

"The STEEPLE"
Newsletter of Commerce UMC - JANUARY 2022
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
"The Past, The Present, The Future"

As part of my seminary education, I was required to participate in a cross-cultural experience. So, in the winter of 2012, I flew halfway around the world to India with about 20 other students. The experience was overwhelming. Everything was different: the sights, the sounds, and yes, the smells! Because the agenda was packed, we didn't always have enough time to do or say what we wanted.

For example, after listening to a local believer speak about the complexities of the caste system rubbing up against the values of Christianity, some students had questions they wanted to ask, but due to time constraints, were not able. Or, after running out of cash, a student may have wanted to help support a particular local vendor, but without time or access to an ATM, could not do so.

At the end of each day, everyone always felt a tinge of regret. There were missed opportunities everywhere we went. Having led multiple trips, the faculty member who attended the trip with us knew this would happen. Therefore, he made sure that before we went to bed, the whole group prayed this specific prayer:

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.

*It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done; let it be.*

*The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own
lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us, and all who have no peace.*

*The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys,
new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen*

I share this all with you, because as we transition into a new year, I see the same need to put things in their rightful place and move on. Indeed, we must learn to say, "what has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be." At the same time, we can turn attention to what's next as we "look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities."

The last year might have been the best year of your life, the worst or somewhere in between. Whatever the case may be, 2021 is behind us now. There's no point in letting what did or didn't happen in the past distract us from what God is doing in the present or what God will do in the weeks and months to come. I pray your hearts, minds, and souls are unburdened and ready to receive the God's goodness this year and always.

Happy New Year and Christ's peace be with you. Pastor Andy

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. Please check the Website at <http://www.commerceumc.org/events/> for events, and small group activities and their schedule. If your activity/event, small group or committee would like to be scheduled for regular meeting times or hold a special event and are not on the calendar, please contact the church office to proceed with scheduling.

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



Pastor Andy Lee will begin offering membership classes in 2022 for those who are ready to make a public, official commitment to building God's kingdom right here at Commerce United Methodist Church.

If you have any interest at all, please sign up in the narthex or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F44A9A823A4FE3-2022>

Mark your calendars for January 29th as we share a meal with the residents at Cass Community Social Services. Watch for sign-up sheets that will be posted on the bulletin board on the ways you can help. This is just one way our Mission Work at Commerce UMC benefits many in need in our community. If you would like to know more about other Missions done please contact Becky Lund, Mission Committee Chair at 248-887-2511



----- January 2022 Christian Education News... -----

Do you ever find yourself awake in the middle of the night for unknown reasons? When the house feels still and quiet, and you are unsure why you are wide awake. Maybe God is trying to find a quiet time to talk when the chaos of life feels never-ending, a time to tug at your heart, a time to have a one-on-one chat. So, next time you are awake at 2 am, pick up your hands and pray, open your heart to hear from God. I encourage you to take some time over the next few weeks to see if God is leading you to volunteer. We would love to encourage your heart to help however you see fit; whether that is as a Sunday School teacher, Kids Klub helper, or VBS volunteer. We need you to spread the love of Jesus.



Kids Klub +

Kids Klub+ is looking forward to another year of opening up our church to young families in the community. Kids Klub+ allows time for families to share a pizza dinner before the kiddos head upstairs for rec and crafts. Our next Kids Klub will be on January 26th from 6 pm-7:30 pm with the theme of snowballs.

Get ready now for an epic indoor snowball fight!

Sunday School

Sunday School for elementary aged children takes place during both the traditional and contemporary services on Sundays. Children start the service with their parents, and are then dismissed upstairs after their Sermon-on-the-Steps to complete a bible lesson, generally followed by a craft.

Anchored Hope Collection

Thank you for all the items that have been dropped off so far, we love seeing your support for this important ministry! The Anchored Hope tree will be in the narthex until January 5th, so be sure to bring in your donations, this Sunday, January 2nd.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Shoebox

Thank you everyone for your help in packing and shipping 100 shoeboxes! Some of our boxes have already made their way to The Dominican Republic and Honduras to bring some Christmas joy and the spirit of God to children.

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Dir. Kristine.CUMC@gmail.com 248.363.3935 ext. 304



Thanks to the congregation who purchased candy or donated to the UMM this year. We had a record year with sales of \$3,403. Through your generosity the UMM contributed \$2,328 to Anchored Hope and \$500

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.



Anchored Hope Outreach

Thank You from the bottom of our hearts for the overwhelming response by so many to our

Anchored Hope Angel Tree! your generosity is amazing! your giving helps and will continue to help many clients at our Detroit Outreach Program. you can learn more about Anchored Hope Outreach by visiting the website at www.anchoredhopeoutreach.org



"Thank YOU" to everyone for the many "get well wishers and cards" that were sent to me while recuperating in Lapeer. I am gaining my strength everyday and hope to return to church soon. Sincerely, Pauline Hausauer



Continue to Pray for

Sally Courville Pat Elliot Mark Watkins Mickey Senk
Kevin & Family Meaghan (Larrabee) Hailey Lyon Bill Krug
Pauline Hausauer The Family of the House Fire in Milford



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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

2 **Tim Contesti Emma Fagan**
3 **Samson Van Dussen**
4 **Bill Gulf Elizabeth Ruhlen**
5 **Ava Higuchi**
6 **Joe Wichowski**
8 **Ed Wenz**
9 **Denise Pistana Courtney Long Jeffrey Fagan Noelle Lee**
10 **Kristine Van Dussen**
11 **Paul Elliott Len Kumm Betty Spehar Nathaniel Inglis-Dubin**
13 **Dan Kramer**
15 **Ethan Schulz Michelle Lyon Frank Larrabee**
16 **Stephen Bollinger**
17 **Hannah Brassell**
20 **Taylor Mroz Rosa Bergner Brock Nelson**
25 **Elizabeth Lyon Hailey Lyon Thomas Lyon**
27 **Pastor Andy Lee**
30 **Marsden MacCarreall**
31 **Mike Marcelli Genika Landry**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY'S

4 **John & Lynn Delaney**
11 **Ernie & Jane Sampson**
20 **Frank & Linda Clappison**
27 **Robert & Nancy Strohs**