

January 17, 2024

Dear CONNECT Family,



**The Lord is good to everyone and everything;  
God's compassion extends to all his handiwork!  
(Psalm 145:9)**



## *Family Spiritual Practice*

### Faith Talk:

This week, as we will be talking about loving our neighbor as we love ourselves, I invite you to think of someone you are having a hard time liking right now - maybe someone you are finding hard to accept because of the way that person believes about some things.

Pray for that person for a week. Pray that this person will feel God's love in all they choose to do. Ask God to help you see the good aspects of that person and help you to love and accept them as they are.

### What I am reading:

#### Do You Pray for Your Child? How to Start.

There is no one right way to pray. What matters most is that your prayer is authentic, spoken from the hopes and fears of your heart. God knows you and delights in your voice. God wants to hear your hopes and fears. I pray you find the blessing of prayer as you pray for your children.

-Christine V. Hides

### What I am watching

I just love this [video](#). Such a great message.

We forget that we're all flawed - no one is perfect. When we recognize this, we can start to practice kindness and learn how to love these imperfections in everyone we meet. Kindness displaces rudeness, criticism, and anger.

### Quote, I've Been Thinking About:

**If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."**

**-Martin Luther King, Jr.**

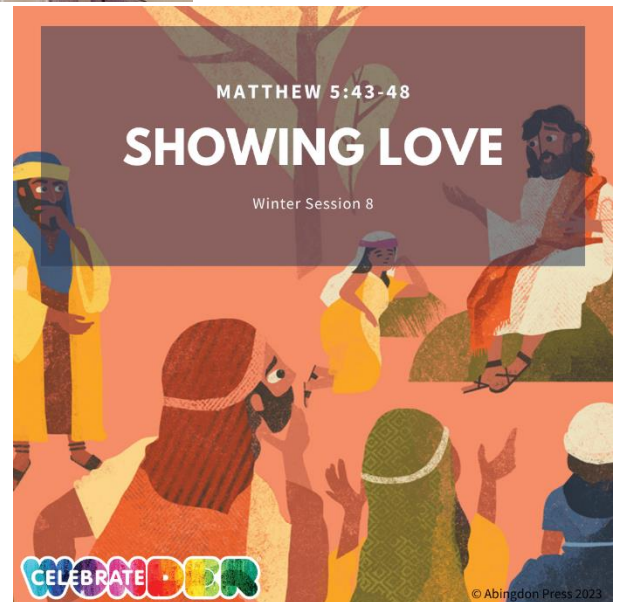
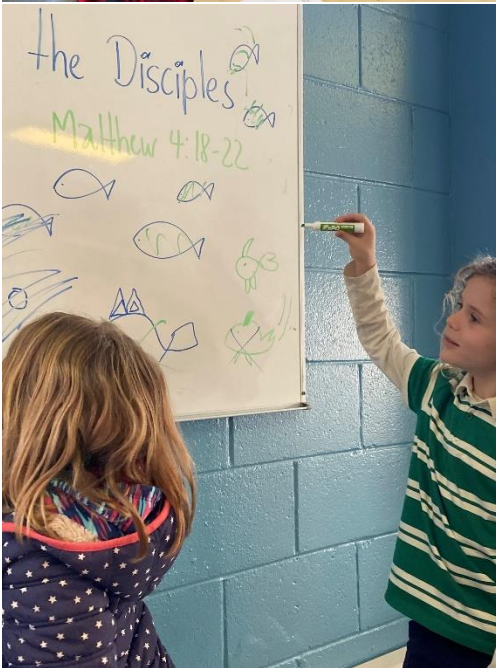
**WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT**

**January Faith Word: Include - To Welcome all of God's Children in God's Love**

**Last Sunday:**

Last Sunday, we WONDERED together and focused on the Gospel of Matthew 4:18-22 - Calling the Disciples. Jesus walking along the Sea of Galilee, sees brothers Simon (Peter) and Andrew fishing and invites them to follow him. They dropped everything and followed Jesus. Further along the shore, Jesus saw two brothers, James and John, fishing with their father. He called out the same invitation, and they left their father to follow Jesus. The phrase "to fish for people" is Jesus' invitation for us to truly follow him. This is a calling for everyone. When we accept this calling, we are invited to be disciples and to share this message with the world.





### **This Sunday:**

This Sunday, during CONNECT, we will wonder together about Jesus' teaching on love in the Gospel of Matthew 5:43-48. Jesus taught his disciples everywhere he went. One of the places was a mountain, and what he taught there is often referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. He talked about many things while he was on the mountain with his disciples. Jesus made clear that God loved all people. Jesus calls us to include everyone as our neighbor. Jesus reminds us that we are all created in the image of God, and, therefore, we must treat everyone with the same indiscriminate love and grace that God does. God challenges us to love where it is hard to do so, not just where it is easy.

### **Coming Up**



**January 21 - CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Showing Love - Matthew 5:43-48

**January 28 - CONNECT - 9 AM**  
God's Kin-dom - Luke 13:18-21

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

You will not want to miss this!!! Coming Soon.



# COMING SOON

**March 10**  
**4:00 pm**

A way of being church for all-ages to join in experiencing fun and faith formative activities.

Based on the values of all-ages together, celebration, creativity, hospitality, and centering ourselves in Christ.

TALK TO SUSAN ADAM-RITA FOR MORE INFORMATION

## **Wonderful online classes**

### **Michigan State University Extension Child and Family Development Offerings**

#### **Extension Extra's Parenting Hour**

These free online parenting workshops will provide guidance for parents of young children as they navigate the challenges, concerns, and joys of parenting. Participants may register for as few or as many workshops as they wish. The workshops are on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30PM EST as follows:

#### **Class dates:**

- 1/23/2024: How soon is too soon? When to teach your children money habits for life!
- 1/30/2024: RELAX: Alternative to Anger for Parents and Caregivers
- 2/06/2024: Birds and the Bees: Talking with kids about sex
- 2/13/2024: Purpose of Play
- 2/20/2024: Setting the Stage: Promoting social-emotional health in young children
- 2/27/2024: Together We Can: Co-parenting

- **Class Times:** 8:00PM to 9:30PM
- **Registration:** [https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_viGxTEIqSdKY2cEX2EhVbQ#/registration](https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_viGxTEIqSdKY2cEX2EhVbQ#/registration)
- Attached are flyers for these workshops and graphics for social media
- For more information contact Courtney Aldrich at [aldric82@msu.edu](mailto:aldric82@msu.edu)

## **The Parent Talk System**

Do you feel like your children aren't listening to you? Do you find yourself constantly repeating yourself trying to gain compliance? This 6 week series is for parents of children of all ages and is designed to improve communication and provide practical verbal strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Topics include eliminating unwanted behavior, setting limits, teaching about consequences, giving effective feedback, promoting independence, and developing character. Certificates of attendance are available.

- **Class dates:** January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26
- **Class times:** 7:30pm-9:00pm ET
- **Registration:** [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bj8nWuROCeXu6vY](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bj8nWuROCeXu6vY)
- For more information, contact Courtney Aldrich, [aldric82@msu.edu](mailto:aldric82@msu.edu)

Check out more classes [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

## **WATCH:**

### **Online CONNECT Services:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOK\\_PK0coJA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOK_PK0coJA)

You can find all our videos on the CFUMC YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-oDHg9zalmC42npYW0EvTA>

Follow us on Instagram

- **Instagram** - follow us on Instagram <http://instagram.com/chelseafumc.children>

Love and Peace,  
Susan



**Ordinary people learning to love like Jesus.**