

"The STEEPLE"
Newsletter of Commerce UMC - NOVEMBER 2021
1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382
Phone: 248-363-3935
Email: commerceumc@sbcglobal.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/commerceumc
Sunday Worship: In-Person 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
"Seek To Accomplish More"

As a pastor, I have the honor and privilege of accompanying individuals at every stage of life. Just the other day, I baptized the cutest baby boy. A few months ago, I married a young couple from our church at a nearby golf course. I have also celebrated alongside parishioners who entered into that glorious thing we call "retirement." While I love it when the good times roll, I know life has its fair share of trouble.

We have all gone through a season of inconvenience, pain, and struggle for nearly two years. Broadly speaking, everyone has been hampered by division, uncertainty, and varying levels of panic that naturally accompany a global pandemic. On a more personal level, each person has been forced to face his or her own specific challenges that may or may not have been related to the pandemic: the loss of a job, deteriorating health, loved ones passing away and more.

When I make visits for any of the above, I often find myself surprised at the way in which the one I have come to visit handles adversity. Fully expecting to comfort a church member, I prep myself to answer difficult questions like "why me?" But the complaints and the questioning never come. I instead get hit with a wave of positivity and deeply held assurance. The person I have come to visit just kind of shrugs and says, "I've got nothing to complain about." He goes on to point at the dozens of cards from church folks while mentioning all the calls and visits he's received as well.

It's in moments like this I am led to reflect upon what the church is. You and I have created a community in which God's love is made real. This love makes us stronger, it gives us the courage to endure trials, and it boldly points us to the unshakable reality of God. Indeed, for so many of our members, Commerce United Methodist is evidence enough of a good and loving creator. As a result, we want to share God's love with all especially those that do not yet know it. We want everyone to know the gifts of a loving community and salvation itself as we seek to accomplish the mission of helping others connect and be renewed in Christ.

To that end, around this time of year, each person is asked to discern what percent of their income they believe they are called to give for the upcoming calendar year (2022) in conjunction with the stewardship campaign. Everyone who gave in the last 12 months will be invited to submit an "estimate of giving" card – a low stakes, nonbinding estimate on November 21st for Consecration Sunday.

Personally, I am very proud of the community we have here, and I believe God will use Commerce United Methodist on a scale it has never been used before and so, my family is committing itself to match that belief as we go far beyond the tithe. Yes, as we give thanks for all the ways God has proven faithful and as we anticipate God to continue his faithfulness, my family and I estimate our giving will be \$19,320 for 2022.

I humbly invite you, in the coming weeks, to prayerfully consider what percent of your income you are being called to give as you reflect upon the ways God has worked, the ways God is working, and the ways God *will* work in and through his people.

May the Lord continue to bless you and call you deeper into his service.
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/>



TRUNK-OR-TREAT 2021 was a wonderful success and couldn't have happened without all who were involved!

We had 30 trunks and a little over 100 treaters,

If you missed it this year, please mark your calendar NOW for next year. We don't want anyone to miss out on all the fun!



It's time for SOUP ... MISSIONS SOUP LUNCHEON that is!
Remember to have lunch at church on Sunday Nov. 14th!
Our fantastic homemade soup lunch will be available in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. For \$4 you will get Soup, Crackers & Cookies and can eat in or carry out. All proceeds benefit the Walugembe Family in Uganda and our other Missions giving.

Elderberries Breakfast Out! ~ Thursday Nov. 18th. 9a.m.

This month, we will be gathering at the Americus Coney & Grill Restaurant in Milford: <https://www.americusmilford.com/> at 167 S. Milford Road, Milford 48381, for our annual Breakfast Out.

Please sign up on the sheet on the board if you plan to go so that we can have a count to make our reservation. We will meet at the restaurant by 9 a.m.

ALL - not just Seniors, are invited to join us. Please contact Beverly Hughes if you have any questions; 248-875-4882

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.

UM Men Candy Makers at Commerce UMC are hard at it again this year, and with your help we can make a difference !

Our Homemade Candy by the pound or the half pound choices are:

- Milk or Dark Chocolate - Clusters; Raisin, Cherry or Peanut
- Milk or Dark Chocolate - Sweet & Salty Peanut/Pretzel
- Dark Chocolate Peppermint Bark



Orders are being taken now until November 14th & pick-up Sunday Nov. 28th or by special arrangement.

contact Scott Leonard 313-319-5494, if you have any questions, or want to place an order but are not able to be at the church to do so.

up will be Please

100% of all the profits for this years candy sales will be given to **Anchored Hope Outreach.** <https://anchoredhopeoutreach.org/mission-1> *We are a faith-based Street Outreach Ministry working to fight human trafficking by serving the needs of sex trafficked victims. You can find us "boots on the ground" in the neighborhoods of southwest Detroit passing out food and hygiene kits, spending time in prayer, and connecting those in need with resources to heal and restore. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure..." - Hebrews 6:19*

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY



Youth currently in 6th grade and above are eligible to begin classes to help prepare them for their decision in life in follow Christ.

United Methodists use the term "confirmation" to mark the first time a baptized Christian publicly

"confirms" their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of the local congregation and The United Methodist Church.

Classes will be conducted by Andrew Ruhlen, our Youth Director and under the direction of Pastor Andy. Adult Mentors are needed - Each class attendee will be paired with a UM Member Mentor.

If you are interested in helping nurture the upcoming Confirmands, please contact Andrew at youthgroupandrew@gmail.com or call him at 810-210-4224.

**Christmas Marketplace Saturday
December 4, 2021 ~ 9 am to 4 pm**



The UM Women are planning our Annual MARKETPLACE to be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday December 4th

If you would like to reserved a table please contact Kyle Caswell at 248-622-1465. The cost is \$30.00. Set-Up will be on Friday, the day before.

We will host our Cookie Walk... Donations from UMW members and the congregation are greatly appreciated. This is the most popular area of our event as in most years we are completely sold out of all the goodies. Please bake and bring your goodies into the kitchen to be plated and presented on the self-serve table for sale. Gloves and hand sanitizer will be provided for choosing your goodies that will be sold by the pound.

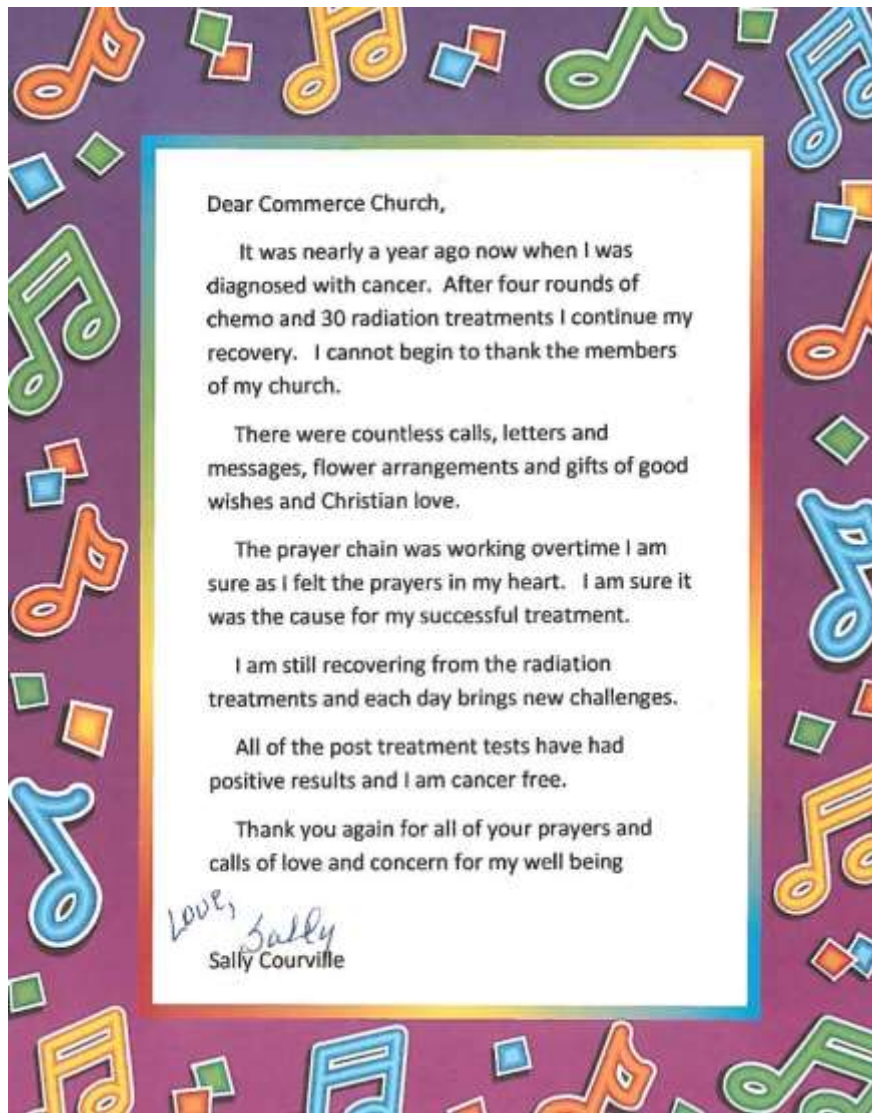
Susie Thompson will be doing the Christmas Greens again this year, if you have a container you would like filled for your Holiday decorating please contact Susie (248-887-4773) to give her your container. Make sure your name and phone number are attached to it. She and her helpers will also have beautifully made arrangements for sale the day of the event.

There will also be a White Elephant table again this year supplied with donations by you. These items need to be "like new", gifts you bought but never gave, or received but never used... but Please No clothing or shoes. A box will be provided in the fellowship hall to receive your donations.

If you are a crafter or enjoy needlework and would like to make an item or items for the UM Women's Craft Table it would be greatly appreciated. Your craftwork helps fill our table and makes it very festive at the same time. Please contact Kyle Caswell if you have any questions.

There will be a lite lunch menu for a small fee for sale to eat in or carry out. We will need many workers to help with this event - A signup sheet will be on the board and YOUR Participation is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If you have any questions about this year's Marketplace Event, please contact a UM Women Member, Linda Kornatowski 248-887-3341 or Kyle Caswell 248-363-9820.



The **Commerce Angel Tree** will be up the 1st week in November – decorated with giving tags and ready to receive your generous gifts. With your help, our angel tree giving will support Baldwin, Hospitality House and some of our own church families.



Due to the continued Covid 19 Pandemic effects, Baldwin is only accepting gift cards for their Christmas Program. Hospitality House has asked for gift cards, but also are in need of children's small card games such as UNO, Go Fish, Crazy 8's as they are great for stocking stuffers. There will NOT be a Santa Shop Party again this year at Hospitality House. All donations from tags on our angel tree need to be returned back to the tree no later than Sunday, November 28th.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP your gift, and make sure to return the tag you removed from the tree securely attached to your donated gift.

If you have any questions, about this years Angel Tree, please contact Laura Contesti at 248-363-2557

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Empty Shoeboxes are available in the Narthex along with some printed material about the Christmas Child Operation. If you take any boxes, PLEASE make sure to return them filled, and with the postage amount of \$9 inside to the church no later than Sunday Nov. 14th. They will be delivered to the shipping drop-off location that week.



For the already donated items you many of you have so generously given, the Kids-on-a-Mission & any who want to help, will be filling boxes upstairs on Sunday Nov. 14th. Thank you for being a part of this mission work!

Continue to Pray for

Pauline Hausauer Bill Krug Rich Kronatowski Roy Stoddard
Meghan Oliver Betty Barry Kim Pardo Bernie Lynn
Amber Pisha Shawn Depeal Vern MacArthur

PRAISE: Sally Courville - for successful surgery, and healing cancer

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 ½ 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!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Bev LaTurneau | Kathleen Nelson | |
| 2 | Rich Allanson | | |
| 3 | Silas Mecham | | |
| 4 | Jim Hawisher | | |
| 5 | Beverly Hughes | | |
| 6 | Vickie Armstrong | | |
| 7 | Robin Fletcher | Beth Kuzak | Andrew Ruhlen |
| 8 | Michelle Robinson | | |
| 9 | Laura Elliott | Carl Schneider | |
| 10 | Lauren Bollinger | | |
| 11 | Richard Kornatowski | Kay Behrens | |
| 12 | Pamela Bergner | Ken Harfoot | |
| 13 | Kyle Oliver | Gabriel Inglis-Dubin | |
| 14 | Debbie Curry | | |
| 15 | Terry Crossett | | |
| 16 | Eric Bean | | |
| 18 | Lyle Curry | Robert Beagle | Tom Kwaitkowski |
| 18 | Fisher Goosey | Emmett Snyder | Josie Williams |
| 19 | Jeremy Ralston | | |
| 20 | Matthew Whitney | Gabe Laming | |
| 21 | Abby Kaschyk | | |
| 22 | Robert Morris | Linda Casenhiser | |
| 24 | Bea Burkholder | | |
| 26 | Sally Courville | Pat Perry | |
| 27 | William Boyd | Millie Kargol | |
| 30 | Nicholas Stefanou | | |

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY'S

| | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | Al & Pat Young |
| 5 | Clayton & Bev LaTurneau |
| 8 | Robert & Andrea Beagle |
| 8 | Brian & Polly Dodson |
| 9 | Jim & Susie Thompson |
| 11 | Bill & Karen Gulf |
| 19 | Scott & JoAnne Crandall |
| 23 | Scott & Ann Leonard |
| 29 | Ed & Dana Wenz |