

November 13, 2024



Dear **CONNECT** Family,

***Family Spiritual Practice***

**Faith Talk:**

This past week has been a difficult one for many of us. For some, it brought moments of joy and affirmation, a deepening of beliefs; for others, it has been marked by grief and uncertainty over unwelcome changes. Whatever our individual experiences, it's clear that the next few months will be a season of transition—and transitions, as we know, bring change. Change is never easy; it's often challenging, sometimes painful, and it can leave us feeling like the ground beneath us has shifted. Yet, in the midst of this upheaval, change often clarifies what truly matters to us, helping us redefine our priorities.



**This week, I invite you to commit to simplifying your life every single day.**

Sit down first thing in the morning and ask yourself, “How can I simplify my life today?”

- Do I need to purge and cleanse a physical area of my life?
- Maybe limit my to-do list? Cut an activity or two out of my schedule?
- Should I set limitations for myself (such as checking email, time spent working, etc.)?
- Do I need to say no to others so that I can feel less stress and produce better results?

Set a DAILY intention to keep things **extremely simple** this week and experience the inner peace and harmony that goes along with it.

**What I am reading/listening:**

[HERE](#) is a nice gratitude template that can be used. You can fill up your list as a family during one sitting, give each family member their own list to work on throughout the month—or really whatever works best for



you.

**What I am watching:**

This beautiful [SONG](#) by Carrie Newcomer called *Sanctuary*.

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

***“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9***

**WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT**

**November Practice Theme: CONFESS!**

We understand confession to be more about actions than simply words. Of course, words are a form of action, and confession certainly involves saying some key words, namely, those difficult and humbling words “I apologize” and “I’m sorry.” But it also involves recognizing that we’ve done wrong, committing to finding another way to live, and repairing, to the best of our ability, any damage (physical or emotional) that has been done.

**Last Sunday:**

Last Sunday, we wondered about the Scripture passage of 1 Kings 8:54-61. In this passage, King Solomon prays a blessing over the people of Israel at the conclusion of the dedication of the temple of Jerusalem. They have followed God’s instruction in constructing the temple, and God has been faithful to them. Solomon hopes that the people will continue in their obedience to God, encouraging them to “follow the life path” God has cleared for them. When do we follow God closely? In confession, we pause, look around, and realize our mistake.





**This Sunday:**

This Sunday, we will wonder together about the Scripture of Luke 15:11-32 - the Parable of the father and two sons, emphasizing the father's love for both sons (and thus, God's love for all of us). This Sunday, though, we will focus on the return of the prodigal son, the one who left home and strayed from God's path. In realizing his mistake, returning home, and apologizing, this wayward son finds his way back to God's path and serves as a model of repentance for children and adults alike.

**Coming Up**

- November 17 -           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
 Finding Our Way Back  
 Luke 15:11-32
- November 24 -           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
 We're All in This Together  
 Micah 6: 6-8
- December 01 -           NO CONNECT - 9 AM**  
 All Worship Together - Communion Sunday  
 "The Stranger" - Luke 1:26-38  
 1st Advent
- December 08-           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
 "Three Women" - Ruth 1  
 2nd Advent
- December 15-           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
 "The Wild Man" - Luke 3:7-16  
 3rd Advent
- December 22-           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
 "Joseph's Dream" - Matthew 1:18-25  
 4th Advent

**December 24- CHRISTMAS EVE INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP - 5 PM**

**December 29 - NO CONNECT - 1 Service 10 AM**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**MISSION OPPORTUNITY**

**Gift Bag Assembly – A Heartfelt Tradition**

Twice a year, we partner with the Congregational Care Team to deliver small gift bags filled with goodies to members of our church community who live at CRC, Silver Maples, and other local addresses. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our care and support for those who may not always be able to join us in person.

We'll be assembling the gift bags at **9:30 AM during Connect Time**. The children's help will make a difference as we prepare these thoughtful gifts for delivery.

We like to deliver the gifts on the second week of December. If your family would like to help deliver the gifts please let me know.

Thank you for being a part of this meaningful tradition!

**CHRISTMAS BAZAR -**

The Chelsea First United Methodist Church will host the 16th Annual Material Girls Children's Christmas Bazaar during Hometown Holidays on Thursday, December 5th, 4:30-8 Children's Special Needs, Saturday, December 7th from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM Children's Bazaar. The bazaar provides a meaningful and affordable shopping experience for children 3 years old through 6th grade. The gifts, hand-crafted by members of Material Girls and local artisans sell for \$1-\$5. All profits from the bazaar will be given to Faith-in-Action.

[Thursday Night Children's Special Needs Sign-Up](#)

[Children's Christmas Bazaar Sign-Up](#)

**2024 Youth Buddy Bazaar Volunteers**

**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!

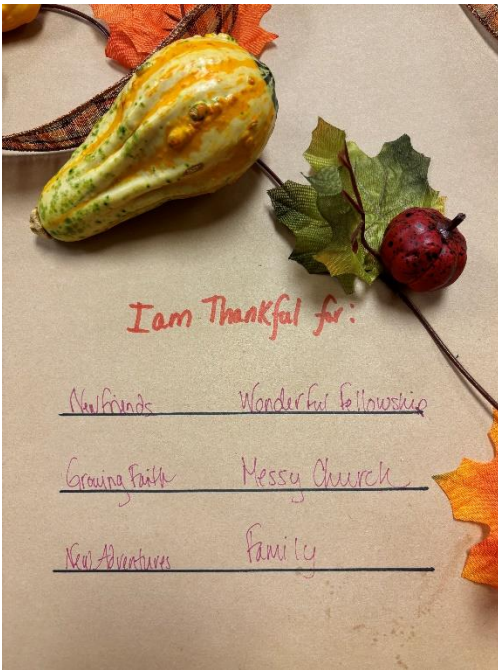
#### **MESSY CHURCH**



**We had a great time at Messy Church this past Sunday, Nov 10th.**

**Check out some pictures of our Sunday together.**





**Next Messy Church Session will be on December 8th - 4 to 6 PM**



## **PARENTS GROUP OPPORTUNITY**

### **New Caregivers/Parents Group – Starting January 2025!**

We are excited to announce the launch of a new **Caregivers/Parents Group** starting in **January 13th 2025!** This group will meet every **Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, both **in-person** and **online** to accommodate everyone. Dates: 01/13, 01/20, 01/27, 02/03, 02/10, 02/17, 02/24, 03/03.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other parents and caregivers, share experiences, and discuss a wide range of topics related to raising children. We'll kick off the group by reading and discussing the book ***The Anxious Generation*** by Jonathan Haidt, which explores the challenges faced by today's youth and how we can best support them.

Whether you're looking for advice, support, or just a space to share your thoughts, we invite you to join us for this meaningful and enriching time together.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## **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:**

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12/03/2024: Screen Time for Young Children  
12/10/2024: Birds and the Bees: Talking with Kids About Sex  
12/17/2024: Helping Kids Manage Stress  
**Class Times:** 8:00PM to 9:30PM

**Registration:** [https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tsaVF3uvTp2wINV5dlR2vw](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](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](mailto:aldric82@msu.edu)

**WATCH:**

**Online CONNECT Services:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e06PgWWqTPE>

<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.***