

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - MAY 2021

1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382

Sunday Worship: In-Person Worship

in the Sanctuary, 9 am & 11 am with face masking,
social distance & sign-in contact tracing.

You can listen to Pastor Andy's Sunday messages
LIVE STREAMING at 9 am on our YouTube channel

at: <https://www.youtube.com/> and if you miss it live,

later on our Facebook at: www.facebook.com/commerceumc



A Message from Pastor Andy

"APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS"

Did it rain in April? I am not sure that it did. I was not paying much attention. I do recall though, in typical Michigan fashion, it snowed toward the end of the month. Surely, that counts as a kind of shower. At any rate, I look forward to seeing all the flowers outside in the weeks and months to come.

It feels as though everyone has been part of one long, rainy storm. There were moments it seemed like the sun would come out, dry up all the rain, and we could go back to living life on our terms. Remember when the pandemic first started and we thought that after staying at home for a couple of weeks, the virus would go away? Ah, good times. Or, remember when the summer rolled around and it seemed the state had a good handle on all the cases? That did not last long. We were greeted with a second wave followed by a third.

In the meantime, we adapted. People brought their favorite mandatory accessory- the face mask- with them wherever they went. Some even mastered how to wear it without fogging up their glasses. Companies asked their employees to work from home which brought a mixed response. On one hand, commutes were slashed, but on the other hand, many found themselves working more and more hours. While I wish I could say every facet of life was able to continue in an altered form, that simply was not the case. Holidays were spent alone. Rituals and rites of passages that required large in-person crowds or extensive travel were nixed.

Despite the sense of loss and continued unpleasantness due to the pandemic, I believe good can and will come of this. It is both our right and obligation as Christians to have such a hope.

The book of Genesis tells a story of a young boy named Joseph sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. Making the best of his circumstance, he worked diligently for his master Potiphar who eventually entrusted Joseph with the entire household. Right when it seemed Joseph might finally experience a change in fortune, he was falsely accused and thrown in prison. The rain, it seems, would not stop pouring.

Yet, it was in prison that Joseph utilized his rare gift for interpreting dreams in order to make a vital connection with an associate of the Pharaoh. Through this connection, as the story goes, Joseph ultimately becomes the Pharaoh's right hand man and leads an operation that saves countless people from famine.

For Joseph, being sold into slavery led him to playing an important role for the entire Near East. How might our story unfold? Friends in Christ, I urge you to endure, to remain strong in faith, and to trust God. The flowers are about to bloom.

Pastor Andy



Dear Church Family & Friends,

In-person services continue at Commerce UMC. As a reminder, our services are approx. 30 minutes without congregational singing. Staying in practice to keep everyone safe; even if we have been vaccinated, we continue to keep socially distant, wear masks, and ask that you sign-in for contact tracing.

Our LIVE STREAM 9 am Sunday Worship Service each week can be viewed on our YouTube Channel at; <https://www.youtube.com/> . No matter how we worship, in-person or with you at home, know it is always great to be in ministry together from where ever you are!

Our Commerce UMC Small Group Gatherings continue to meet with building use approval and all the Covid19 safety precautions being followed. Our Physical Activity Groups such as basketball - pickleball or tennis are still on hold with no building use at this time.



Why do Christians come to different conclusions regarding sexuality? How can Christians be both obedient to God's Word *and* fully welcoming to LGBTQ persons in the church?

Join our 5 week video session every Wednesday (May 5- June 2) at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall as we seek to answer questions like these in a safe and open space. <https://vimeo.com/350419702>

I cannot begin to express how much I am going to miss my church family. Commerce UMC has blessed and supported our family in so many ways. Through your teachings, support and guidance Melissa is now finishing up her Master's program.



She is currently looking for a new youth ministry position in the Grand Rapids area. Her and her fiancé Nick, are excited for their new adventure back in the mitten. Lindsey graduated Suma Cum Laude from Spring Arbor University, with a degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and is currently interviewing for an elementary teaching position in the Jackson area and will have her own classroom this fall. Lindsey and her boyfriend Colin are enjoying their new home in Jackson. As for Dan and I, after 30 years of marriage and raising two beautiful strong daughters who are ready to fly on their own, we are beginning a new adventure in the sunshine state. Thank you for over 26 years of love, support and wonderful memories and it has been a pleasure to have been your Christian Education Director for the last almost 4 years. Hugs ~ Tracy



May 2021 Christian Education News

Junior Church/Children's Worship is offered during both our 9am and 11am services. Children in Kindergarten and older are welcome to join! We meet up in the Narthex, right when you arrive for a temp check and hand sanitizer squirt and then head immediately upstairs to Creation Island for our time together

Spring Coin Wars has wrapped up and I am happy to announce that Kids on a Mission, including Mustard Seeds raised approximately \$125.00 for the Methodist Children's Home, in Redford. GREAT JOB!

Operation Christmas Child - for the month of May, Kids on a Mission will be collecting Hygiene items (washcloths, chap-stick, deodorant, combs/brushes & toothbrushes) for the shoebox packing we do each November for Operation Christmas Child. Donations may be placed in the marked container in the rear of the Fellowship Hall.

Mystery Island **Vacation Bible School** Craft Shack is in need of the following:

- ~ Any color blue Tulips Brand Powder Dye Packs
- ~ Tie Dye Plastic Bottles
- ~ Pint or Half pint canning jars
- ~ Non-rusted domes and canning lids
- ~ Shells (one inch or less)
- ~ Sharks Teeth
- ~ Necklace rope/cord
- ~ Nice Beads, NOT plastic
- ~ Small Crosses
- ~ Colored Sand
- ~ Brown/Green pipe cleaners
- ~ Tropical Stickers



Donated items may be placed in the marked tub in the Narthex (under the office window) with June 7th deadline. Thank you!



Thank YOU for
ALL YOU DO to
Serve the Lord at
Commerce UMC!
If you would like
information about
helping with a



committee or mission of the church
please contact Pastor Andy at
the church office or by email.
commerceumc@sbcglobal.net or
phone: 248-363-3935



Important COVID-19 Vaccination Transportation Information for Homebound Seniors

Oakland County Health Division is partnering with Ready Nursing Solutions to assist the county with administering COVID-19 vaccine to homebound seniors. To register, call (810) 331-0902 to make an appointment. During high call volume times, callers may have to listen to the entire message to leave a voicemail and request a return call.

To register online, visit [Get Ready Vaccine](#) and complete the Patient Intake Form. Be sure to select "Oakland County Residents – Homebound" on the intake form organization dropdown menu. **Oakland Community Health Network** | www.oaklandchn.org



IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT GARDENING !!!

If you are interested in and would like to help with planning, planting, maintaining and harvesting this year's "Garden of Eden" at the Church, then **WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU HELP!**

For details about the garden and how to help please contact Bonnie Dunneback at her email; bonniedunneback@sbcglobal.net.

Our Garden came to existence last year as it was planted and maintained by some wonderful "green thumb" helpers. It produced multiple pickings of beautiful healthy produce for our congregation, the community and the local food pantry. With love and tender care from

volunteers and God's blessing, we hope to again this year help anyone in need of extra food with this ministry.

MAY BIRTHDAY'S

2	Joyce Broyles	Colton Fletcher		
3	Grace Hunt	Mark Watkins	Josh Simpson	
5	Steve Thode			
6	Cynthia Forsyth			
7	Ameilia Dubin	Sawyer Summerville		
10	Tim Lewandowski	Jack Caswell		
11	Kent Hausauer	Graham Bennett		
15	Dorothy Saari			
19	Marilyn Baroni	Ally Cooper	Ally Cooper	
20	Tom Fournier	Roberta Carpenter		
21	Meghan Oliver			
22	Ciarra Forsyth	Sue Willis	Kyle Huisman	Paul Simpson
24	Jill Hendrickson	Nancie Stoddard	Gabriel Heximer	Jerry Gill
25	Megan Abdallah			
26	Michael Stefanou			
27	Nita Craft-Hawisher	Amy Snyder	Heather Fagan	Austin Bommarito
28	Betty Barry	Julia Antonelli		
29	Kevin Lambert			
30	Ann MacArthur	Sandy Bakken	Rebecca Flores	
31	Gary Contesti			

MAY ANNIVERSARY'S

12	Randy & Christine Pellett
16	Bill & Janet Boyd
25	Paul & Vickie Armstrong
27	Frank & Lori Hunt
30	John & Louise Kirk-Stoddard
31	Gary & Laura Contesti



Continue to Pray for

Pauline Hausauer Kathy Dobe David Smiertka Glenn Oliver
Baylyn Runnels Will Watkins Kaiser Wyllys
The Family of Betty Wallen The Family of Wayne Duffina

Job Opportunity at Commerce UMC ...

Christian Education Director ~ Part-Time Position

The Commerce United Methodist Church seeks an energetic Director of Christian Education to lead, enhance and develop programs for all age groups. Christian Education plays a key role in the mission of Commerce United Methodist Church. The Director will report directly to the pastor, but also work in coordination with the other staff and committees toward an integrated effort to fulfill the mission of CUMC.

Responsibilities will Include:

- Implement and manage all areas of Children's' ministry including but not limited to Sunday School, Children's Church, Wednesday Evening activities and Vacation Bible School.
- Expand Christian Education ministry to include programs for all ages by implementing and managing new programs, and by integrating efforts with other committees to enhance the educational component of new or existing programs.
- Work cooperatively with the pastor on Children's Messages and with youth minister on confirmation class instruction.
- Empower parents to be involved with the faith development of their children.

Qualifications:

- A strong Christian faith and ability to communicate that to others.
- Supportive of the United Methodist Discipline and Wesleyan Theology
- Believe in the authority of scripture.
- Approachable and easy to work with
- Previous work with youth/young adult ministries. (Minimum volunteer experience, previous paid experience preferred.)
- Minimum bachelor's degree required.
- Bible College/Seminary degree or experience preferred.
- Clear background check required.

CUMC is offering a salary for the position as well as a matching church pension program after one year of service and paid vacation time. A detailed Job Description is available upon request.

All qualified candidates interested in applying for the position should send a resume and cover letter to Pastor Andy Lee at, leeandr5@gmail.com or Paul Landry, chair of the Staff Parrish Relations Committee, at plandry98@gmail.com or mail their information to the church office at:

Commerce United Methodist Church
Attn: Christian Education Dir Position
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