

November 20, 2024



Dear **CONNECT** Family,

Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

This week, I invite you to reflect on the seeds you plant in the lives of others. The impact of your actions might not be immediately apparent—it could take years, even decades, to blossom into something meaningful. But the way you treat others, the words you speak, and the way you make people feel can have a lasting influence far beyond what you realize.

Just this past week, someone shared with me a memory from my middle school days—a small gesture I made that, to my surprise, had a positive impact on them and shaped how they approach similar situations today. I had completely forgotten the event, but they hadn't. They may not have even mentioned it at the time, but years later, it resurfaced. These are the kinds of moments that help us grow and shape who we are.



This is the practice I offer you this week:

1. If someone said or did something for you long ago that you believe shaped who you are today, take the time to tell them. I promise it will matter to them, and it might just be the encouragement they need to keep moving forward.
2. And if you're feeling discouraged, remember that you may never know the full impact you've had on the children in your care, and the difference you make might not be evident for years—or perhaps even ever.

What I am reading/listening:

This **SONG** - "Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still" - no one stands alone.
Radical Inclusion.

THIS book. In Defense of Kindness.

What I am watching:

Extraordinary
is seeing **BEAUTY** in the **ORDINARY!**

[Grandkids roast their 'Papaw' on his 80th birthday by dressing up as his different 'eras](#)

Quote, I've Been Thinking About...

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope."

-Barack Obama

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 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). We focused 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 found his way back to God's path and serving as a model of repentance for children and adults alike.

We also assembled goodie bags with the guidance of lovingly members of the Congregational Care Team, for beloved members of our church, who will be receiving the gifts of love during the holidays. We need the help of our families to do the deliveries. Please let me know if your family is available to help. The children did a fabulous job filling the bags.



This Sunday:

This Sunday, we will wonder together about the Scripture of Micah 6:6-8. The prophets of the Hebrew Bible spoke on behalf of God, delivering God's message to God's people. It wasn't always good news. Usually, it involved telling those in power that they needed to treat other people better. The prophets were sometimes concerned with individual behavior, but more often, they spoke out against society's ills. Sin isn't just an individual occurrence. We all participate in systems that are sinful, systems that perpetuate evils such as racism, classism, poverty, and inequality. Even when we don't consciously choose to cause harm to others or the earth, we do so, sometimes even without our awareness.



Coming Up

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



Please sign-up [HERE!](#)

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!

DONATIONS WILL BE DELIBERED THIS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21st.

MESSY CHURCH



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:

Class dates:

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

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=K91lVu5RZcY>

<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.

