

December 25, 2024

Dear **CONNECT** Family,



***MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!***

***Family Spiritual Practice***

***Faith Talk:***

This week, and especially today, I invite you and your loved ones-to join in celebrating the gift of togetherness. Let us come together to enjoy one another's presence, share in the warmth of family, and create lasting memories.

As we celebrate, let us also make space for Jesus in our hearts, our homes, and our community. May His love and peace fill our lives and inspire us to grow closer as a family, both to one another and to the world around us.

Spend a few quiet moments each day this week, reflecting on the image of Mary and Joseph knocking on doors, searching for a place to stay. **Imagine yourself in their shoes**—and then imagine yourself as the one who opens the door. What might God be asking you to offer this season?

Let this practice remind you that Christmas is about making room—not just in our homes, but in our hearts. May we, like the innkeeper, choose to say yes to love, yes to hope, and yes to the stranger who may just change the world.

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

**[CHRISTMAS SONGS FOR KIDS](#)**

***What I am watching:***

I love watching children's interpretations of the Christmas story:

[Story of Christmas](#) told by children!

and this one

[THE CHRISTMAS STORY](#) told by kids!

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

***"The little things? The little moments? They aren't little."***

**-John Zabat-Zinn**

**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 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.





***Scripture Reading Interpretation***



**Always WONDERING ...**

Some pictures of the Delivery of Gifts to some of our senior members:





**This Sunday:**

This Sunday, we will worship together at 10 AM!

**Coming Up**

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!

**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.chelseaumc.org/events](http://www.chelseaumc.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\\_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: 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=mAuu5L\\_xDb4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAuu5L_xDb4)**

<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.***

