

THE ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Asbury Neighborhood Connection Delivering Water/Food

Every week our Asbury Neighborhood Connection team serves thousands of families each month, but still hundreds of families are unable to come to us so we go to them. They brave the rain and cold to make sure families have supply of water for the week. If you know of a family in need, or have any questions, you may call Kevin at 810-625-6115 or call Asbury Church at 810-235-0016.



Volunteer Spotlight Corner

Our spotlight this edition is on Connie Portillo, both secretary and tireless volunteer. Working behind the scenes whether checking on persons in the hospital, coming in on her day off to take care of unfinished business or helping with food giveaways and pantry orders, Connie is a faithful child of God who puts her faith into action. The Hispanic and Latino community is blessed to have a bi-lingual advocate who understands the difficulty of living in a city where it can be difficult to understand the systems and complexity of finding needed help. Thank you Connie for your willing and compassionate love.



Welcome to the Season of Lent

‘Communities of Forgiveness’

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him... Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:32, 34

Joey Meek, age 22, was sentenced to more than two years in prison for his role in delaying the capture of Dylann Roof. In a show of regret for his actions, Joey sent a letter of apology to the families of each of the victims of Dylann Roof’s shooting rampage in a Charleston African Methodist Episcopal Church. Each letter was handwritten and included qualities that he admired about their loved one. Joey Meek ended each letter with the same request: “I ask for your forgiveness, but I don’t expect it. Should the families of those brutally murdered by Joey’s childhood friend, forgive Joey who was the only person that his friend told about his plans to murder innocent people simply because of their skin color? Should they forgive a person who did not tell anyone but concealed his knowledge after the massacre took place? We read in the Gospel of Luke that on the day of His execution, Jesus was led to a place called the “skull” likely because it was a common site for crucifixions. The soldiers and the leaders in the crowds mocked Jesus. Even one of the criminals hanging on a cross next to Him mocked Jesus’

UMW Mother's Day Banquet

Please join us for Asbury's Annual
Mother's Day Banquet

Saturday, May 13, 2017 – 5:00pm

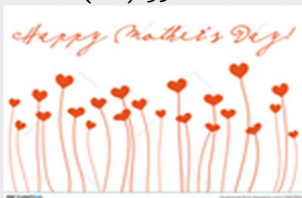
Dinner, Program, Fellowship and Fun!

Dinner will include: Italia Gardens,
Chicken, Mostaccioli, Tossed Salad,
Bread and Dessert

Cost: \$7 adults, \$5 kids 6-13, 5 years old
and under – no charge but reservation
is still needed

**Reservations needed by Sunday, May
7th by calling Diane at (810)919-6950.**

Asbury United Methodist Church
1653 Davison Rd Flint 48506
(810)235-0016



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.

Special Easter Celebration

Mark your calendars for **April 16** & plan to be at Asbury for as special Easter celebration. This year's celebration will begin with breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am followed by worship at 11:00 am. Note the time. There will be one service only on Easter.

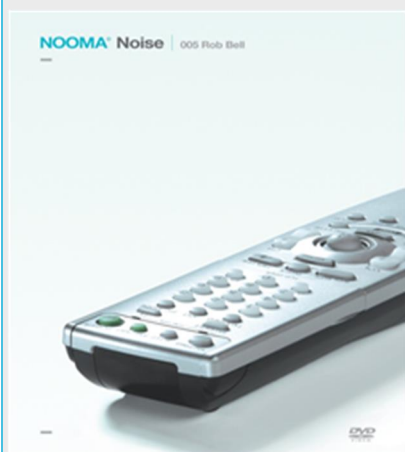
claim to be the Son of God. Jesus words to His tormentors and executioners are as remarkable as His actions are challenging to emulate. "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." As the criminal hanging on the other side of Jesus said out loud, Jesus was innocent. Nevertheless, our God living incarnate among us was found to be guilty of a crime warranting the death penalty. While we can imagine that if we were there we would have been with the followers of Jesus, more likely with the ones in hiding elsewhere, are we prepared to do as Jesus did?

The Rev. Anthony Thompson first met his wife Myra when they were both students at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. Rev Thompson was a veteran of the Navy, with a wife and daughter back in Charleston. Myra also had a son there too, and would spend the weekends back home, working at McDonald's and caring for her son. One weekend, she missed the bus home. When Anthony offered Myra a ride she was suspicious and told the Good Samaritan "I want you to know that nothing is going to happen, I am going to school. I don't need a man in my life." "I'm just offering you a ride," Anthony remembers telling her. Ten years later, both had been through a divorce. One day Myra called Anthony to let him know that it would be all right if he wanted to take her out on a date.

They married and settled in a modest, brick home, not far from The Citadel's baseball field, where the wall is now adorned with a "Charleston Strong" mural. Their daughter, Nadine Collier became famous a year ago for three words she said to Dylann Roof, the young white man who a few days earlier had gunned down her mother and eight other African-Americans during a Bible study at their Charleston church: "I forgive you." Every time I reflect on this story it chokes me up. First, the mere thought of how our society continues to raise up children born into hatred based on the ignorance and stupidity of parents and other adults around them. Second, the idea of people being murdered for showing hospitality to such a deranged person is so horrific I can barely wrap my head around it. These thoughts together with the courage and faith of one of the victim's daughter to offer forgiveness in the aftermath of such a heartless act leave me in tears. We continue to live in an era of prejudice based upon ignorance and stupidity. I wish I had kinder words to describe the brokenness of our society but the images in my head after reading the follow-up stories from these events are too fresh. The evening news reporting how many of our country's leaders speak openly about policies based on similarly rooted ignorance and stupidity is simply too fresh. I watch the news each night dreading whatever tweets, public declarations, unsupported charges and the like that are making headlines targeted towards discrimination based on a person's inclusion in a group that seldom represents a particular person. How long can we continue to forgive attitudes and policies that misguided persons can interpret as justification for violence against innocent people?

Our thematic scripture for our current worship series from Amos does not specifically touch on forgiveness. However, to seek justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God demands that we forgive even as we seek justice based upon love and acceptance. How hard it is to forgive those who wrong us. How hard it is to forgive those who harm others. Forgiveness is indeed a requirement for those of us claiming to follow Jesus. However, so is seeking justice and standing against any policies that set justice and love aside.

Book Club News



We are watching and discussing a series of short video lessons that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. Each video is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. NOOMA films are created and produced by Flannel, a nonprofit organization. Flannel is a group of people committed to giving everyone a fresh and compelling look at the teachings of Jesus.

We begin each week by watching a video from this series in our Chapel Theater. We move to our meeting area downstairs next to the Fellowship Hall for lunch and discussion. Each video is based on Scripture and challenges us to consider how what we believe to be true about Jesus should show in how we live day to day.

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.

May God forgive us when we are apathetic, when we selfishly choose our self and our family's comfort over the well-being of strangers? May we forgive others just as we ask God to forgive us.

Pastor Tommy

Jefferey Collins, "Tearful friend of Dylann Roof apologizes at sentencing," Associated Press, Charleston SC, March 22, 2017

Bob Smietana, "A year later, families of the Charleston shooting victims still wrestle with forgiveness," The Washington Post, June 17, 2016.

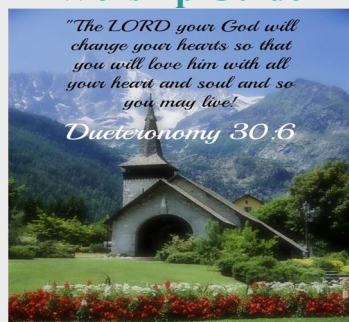
Saved by Faith

In a book titled *Worship Ways* we read "God's power is revealed to specific people, at the right time, in a relevant way, with lasting results."¹ You can help or hinder the process. God will hold you accountable for the one or the other! This quote causes me to consider the tension between the belief that we are saved by our faith in Christ and the significance of our acts as a result of our stated belief in Christ. It can seem that the claim to be saved by confession when challenged by such statements can sound like claiming that "I already checked the box that asked 'Do you want to be saved?' so I'm good."

The intricate relationship between confession and action is a tension only in the sense that we do not want to follow through with the ramifications of our confession. If we truly believe our confession then the statement from Paul: "No power in the sky above or in the earth below" indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39 NLT), should give us reason to reconsider whether Paul's reflection can be interpreted as a validation that salvation without sacrifice or challenge is not really faith. Paul may be reminding us as Jesus did for His disciples on the mountaintop after His transfiguration, to "Get up and don't be afraid." That is, we are to live out our faith in what we do with our time and resources.

Our current worship series from our very first Sunday on the very first day of the New Year was intended to challenge us week to week to grow closer to God. In our growth spurt that we hoped would happen during this time we should anticipate and increase in our production of spiritual fruit. This statement from the book I just referenced should be a warning to all of us who have the mistaken impression that we are insiders by virtue of our church membership. That we are insiders only by virtue of God's grace in Jesus Christ. God has illustrated for us that a mountaintop experience is not just for our satisfaction in ourselves. Rather, our encounters with the living Lord are intended to transform us into faithful disciples and our actions speak louder than words. We will be held accountable to whatever extent we help or hinder others in their search for the living Lord. This warning is stated in even more dramatic words by Jesus who said "But if you cause one

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

Worship Service Times

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	Merle Supernaw
Barbara McIvor	Jonathon Misner
Nancy Elston	Austin & MarySuffle
Shirley Craig	Mary Armstrong
Sarah Tanner	Elizabeth Wright
Judy Tanner	Mary Lyons

*FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO
ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN
NURSING CARE*

Sharon George	Elaine Lamoreaux
Mary Nations	Nancy Auger
Shirley Moose	Charlayne Oram
	Carmen Misner

of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea (Matthew 18:6). This statement should cause anyone who does anything that takes away the possibility of an encounter with the Living Lord to be fearful of judgment.

Yet, sadly, worship wars and disagreements over the things of this world continue to interrupt our mission of disciple making. Afraid? We have every reason to fear if we are not acting on our faith. On the other hand, Jesus assures us that when we follow Him that which frightens us in this world should no longer cause us fear or anxiety. We are then free to have mountaintop experiences each time we open ourselves to the grace of God by surrendering all that we hold onto so tightly that stands in our way.

Pastor Tommy

Ways to get involved ...

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

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

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

Community Gardening ó 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 ó 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.

What's coming up...?

Our Worship Series for Lent

Roll Down Justice

*But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing
stream. Amos 5:21-24*



Our series for Lent is inspired by Amos, a prophet whose message is that God calls us to let justice roll down like waters. Worship without justice is not acceptable; rather our songs must move us to action on behalf of the oppressed. What prejudices are we challenged to give up as a practice of abstinence and how are we willing to give of ourselves for the sake of the world?

- Apr 2 Back to the Bricks
Isaiah 58:6-12
- Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)
- Apr 9 The Day is Coming
Isaiah 35:1-10
Holy Thursday
- Apr 13 Journey Through the Water
Exodus 14:15-18
- Apr 14 (12 Noon at Bethel &
6 PM at Asbury)
Journey through the Water
John 3:1-8, 13-17
- Apr 16 Easter Sunday
9:30am Breakfast
Easter Egg Hunt to follow
*11:00am Worship Service
**(Please note, only one service this Sunday)*
- The New Flint Jeremiah 31:1-6

April 2 - Notes & Reflections

Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes.

Isaiah 58:12

Coming up this week ...

Apr 3	Mon	Neighborhood Deliveries /water-food 5:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting at Asbury UMC
Apr 4	Tues	12Noon 5:00pm	Pastor Book Club Eastside Franklin Park Neighborhood Assoc (meet at Flint Public Library)
Apr 5	Wed	4:00pm 6:00pm	Youth Recreation UMW
Apr 6	Thurs	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Apr 7	Fri		
Apr 8	Sat	12Noon	Youth Recreation
Apr 9	Sun	10:00am 10:00am 11:00am 11:30 am	Bible Study Traditional Worship Coffee Break 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	Catherine
Candle Lighting	Karen
Usher	Bob, Carolyn, Jim
Media Support	Bob
Nursery	Carolyn
Coffee Break	Elizabeth Circle
Worship Leader	Catherine 10:00am

Last Week for Worship

Attendance 53 Offering \$1,455

Coffee Break

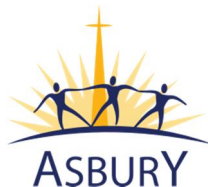
Plan to meet outside the sanctuary each Sunday after the first service for coffee, tea, snacks, conversation and so on. The music will start when it is time to wrap up and head in for *New Beginnings*.

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

Drop off Easter Lilies at Asbury UMC: Do not forget to bring your Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday on Saturday, April 15th. You may drop them off between 10am-12Noon, or you are welcome to bring them on Easter Sunday morning. Make sure your name is on them if you wish to pick them up afterwards

Dental Screenings for the Help Centers: Exciting news was announced this week at the Resource Recovery Meeting in regards to dental screenings and referrals for the HELP Centers. Starting on Thursday March 30, 2017 at 10am-12noon, Hamilton Community Health Network will be providing dental screenings at the three locations, rotating sites each time. Please review the following schedule:

April 6	Greater Holy Temple	April 13	Bethel
April 20	Asbury	April 27	Greater Holy Temple
May 4	Bethel	May 11	Asbury
May 18	Greater Holy Temple	May 25	Bethel
June 1	Asbury	June 8	Greater Holy Temple
June 15	Bethel	June 22	Asbury
June 29	Greater Holy Temple	July 6	Bethel
July 13	Asbury	July 20	Greater Holy Temple
July 27	Bethel		

An updated schedule will be completed after the summer. For any additional information or to offer appreciation, please reach out to Lakisha ó Lakisha Bah Stewart CHW MPA at Hamilton Community Health Network 2500 N Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48504

Email: lbahstewart@hamiltonchn.org

Phone: 810-275-8175

Thanks to all for your continued work in our community.

Kara-Lyn D. Ross, Vice President
Partnerships and External Affairs
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
2300 Lapeer Road - Flint, MI 48503
810.396.0213 direct / 810.449.6773 cell
www.fbem.org








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.

APRIL 2017

Asbury UMC Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">LENTEN COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE – 5:00PM Sunday, April 2 – Charity/Faith UMC at Faith w/ Rev. Duane Thomas preaching Friday, April 14 – Good Friday – Bethel UMC w/ Rev Dr. Tommy McDoniel preaching at 12Noon and at Asbury UMC at 6:00pm</p> </div>						1 Youth Rec 12N
<p>2 5th Sunday of Lent Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am</p>	3 Worship Committee Meeting at Asbury 5:30pm	4 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am Pastor Book Club 12pm	5 UMW 6:00pm Program: Elizabeth Circle Youth Rec 4pm	6 Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	7	8 Youth Rec 12N
<p>9 PASSION/PALM Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am</p>	10 	11 Recovery Wkgroup at 1938 Howard Ave 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	12 Youth Rec 4pm	13 HOLY THURSDAY Service at Asbury - 6pm Taking it to the Streets (meeting at District Office) 1:30pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	14 GOOD FRIDAY Service at Bethel UMC at 12Noon-Rev Tommy preaching & at Asbury at 6:00pm	15 Youth Rec 12N
<p>16 EASTER SUNDAY Breakfast 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt to follow Easter Worship Service at 11:00am Baptism for Adalynn Jean Zuhlke</p>	17	18 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	19 Youth Rec 4pm 	20 Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	21	22 Youth Rec 12N 
<p>23 Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am</p> <hr/> 30	24 	25 Water Resource Workgroup (at Food Bank) 9am Pastor Book Club 12N	26 Youth Rec 4pm	27 Taking it to the Streets (meeting at District Office) 1:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm	28 	29 Youth Rec 12N

Taking it to the Streets Planning Meetings:
 Thursdays, April 13 and April 27 at 1:30pm at the District Office
 *Mother's Day Banquet – May 13th- See insert in our weekly Circuit Rider