

# THE ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

## Delivering water to our neighborhood

Our Asbury team hard at work. Whether rain or snow they are out every Fridays making sure the families in our neighborhood have plenty of water in their homes. If you know of anyone without transportation in need of water, please call the church office 235-0016 and speak to Reggie.



## Volunteer Spotlight Corner

Chris Freeman is our Spotlight Volunteer for this edition of the Circuit Rider. Seen here moving mulch from the dumpsite to the orchard for the fruit trees, Chris is always willing to help out with the Asbury gardens and giving out food and water. Chris is also a regular at Book Club with insightful questions.



No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket

## That's How the Light Gets In

*You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

I began writing this article using a new õsmartö stylus that is designed to connect with my iPad using bluetooth. My new stylus is not working up to its potential. A connected stylus is designed to behave more like a mechanical writing instrument. For example, the app that I am using to handwrite this article should be able to sense the pressure, responding with darker lines when more pressure is

### 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.

applied. A stylus that is not connected still writes. Just not as well and depending on the app my writing is unintelligible. It is the connection that allows the stylus to do what it was created to do. That is, to write beautiful script in the hands of a person writing.

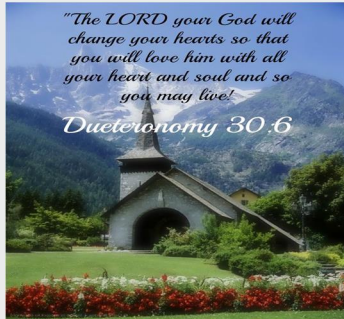
Prayer is our divine Bluetooth. Prayer connects us to our source of creative purpose. Without such a connection we may claim to be Christian, but we cannot possibly live up to our potential. We may fool people who themselves have not experienced a connection with Christ. But we are really an imposter and fall short of fulfilling the purpose God created us to be. We may produce fruit, but not the quality of fruit we could produce if we are connected. The story we write is confusing and may be unintelligible.

When we are connected to God there is a *ōlightō* that is visible to the people around us. I know that both through observation and because Jesus said for us to be a lamp, a visible example, of what it means to be connected with God. We are the lamp but we are not the light. When I think of this metaphor of light as a visible manifestation of Christ within us, I often recall the chorus of a song written by the late, Leonard Cohen titled *Anthem*. His chorus is powerful:

Ring the bells that still can ring  
 Forget your perfect offering  
 There is a crack in everything  
 That's how the light gets in <sup>1</sup>

There are likely many interpretations for this song. I was reading a blog which validated that I am not the first to be taken by Cohen's song, nor is this my first time to write about it. Cohen spent 10 years writing this song and it was finally released in 1992. In an interview, Cohen shares that every line of the song has deep and significant meaning for him. When I reflect on Cohen's words, I think of my own sense of unworthiness to stand before God and particularly to claim that God speaks through me. It does not help when antagonist work so hard to point out that I am flawed. But I give what I can, cracks and all. That's how the light of Christ gets in and shines from within me.

We are God's masterpiece. God declared humanity *ōgoodō* after creating the first humans in the Book of Genesis. Really? Look at all the obvious flaws. Babies abandoned, cancer, pesticides, homicides. Need I go on? *ōThere is a crack in everythingō* seems like an understatement when it comes to humanity. Things have gone to *Hí* in a hand-basket. If we believe God to still be in control do we conclude that we simply cannot understand what God knows? Meanwhile Jesus' words ring out



### 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

Starting times for Worship have changed:

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

like church bells calling us to worship. Each of us are to be a visible lamp and collectively we are to be a lighted city on a hill that can be visibly seen by our surrounding neighbors.

What if we took Cohen's advice seriously and ring whatever bell we can ring? What if we forget about perfection long enough to give whatever we can? What if we are already enough? What if we wear our scars, our raggedness, our deformities, our cracks, as though God is proud of us? That God is pleased with God's creation? God's handiwork? What if God was not aiming to meet whatever standard we have decided to use for ourselves and each other? Could God's light find a way to shine from within us?

None of us are perfect. I think that this statement is factual enough to be accepted by anyone reading this article. But neither is God done with us. God continues to write word after word, sentence after sentence, perfecting the story of our lives. But God wants to write our story through us in beautiful, divine handwriting. So we need to stay connected through prayer. Our divine bluetooth.

My prayer for you is that you stay connected with the God who created you and never find yourself a disconnected imposter.

Pastor Tommy

<sup>1</sup> Anthem by Leonard Cohen.

### Should I Drink Filtered Water?



If you live in Flint this is the question to answer for 2017. The pipes are not replaced but the scientists are reporting that our lead problem is not what it was. In some meetings there are reports heard that Flint water is now safe, direct from the tap. Others suggest that filters are simply part of Flint's future. What decisions are you making about the water you drink?

The State of Michigan is hiring and sending out approximately 160 water filter "experts" to ensure that every Flint resident is able to make this decision for themselves and their children. Meanwhile, we are in another winter where bottles of water freeze quickly when left outdoors and so do workers who are out in the cold to make sure that those who need bottled water are able to get it.

While opinions vary as to whether it is safe to drink Flint water even after it passes through a properly installed and certified filter, there is consensus that depending on bottled water is an inconvenience. There are also differences with regards to how much lead in drinking water is

## Book Club News



We continue with Part 3 of our study, *Trusting the Covenant* as we begin 2017. 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 10 Isaiah 58-61, 63-66

Jan 17 1 Chronicles 10-11, 28-29  
2 Chronicles 33-36

Jan 24 Ezra

Jan 31 Nehemiah

The Chronicles, Ezra & Nehemiah are part of the history books that tells the story of ancient Israel.

acceptable. Health officials argue that there are no safe levels of lead but practically, lead is present in more than just water. Also, proper nutrition can help protect bodies from absorbing lead. How do we make a decision about what to do?

The key is to be informed. There is a lot of partial information and neighbors are not always as expert as they sound. There is more information available than most of us have time to read. FlintCares.com is the best source for information that has been reviewed for consistency from various sources. Keep in mind that the bottled water industry standards for lead in the water they provide still allows for small amounts of lead more than the NSF approved water filters allow. Asbury utilizes high-capacity filters for water that is used for food preparation including coffee. What about you?

### *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 9	Mon	6:00pm	Elizabeth Circle
Jan 10	Tues	9:00am	Water Resources Mtg at Food Bank
		12Noon	Pastor Book Club
		5:30pm	VCI Planning Team
Jan 11	Wed	12:30pm	Lydia Circle
		4:00pm	Youth Recreation
Jan 12	Thurs	10:00am	Water Delivery
		10:00am	Nutrition Truck Deliver
		6:30pm	Choir Practice
Jan 13	Fri		
Jan 14	Sat	12Noon	Youth Recreation
Jan 15	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	Cyndi	
Candle Lighting	Karen	
Usher	Bob, Carolyn, Jim	
Media Support	Bob	
Nursery	Norma	
Coffee Break	Cyndi	
Worship Leader	Cyndi	10:00am

**Last Week for Worship**

Attendance 38    Offering \$3,092

**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!**

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

**Church Council:** The first meeting of 2017 will be January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Asbury Library.








**Worship Leader Training:** There will be a training session for all liturgists on the schedule and for all who might be interested in leading worship. The dates will be Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-2:00pm and Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-6:30pm. You do not have to attend both sessions. Please let Rev Tommy know if you are unable to make these training sessions, or feel free to leave me a message in the office.

**2017 Annual Local Church Report:** *These reports have all been mailed out, so if you have a report to do and you didn't receive it by now, please let me know.* Keep in mind the report has to be submitted by January 31<sup>st</sup> but I need your reports by **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** in order for me to enter all data in the computer. If you have any questions, please call the office 235-0016.

**Just a reminder:** When leaving me a note in my mailbox for a request, please remember to put your name on it. When there's no name I cannot follow up on it as I don't know who to call if I have questions and it will go back in my mailbox. Connie

**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.

JANUARY 2017							Asbury UMC Monthly Planner						
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 (Hostess: Lydia Circle) 11am Youth Rec 4pm	5	Water Delivery 10am Choir Practice 7pm	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 7pm	13		14	Youth Rec 12N
15	Bible Study 10am Traditional Worship 10am Coffee Break 11am New Beginnings 11:30am Worship Leader Training 1 pm	16	Church Council 6:30pm	17	Recovery Wkgroup at 1938 Howard Ave 9am Pastor Book Club 12pm Lois Circle 12:30pm Worship Leader Training 1 pm	18	Youth Rec 4pm	19	Water Delivery 11:00am Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Christmas Concert 6 pm	20		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	Nutrition Truck 10am Water Delivery 11:00am Water Response Coordination Mtg 3 pm Choir Practice 7pm	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 7pm	30		31	Youth Rec 12N



Asbury United Methodist Church  
1653 Davison Rd. Flint, MI 48506

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FLINT, MICHIGAN  
PERMIT #151

**Church Staff:**

**Rev. Dr. Tommy McDaniel**  
**Connie Portillo, Office Secretary**  
**Kathryn Howe, Choir Director**  
**Rebekah Britton, Organist**

**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday and Wednesday - 9:00am to 3:00pm**  
**Friday - 10:00am to 1:00pm**  
**Phone: (810) 235-0016**  
**Fax: (810) 235-0016 (Call first before faxing)**

**Worship Sunday:**

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

**Pastor Book Club: Tuesday 12:00 Noon**  
**[FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com](mailto:FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com)**  
**[www.FlintAsburyUMC.org](http://www.FlintAsburyUMC.org)**

**PRAYER**

**is not a substitute for**

**ACTION**

**It is an Action for which**

**there is no substitute**