

February 12, 2025

Dear **CONNECT** Family,

***Family Spiritual Practice***

***Faith Talk:***

This week, I invite you to once again practice the spiritual discipline of noticing. Take a few minutes to pause and reflect on where you see goodness, progress, or kindness in the world. It may be in the news, in your community, or even in a quiet, personal moment of beauty. The world is still filled with people showing up for one another, with movements of justice gaining ground, with quiet acts of love that sustain us all. Let this practice remind you that despair is not our only option.



# KINDNESS

*/'kʌɪn(d)nəs/* **noun**

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1. Loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.

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

**[Helping Children Notice God](#)**

**[Love is Still Winning](#)** by Fabienne Doucet: "When a little one sees their parents overwhelmed with the aftermath of distressing news, they remind themselves of the love that still shines through."

**[Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too](#)** by Jennifer Grant (Author) and Benjamin Schipper (Illustrator)

Eight New **[Empowering Titles](#)**

**What I am watching:**

**Our souls are gardens. Our hearts are flowers. They need to be watered, tended, fertilized and loved. Happy gardening!**

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

***"We can remember that today we can be a gift to each person we meet, just by looking at them with eyes of love."***

**- Terry Patten**

**WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT**

**January/February 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 wondered together about Baptism. Our Baptism probably didn't/won't look like Jesus', but just like Jesus, we belong to God's family and are sent out to share God's love. Baptism is also a commitment to a community of faith, that the person being baptized will participate in the life of the congregation and use their God-given gifts to enrich the life of the community. When you become a part of a church community, you have a responsibility to care for others and to do your best to serve your church and help fulfill its mission.

The Children participated in the Scripture Retelling!





And we wonder some more about Baptism during our CONNECT time!



**This Sunday:**

This Sunday, the children are invited to help retell the Scripture reading in worship once again where we will talk about a gift from God called GRACE.

Children will be invited to CONNECT where we will wonder together about the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5-7. Throughout the Gospels, we find Jesus teaching countless times through his words, stories, questions, and actions. He modeled what it means to love God and love neighbor. Opportunities to learn about Jesus are endless, as are the occasions to share what we know about him through our words and actions.



### Coming Up

- 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
- March 02**          **NO CONNECT - 9 AM Worship**  
Worship Together - Communion Sunday
- March 09**          **CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Be Finite - Luke 12: 13-21
- March 16**          **CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Be Unapologetically You - 1 Samuel 3
- March 23**          **CONNECT - 9 am**  
Receive Blessings - Joshua 2:1-24; 6:22-25
- March 30**          **CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Be Quiet - Luke 24:13-35

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## MESSY CHURCH



March 09, 2025



## PARENTS GROUP OPPORTUNITY

### **Caregivers/Parents Group – Come join us! IN PERSON or ONLINE**

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)

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:

3/04/2025: Exploring Parenting Styles

3/11/2025: Talking With Kids About Race

3/18/2025: Parenting in the Digital Age

3/25/2025: Importance of Outdoor Play

**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=lan-ExiwNxl>

<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.***

