

December 4, 2024



Dear **CONNECT** Family,

Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

This week, as we will light the candle of Peace, I invite you to be rooted in Peace.

When you feel overwhelmed or frustrated, take a moment to pause. Pause and check in with your body. Repeat silently, *“The winds may howl, but I will not be swept away. I am anchored in love.”*

As you go through your day, look for opportunities to practice this steadiness.

Whether it’s responding to an unkind word, navigating a stressful situation, or simply listening deeply to someone, let each moment be a chance to stay rooted in peace.

At the end of the day, reflect on how you were able to stay steady and where you might grow further. Let this practice remind you of the strength that comes from being anchored in what truly matters.

- Rev. Cameron Trimble

What I am reading/listening:

Advent at Home

What I am watching:

[Stella: No One Should Be Alone at Christmas - a 2 min. reminder](#)

Quote, I've Been Thinking About...

“As Christmas comes round again, help all of us see how peace and justice are possible; transform us to be people who actively work to make them grow around us, so that we can echo the angel song of ‘Peace on earth, goodwill to all.’”

- **[Gordon Waldie, Worship Offerings](#)**



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 1:26-38. YOU ARE A BLESSING!

The story was about someone who wasn't powerful or rich. She didn't seem special to the world. Maybe she had a hard time believing she was a blessing. But then she got a visit that changed her life.

Jack Buehler, Joe Buehler and Grace Collins acted to the parts on the retelling of the Scripture reading.

We worshiped together in the Sanctuary. It was Communion Sunday and the First Sunday of Advent! We lite the candle of HOPE, and started a new series called WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING!





We had our **ADVENT CRAFT** Sunday - we had fun and made beautiful Christmas ornaments!



This Sunday:

This Sunday, we will wonder together about the Scripture reading of Ruth 1 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. WE CAN'T GO ALONE. Children will act out the story inspired by Ruth 1: "Three Women" during worship in the Sanctuary and will be invited to wonder some more within the group after. The story we will hear is about a woman who felt very alone. Her children have all died, and her husband has died. But God made sure that she had people in her life to take care of her.

Coming Up

- 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

MESSY CHURCH



This Sunday - 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!

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

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

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=vN8N9wn5b6U>

<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