

July 17, 2024



Dear CONNECT Family,

### ***Family Spiritual Practice***

#### **Faith Talk:**

We're all *doing our best*. Amidst the hustle and bustle (and in between the doom and gloom), it can be all too easy to fall into the habit of simply minding our business, keeping our heads down, and getting through the day. Sometimes, that can feel hard enough!

This week — especially if you're having an off day or are feeling a bit blue — challenge yourself to do something for the sole purpose of helping someone else. Offer to pet sit for a friend, cover the coffee tab for a stranger, or run an errand for your roommate, partner, parent, child or neighbor.

Whether you do something for someone you know, someone you sort of know, or a total stranger, these random acts of kindness have the power to change us — or, at the very least, brighten a few moods along the way.

-Source: Headspace  
Adapted

#### **What I am reading/listening:**

I am much inspired by - [WHEN YOU BELIEVE!](#)  
We Celebrate God's Promises!

Keep the faith - [THE CLIMB!](#)

#### **What I am watching**

[RISE UP AGAIN - Use Adversity As A Catalyst To Get Better And Become Stronger](#)

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

“Don't be afraid to celebrate a promise when kept. In doing so, you're embracing the potential for a better world.”

– Unknown



## **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 wondered 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.

We connected the message in the Scripture of Ephesians 4:1-16 with the Scripture of 1 Corinthians 12:12-20.

We are all one in Christ! God is reflected in each of us in different ways.





### **This Sunday:**

This Sunday, we will wonder about the Scripture of Romans 4:3, 13:25.

Abraham was a very special person to God. God promised Abraham that he would have a son, even though Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old and thought they couldn't have children anymore. Abraham believed God's promise, even though it seemed impossible. And because he believed, God counted Abraham as a good person, not because of what he did, but because of his faith and trust in God.

God's promise wasn't just for Abraham and his family, but for everyone who believes in God like Abraham did. It tells us that God's promise comes because of faith, not because we earn it by doing good things. It's all about trusting and believing in God's promises, just like Abraham did. God blesses us with love.



### **Coming Up**

**July 21st - CONNECT - 10 AM**  
Celebrate Promise - Romans 4:3, 13-25

**July 28th - CONNECT - 10 AM**  
Reset Direction - Mark 5:35-43

**August 4th - NO CONNECT - 10 AM**  
Genuine Faith - James 2:1-7; 14-17

**August 11th - CONNECT - 10 AM**  
Do No Harm - James 3:1-12

**August 18th - CONNECT - 10 AM**  
Do Good - James 3:13-18

**August 25th - CONNECT - 10 AM**  
Stay in Love With God - James 5:13-20

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**MESSY CHURCH**



**Next Messy Church Session: August 11th!**



**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](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0VpZf3ks77yZZGu)
- For more information, contact Courtney Aldrich, [aldric82@msu.e](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](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](mailto:aldric82@msu.edu)

## WATCH:

### Online CONNECT Services:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_kIT0L21fA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_kIT0L21fA)

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.*