

April 10, 2024

Dear CONNECT Family,

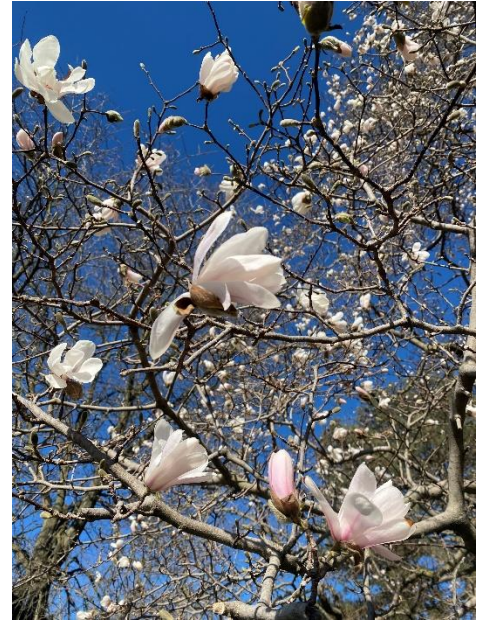
God, help us notice and pay attention to the new and growing things all around us:

baby birds in their nests,
buds on plants and trees,
flowers in bloom.

These new things teach us about resurrection and show us the joy of new life.

Amen.

-Traci Smith



Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

This week, I invite you to try to use a calming spiritual practice to remember that Jesus is with you, always. Close your eyes, breathe in, and say, "Jesus is by my side." Breathe out and say, "I am not afraid. Amen."



What I am reading:

If you're looking for a fun read today (and one you can share with your kids!), check this one out:

[An Eclipse is Just the Start: 15 Biggest Biblical Weather Forecasts No One Saw Coming](#)

This book: [The Importance of Being Little: What Young Children Really Need from Grownups by Erika Christakis](#)

Young children are inherently powerful, and they (and their parents) will flourish when we learn new ways of restoring the vital early learning environment to one that is best suited to the littlest learners.

What I am watching

This video of the Crosby Family singing - [Goodness of God](#)

Quote, I've Been Thinking About:

"Reality is always falling apart. In this fleeting situation, the only thing that makes sense is for us to reach out to one another."

-Pema Chodron

WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT

April Faith Word: **SHARE!**



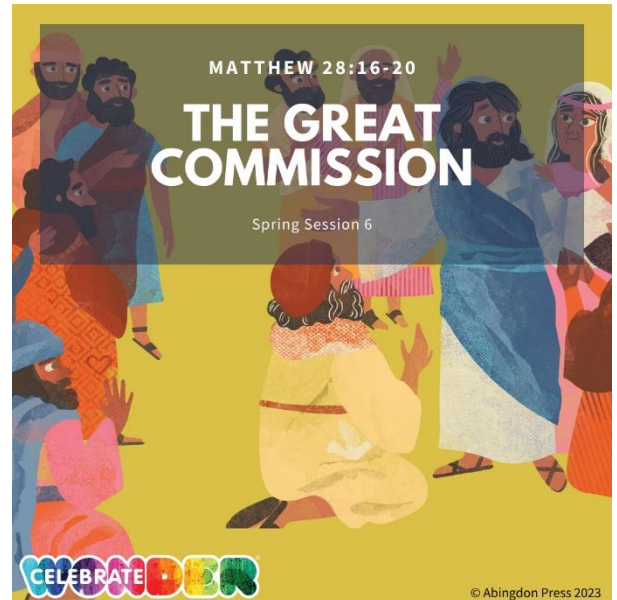
Last Sunday:

Last Sunday, we worshiped together in the Sanctuary. It was Communion Sunday. The focus was on the Gospel of John 21:1-19.



This Sunday:

This Sunday, during CONNECT, we will wonder about the Bible story where Jesus gathers his eleven disciples around him on a mountaintop in Galilee. Jesus commissions his disciples with the task of forming a community of believers. This community is to embody Jesus' presence in the world to strengthen and guide God's children. A commission is a call to something God wants you to do. God commissions all of us to share Jesus with the whole world. We do this in many ways, such as ministry and showing kindness, love, and respect.



Coming Up

- April 14 - CONNECT - 9 AM**
The Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20
- April 21 - CONNECT - 9 AM**
Peter and John - Acts 3:1-10
- April 28 - CONNECT - 9 AM**
Believers Share - Acts 4:32-3
- May 05 - NO CONNECT - ALL WORSHIP TOGETHER - 9 AM**
Communion Sunday
- May 12 - CONNECT - 9 AM**
The Church Grows - Acts 9:26-31
- May 19 - CONNECT - 9 AM**
Pentecost! - Acts 2:1-12
- May 26 - CONNECT - 10 AM - One Service**
Love in Action - Romans 12:9-18

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Messy Church is great fun!

Check it out [HERE!](#)

Our next Session will be this coming Sunday - **April 14!** You don't want to miss it. Invite a friend to come along.



[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:

- 4/16/2024: Importance of Outdoor Play
- 4/23/2024: Parenting in the Digital Age Part 2 (children 9-17)
- **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 the children in your care aren't listening to you? Do you find yourself constantly repeating yourself trying to gain compliance? This 6-week series is for parents and caregivers 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:** April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, May 10
- **Class times:** 11:30am-1:00pm ET
- **Registration:** https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bj8nWuROCeXu6vY
- Attached is a flyer and graphics for social media
- For more information, contact Courtney Aldrich, aldric82@msu.e

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

Kinship Caregiver workshops

Are a free online series of workshops that provide guidance for caregivers of children as they navigate the joys, challenges, and concerns of raising children.

Participants may register for as few or as many workshops as they wish. The workshops are once monthly on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM EST as follows:

April-June Class dates:

- 4/10/2024: Parenting in the Digital Age
- 5/8/2024: Introduction to Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences
- 6/12/2024: Mindfulness for Children

Class Times: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00PM to 8:30PM

Registration: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_msxyZuH0QeS9MsKaD_y7Tg

WATCH:

Online CONNECT Services:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKrO5E8REhE>

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.