

October 23, 2024



Dear CONNECT Family,

Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

As we are living in times of fear and uncertainty, were people may feel exausted, (I know I am) I invite you to read the Scripture reading of Job 38:1-7. This passage invites a sense of awe towards God's majesty and the mystery of existence, encouraging faith even amidst suffering.

Wonder is an antidote to fear. The message and hope in its words are more relevant than ever.

This week, I invite you to **recall wonder**. The **wonder of new discoveries**. The **wonder of the universe**. Let **wonder fill your soul**. **Breathe in wonder**. **Rest with wonder**.

We need wonder to make it through the days ahead.



What I am reading/listening:

This Sunday is Commitment Sunday, when we present our financial commitment cards, an important step in planning the church ministries and activities for the upcoming year. This article [HERE](#) is a good reminder of the importance of teaching our **children** about the best steward of the gifts given to them.

What I am watching:

This [VIDEO](#) about making a difference for others, using your gifts, being generous.

"I just want to be remembered for someone who did something small that made a difference for others. Eat, pray and be merry - that would be me." - *Gavin Jack Thomas*

Quote, I've Been Thinking About...

"When we endlessly ruminate over distant times, we miss extraordinary things in the present moment. These extraordinary things are, in actual fact, all we have: the here and now."

- Katherine May

WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT

October Faith Theme: WELCOME ALL!

Hospitality is being intentional and authentic in offering welcome to all of God's people - stranger and friend. When we welcome *all*, we are affirming the worth of all of God's people. A commitment to opening our hearts, our homes, our churches, and our capacity for friendship and community to, not only those who are like us, but also those who are different from us is at the very heart of the practice of hospitality.

Last Sunday:

Last Sunday, we wondered about the the Scripture of Luke 24:13-35 - the story of the road to Emmaus. This passage is one of the stories of encounters between the risen Jesus and the disciples. The arc of this story is a true model of welcome. A stranger comes to the confused disciples, to both hear their stories and remind them of the larger story. With a spirit of welcome and hospitality, a meal is shared and God's self is revealed. Indeed, those who welcomed the stranger were welcoming Jesus.

By hearing the story of Jesus' disciples' encounter with the "stranger" on the road to Emmaus, the children envision ways that they can see Christ-like qualities in, and extend welcome to, all people - even those outside of their own circles.



1.



This Sunday:

This Sunday we will wonder about the Scripture reading of Luke 10:38-42. This Sunday we will invite the children to look inward and consider their gifts for hospitality and how they welcome others. Through the story of two sisters, Martha and Mary, children can see that, although the sisters had different gifts, they both provided welcome for their guest. Though they might not be able to welcome the way adults can by hosting parties for example, children have unique ways to offer welcome to all people.



Coming Up

October 27- CONNECT - 9 AM
Know Your Gifts of Hospitality and Encourage Others' Gifts
Luke 10:38-42

November 03 - NO CONNECT - WORSHIP 9 AM
Communion Sunday - All worship together

November 10 - CONNECT - 9 AM
Confess
Genesis 3:1-24; Psalm 51

November 17 - CONNECT - 9 AM
Repent: As Individuals
Luke 3:3-14

November 24 - CONNECT - 9 AM
Repent: As Communities
Isaiah 58, Micah 6:8; Matthew 25:31-46

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Halloween Rest Stop - Oct 31, 5:30-7 PM



Interested in helping?? Please sign up [HERE](#)

PRICELESS GIFT STORE



As every year, we will once again, partner with The Priceless Gift Toy Store ministry in Jackson, MI (<http://www.togetherdifference.org/pricelessgifttoystore.html>) to help parents or guardians to shop and obtain gifts for their own children for **FREE**. It's a gift of love!

We will be collecting used toys in fair to excellent condition, gently used, hand-made, and/or new toys that can be re-giving as gifts. Donations of batteries - mostly AA's are also welcomed.

All toys are cleaned, tested, and prepared for another wonderful life in the hands of children.

Donations can be dropped off at the church's social hall from **October 27 to November 20th**.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

MESSY CHURCH



November 10 - Messy Church Session - 4-6PM



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 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:

11/05/2024: Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder and Neurodiversity

11/12/2024: Purpose of Play

11/19/2024: Introduction to Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences

11/26/2024: Together We Can: Co-Parenting

Class Times: 8:00PM to 9:30PM

Registration: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tsaVF3uvTp2wINV5dLR2vw

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. **This class is eligible for MIRegistry Credit!**

- **Class Dates: Tuesdays, November 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10**
 - Class Times: 11:30am-1:00pm 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, aldric82@msu.edu

WATCH:

Online CONNECT Services:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I2d4iBXIZ8>

<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.