

May 14, 2025

Dear CONNECT Family,
Family Spiritual Practice

Faith Talk:

CELEBRATING EACH OTHER

We often focus on our own becoming (and that's important). But sometimes, what our spirits truly need is to lift our heads and see the great mosaic of growth unfolding all around us.



We can remind our children:



Not every flower looks the same



Not every soul grows in the same direction



Not every gift is loud, but each one belongs

Some people bring their vibrant color and energy. Some bring steadiness. Some surprise us with scent or softness. Some rise up. Some root deep. Together, we make a wild, living bouquet.

REFLECTIONS & PRACTICES : Step outside and imagine you're looking at a living mosaic. What colors, shapes, and gestures do you see in your community, your family, your child?

- Ask your child: "If your friend were a flower, what kind would they be? What would you be?"
- Write or speak one sentence of appreciation for someone else's way of blooming
- Paint or collage a wild meadow filled with symbolic flowers that represent different people in your life

A NOTE TO YOU, BLOOMING ONE

Acknowledging the beauty and gifts in others, does not diminish our own growth. In fact, honoring each other's gifts and helping support each other in that unfurling is the very heart of kinship.

- Nicolette Sowder

What I am reading/listening:

[Simplicity Parenting](#)

What I am watching:

[Alexandra the Great](#)

Quote, I've Been Thinking About...

"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."

-Ann Landers

WHAT WE ARE WONDERING ABOUT

Practice Theme: The Cup of Freedom

Easter is a time of "alleluias!" When death seems to have had the last word and rising up feels locked down, we call on the power of love and life. We take up Jesus' cup of freedom, we call on the name of the One Who Is Truly Sovereign, and we claim the freedom to move forward, to sing, to follow, to rise again, to love, heal, and be opened. In the end, we are filled with the freedom of the Spirit of God.

Last Sunday:

Last Sunday, we focused on the theme, "**Freedom to Rise Again,**" rooted in Acts 9:36-43.

All the Scriptures pointed to a revival, a restoration, and the promise of an overflowing cup of life. The dramatic image of Tabitha rising from her death bed urges us to hear the Voice of Freedom that says, "come on, you can do it, get up!" No matter how down and out we might feel, God reaches out a hand to help us up. And we say, "Yes!"



This Sunday:

This Sunday, we lift up as the scriptures do, that God's promise of a new covenant is with all who seek it—all are gifted with the Spirit. There is no distinction of gender, age, or background. We are all given the freedom to follow Christ's new commandment, to love one another.

WONDER ROOM - CHILDREN'S LIBRARY & SPIRITUAL PRACTICE ROOM

The Wonder Room is a quiet and welcoming place for children to spend time—reading, reflecting, or experimenting with different ways to pray and practice their faith. Whether it's curling up with a story, lighting a candle, or creating something at one of the stations, our hope is that this space becomes a sanctuary for wonder, curiosity, and spiritual growth.

We've also set aside a small corner with **resources for parents**—books and materials to support you as you nurture faith at home, create meaningful rhythms, and walk alongside your children on their spiritual journey.



Coming Up

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| May 18 | CONNECT - 9 AM
Freedom to Love |
| May 25 | CONNECT - 10 AM (One Service)
Freedom to Heal |
| June 01 | NO CONNECT - 10 AM (One Service)
Freedom to Open
<i>Graduation Sunday</i> |
| June 08 | CONNECT - 10 AM (One Service)
<i>Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday</i>
Freedom to Be Filled |

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

END OF YEAR PICNIC



Chelsea First UMC is hosting and would like to invite you to an end-of-the-year celebration.

When: **June 6**

Where: **Pierce Park and Twisters**


Time: **5pm**

We will meet at Pierce Park for a time of celebration where we will serve pizza and drinks and the children will have time to play. At 5:45 pm we will walk to Twisters for some delicious ice cream. Come Join us! Please RSVP and let us know if you can come so we can plan accordingly.

Please Sign up [HERE](#) so we can plan accordingly.

MESSY CHURCH

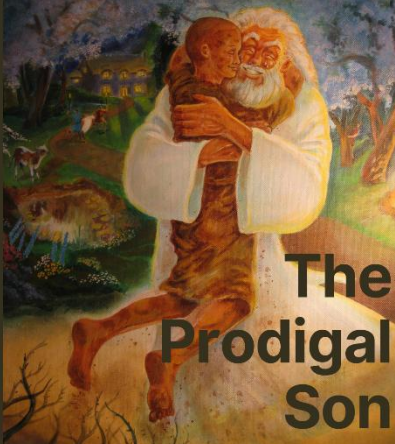




Love God!

June 8, 2025
4:00 - 6:00 pm

"Where people of all ages come together to share in music, storytelling, creative crafts, and a delicious dinner."



The Prodigal Son

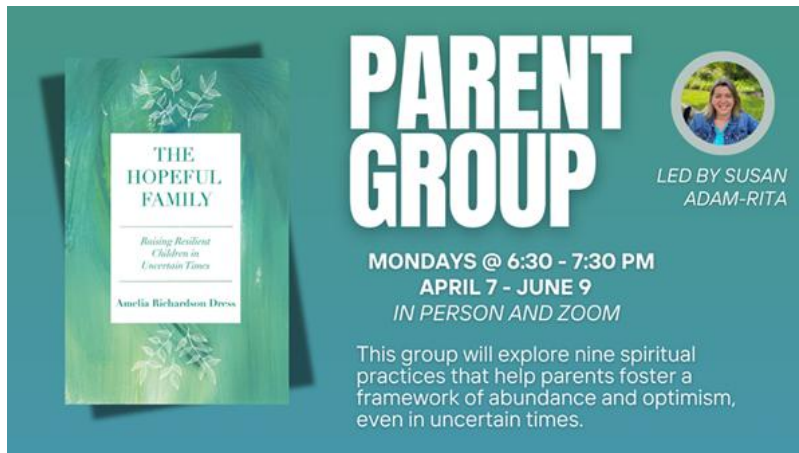
Our Next MESSY CHURCH Session will be on June 8th!

Here's a glimpse into the fun and fellowship we shared last time:



PARENT/CAREGIVER GROUP

You are invited to join us-anytime!



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=akF8A92NGow>

<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.



