

July 10, 2024
Dear CONNECT Family,



God of grace,
surprise us in the ordinary of every day;
console us in the dilemmas we face;
inspire us when we don't know what to do;
encourage us in the depths of our being,
that we might taste afresh the joy of eternal life,
in the here and now.
Amen.
by Martyn Payne



Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

This week I invite you to reflect on the words by Henry Miller in the book Sacred Journeys in a Modern World.

"How to be an artist: Stay Loose.
Learn to watch snails. Plant impossible gardens. Make little signs that say "yes" and post them all over your house. Make friends with uncertainty."

To Practice this Thought this Week:
Permission granted: be an artist.

What I am reading/listening:

[The Art of Community: Seven Principles for Belonging](#) by Charles Vogl

What I am watching

[Inclusion Makes the World More Vibrant](#)

What connects you to your faith community? [Why We Form Tribes](#) by Simon Sinek.

Quote, I've Been Thinking About

"The human soul doesn't want to be advised or fixed or saved. It simply wants to be witnessed - to be seen, heard and compassionated exactly as it is."
-Parker Palmer

WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT

July Faith Theme: CELEBRATE!



July is a month to celebrate!

The heart of worship is celebration! We celebrate who God is, what God has done for us in Jesus, and the new Spirit-filled lives we get to live because of it. By taking time to celebrate God's gifts to us - gifts of diversity, unity, promise, and new life - we are attuning ourselves to the good things in life so that, even in times of struggle and hardship, we can be sustained.

Let's celebrate together this July in worship!

Last Sunday:

Last Sunday, we worshiped together and focused on the Scripture of 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. As the body of Christ, we are called to celebrate the diverse ways God is reflected in each and every person.

It was Communion Sunday and we celebrated Diversity !





This Sunday:

This Sunday, we will wonder together about the Scripture of Ephesians 4:1-16.

Our diversity is knit together in the unity of faith as we grow into Christ.

In Ephesians we read how love is key to the communal maturation process. We are bear with one another in love, speak the truth in love, promote the body's growth in love.

Children will be invited to work on closing the gap between what we believe and how we behave and on how we can build each other up in love.

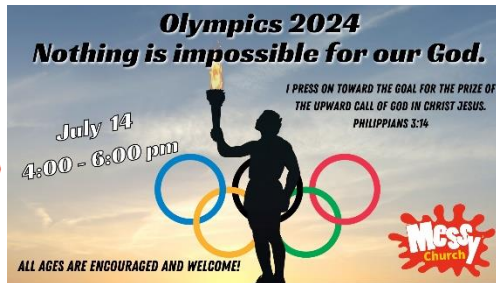


Coming Up

- July 14th - **CONNECT - 10 AM**
Celebrate Unity - Ephesians 4:1-16
- July 21st - **CONNECT - 10 AM**
Celebrate Promise - Romans 4:3, 13-25
- July 28th - **CONNECT - 10 AM**
Reset Direction - Mark 5:35-43

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MESSY CHURCH



Next Messy Church Session: July 14th - this SUNDAY!!

Bring your lawn chair (if you so wish) or a blanket - we are having an awesome time OUTSIDE. Lots of games will make this session on the lawn Super FUN!!!

It takes years of dedication and training to become an Olympian. Similarly, it takes dedication and time to become a Christian - and even some fun!

SUMMER CONNECT VOLUNTEERS

As we continue to plan for an exciting summer in the Children's Ministry Program, we're reaching out to invite you to join our volunteer team!

Why volunteer?

So you can make a positive difference in the lives of young people and have some fun along the way. Please consider. Sign up [HERE](#)

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.

Class dates:

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:** Wednesdays, July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14
- **Class times:** 11:30am-1:00pm ET
- **Registration:** https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0VpZf3ks77yZZGu
- For more information, contact Courtney Aldrich, aldric82@msu.e

Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting

Are you wondering how to gain greater cooperation from your children? Struggling with chores or routines? Not sure how to handle discipline issues? Join us for this five-week parenting education series for parents with children of all ages will explore developing routines, emotional control, rules and relationships, and being a calm, assertive parent. Certificates of attendance are available.

- **Class Dates:** Mondays, July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12
- Class Times: 7:30pm-9:00pm ET
- Register at: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0VpZf3ks77yZZGu
- Attached is a flyer and graphics for social media
- For more information contact Courtney Aldrich at aldric82@msu.edu

Kinship Caregiver workshops

Kinship Caregiver classes are targeted to relatives caring for another relative's children.

Workshop:

7/10/2024: Positive Discipline

- Class Time: 7:00PM to 8:30PM
- **Registration:** https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_msxyZuH0QeS9MsKaD_y7Tg
- Attached are flyers and social media graphics for these workshops
- For more information contact Courtney Aldrich at aldric82@msu.edu

VBS - AT NORTH LAKE UMC - info [HERE](#)

WATCH:

Online CONNECT Services:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMA4PJGQ0is>

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.