portillo	Office Secretary
Kathy Howe	Choir Director
Rebekah Britton	Organist
Phone/Fax	810-235-0016 (call first when faxing)

**WELCOME! - Bienvenidos!**

We are happy you are here to worship with us today. Please fill out an information card and place it in the offering plate in order that we may be able to serve you further.

**OUR VISION – Nuestro Vision**

*We envision a community in love with God, one another and our neighbors, evidenced through the transformation of ourselves and our neighborhood*

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - Anuncios de la Semana**

**2017 Worship Schedules:** If you are interested in leading worship or supporting worship through video and audio technology support, talk to Pastor Tommy.

**Please note Elizabeth Circle** has been moved to February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, instead of February 13<sup>th</sup> as it reads in the UMW directory.

**Message from Carmen Misner:** Jonathon is doing much better; he is in physical therapy and improving each day. Thank you all for your prayers.

**Please put your cell phone on stun!****Por favor poner el teléfono en silencio!**

In order that we may be fully present in worship, please set your cell phone to silent mode. Tweets & Facebook posts are encouraged if they are relevant to our worship.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>JANUARY 2017</span> <span>Asbury UMC Monthly Planner</span> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am	2	3 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am	4 UMW 11am (Hostess: Lydia Circle) Youth Rec 4pm	5 Water Delivery 10am Choir Practice 6:30pm	6	7 Youth Rec 12N
8 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am	9 Elizabeth Circle (out to dinner) 6pm 	10 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am Pastor Book Club 12pm VCI Planning 5:30pm	11 Lydia Circle 12:30pm Youth Rec 4pm 	12 Nutrition Truck 10am Water Delivery 11am Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	13 	14 Youth Rec 12N
15 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Worship Leader Training 1-2pm	16 Church Council 6:30pm	17 Recovery Wkgroup at 1938 Howard Ave 9am Pastor Book Club 12pm Lois Circle 12:30pm Worship Leader Training 5:30-6:30pm	18 Distress Truck Delivery 10am Youth Rec 4pm	19 Water Delivery 11:00am Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Taking it to the Streets Planning Mtg 3-4:30pm (at Bethel UMC) Choir Practice 6:30pm	20 Taking it to the Streets Planning Mtg (at Bethel UMC) 8am	21 Youth Rec 12N
22 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am	23	24 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	25 Youth Rec 4pm	26 Food Truck Delivery 10am Water Delivery 10am Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	27 	28 Sawicki Baby Shower (Fellowship Hall) 12Noon-9pm
29 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am	30 	31 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	28 Youth Rec 4pm 	29 Water Delivery 11:00am Choir Practice 6:30pm	30 	31 Youth Rec 12N