

March 19, 2025

Dear CONNECT Family,

Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

This week, I invite you to as a family, go somewhere you are immersed in God's creation. This may be looking at the stars together at night, visiting a zoo or aquarium, or walking in the park or on a beach or in the mountains or by a river or through a garden or farm. Take turns pointing out what you see in God's creation. Look for a variety of characteristics, such as big and small, loud and quiet, colorful and plain, and so forth. Marvel at God's creation and consider your place within it. Consider what it means to walk humbly with God as part of god's created world.

What I am reading/listening:

[Beyond "say thank you": Encouraging Real Gratitude in Children](#)



What I am watching:

[Magination Press Story Time: Nyasha Chikowore reads Giraffe Asks for Help](#)

[One of my all-time favorite illustrated children's books—*The Three Questions*, beautifully narrated by Meryl Streep. It's a heartfelt and meaningful story that I highly recommend!](#)

Quote, I've Been Thinking About...

"Nothing in nature blooms all year long, don't expect yourself to do so either."

- Brooke

WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT

March Practice Theme: WALK HUMBLY

Walking humbly means drawing closer to God and intentionally living more and more into our identity as children of God. It is a balance between not belittling or discounting our gifts and uniqueness while understanding that we are human, just like everyone else.

Last Sunday:

Last Sunday, we reflected on the Scripture reading from 1 Samuel 3. God often chooses unassuming, ordinary people to do remarkable things. In the Scripture, God calls a boy, Samuel, to be a prophet and speak God's words. Children live in the paradox of having fewer resources than the world acknowledges as good--less money, less voice, less power--and yet can be quite effective when they feel called to serve, see an injustice, or want to make the world a better place. Children can be encouraged and challenged to use their skills and abilities to make a difference in their communities.

Children participated in the Scripture retelling in Worship, telling the story of when Jesus visited Martha and Mary.

We also filled the bags that will be delivered to members of our congregation in the next few weeks.





This Sunday:

This Sunday, we will hear about the Parable of the Fig Tree in Worship - Luke 13:6-9 and focus on the main idea that we all grow at our own pace. During CONNECT, we will wonder together about walking humbly with God which is also about walking humbly with one another. Children spend most of their growing up receiving help from others and often eagerly desire to do it themselves! Recognizing limitations and accepting help can be difficult for some children in this quest for independence. However, it is what walking humbly with others is about: being truly oneself, in times of both the ability to give and the need for help.



Coming Up

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

April 06

NO CONNECT - 9AM

All Worship Together - Communion Sunday

Luke 19:1-10 - It's never too late to do the right thing

April 13

CONNECT - 9 AM

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Luke 19:29-40 - Speaking up is as important as listening.

April 20

CONNECT - 9 AM

EASTER SUNDAY

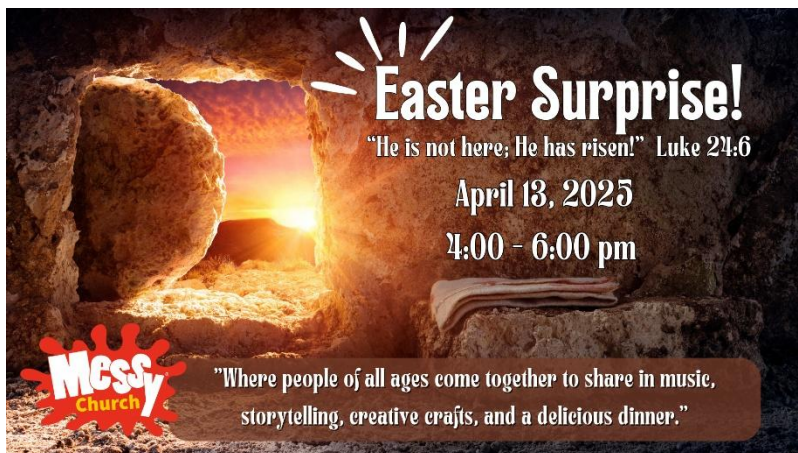
Luke 24:1-12 - God made all our feelings.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MESSY CHURCH



April 13, 2025



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:

4/1/2025: Birds and the Bees

4/8/2025: ABC's of Early Literacy

4/15/2025: Mathematics for Infants and Toddlers

4/22/2025: Screen Time for Young Children

4/29/2025: Positive Discipline

Class Times: 8:00PM to 9:30PM

Registration: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tsaVF3uvTp2wIINV5dlR2vw

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:** Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- **Class Times:** 11:30am-1:00pm ET
- **Registration:** 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

WATCH:

Online CONNECT Services:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKA7Vnlb-cc>

<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.

