

January 15, 2025

Dear CONNECT Family,

***Where do we go and how do we live our faith when we get there?  
Family Spiritual Practice***

**Faith Talk:**

This week, I offer you this spiritual practice suggested by Rev. Cameron Trimble

**Weaving Love into Action**

Each morning, set aside a few moments to ground yourself. Take a deep breath and think about one thing you love deeply, one thing worth protecting or nurturing. Let that love fill you, strengthening you from within.

Then, choose one small action that reflects that love. It could be a kind word, a call to a friend, a donation, a moment of advocacy, or a simple prayer. Let this small act remind you that you are part of something larger—a fabric that we are all weaving together, stitch by stitch, with our love and resilience.

End your day with a moment of reflection: ***How did love guide me today?*** Offer a prayer of gratitude for the strength to keep going, trusting that each small act of care is part of a greater work of healing.

**What I am reading/listening:**

[Resources to Learn, Pray, and Act This Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

**What I am watching:**

[Go and Make Disciples](#)

[The Story of Martin Luther King Jr by Kid President](#)

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

***"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)***

**WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT**

**January Practice Theme: MAKE DISCIPLES**

Making disciples is both an inward and outward process. We show that we are following Jesus by the way we live our lives. This draws others to want to follow Jesus, as well.



### **Last Sunday:**

Last Sunday, we wonder together about the Scripture Reading of Mark 1:16-20 where Jesus calls his first disciples to follow him. We explored the question "What is a disciple?", by first understanding what it means to be a follower of Jesus as it is found in the Bible and then begin to see how we can see ourselves as disciples today. Jesus provides an example of what it means to be a disciple: not being the best or the greatest, but being one who serves others, who welcomes the ones who are overlooked.



### **This Sunday:**

This Sunday, we will wonder together about the Scripture Reading of Acts 16:1-15, where the apostle and missionary Paul and his traveling companions meet Lydia. Lydia and other women go to the river outside of town to pray because there is no synagogue where they live. Paul shares the love of Jesus, giving a foundation to the faith Lydia seeks to know more fully. In turn, she provides hospitality and support for Paul and his partners to continue their ministry.

The focus this Sunday is on discipleship outside of the home. Where do we go and how do we live our faith when we get there?

### **Coming Up**

- January 19 -           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Go - Acts 16:1-15
  
- January 26 -           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Be a Witness - John 4:5-30
  
- February 02 -         NO CONNECT - 9 AM**  
All Worship Together - Communion Sunday
  
- February 09 -         CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Baptize - Acts 8:26-40
  
- February 16           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Teach And Learn About Jesus - Matthew 5-7 (Selected Verses)
  
- February 23           CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Trust in Jesus' Presence Always - John 14:15-27

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Celebrate MLK Day

PRESENTED BY CHELSEA ONE WORLD, ONE FAMILY; THE CHELSEA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; CHELSEA ROTARY; CHELSEA KIWANIS; AND THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Celebrate MLK Day with



Join our **HARAMBEE** with the Flint Freedom Schools

Saturday, January 18th at 2pm  
WSEC Board Room  
500 Washington St, Chelsea

- Participate in a Harambee Welcome experience presented by the Flint Freedom School Collaborative
- Learn about FFSC's ties to the original Freedom Schools of the Civil Rights Era
- Children's art project celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr
- Refreshments to follow

All are welcome - No charge - No registration required

For more information on this and other local events in observation of MLK Day 2025, please scan the QR Code



### MESSY CHURCH



February 09, 2025 - 4 to 6 PM

## LISTENING TO GOD

Have you ever awoken in the middle of the night hearing someone calling your name?

February 9, 2025  
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Samuel needed Eli to help him to take time to listen and then respond to the voice of God he heard calling.



CHELSEA FIRST

## PARENTS GROUP OPPORTUNITY

### Caregivers/Parents Group – Starting January 2025!

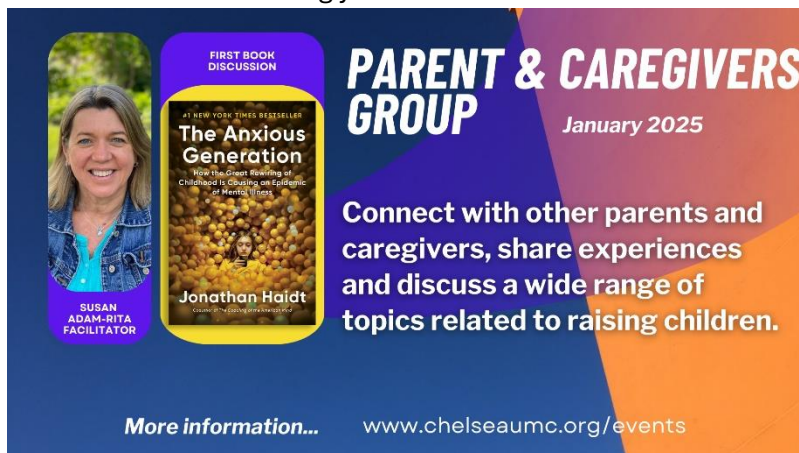
We are excited to announce the launch of a new **Caregivers/Parents Group** starting in **January 13th 2025!** This group will meet every **Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, both **in-person** and **online** to accommodate everyone.

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.chelseaumc.org/events](http://www.chelseaumc.org/events)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969525903?pwd=DI AoBqSa0qJ2ixNuNKaihMfBo9PS45.1>

Meeting ID: 899 6952 5903

Passcode: 656972

### 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:

2/04/2025: What Children Need to Know to Start School

2/11/2025: Together We Can: Co-Parenting

2/18/2025: Setting the Stage: Promoting Social Emotional Health in Young Children

2/25/2025: Reducing Challenging Behaviors in Toddlers

**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: Mondays, February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17**
- **Class Times: 7:30pm-9:00pm ET**
- **Registration:** [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dd7Nnn1h8Y1TcNg](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dd7Nnn1h8Y1TcNg)
- Attached is a flyer and graphics for social media

For more information, contact Courtney Aldrich, [aldric82@msu.edu](mailto:aldric82@msu.edu)

### **WATCH:**

#### **Online CONNECT Services:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZbDkNzEfqk>

<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.*

