

December 18, 2024

Dear **CONNECT** Family,



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

#### **Faith Talk:**

This week, I invite you to lead with LOVE...

Take a moment to consider the spaces in your life where you have influence—whether it’s within your family, your workplace, or your community. Places where your actions and choices can shape the lives of others. Reflect on how you show up in those spaces. Are you leading with love, humility, and care? What would it look like to intentionally embody those qualities this week?

One powerful way to lead with love is through listening. Choose someone in your life to engage with intentionally this week. It could be a coworker, a family member, or a neighbor. Ask them about their experiences, their hopes, or their challenges, and truly listen—not to respond, but to understand. Leadership often begins with empathy, and taking the time to hear someone’s story can be a profound act of service.

Finally, think about one tangible act of servant leadership you can offer. Perhaps it’s mentoring someone who needs guidance, advocating for an issue that promotes justice, or showing kindness to someone who feels overlooked.

- Rev. Cameron Trimble

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

#### **Compelling Your Kids to Serve**

What I am watching:

[The Gift of Wonder](#)

[Believe in Love](#)

[The Carols of Christmas](#)

Quote, I've Been Thinking About...

*"Astonishment is the root of all genuine spiritual experience."*

–Richard Rohr

## 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 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.**





**Scripture Reading Interpretation**







*Always WONDERING ...*

*We were truly blessed to witness the Sacrament of Baptism for our dear Jackson, Jordan, and their mother Brittany Bragg, as well as for dear Grace's mother, Emily Collins. It was a Sunday that will be remembered fondly by all of us.*

*Additionally, Joe Buehler had the honor of interpreting "John the Baptist" during the scripture reading and graciously assisted Pastor Joy during the baptisms.*





### **This Sunday:**

This Sunday, we will wonder together about the Scripture reading of Matthew 1:18-25. Before Jesus was born, an angel came to Joseph, Jesus' father on earth. The angel said that the baby should be named Jesus. The name Jesus (in Hebrew, Yeshua) comes from the word that means "To save" or "to rescue". It's wonderful to know that, even before he was born, God was preparing people to understand Jesus' special mission: to show people God's love by rescuing them from anything that separates them from God.

### **Coming Up**

**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**



Our January Session will be on January 12, 2025 - 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!



**FIRST BOOK DISCUSSION**

**PARENT & CAREGIVERS GROUP**  
January 2025

**Connect with other parents and caregivers, share experiences and discuss a wide range of topics related to raising children.**

**More information... [www.chelseauc.org/events](http://www.chelseauc.org/events)**

## 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](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](mailto:aldric82@msu.edu)

**WATCH:**

**Online CONNECT Services:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WphF1bF9\\_kc&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WphF1bF9_kc&t=1s)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-oDHg9zalmC42npYW0EvTA>

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- **Instagram** - follow us on Instagram <http://instagram.com/chelseafumc.children>

Love and Peace,  
Susan



***Ordinary people learning to love like Jesus.***



