

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - June 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 Opportunity

For 9 weeks in the summer, Commerce UMC will pause its 9AM Traditional Service and 11AM service for one combined service at 10AM followed by an 11AM Coffee Hour beginning June 26th. Technically speaking, it's actually 8 weeks of combined services, because June 26th is VBS Sunday. Our church will host its special Vacation Bible School service in which VBS participants sing and dance to the songs they learned throughout the week with their families in attendance. VBS Sunday is its own special treat unique from the 8 services that will follow.

Anyway, when I was first approached about the idea of a combined service for the summer, my mind was immediately filled with negative thoughts. I ran through a series of hypotheticals. What if people don't like it? What if they get mad at me? What if they leave the church... forever? What if this one decision is my demise and I am kicked out of here? I don't want that. I like it here!

I think it's natural for people to first consider the risks before they consider the benefits. We are trained to prioritize safety, security, stability. Nobody wants to give up a known commodity for an unknown.

After the initial panic subsided and my heart rate returned to its baseline, I was able to calmly consider the positives and there were a few. First and foremost, for 9 weeks, the church could worship as one, unified body. There's simply some things that are better when we are together. Namely, there is strength in numbers. I smiled to myself as I thought about a combined choir made up of singers from both services. We got a taste of it during Easter and I loved it. This alone is reason enough to give the combined service the green light.

Still, there are other benefits. Worshipping together gives us a chance to build new relationships. During our Tuesday evening basketball games in the Activity Hall, I've enjoyed the friendships that have been forged between church members. Initially, I was shocked at how these dozen or so men barely knew each other as they awkwardly shook hands and exchanged names. Some of these folks have attended this church for decades, but they had not met or spent any significant time together because they attended two separate services. All we needed was a little time together.

So, throughout the 9 weeks in the summer, as we gather together as one, I expect similar results. I look forward to the children, the youth, and the adults making new friends. I can't wait to see my beloved, faithful and friendly 9AM'ers to meet my equally wonderful 11AM'ers.

I could go on and on about all positives I envision, but I'll end with this. As of this writing, there are 5 people that I have been asked to baptize: 1 adult and 4 children. Honestly, there are likely a handful more kids that will be added. For a long time, these baptisms happened in one service at 9AM or 11AM, but these 5 individuals will get to take their baptismal vows and be welcomed not only by half the church but by all of it. Praise God. It's going to be an awesome summer. Pastor Andy



MCHS - Michigan Children's Home Society

Michigan Children's Home Society Picnic & Fun! -

Saturday June 18 as part of our mission work with the Boys Home the Mission Committee along with our UMMen will be hosting an end of the school year event to let the boys know they matter and we care about them.

We will start 9 am, with high rope climbing at TreeRunner Adventure Park in West Bloomfield, (5500 W. Maple Road, <https://treerunnerparks.com/westbloomfield/>) followed at noon by a dog & burger picnic at Drake Sports Park, 6801 Drake Road, West Bloomfield 48322 between 14 Mile & Maple Roads.

Many hands and happy hearts are needed to show this LOVE! If you participate on the Rope Climb, there is a fee of approx. \$42 each person. Entry into the park for the picnic is free.

<https://www.wbparks.org/drake-sports-park.html>

Please see the sheets on the board to sign up to help where / if you can. Not in the church to see the board, please call either Joe Griggs or Becky Lund listed below to help. Questions about fun activities; Joe Griggs at 248-761-7000 and for picnic & food questions; Becky Lund @ 248-887-2511



JUNE 2022 Kids-of-the-Kingdom

Christian Education News

VBS month has arrived!

The time is quickly approaching for us to open our doors to community kiddos and their families. How can you make this year's VBS a smashing success?

- You can still sign up to volunteer!
Email Kristine if you are interested and we will get you set!
- You can donate gift cards to Meijer or Kroger to be used to purchase snacks.
- We are still in need of fabric paint for our t-shirt craft.
- Be on the lookout for Summer Celebration sign-ups.
- Pray. Pray for our volunteers. Pray for the teens.
Pray for the VBS kiddos. Pray for their families.

The Christian Education Department has begun a monthly digital newsletter that is sent to our Children's Ministry families. This "Kingdom News" is a quick look at what is currently happening with the Kids of the Kingdom, as well as dates to plan for. If you would like to sign up to receive this monthly newsletter; email your Christian Education Director at KristineCUMC@gmail.com

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Dir.
kristine.cumc@gmail.com 248-363-3935 x304

If you are interested in helping in children's ministries at Commerce UMC, please contact Pastor Andy (248-363-3935 x301) to discuss opportunities to serve in this way.

Commerce UM Women Salad Luncheon
and White Elephant Auction
Saturday June 8, Fellowship Hall at 12 Noon.

All women, Commerce church attenders as well as the local community are invited to attend.

After our meal we will have a White Elephant Auction. If you are interested to participate in the auction, please gift bag or wrap any item(s) you are not needing anymore and bring with you. Proceeds from the auction will be used for our local ministry work.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
COMMERCE UMC GRADUATES!

~ HIGH SCHOOL ~

Matthew Kositzke

Matt is graduating from Walled Lake Northern High School and will be attending Saginaw Valley State University in the fall to study finance. He was a 4-year scholar athlete in swimming and a state qualifier for DECA (Distribution Education Club of America) this year.

Michael Kositzke

Mike is graduating from Walled Lake Northern High School and will be attending Central Michigan University in the fall to study in the healthcare industry; veterinary or Physical Therapy. He was awarded the Commerce UMC Legacy Scholarship, was a 4-year scholar athlete in swimming and participated in water polo this year.

Genika Landry

Genika will be graduating from Lakeland High School and in the fall will be attending Motion Picture Institute in Troy MI to begin her studies within the film industry.

Lucas Simpson

Lucas will be graduating from WL Northern this June. He was a member of the Varsity Soccer team, National Honor Society (NHS), and German National Society (GNHS). Lucas will be attending Grand Valley State University (GVSU) this fall to study Statistics.

~ COLLEGE ~

Hannah Joi Brassell

Hannah has graduated from Pacific University with a Doctorate in Psychology

Elizabeth Lyon-Ligon

Elizabeth is graduating from Indiana Wesleyan University with her bachelors of Science in Nursing. While at IWU she enjoyed leading on the Delight Ministries team and mentoring younger nursing students. She has accepted a job as an endoscopy nurse in Fort Wayne, IN. In May Elizabeth wed Aeden Ligon.

Hailey Lyon-Moser

Hailey is graduating from Taylor University with her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science. While at Taylor she was a part of the Stewards of Creation club. Last summer Hailey worked for the Indiana DNR, educating visitors about the 6 Bison that reside at Ouabache State Park. Hailey wed Caleb Moser earlier this month. They will be moving to Ballwin, MO for their jobs.

Alissa Pellett

Graduating from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree - Applied Arts with a Major in Communication and Science Disorders and a minor in American Sign Language. Alissa was a member of the all-female Accapella group On The Rox all four years at CMU as well as Front Desk Manager at Saxe-Herrig Hall. She will be applying to graduate school for Speech-Language Pathology, as her career goal is to work in an Elementary School as a Speech-Language Pathologist.

Michael Stefanou

Michael graduated from Grand Valley State University with a BS, Geology-Chemistry & a Minor in Goespatial Technology. He is working as an Environmental Scientist providing consulting services related to environmental regulations with GHD in Farmington. He plans to pursue his Masters Degree beginning in Sept. 2023.

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoeboxes



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 **JUNE ... TOYS: Matchbox cars, play-doh, jumpropes, balls (small & inflatable) and also Washcloths**

Past Months for Shoeboxes always includes Deodorant & Bar Ivory Soap plus:

Jan - Hats & Gloves Feb. - Accessories- hair ties-sunglasses-headbands

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

April - Stuffed Toys (like Beanie Babies, small to fit in the shoeboxes)

May - Washcloths, Chapstick, Comb & Brush, Toothbrush, Bar Soap, Deodorant.

Continue to Pray for

Clayton LaTurneau

Betty Barry

Aza Catau

Susan Nadeau

JUNE BIRTHDAY'S

1 Grace Baek-Lee Lexie Pipkin
2 Leo Maki Madelyn Stoddard
4 Sarah Casenhiser Becky Lemon Jane Sampson
6 Amina Osagie Matt Abdallah
7 Bob Senk
8 Linda Bollinger Andrew Masch Abby Brush Maddy Hager
9 Teresa Holloway
11 Jim Elliot Ann Leonard
12 Linda Schultz Todd Fletcher
14 Jim Thompson
18 John Stoddard Ada Stevenson
21 Harry Bruss
22 Alyssa Buchmann
24 John Antonelli
26 Meredith Keesling Luke LeVasseur
27 Ell Pizarek
28 Bill Whitson Robbie Long Michael Stiltner
29 Joanne Crandall Kathy Stiltner
30 Kristen Thiry

JUNE ANNIVERSARY'S

6 Leo & Bea Maki Ell & Mary Pizarek
7 Scott & Michelle Lyon
15 Graham & Nancy Bennett
16 Bob & Donna Morris
17 Tim & Kati Brush
18 Tom & Marge Kwiatkowski
21 Chris & Holly Bailey
22 Russ & Sally Courville
24 Jeff & Heather Fagan Frank & Bonnie Larrabee
26 Jack & Kyle Caswell
27 Gavin & Meghan (Caswell) Pohl
28 Jim & Pat Elliot
29 Don & Norma Gilbert