

December 11, 2024

Dear CONNECT Family,



Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

This week, take time to notice the sacred in your everyday life.

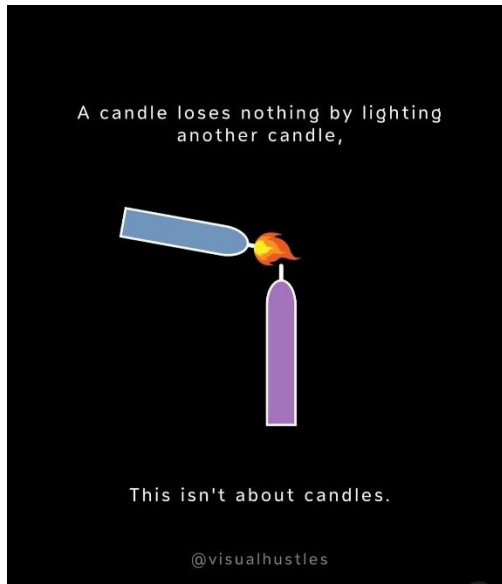
1. **Pause and Observe:** Pause for a moment to reflect on something ordinary—a meal, a conversation, a walk outside. Ask yourself, “*Where is God in this?*”
2. **Embrace the Messiness:** Let yourself bump into life—reach out to someone, try something new, or allow yourself to feel deeply. Trust that holiness is found in the contact.
3. **Journal the Moments:** At the end of the day, write down where you saw the Sacred. How did embracing the world more fully reveal the sacred in the ordinary?

Let this practice remind you that sacraments are everywhere if we have eyes to see. The holy isn’t waiting somewhere far off; it’s here, now, inviting us to dive in and discover the infinite love woven into it all.

- Rev. Cameron Trimble

What I am reading/listening:

[Tips for Embracing Joy in daily Life.](#)



What I am watching:

[Coldplay - All My Love](#) - Absolutely LOVE IT - Chris Martin and Dick Van Dyke !

Do the good that is yours to do.

[Sounding Joy!](#)

[What is Advent? Advent Explained by KIDS](#)

Quote, I've Been Thinking About...

"Life, what an exquisite privilege."

- Katie Rubinstein

WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT

December Practice Theme: Words for the Beginning!

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving – and yet, we feel the weight of many things coming to an end. The world as we know it spins madly on. This series was crafted with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season.

Last Sunday:

Last Sunday, we wondered about the Scripture of Ruth 1. WE CAN'T GO ALONE. Children acted out the story inspired by Ruth 1: "Three Women" during worship in the Sanctuary and were invited to wonder some more within the group after. The story we heard was about a woman who felt very alone. Her children have all died, and her husband has died too. But God made sure that she had

people in her life to take care of her.

We started unveiling all the surprises within our Advent Calendar - Nativity Scene!

We also made cards to members of our Congregation that will be add to the gifts that will be delivered this coming week.



Mrs. Hubbard lighten the 2nd Advent Candle - The Candle of HOPE!





Scripture Reading Interpretation by Kiera, Aila and Riannan.



Wondering about the story of Ruth, singing Christmas Carols and making cards.

This Sunday:

This Sunday, we will wonder together about the Scripture reading of Luke 3:7-16. In this story, John the Baptist tells people how they can live good lives and be kind to others. He calls them to turn away from doing bad things and to help those in need. John tells the people, "If you have two coats, share one with someone who doesn't have any." He says that if you have extra food, share it with others too. Even soldiers who asked him what they should do were told not to be mean or steal, but to be fair and kind. **John's message is simple: everyone, no matter who they are, can do good things, like helping others and being kind. By doing this, we show God's love in our lives.**

It will be a special Sunday as not only will we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent but we will also celebrate Baptisms and New Members in our Congregation.

Coming Up

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



MESSY CHURCH



A great time was had by all in Messy Church.



PARENTS GROUP OPPORTUNITY

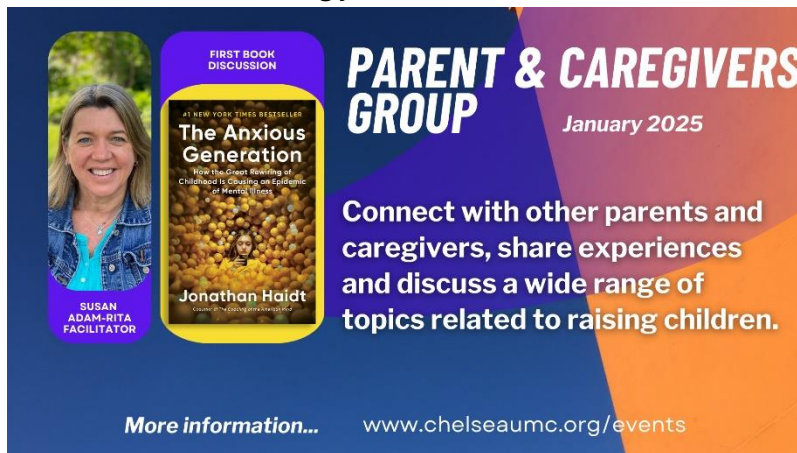
New Caregivers/Parents Group – Starting January 2025!

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:

1/07/2025: RELAX: Alternatives to Anger for Parents and Caregivers

1/14/2025: How soon is too soon? When to teach your children money habits for life!

1/21/2025: Positive Discipline

1/28/2025: Potty Training Pointers

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

Registration: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tsaVF3uvTp2wINV5dIR2vw

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: Thursdays, January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13**
- **Class Times: 7:30pm-9:00pm ET**
[Registration](#)

For more information, contact Courtney Aldrich, aldric82@msu.edu

WATCH:

Online CONNECT Services:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnt2daqUHCY&t=547s>

"We're thrilled to have Kaci Friss our special guest, participating in this video."

<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.



