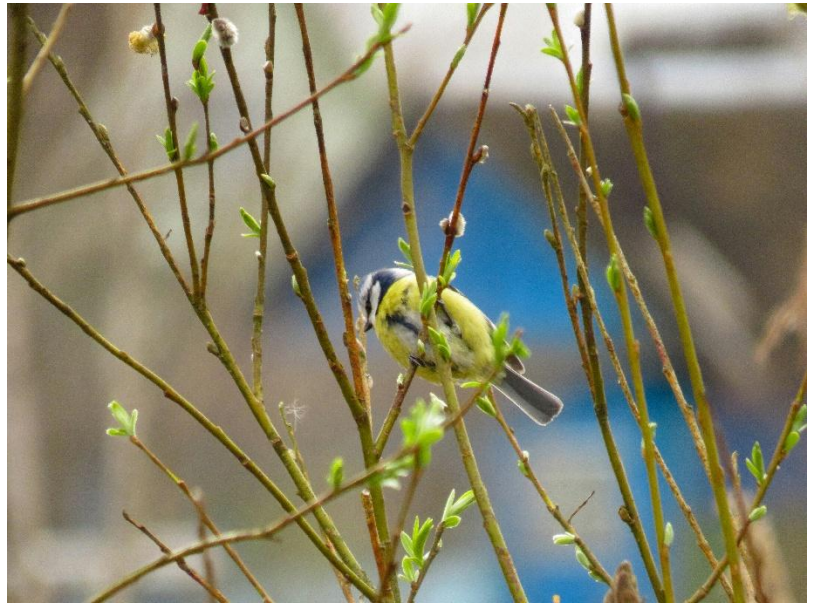


April 9, 2025

Dear CONNECT Family,

O God of all seasons,  
We thank You for the hope  
Ushered in by spring.  
Help us to remember that spring  
always comes  
And that we do not parent  
As people without hope.  
As we approach Holy week,  
May we meet You  
In a new way.  
Amen.  
-Kayla Craig



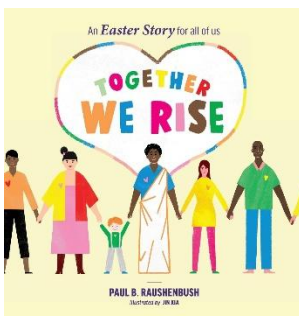
### ***Family Spiritual Practice***

#### **Faith Talk:**

This week, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on your day through the ancient practice of [Examen](#). Whether you choose to write or draw on a piece of paper, or simply share your thoughts in conversation with others, this simple but powerful exercise invites you to pause and notice the movement of your heart and spirit.

*May the Examen offer you another way to encounter God, who is always with you. May you reflect and be changed by God's grace, experiencing a more peaceful heart so you can cultivate peace within your family and bring peace to your community and world.*

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



**What I am watching:**

[The Story of Easter \(The Triumphal Entry\)](#)

[Kidness 101 with Steve Hartman: Justice](#)

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

*"When you practice a posture of listening to God in your daily comings and goings, what you hear might surprise you. God's still small voice might not sound like what you expected--and may be exactly what you need."*

*- Kayla Craig*

**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 worshiped together in the Sanctuary. It was communion Sunday. The focus was 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.

Jesus sees us. Jesus knows us. Jesus creates space. In Jesus, we have radical belonging.



**This Sunday:**



This Sunday is **PALM SUNDAY, April 13!** We will be celebrating the start of Holy Week with a Palm parade at the 9 am service. Kids and youth (all are invited) will parade together through worship waving palm branches. The Palm Parade happens at the beginning of the service so please plan to arrive a little earlier this Sunday if at all possible.

This Sunday, we will focus on the Scripture reading of Luke 19:29-40 - Speaking up is as important as listening.

Palm Sunday marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where crowds of people greeted him with shouts of "Hosanna!" and laid palm branches before him, celebrating his arrival as the long-awaited Messiah. Yet, this joyous occasion also sets the stage for the challenges and tensions that will unfold in the days ahead.

In the midst of the celebration, we are reminded that speaking up is just as crucial as listening. The crowds spoke out in praise, but not everyone in the city was prepared to listen to the message that Jesus brought—a message of love, justice, and humility. As followers of Christ, we are called to both speak out for what is right and listen deeply to God's voice, as well as to the voices of those around us.

Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on the importance of both expressing our truths and being open to hearing the truths of others. Just as the people of Jerusalem had a choice in how they responded to Jesus, we too have the choice to speak courageously for justice and peace while also listening attentively to the needs and voices of our communities. Both are necessary to build a world that reflects God's love and compassion.

### **Coming Up**

**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



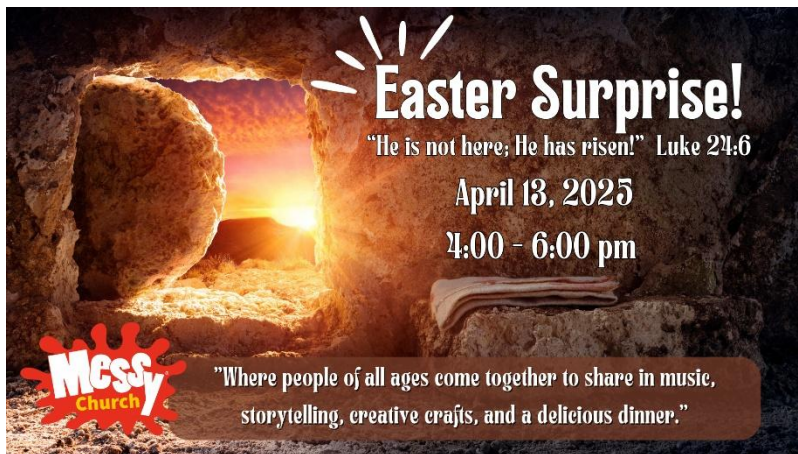
- May 4**                    **No CONNECT - 9 AM**  
All Worship Together - Communion Sunday  
Freedom to Follow
- May 11**                   **CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Freedom to Rise Again
- May 18**                   **CONNECT - 9 AM**  
Freedom to Love
- May 25**                   **CONNECT - 10 AM (One 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](mailto:sadamrita@chelseaumc.org), and let me know when you're able to assist.

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



## **PARENT/CAREGIVER GROUP**



**THE HOPEFUL FAMILY**  
*Raising Resilient Children in Uncertain Times*  
Amelia Richardson Dress

# PARENT GROUP



LED BY SUSAN ADAM-RITA

**MONDAYS @ 6:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**APRIL 7 - JUNE 9**  
**IN PERSON AND ZOOM**

This group will explore nine spiritual practices that help parents foster a framework of abundance and optimism, even in uncertain times.

We would love for you to join us as we come together to explore the powerful book, *The Hopeful Family - Raising Resilient Children in Uncertain Times*. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parents and caregivers, share experiences, and build a supportive community where we can all grow and learn together.

We can't wait to spend time with you and build a stronger community together. Bring your thoughts, your questions, and your hope!

- Child-care provided
- In person and/or Zoom

### **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](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](mailto: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](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](mailto:aldric82@msu.edu)

**WATCH:**

**Online CONNECT Services:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CkT-LbtMt0>

<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.***

