



Chelsea First
 United Methodist Church
 128 Park Street
 Chelsea, Michigan 48118
www.chelseaumc.org

The Path Finder

*Finding your way to
 acts of purpose and faith*

**OUR
 MISSION**

Ordinary People Living Differently Because of the Love of Christ

Connecting with God • Learning in Community • Making a Difference in the World

Prayer Requests

These prayer concerns were lifted during services or were called into the church office.

Prayers of Comfort for:

* Sam Cumming and family
 following the death of his grandfather *

Prayers for Healing for:

* Sue Comstock * Dave Manning * Paul Hartman *
 * Nan Schroeder * Linda Kimball *

Prayers for Strength for:

* Suzie Weber * Ryan Sweeny * Joanne Weber *

* Those of minority race or religion who may not have a sense of belonging during this season of love *

Prayer Support

You can contact Anne Zuehlke (475-2535, alzuehlke@yahoo.com) or Debbie Noye (475-1096, debnoye10@gmail.com) or a member of the church staff and ask that your request be added to the prayer chain. If you would like to join the group who prays for such requests, contact Debbie Noye or Anne Zuehlke.

Stephen Ministry Opportunities



Caring Relationship for the Love of Christ

Contact: Pam Mansfield 475-7548, Norm Colbry 475-7321

Next Community Breakfast is Dec. 10th.
**Check out the sign up link to see where you
 can volunteer. Thank You.**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ba8a87-community>

Worship Notes for Christmas

Longest Night Service

December 22nd at 7 p.m.

Is a time to savor the rich meanings of Christmas in a quieter, more reflective setting. Music, readings, prayer, and gentle silence invite you to 'simply be' amidst the swirl of activities, demands, and emotions raised during the holiday season. All are welcome. Questions? Talk to Lisa Gray-Lion (lgraylion@gmail.com)

Christmas Eve Worship

4 p.m. Family Worship designed for children
 8 p.m. Worship with Communion
 10:30 p.m. Worship with Candle Light, Communion,
 Choir, Handbells and Liberty Brass

December 25th and January 1st

One Worship Service on at 11 a.m.

**Church office and building will be closed
 December 26th & January 2nd**

Hometown Holiday Concerts

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Hometown Holidays concert a resounding success! Thank you for offering and sharing your gifts and time with our community. Our musicians, cookie bakers, reception hosts, concert attendees, custodian and our set-up/tear down crew made this event a warm and loving place where all are welcome. Thank you for all the ways you make this church and our community a special place.

-April Murphy & Mark Loring

Advent in Motion

Give yourself a gift on Sundays
 leading up to Christmas.

Dec. 11th from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

(I am the Path and God's Presence)

Dec 18th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (I Am, You Are, We Are)

Sessions include video vignettes, conversation, guided introspection, personal reflection and short celebratory liturgy in an intimate communal setting.

Offered by Lisa Gray-Lion and Rob Long



Community Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner En Masse (In One Group or Body)!!!
Faith in Action and Our Savior Lutheran Church are once again sponsoring a Christmas Day Dinner, free of charge to anyone who'd like to enjoy a festive holiday meal.

Recognizing that there are many who celebrate with family on alternate days, or may not have family at all in the area, this meal is a wonderful way to enjoy the best foods of the season and have a fun sharing Christmas experience.

Ken Toney and his elves will be cooking the dinner but guests may bring a salad or dessert to round out the table.

It all starts at 1 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1515 S. Main St., Chelsea, next door to McDonalds.

Reservations for the purposes of a head count can be made by calling FIA at 475-3305, or by email to nancypaul@faithinaction1.org.

Remember Who You Are

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Every leadership branch of our denomination – Council of Bishops, Connectional Table, boards and agencies, budgets, annual conference leaders – is aligned to help advance this mission. As a denomination we are working together in the next four years to bear fruit in the following ways:

1) equip 3 million people to serve as principled Christian leaders in our world; 2) nurture 1 million new disciples of Christ; 3) launch 400 vibrant, flourishing and transforming communities addressing issues of poverty and ministry with the poor, particularly with children; 4) reach 1 million children with life-saving intervention, stamping out killer diseases like malaria.

As a way of remembering and growing deeper in who we are as United Methodist Christians, I invite you to join a small group for a 6-week focus on *A Disciple's Path: Deepening Your Relationship with Christ and the Church* (study resource written by James A. Harnish and Justin LaRosa). Together we will explore a Wesleyan understanding of a life of faith and growth in God's love and grace. *A Disciple's Path* is a great tool for folks new in their faith journey, those further along the path of discipleship, and those who wish to learn more about The United Methodist Church.

We will offer several small groups, in the hope of increasing accessibility to more people. For a group to be sustainable, we need a minimum of 8 persons each. You may click on the Doodle Poll link <http://doodle.com/poll/qchhm5s96pk89fez> to sign up, or sign up on paper in Grams Hall. Each group will meet for six weeks, beginning with the start date in the poll, for up to 90 minutes. Please contact Pastor Tom or Pastor Joy with your questions or for more information.

Vital Church Initiative (VCI)

The VCI Study Team has been in learning mode this fall. We have met three (soon to be four) Saturdays in Howell for learning sessions with teams from five other churches. We are learning about the 1) importance of regular spiritual practices, 2) understanding how the world has changed and the implications this has for how we do ministry, 3) life cycles of congregations and the need to constantly "reinvent" to get past the inevitable plateaus, 4) focusing our church on mission, not busyness.

We read an interesting and provocative book – *Renovate or Die: Ten Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission*. We are eager for others to read the book and join in conversation about the ideas.

We are grateful for your interest, and have committed ourselves to regular communication with you about the process and ideas. VCI is a journey...a journey to go beyond where we are now, to learn more than we know now, to ask the questions we must ask, to hold ourselves open to the movement of the Holy Spirit ... so that we might be ever more faithful followers of Christ, living our faith, sharing our faith, inviting others to faith, transforming the world through the love of Christ.

Are you interested in joining the Prayer Team for VCI? If so, please contact Darlene Schaffer.

VCI Study Team Members: Andrea Alford, Steve Beck, Steve Fetyko, Ron Mourad, Darlene Schaffer, Sandy Schmunk, Allison Vanderspool, Joy Barrett

Updated Posting for Child Caregiver Position

Chelsea First United Methodist Church has an open position for a part time child caregiver. The candidate must be 18 years of age or older with previous childcare experience.

Position will be for Sunday morning care starting in January. Occasional weeknight and Sunday afternoon availability is preferred.

This is a paid position and is for 1.5 to 6 hours per week. If interested in finding out more information, please contact the SPRC Chair, Bill Doyle at sprc@chelseaumc.org or Courtney Aldrich at the church office.

The 2016 Youth Helper List is Available Now

Contact the church office to get a copy of contact information for youth from this church willing to babysit, pet sit, house sit, or do yard work!



Children's Ministry

If you do not currently receive the "Weekly BLAST Parent Update" email that contains more detailed information about children's programming and upcoming events, please email caldrich@chelseaumc.org to be added to the list.

Our virtue and verse for December:

Joy

Finding a way to be happy
even when things don't go your way.

Bible Verse

"Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!" Philippians 4:4 NIV

Nativity Pieces on Christmas

If your child would like to bring forward one of the nativity pieces at the 4 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, please let me know.

We only have 19 pieces, so I will sign children up on a first come, first served basis.



***BLAST stocks the Priceless Gift Store,
November 27th, 2016***

Our Advent giving, Bring Joy to Jesus!, begins on Nov. 27th

Every year we strive to remember that Christmas is not our birthday, but Jesus' birthday. This year we will be giving Jesus some Christmas Joy by giving to others!



We are collecting **underwear** for the children in the Brightmoor neighborhood of Detroit and **pajamas** for the children in need right here in Chelsea. The items can be dropped off ahead of time in Grams Hall or brought on Christmas Eve. All children in attendance on Christmas Eve will be asked to bring forward these gifts for Jesus.



Christmas Caroling

at CRC on December 22nd at 4:30 p.m.!



Come one and all after the last day of school as we celebrate Christmas with music and a shared meal at CRC. We will have Max and Caley Plank and Mark Loring playing music as we all sing along. Following the carols, we will share in pizza together. Bring a friend!

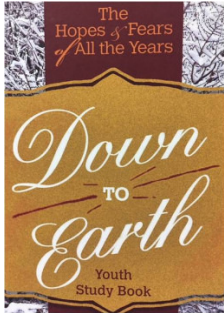
Family Ministry

CoupleConnect begins on January 10th!

Following the same format as ParentConnect, we will be bringing you a 5 week class on marriage/relationship called CoupleConnect! A meal will be provided for the family at 5:30 p.m, and KidConnect and CoupleConnect programming will run from 6 - 7p.m. The CoupleConnect program is called "Become your best US".

Please RSVP to Courtney to confirm your attendance!





**In this season of Advent,
we draw discussion from Down
to Earth by Mike Slaughter.**

This week: Down to Earth Humility.
*Though he was in the form of God,
he did not consider being equal with God
something to exploit.
But he emptied himself by taking the form
of a slave and becoming like human beings.*

*When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled
himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross. ~Philippians 2:5-8*

Last Sunday, we discussed Down to Earth Love... forgiveness
and the kind of love that requires courageous vulnerability.

At the end of the hour, I asked each group to circle up for a
game of Spin the Bottle. For the record, I haven't heard silence
like that in quite a while! With each spin, each person had to
finish the sentence, "I feel loved when..."

The responses were tender, heartfelt, vulnerable, and
everything that I would love to remember about the truest of
Christmas gifts... Grateful for the down to earth love that rests
in you, their parents.



Thank you so much to
everyone who
participated in the
making and selling of
treats in order to buy gift
cards for teenagers at
Cass Community Social
Services in Detroit!

Thanks to your hard
work, we're able to
purchase 60 gift cards!
Thank you also for the

opportunity to gather in #216 this past Sunday to learn about
the symbolism that rests in the Advent wreath, the nativity
scene; and Chrismons created by women in this church who
offer greater understanding of all
that Christmas was meant to be.

See you this Sunday at 11:30 a.m. to sort gifts!
Meet Mrs. Franks in the office hallway downstairs.
It should take no more than ~30 -40 minutes.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 11th Pageant Sunday - No M.S.XP3
Nut Sales continue in Grams Hall

Bible Study for Girls 5:15 - 7:00 p.m. #216
Confirmands sort Angel Tree items 11:30 a.m.

Dec. 18th MS XP3 Time to make the Birthday Boxes!
HS XP3 Gifts for Seniors and College Students
Confirmands deliver gifts to Cass 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

December's chalk art (volunteers include Julia K, Julia H,
Caitlin B, Angelina C, Kyli M, Fiona S, Natalie M,
Courtney E, Colin L)

FRI. Feb. 3rd U of M vs. OSU Hockey Men's Hockey 8 p.m.
Cost - 10.00 30 Tickets - 7 Tickets Available

XP3 FEEDING THE MASSES Food Donations

These links are to the sign up genius which provides snacks
for the youth of this church.

Thank you so very much for your support.

Sunday mornings (Middle school/High School)

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ba8a87-xp3feeding>

Outlet on Tuesdays

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ba8a87-sixth>

Outlet on Wednesdays

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094ba8a87-middle>

Sunday

XP3 Middle School

No XP3 Dec. 11th, see you on the Dec. 18th

XP3 High School

10:30 a.m. in room 216

6th Grade

3:15 - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays with Tom.



7th/8th Grade

Wednesdays
3:15 - 5:30 p.m.

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we discuss the issues,
temptations, and 'everydays' of middle school life.

Next week: DO-SOMETHING@WORLD.NET

*Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker,
but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.*

~ Proverbs 14:31

At Tuesdays With Tom, we've begun practicing our leadership
skills during discussion time.



High School & Middle School -

<http://theparentcue.org/why-we-tell-our-family-stories-over-and-over-again/>



Youth Continued



ADVENT MISSION SUPPORT

As has been the case in the past, our Christmas Advent offering will support local, regional, and worldwide ministries. Envelopes will be included with the sign in sheets and the Christmas Eve offering will support Faith in Action, Cass Community Social Services, and UMCOR. Thank you.

He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted... Isaiah 61:1-2
Girls Bible Study Sunday 5:15-7:00 p.m.

MISSIONS MINSITRY



The Angel Tree Returns This Sunday!
Please return your unwrapped gifts beneath the tree by December 11th.

Each angel provides the opportunity to gift a teenager served by Cass Community Social Services in Detroit.

The confirmands will deliver the gifts to the One World building in Detroit on December 18th following the 11 a.m. service.

'When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.' ~Matthew 25:37-40

TerriLynn Nut Sales

Look for your opportunity to support the middle school youth in Grams Hall during coffee hour for the next few weeks as they raise funds to purchase trees for an upcoming spring project. #creationcare



Pantry Needs:

Soups: Mushroom, Chowders, Chunky Beef or Chicken. Mandarin Oranges



Sunday, December 11th

- 9:00 a.m. Worship - Children's Christmas Pageant
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 10:30 a.m. XP3 High School, CFUMC Choir & Rezound Warm Up
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Disciple Discovery
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Rezound Handbells
- 4:00 p.m. Random Ringers, The Accidentals
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Girls Bible Study
- 6:00 pm. Advent in Motion - I am the Path and God's Presence

Monday, December 12th

- 9:30 a.m. Creative Play
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple V

Tuesday, December 13th

- 9:30 a.m. Creative Play, Staff Meeting
- 3:15 p.m. 6th Grade Middle School Outlet
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees

Wednesday, December 14th

- 3:15 p.m. 7th/8th Grade Middle School Outlet
- 6:00 p.m. Share & Study
- 6:30 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 7:30 p.m. CFUMC Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15th

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Friday, December 16th

- 9:00 a.m. MOPS Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling & Pizza at CRC - Off Site
- 6:30 p.m. Mosaic Moms

Saturday, December 17th

- 8:00 a.m. The Brotherhood of Christ

Sunday, December 18th

- 8:00 a.m. Children's Ministry Mission Team Meeting, Unity Brass Warm Up
- 8:10 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble Warm Up
- 8:20 a.m. CFUMC Choir Warm Up
- 8:30 a.m. Praise Bells Rehearsal, Random Ringers Warm Up
- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Pre School - 5th Grade BLAST Classes, XP3 Middle School Class
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 10:30 a.m. High School XP3
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Disciple Discovery
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation delivers Angel Tree Gifts
- 12:00 p.m. Rezound Handbells
- 1:30 p.m. Lisa Hinz-Johnson Voice Studio Recital"
- 4:00 p.m. The Accidentals
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Girls Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Advent in Motion - I Am, You Are, We Are

Monday, December 19th

- 9:30 a.m. Creative Play
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple V

Tuesday, December 20th

- 9:30 a.m. Creative Play
- 3:15 p.m. 6th Grade Middle School Outlet
- 6:30 p.m. Ad Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 21st

- 3:15 p.m. 7/8th Grade Outlet
- 6:00 p.m. Share & Study

Thursday, December 22nd

- 7:00 p.m. Longest Night Worship

Friday, December 23rd

- 6:30 p.m. Mosaic Moms

Christmas Eve Worship

- 3:30 p.m. Praise Bells, Random ringers, Advent Choir Warm Up
- 4:00 p.m. Worship
- 7:30 p.m. The Accidentals Warm Up
- 8:00 p.m. Worship
- 9:30 p.m. Rezound Handbells & Choir Warm Up
- 10:30 p.m. Worship

Christmas Day

One worship service at 11 a.m.

Volunteers Serving December 11th

Greeters:

- 8:30 a.m. Linda Logan, LuAnn & Loren Heller
- 10:30 a.m. Lois & Dick Willis, Dennis & Julie Deppner

Ushers:

- 8:30 a.m. Bill & Brendan Doyle, Tom Lewis, Todd Hubbard
- 10:30 a.m. Teresa Steklac, Anne Zuehlke, Art Stoll, Maryann Myers

Nursery Workers:

- 8:45 a.m. Katie Seto, 10:45 a.m. Lori Campbell

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- Sandy Schmunk, Phyllis & Ken Tillman

Coffee Hour Bakers:

- Linda Logan, Amanda Reginaldo, Susan Wellman, Kasie Cousino, Dorothy Craft

Volunteers Serving December 18th

Greeters:

- 8:30 a.m. Arlene Wiltse, Barbara Brown
- 10:30 a.m. John & Ellen Aldighieri

Ushers:

- 8:30 a.m. Harry & Lois Gibson, Boyd & Arlene Wiltse
- 10:30 a.m. Ruth Ammon, Gerry Boettger, Teresa Steklac

- Acolytes: Peter Mourad, Luke Mourad

Nursery Workers:

- 8:45 a.m. Katie Seto, 10:45 a.m. Lori Campbell

Coffee Hour Hosts:

- Eileen Blough, Jane Newbound, Susan Wellman

Coffee Hour Bakers:

- Casey Wooster, Lillian Long, Eileen Blough, Janet Alford, Bernice Packard