

"The STEEPLE"

Newsletter of Commerce UMC - OCTOBER 2021

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Email: commerceumc@sbcglobal.net Facebook: www.facebook.com/commerceumc

Sunday Worship: Traditional @ 9 am & Contemporary @ 11 am

(Face Mask Recommended even if Vaccinated) Our Sunday Services LIVE
STREAM on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/> and can also be
viewed anytime there after.



A Message from Pastor Andy **"Will You Climb The Ladder With Me"**

In the pastor's office, like many areas of the church, the lights automatically turn on when a person enters the room. I enjoy the convenience. As many have discovered by now, I am too busy and too important to bother with flicking a switch. A few weeks ago, I walked into the office and the lights, as they have all along, turned on. But, this time there was something wrong. A third of the room was still in darkness. The light had gone out on a pair of bulbs. I paused for a moment but ultimately continued with my morning routine: reading emails, revising to-do lists, and brainstorming sermon illustrations. Admittedly, the darkness from the nonfunctioning lights bothered me, but I continued working.

The next day was the same. I walked in and the broken lights... were still broken. Again, I sat at my desk and got to work. On some level, I think I was hoping the lights, without intervention, would come back to life. I clung to this hope for several days. Then the days turned to weeks. A whole month passed before I finally decided enough was enough. I emailed the trustee chairperson and within a couple of hours a trustee swung by the office.

At first, it appeared we had a very easy fix on our hands. The trustee grabbed a ladder from the equipment closet. When he returned, he tried to open the ladder, but it was too big. After swapping out the tall ladder for a more modest one, he went about opening the unit in order to swap out the old fluorescent lights for new ones.

Unfortunately, swapping out new lights for old ones did not have the desired effect. Something else was wrong. He picked up the phone and called another trustee with more experience. Apparently, the existing bulbs were fine but another component within the fixture would have to be replaced. The part was in the storage closet. Just a few minutes later, with bated breath, we flipped the switch and I finally had a fully lit room. Praise God.

Looking back, it was rather foolish to sit around and spend several weeks sitting in darkness. The problem wasn't going to go away on its own. Faulty components don't just go replacing themselves. Work doesn't magically get done. This is obvious.

September was a busy month. Honestly, September is *always* a busy month as the church transitions from a season of travel and sabbath to resuming all kinds of ministries. Due to the pandemic, the transition was much, much more difficult this year. Attendance and participation are down from pre-pandemic levels which means there are fewer people that can or will engage in vital leadership roles. As we head deeper into the fall, those gaps still exist.

How will we respond?

Will we sit in darkness hoping our problems will fix themselves? Or, will we choose the alternative? Will you roll up your sleeves, bring out the ladder, and address the problem at hand? We have the opportunity to serve in new ways. We have the opportunity to watch God multiply our efforts in this ongoing, challenging pandemic. I thank you for your faithfulness and invite you into more faithfulness in partnership with God.

Your grateful pastor, Andy Lee

Dear Church Family & Friends,



Commerce UMC continues In-person services. Our two styles of services; Traditional at 9 a.m. & Contemporary with our Praise Band at 11 a.m. are back in full swing.

Face Masks are RECOMMENDED even if you are vaccinated. We ask, for the protection of those who are not or can not get vaccinated, unvaccinated should continue to Masks Up. Thank you for your understanding as we make strides to transition back to some normalcy.

Our Commerce UMC Small Group Gatherings along with Pickelball are now back on the calendar. Please check the Website at <http://www.commerceumc.org/events/> for their schedule. If your activity/event, small group or committee would like to begin regular meeting times again or hold a special event and are not on the calendar yet, please contact the church office to proceed with scheduling it.

BOTH the 9 am & the 11 am Sunday Worship Services are LIVE STREAMED each week on our YouTube Channel at; <https://www.youtube.com/>



The Kids Klub has transformed into KIDS KLUB Plus. We met on Wed. 9/29 for pizza and fun and it was indeed that! Our next Month Pizza and Fun KIDS KLUG PLUS will be on Wed. October 27th (6 pm - PIZZA, 6:30 - 7:30 pm Kids Fun

Upstairs). Parents are welcome to stay in the Fellowship Hall for that hour while the kids are upstairs doing "their thang", or can leave and return by 7:30 pm.

We invite all Commerce UMC and local community kids, K-5th grade PLUS their families that wants to join in for Pizza and Fun Games & Activities. If you have any questions, please contact the church office - 248-363-3935.

Bible Journaling is back and with a SPACE LIFT!

Along with our traditional bible journaling, we would like to add new creative artistic projects. We will meet on Thursday, Oct. 14th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to journal and also discuss our plans to be craftsy going forward this year. Possible Gratitude Journaling, Card Making, Inspirational Art Projects, Seasonal Crafts and more. Bring your ideas, be a part of and share the Artistic connection between your heart and soul. Any Questions please contact



Linda Kumm 248-889-3088

We will meet twice a month throughout the year; Oct. 14th & 28th, with Nov 2021 - May 2022 dates to be announced & posted on the calendar soon.

You can access our calendar through the church website at: <http://www.commerceumc.org>

Time to plan for TRUNK-OR-TREAT 2021 and again this year, we need you to make it a fun and exciting event for the community! We have added some tasty additions to this years



event: donuts, cider and popcorn. Please signup to host your trunk and pass out treat to the treaters. This Spooktacular event will be Saturday Oct. 23rd starting at 6 pm in the parking lot (inside the church if it rains).

Last year we had approx. 120 in attendance with about 27 trunks.

Questions, please contact Tammie at 248-396-3078

If we do not have at least 24 trunks, we will need to cancel the event.

Welcome back Elderberries!

The "Elderberries" is the name for the Seniors at Commerce UMC, although ALL Seniors from within the community are invited to participate. We meet the third Thursday of each month either in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch or on occasion venture out for a picnic in the park, a field trip to a museum or a special event. Our luncheons many times include stimulating activities & board games, guest speakers, Party/Special Occasions, meals with a theme, and our annual White Elephant Birthday Party.

Thursday, October 21 @ Noon - Fellowship Hall We will gather again this month for a potluck lunch noon in the fellowship hall, followed by card &/or board games . Please bring a dish to share. Table settings will be provided. Also bring your favorite card or board game to play. This replaces the field trip we were going to take, but was cancelled.



A Heartfelt "THANK YOU" for your support for Sock-It-To-Me & Drop Your Drawers! *N.O.A.H. Project*
We will deliver all your gracious donations on Monday Oct. 4th and while there, serve the 300 sack



lunches & visit to the people who depend on your generosity. This years socks & underwear donations totaled:

Total 382 pairs of Socks and 82 pairs of mostly Men's underwear
314 pairs for Men and 68 pairs for Women

For comparison, last year we collected 441 pairs of socks and 57 pairs of underwear.

Thanks again from the Tip of our Toes to the Top of our Nose....You are all the Best!

THE NEXT STEP FOR YOUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Thank YOU to all the congregation who signed up and had pictures take for our new church directory. Thank YOU to the ladies who volunteered at the check-in desk. Your help greatly contributed to how smoothly it ran.



The Design Team will be meeting soon and our directories will be produced by Universal Church Directories. Once they are ready, All who had a picture taken for the book will receive a free directory. If you would like a directory but did not participate by having a photo session with the photographers, a \$5 charge will be needed to get one.

Please call (248-363-3935) or email (commerceumc@sbcglobal.net) the office and let them know if you plan to purchase a directory.



COMMERCE UMC

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE RETURNS !!!

Wed. Oct. 6 @ 6 pm - Church Family & Friends Pre-Sale

Thursday Oct 7, 9 am - 4 pm

Friday Oct. 8, 9 am - 4 pm

Saturday Oct. 9, 9 am - 12 noon

This is our first major fundraiser since Oct. 2019 and we are very happy to be hosting it this year! We certainly all accumulated "STIUFF" over these past few years so now's the time to clean-out those closets, basements, garages, corners and storage places because just the right person is waiting to find it.

In order to have a successful community wide sale, we need volunteers for all different stages of the week- long event, starting with muscles on Sunday at noon in the Fellowship Hall to move tables

and set-up metal cloths racks.

We will receive your "stuff" starting Sunday Oct. 3rd after coffee hour in the fellowship hall. Set-up & taking donations will be Sunday, Oct 3 through Wednesday, Oct 6th at 5 pm.

The Bake Sale will be at the same time as the Open to the Public hours of the rummage sale and will continue until all goods are sold. If you enjoy baking – PLEASE consider donating some of your tasty goodies for the sale. We appreciate them all.

You can drop off your baked donations at the kitchen door on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday Oct 7th before 9 am.

On Saturday at noon, we will again need MUSCLES to tear-down and return the racks to storage, reassemble the Fellowship Hall & tables, and also load all left-over rummage into trucks to be taken away and donated to charity. Coming soon to the bulletin board will be a sign-up sheet for you to enter and volunteer where you can help.

"Thank YOU" in advance for any and all the help and donations you give to this fundraiser!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

~ as a reminder; we collect items year-round for Samaritan Purse Shoe Box Ministry ~



In **January**, we focus on gloves/mittens/hats for both boys and girls up through age 14, **February**; accessories (sunglasses, hair bands, barrettes, hair ties, etc), **March**; quality crafts (no paint) and toothbrushes, **April**; SMALL stuffed animals (think beanie baby sized) and deodorant, **May**; hygiene items (washclothes, chapstick, deodorant, toothbrushes and combs/brushes), **June**; small toys, washcloths and hygiene items, and for **July**; clothing items, socks, combs & brushes and for **August**; school supplies: pencils & sharpeners & pencil cases, colored pencils, pencil top erasers, black & blue pens, kids scissors, crayola crayons (NOT other brands, they melt), markers, glue sticks. **September** we're asking for GAMES (Small Board games, Cards, Jacks and the like) & CHAPSTICK. **OCTOBER: any Hygiene Item, plus a photo &/or hand written card or letter of love & encouragement to a child.**

If you are out and about and see a good deal on any of these items anytime throughout the year, please keep this Ministry in mind. Our Packing date is always in November. Thank you for being a part of this mission work! Donations may be placed in the marked container in the Fellowship Hall.

Continue to Pray for

Pauline Hausauer Mary Johnstone Peabody Family Bill Krug
Gary & Linda Schultz Diane Senk Darrell Saari Ezekiel
Fenn Family Frank Maliag Agatha Atko David Smiertka The Christian Ed Position to
be filled with the person God wants at Commerce UMC.



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.



Are you over 70 1/2 years of age? Did you know that making contributions to the church using direct distributions from your traditional IRA can save you tax dollars?

The distribution of funds from your traditional IRA directly to a qualified charity, such as CUMC, is referred to as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

There are several benefits to this type of distribution:

1. You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
2. Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.
3. Beginning in the year you turn 72, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

Items that need to be considered:

- You must be 70 1/2 or older.
- This applies to traditional (pre-tax) IRA's.
- The maximum QCD cannot exceed \$100,000 per tax year from an individual IRA.
- The QCD must be made directly to the charity (the fiduciary must issue check in charity's name).
- The transfer must be completed (check cashed) by December 31st to count against the current year's RMD (Required Minimum Distributions) requirement.

If this is something that is of interest to you, contact your IRA provider as soon as possible. Don't wait until the end of the year!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

1	Steve Bollinger			
2	Clara Lee	Owen Senk		
3	Chris Bailey			
5	Jace Lambert	Jesse Goosey		
6	Chase Curry	Steve Rohr	Ella Vrnak	Rich Hager
7	Diane Schaap	Ann Smith		
8	Isaac Snyder			
9	Paul Landry			
11	Colleen Topper			
14	Mickey Nelson	Kylie Pipkin		
15	Brett Rendeiro	Penny Masch		
16	Al Young	Rachel MacCarreall		
19	Debbie Duffina	Sydney Urbaniak		
20	Tracy Kramer			
21	Gina Rendeiro			
22	Kurt Hausauer			
23	Nicholas Thiry			
24	Rob Gulf	Lily Cooper		
25	Catherine Topper	Bruce Flores		
27	Morgan Wenz	Kati Brush		
28	John Edgington			
29	Brittany Leonard	Cathy Linegar		
30	Don Gilbert	Alice Flannery		

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY'S

- 2 Frank & Linda Casenhiser**
- 8 John & Julie Antonelli**
- 13 Ken & Maggi Harfoot**
- 15 Glen & Eve Milligan**
- 17 John & Cathy Linegar**
- 18 John & Vicky Ebert**
- 23 Rich & Linda Kornatowski**
- 26 Len & Linda Kumm**
- 27 Steve & Linda Bollinger**