

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - APRIL 2022

1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382

Phone: 248-363-3935

Sunday Worship: In-Person Worship

Traditional 9 am & Contemporary 11 am

Our Worship Services LIVE STREAM our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/> and also linked through our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/commerceumc



A Message from Pastor Andy

To Be Continued

Through my cellphone plan, my family receives a free subscription to Disney+. If you're not familiar with Disney+, it is a streaming service that offers all kinds of Disney properties for your viewing pleasure. What I enjoy the most is re-watching TV shows from my childhood with my daughter. Together, she and I will sit through an episode of Chip and Dale: Rescue Rangers about once a week.

The Rescue Rangers- a team comprised of 2 chipmunks, 2 mice, and a fly- take about 22 minutes to solve crimes of varying degrees. Occasionally, there are episodes in which the crime is not able to be solved within the 22-minute run time. Typically, what happens is, the heroes find themselves in a difficult position and the show ends on a cliff hanger with the words, "To be continued..."

Because my daughter and I are watching through a streaming service, we could instantly click on the next episode. However, 30 years ago, when I was her age, I'd have to wait a whole day to the conclusion. I'd catch myself wondering how the heroes could possibly make it out of their dire situation. I hated the episodes that ended with the words, "To be continued..." I didn't have the words then, but as a child, I wanted a quick and tidy resolution. No cliff hangers!

You might find yourself in a similar "To be Continued..." scenario. Broadly speaking, that's what we have all gone through with the pandemic. We wondered how we were going to get ourselves out of this corner we were backed into when the virus first hit the news. As a Global denomination, we (members of The United Methodist Church) struggled and continue to struggle over how to best navigate the inclusion of LGBTQ persons. Then, on a personal level, there's a good chance you're going through something right now: a recent health diagnosis, marital problems, financial strain, or something so unique to you I could never guess.

With the resurrected Christ, we know that while we face the unexpected and the unimaginable, our story continues, we have another episode that follows where we will see God's faithfulness unfold. Jesus, an innocent man, was forced through a sham trial, beaten, and brutally executed. But, three days later, God did definitively reveal that God has the final word. So, I want to take this moment to encourage you and to remind you God has the same intention for his people.

As we move toward another Easter celebration, I pray you continue to claim the power of resurrection. I pray you will see all the ways the empty tomb is not just Jesus' story but your story too so that God might sustain you until he comes in final victory.

I look forward to being with you April 17th.
Pastor Andy



“A simple thank you seems inadequate for the cards, flowers, hugs, UMW luncheon, kind words, touch of a hand. But a very sincere, thank you all! Karen will be missed.” Bill Gulf and family



Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) service will be held in the Chapel at 7PM with Communion.

For **Good Friday**, we will meet in the sanctuary at 7 pm for a Service of Tenebrae.

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death

Easter Sunrise Service - 7:30 am in the Sanctuary presented by our YOUTH Group.

Easter Breakfast following the sunrise service - hosted by the UM Men

Easter Worship Services - 9 am and 11 am with Brunch in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the UM Men between the two services.



What a WONDERFUL and SUCCESSFULL Spring Rummage and Bake Sale we had! and... We COULD NOT have done it without your donations, baked goodies, organizing, set-up & clean-up help!

God BLESS Commerce UMC Family & Friends for being such caring people!

**EASTER
CHOIR**

If you like to sing, and would like to help bring something special to our Easter Services on Sunday 4/17, then please consider to be a part of our special Easter Service Choir.

No musical experience necessary. As for rehearsal for this special event, you will need to attend at least one of the following dates.

Sunday; 4/3 or 4/10; 12:15 to 1:00 pm

Wed.; 4/6 or 4/13; 6:45 to 7:30 pm

Please contact Aaron Hendrix if you have any questions. 281-415-8182

The **PET Mobility** mission group is ready to accept CLEAN (with lids attached) 1 gallon plastic milk jugs again. Please wash out, and attach the lid and drop off in the Fellowship Hall at the PET Unit/Board area. Thank YOU for your continued support with this Global Mission work. Any questions about PET Mobility, please contact Al Young at 586-808-6965.

APRIL 2022 Christian Education News / Kids-of-the-Kingdom



Mark your calendars:

April 16th 11am Easter Egg Hunt

April 27th 6-7:30pm Kids Klub+

June 20th-24th VBS 2022

Easter Egg Hunt 2022

Hip Hop Hooray, Easter is on It's way! Thanks to your donations, we have THREE THOUSAND Easter Eggs filled and ready! Please RSVP via Facebook if you plan on coming, this is going to be Epic Easter Fun!

VBS 2022!

Registration is now closed, we are full! Our VBS theme this year will be Spark Studios, where kids will learn that God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis! VBS will be held June 20th-24th, from 9:00am-12:15pm. We still need help filling some volunteer spots to ensure a VBS success! If you are interested in helping, please contact Kristine Van Dussen.

Looking for an easy way to help make VBS a success? We will have many hungry tummies to feed, which means many creative snacks to provide! Donating Gift Cards to Meijer, Kroger, or Amazon is a fantastic way to support the purchases Commerce UMC will be making. Gift cards can be dropped off to the office; please contact your Christian Ed Director with any questions.

College Ministries

Spring has officially arrived, meaning that it is finals' season for students. As part of our college ministry, Commerce UMC sends spring care packages, and we need your help to make it a success. Sign up online or in the narthex to bring a homemade baked good, or other tasty treat.

- Donation drop off deadline: Palm Sunday
- Pack and pray: Monday, April 11th at 10am

Graduates - High School and College

Graduation season is quickly approaching, which means Graduation Sunday is on the horizon. In order to properly honor our graduates, we need to following information provided to the church office no later than May 1st ...

- Student's name
- School graduating from
- Future plans/schooling/career
- Highlights/honors
- 2 jpeg photos (childhood and present)

Kids Klub+

The fourth Wednesday of every month Kids Klub offers an opportunity for families to share a pizza dinner, and then let the kids have some fun while the parents run errands, or just sit and chat. n April 27th we will be playing bingo and board games. The kiddos will even have a chance to build their own games!

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Dir kristine.cumc@gmail.com 248.363.3935 est. 304

ELDERBERRIES

APRIL The Elderberries will meet **Thursday 4/21 at 12-noon in the Fellowship Hall for the monthly meeting with a delicious potluck lunch** (please bring a dish to share, table setting - coffee, tea will be provided). After lunch we will be planning our details for the May field trip to the DIA and various other months schedules, plus time permitting - board and card games will be enjoyed. Be prepared to enjoy good food and even better fellowship!

For future planning, mark your calendar for each 3rd Thursday at noon (unless a field trip is planned) for potluck lunch with the Elderberries!

If you are interested in staying on 4/21 after 3 pm, the Bible Journaling group will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall and welcome anyone to stick around with them. (Linda Kumm with questions, 248-889-3088).



MAY On **May 19th the ELDERBERRIES (Invited are: Seniors, CUMC Members & Families)** will be taking a field trip to the **Detroit Institute of Arts on a free bus ride (FREE, IF we have 25 or more signup no later than MAY 5. Limit for the bus is 50)** The bus will leave at 12 noon from the church to arrive at the institute at approx 12:30 pm. The Cafe' will be open at the institute.

Load to Depart on the bus at 3 pm to return to the church at 4 pm.

Please sign the sheet on the board, call Sherrill 248-563-4886 or the church office 248-363-3935 to have them sign you up.

There are 3 (all free) choices to do once there;

1. View our world famous Detroit Industry murals: *Diego Rivera* 's Mexican muralist masterpiece. Four walls. Twenty-seven paintings. Nine months of labor-intensive work. In 1932,...Free descriptive audio with driver's license.
2. Movie Matinee 1:00-2:30 pm: *The Palm Beach Story*, *Claudette Colbert*, Comedy (note if attending the movie you might want to bring a sack lunch for the bus)
3. Humble and Human Exhibit; and Special impressionist Exhibit.

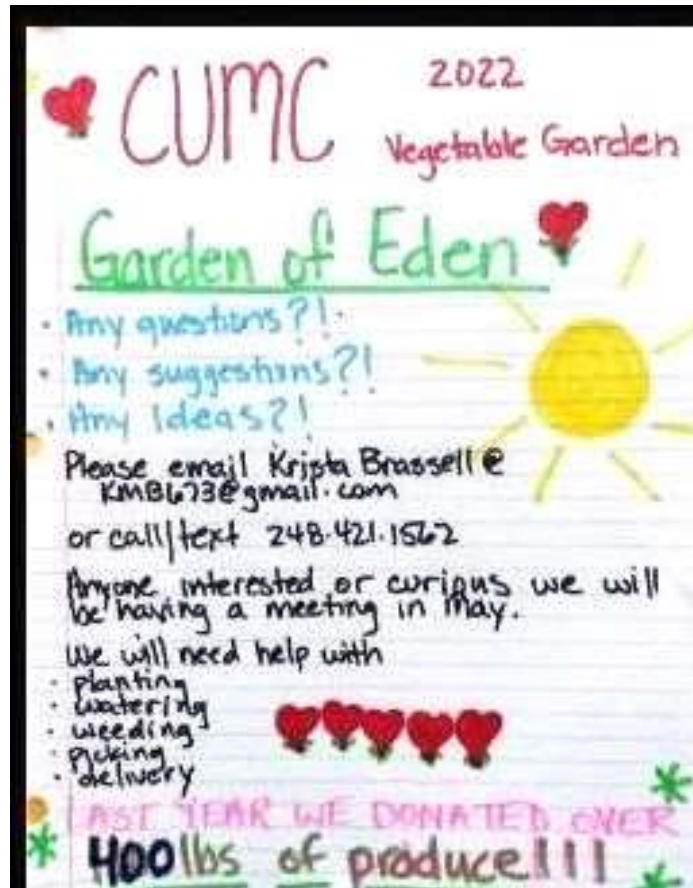


Calling all 2022 High School and College Graduates! Graduation Sunday is approaching SOON!

We will be honoring all of our graduates during both services. If you would like to be included in the graduation slideshow please provide the following information and your photos to the church office by email at commerceumc@sbcglobal.net no later than May 1st.

- Your Name
 - School you are Graduating from
 - Highlights/Honors/Scholarships you have received
 - Your Future Plans including the School you are attending in the fall
 - Your Career you will be Majoring in.
 - 2 jpg photos (one of your early childhood years and one more current) for the slide presentation.
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Calling all Green Thumbs



We continue all year collecting for our next Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoeboxes that will be filled and shipped in November. Each month we will list a specific item needed. The tote for your donation is in the back of the Fellowship Hall. Each Months items can be dropped off at any time, not just the month listed.



For **APRIL ...** Stuffed Toys (like Beanie Babies, small enough to fit in the shoeboxes.
plus Deodarant

Past Months were:

Jan - Hats & Gloves

Feb. - Accessories- hair ties-sunglasses-headbands & Ivory Bar Soap

March - Quality Crafts (that will fit in the shoebox) & Toothbrushes



Continue to Pray for

The Family of Vern MacArthur Kendra

David Smiertka Mary Alice Lesiak Sally Courville



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.

Commerce UMC ~ Help Wanted

- **Nursery Coordinator ... 8:30 am to 12:30 pm (4 hours) Sunday Mornings during both the 9 am & 11 am Worship Services. And possible extra hours if needed to cover care during meetings &/or events.**
- **Temporary Church Office ... General Office duties to cover a short term medical leave of our church secretary. Training to begin as soon as possible for scheduled leave sometime after the end of May.**

To inquire about either job opportunity, contact
Dana Wenz at 248-762-7932 or danasimons@comcast.net

APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

1	Deborah Biermacher	Pauline Hausauer	David Brassell	Mary Mandilk
2	Drew Henwood			
4	Rachael Laming			
5	Barbara Felice			
6	Lisa Lie			
11	Emma Cooper			
12	Greg Baroni	Mike Kennedy		
13	Brenda Oliver			
14	Aubrey Cooper			
16	Samantha Pellett	Denise "Chip" Black		
19	Devin Hager	Sloan Mecham		
20	Ray Topper	Tammie Fenn		
21	Lila Crossett			
22	Janet Boyd			
23	Beth Fournier	Nancy Strohs		
24	Ken Dunneback			
26	Nathan Lie			
30	Trent Thiry			

APRIL ANNIVERSARY'S

4	Don & Penny Masch
10	Richard & Patricia Perry
17	Greg & Marilyn Baroni
19	Mike & Kathy Stiltner
20	Ken & Bonnie Dunneback
20	Harry & Marilyn Bruss
21	Carl & Gladys Schneider
26	Pete & Kim Bommarito
26	Dave & Jackie Smiertka



Canned Veggie Vinaigrette Salad (R.Crepeau)

Ingredients

- 3 Cans Green Beans
- 2 Cans Sweet Corn
- 2 Cans Small Red Beans
- 1 Can Black Beans
- ½ cup Fine Chopped Green Peppers
- ½ cup Fine Chopped Celery
- 1 cup Fine Chopped Onions
- 1 cup Kraft Sweet Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing
- a twist or 3 of Ground Black Pepper (optional)
- 2 packet Sugar Substitute (Optional)

Directions

Open, and drain all cans of beans and corn and Rinse with cold water (to rinse excess salt)
Add ALL; beans, corn and chopped veggie (& optional- ground black pepper) together in storage bowl.

Cover with Dressing and seal tight to refrigerate at least 4 hours (overnight is best)

Gently mixing once or twice not to crush & break apart the beans, but to recoat all with the dressing as it tends to pool in the bottom.

Just before serving, mix in the sugar substitute (optional) and any extra dressing if you want.

YUM YUM YUM and Healthy too.

SUMMER MINISTRIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Mission Intern Program is life-changing ... for both the children involved and for the interns. Applications for the 2022 Mission Intern Program are now open. <https://michiganumc.org/summer-opportunities-for-young-adults/>



Camps, CDF Freedom Schools, local churches, and United Methodist-related agencies are looking for young adults to engage in ministry this summer. Applications are now open.

Young Adult Summer Ministry Internship Opportunities with the Michigan UMC are not only paid but they also are geared to individual interests and contribute to a great resume. Not only are they meaningful experiences for the young adults involved, but these opportunities also address justice issues like generational poverty and anti-bias/anti-racism. Internships develop leadership skills as they support local communities.

Consider serving at one of the following summer programs.

- **Overnight Camp Staff ...** Serve at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center in a variety of areas including programming, lifeguard, or maintenance. Love camp? Live at camp for the summer and make a great camp experience for others!
- **CDF Freedom Schools ...** Join one of the Freedom School sites in Flint or Detroit as a Servant Leader Intern. You will work with children and youth in areas of reading and cultural enrichment. Founded during the Freedom Summer of 1964 Ella Baker started CDF-Freedom Schools to ensure every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life. Be part of a caring community that creates a successful passage to adulthood.
- **Mission Intern Program ...** Serve with children and families experiencing poverty in either a kid's day camp setting leading daily programming and teaching Bible stories OR working in a UMC-related non-profit providing essential services.

- **Ministry Exploration ... Are you a young adult discerning a call to ordained ministry? Consider an eight-week internship in a local congregation (maybe even your own congregation) where you will serve alongside an ordained clergy person, assist in worship, learn about leadership of the local church.**

Wages are \$600 a week. Leadership Development Training is required and will take place June 5-7 likely at a site near Lansing, MI. Site orientation happens June 13-17.

APPLY

AT: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIqprWe_UWRWrswqmP_dq1rqKOH47KQhJQ78B6b1xmBbfEkQ/viewform

