

January 24, 2024
Dear CONNECT Family,



Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

This week, I invite you to do something to include someone in God's love by making a pay-it-forward gesture that shows the person God's love through you. You could do something nice for a friend or neighbor, buy a cup of coffee for a stranger in line at the coffee shop, or do something to show appreciation for someone. By loving others, you show them God's love through you. The most important thing is that you help someone feel cared for. Is there a person you know who could use a caring gesture?



What I am reading:

This article - [8 Ways to Nurture Faith in Young Children.](#)

And, this article - [12 Important Mustard Tree Facts You Need To Know About!](#)

What I am watching

An inspirational Short Film - [THE SEED](#) - 1:22 min of reflection.
When you see a tree, remember it started from a small seed.
No one is too little or too young to grow God's kingdom.

Quote, I've Been Thinking About:

"Once the seed of faith takes root, it cannot be blown away, even by the strongest wind."

- Rumi

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 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.



This Sunday:

This Sunday, the story is a parable told by Jesus about how God's kingdom grows. Jesus told many stories when he was teaching his disciples. Many times the stories were parables, simple stories told to teach a lesson. Sometimes we imagine the kingdom of God as being a place and time in the future. Jesus said God's kingdom was here on earth, right now. Jesus encouraged his friends then and us now to make sure that we are working to bring about God's kingdom today. God's kingdom comes into being with tiny and almost invisible things. A small quantity of tiny seeds, a measure of yeast-turns out to have an enormous effect.



Coming Up

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

February 04 - **NO CONNECT**
Worship together - Communion Sunday - **9 AM**

February 11 - **CONNECT - 9 AM**
The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:5-15

February 18 - **CONNECT - 9 AM**
Jesus Calms the Storm - Mark 4:35-41

February 25 - **CONNECT - 9 AM**
Mary and Martha - Luke
10:38-42

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:

- 1/30/2024: 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
- Attached are flyers for these workshops and graphics for social media
- For more information contact Courtney Aldrich at 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
- For more information, contact Courtney Aldrich, aldric82@msu.edu

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

WATCH:

Online CONNECT Services:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ynnQ9qYyqw&t=1s>

You can find all our videos on the CFUMC YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-oDHg9zaImC42npYW0EvTA>

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.