

April 2, 2025

**Dear CONNECT Family,
Family Spiritual Practice**

Faith Talk:

This week, I offer you the devotional question of the day in the series - Everything in Between that is the focus of our Lenten Worship Series.

**In this season, are you feeling lost, or found, or a bit of both?
Who has been a guiding presence for you in times when you felt lost?**

Prayer

Knowing God, there is a tenderness in asking myself whether this is a lost or found season. There is a vulnerability required in answering that question. So as I sift through the truth in my spirit, I find comfort in knowing that regardless of how I answer, you are always with me. When I am lost, you are searching after me. When I am found, you are at my side. No matter where I roam or where I go, you never stop seeking me. Thank you for a love like that. Amen.

What I am reading/listening:

[This is the Mystery of Easter](#) by [Amelia Richardson Dress](#) (Author), [Lilly J Moore](#) (Illustrator)

Examen - is a way to reflect on the day, how God was present in your day, and how we can respond to God's presence.

[Pray As You Go](#) is an audio daily prayer session. They created several examens for children and families.

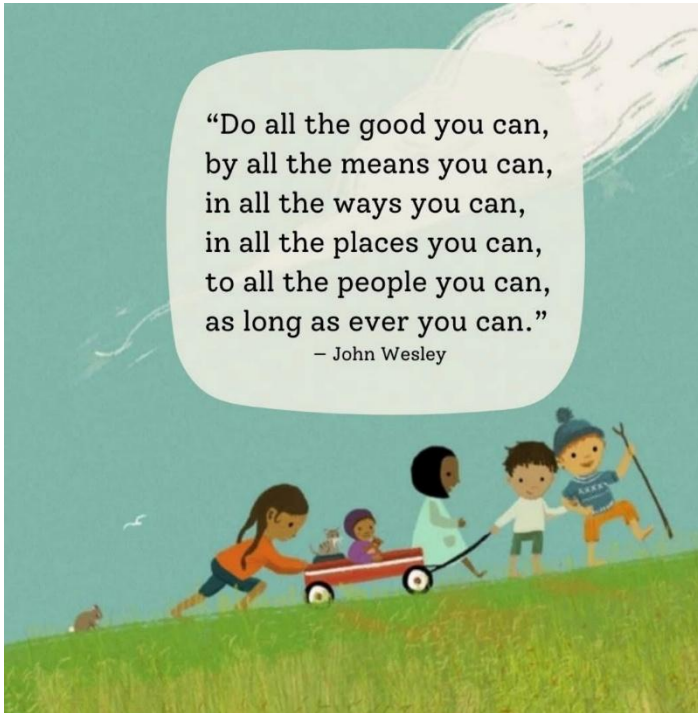
What I am watching:

[Random Acts of Creativity](#)

[The Power of Forgiveness](#)



Quote, I've Been Thinking About...



“Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.”

— John Wesley

WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT

April Practice Theme: Everything in Between!

In April we will focus on the Series Everything (in) Between. This series, allows the Gospel of Luke to guide us through Lent. Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore. Jesus intentionally highlights the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Last Sunday:

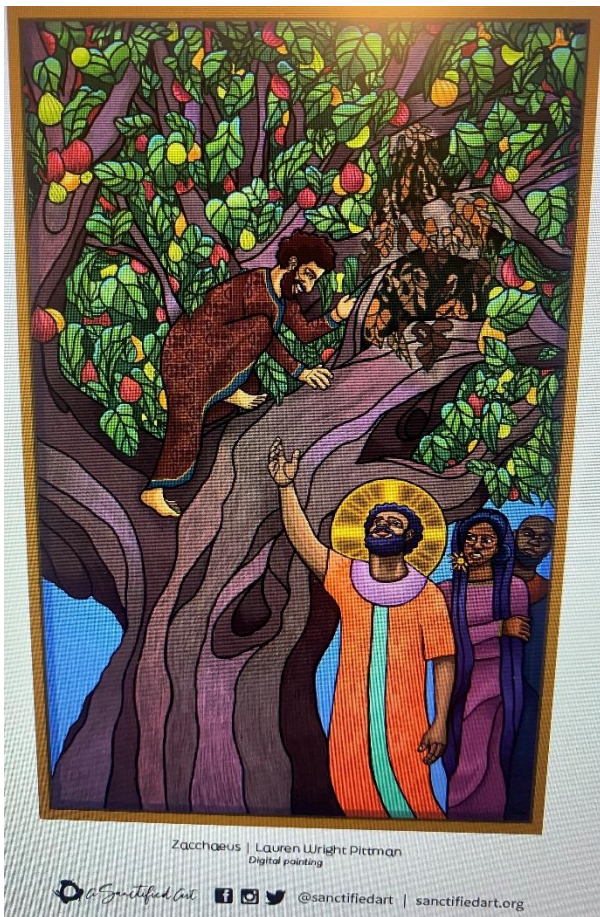
Last Sunday, we reflected on the Parable of the Lost Sheep based on Luke 15:1-7. Jesus was known for befriending those who had been left out or overlooked. Some people didn't like this and complained that he was associating with the wrong crowd. In response, Jesus told them the story of a lost sheep, emphasizing that everyone belongs in God's family. The children and youth enacted the scripture during worship and we wonder some more about it during CONNECT.





This Sunday:

This Sunday, we will be worshipping together in the Sanctuary. It is communion Sunday. The focus this Sunday will be on the story based on the Scripture of Luke 19:1-10. This story is about Jesus visiting a man named Zacchaeus who wanted to do what was right, but still ended up hurting his neighbors.



Coming Up

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.

April 27

CONNECT - 9 AM

Freedom to Sing

May 4

No CONNECT - 9 AM

All Worship Together - Communion Sunday

Freedom to Follow

May 11

CONNECT - 9 AM

Freedom to Rise Again

May 18

CONNECT - 9 AM

Freedom to Love

May 25

CONNECT - 10 AM (One Service)

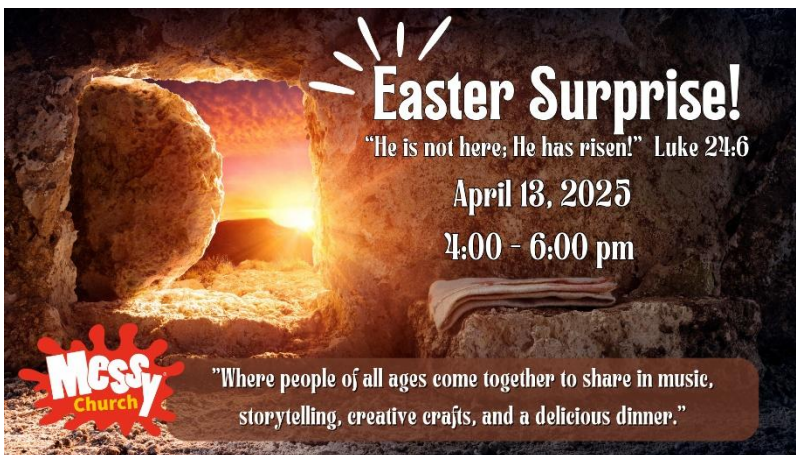
Freedom to Heal

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MESSY CHURCH



April 13, 2025



Easter Bags Deliveries- Congregational Care Team

In March, our children generously helped fill Easter goody bags for some of our congregation members. Now, the time has come to deliver these thoughtful gifts—and we need your help!

This is a meaningful mission that we undertake in partnership with the Congregational Care Team. It's a wonderful opportunity to show love and care for members who, for various reasons, may not be able to

attend church in person. Your involvement in delivering these bags would truly brighten someone's day and strengthen our sense of community.

We have 17 bags ready for delivery, and we would love for you and your children to be a part of this special mission. If you're available to help, please reach out to me via email at sadamrita@chelseaumc.org, and let me know when you're able to assist.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact!



Wonderful online classes

Michigan State University Extension

Child and Family Development Offerings

April and June 2025 Lunch and Learn Classes:

- Friday, 4/18/25: RELAX: Alternative to Anger for Parents and Caregivers
- Friday, 6/20/25: The Birds and the Bees: Talking with Kids About Sex
- **Class Times:** 11:30AM-1:00PM
- **Registration:** https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FWmqgzZ_R1e2CcHVvLK47A
- Attached are flyers and social media graphics for these workshops

- For more information contact Courtney Aldrich at aldric82@msu.edu

The Parent Talk System

Do you feel like the children in your care aren't listening to you? Do you find yourself constantly repeating yourself trying to gain compliance? This 6-week series is for parents and caregivers of children of all ages and is designed to improve communication and provide practical verbal strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Topics include eliminating unwanted behavior, setting limits, teaching about consequences, giving effective feedback, promoting independence, and developing character. Certificates of attendance are available. **This class is eligible for MIRegistry Credit!**

- **Class dates:** Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6
- **Class times:** 11:30am-1:00pm ET
- **Registration:** https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ymsFvepoXP3cFw
- 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=MBpaN1J5qDU>

<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.

