

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - December 2022

1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382

Phone: 248-363-3935

Sunday Worship: In-Person Worship 10:00 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



On the first Sunday of Advent, just as the praise band was about to lead the congregation in a time of worship, we received an unwelcome interruption. The alarm system blared with all its might all throughout the church. This was especially strange, because the system typically is not armed during daytime hours. For me, I knew immediately we were dealing with some kind of system error. A handful of trustees and I ran to punch in the code... and nothing. We went to the backroom to pull out a couple of wires... and nothing. The sirens kept singing their obnoxious song. After several minutes of panicked fumbling, the church somehow returned back to silence.

Alarms, when working properly, are meant to help alert us to something we might otherwise miss. I have a particularly sensitive smoke alarm that can't help but scream at me when the toaster is in use. I try not to get annoyed. Old smoky is just trying to keep me safe from a potential fire. When I turn my attention to unbuckling the kids for daycare, I might otherwise forget the keys in the ignition but an alarm incessantly reminds me to grab them. As I sit at my desk, my smartwatch will periodically buzz telling me to stand up because I've been stationary for too long. Apparently, sitting is the new smoking.

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah

and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Reflecting upon the alarm on the first Sunday of Advent, what if we were to take it as a kind of spiritual wakeup call. Often the days blur together. Weeks, months, and even years fly by. We can so easily drift or unknowingly be shaped by secular messages. I think we will be well served to call to mind the miracle, wonder, and blessing of the coming Christ. The eternal God has chosen to come to us in the flesh, and in the fullness of time, he will come again bringing with him the redemption of all things. Are we readying ourselves for such a future? Do we make real for ourselves and others hope, peace, joy, and love?

If not, I pray the chimes and chirps of every alarm might bring you back into such a space. May God move in and through you this Advent season.

Pastor Andy



CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 2022 9:00 AM TO 4:00PM

Its that time of year, time for the Christmas Marketplace!!!!



2022 Advent Study with Pastor Andy

This year Pastor Andy would like to try something different. Rather than a traditional book study, Pastor Andy will lead a discussion based on the text from the previous Sunday Worship Service. We will meet Wednesday at 7pm November 30th, December 7th, December 14th, and possibly December 21st (depending on demand).

Please join us. Advent can be a busy season, but a clear benefit to this study is that there is no required reading.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. Signing up is not a binding commitment but a helpful tool for Pastor Andy to get a sense of how many people to expect.

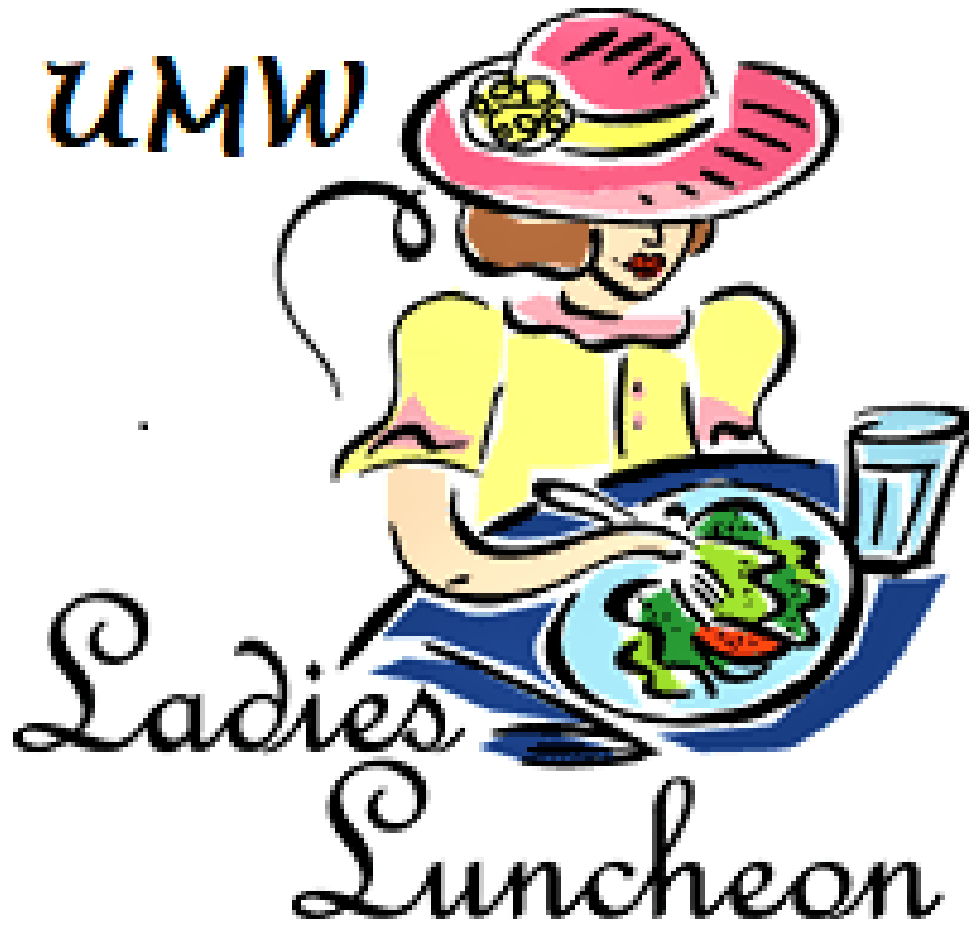


Anchored Hope Tree (Commerce Kids on a Mission)

Our annual Anchored Hope Tree is up & decorated with tags labeled with items Anchored Hope is in need of. Feel free to take as many ornaments as you would like, purchase the item listed and return your donation under the tree any time until January 1, 2023. In January during Sunday School, the kids will pack your donated items into kits that Anchored Hope will pass out to the women they serve on the streets of Detroit. If you aren't able to take an ornament tag from the tree, and still would like to help, please see the list of suggested items to donate. And of course, remembering us and our service through your gift of PRAYER is always appreciated! You may learn more about Anchored Hope Outreach at their website: www.anchoredhopeoutreach.org or Facebook page: www.facebook.com/anchoredhopeoutreach

Items needed
by Anchored Hope Outreach: Women's L: hats, gloves, coats (XS-L), NEW underwear (sizes XS through Medium). Small blankets, new/gently used purses, backpacks, and string bags. Hand & foot warmers, hairbrushes, small compact mirrors, small flashlights with batteries, travel first aid kits, and small umbrellas. Meal items: gallon & quart sized Ziploc bags, large brown paper lunch bags, snack sized chips/goldfish/cheez-its, cereal/granola/protein bars, cheese/pb crackers, pudding/applesauce/fruit cups,

individual packs of cookies, gum, chapstick, toothbrushes, wipes, washcloths, pads/tampons, and small bottled water/Gatorade. Travel Sized: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste, mouthwash, tissues, and 1hand sanitizer.



Everyone is invited to UM Women of Faith Luncheon: Wednesday December 7th, 12PM in the Fellowship Hall. Babysitting will be provided and P.E.T.S. are guest speakers. See sign-up Sheet in the Narthex.



Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at Commerce United Methodist Church on Friday, December 16, 2022 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 888-653-6441
 - Online: <https://lisa.social/HS>
 - Text: the word circle to 797979
-
-



We are celebrating Bill Krug's 93rd birthday on Sunday, December 18 in the Fellowship Hall immediately after church. We would like everyone to attend and be a part of the celebration. Please no gifts but Bill loves cards! Hope to see you there.



December 2022 Christian Education News...

Mark you calendars:

December 11th Kids of the Kingdom Family Christmas

December 14th Royal Movie Knight

December 28th Kids Klub +

Sunday School

For the month of December, our Sunday School focus is on Advent. We have been averaging about 18 kiddos each week in Sunday School and could not do it without glorious volunteers. Please contact Kristine if God is leading you to help with Sunday School.

Kids Klub+

Kids Klub + is an opportunity to share a community meal, and then send the kids upstairs for an hour of fun! December Kids Klub is going to be a laid back event, with the theme of “Pizza in Pajamas”

Movie Knight

On the second Wednesday of each month, enjoy an early dinner at home (or happy meals in the car), then come to CUMC for Movie Knight. We will have unlimited popcorn and water, with candy available for purchase.

Kids of the Kingdom Family Christmas

We are putting on a fantastic and fun filled Christmas program to take place on December 11th during service. Kids of the Kingdom will be singing songs, performing skits, and hosting coffee hour!

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Director

Kristine.CUMC@gmail.com 248.363.3935 ext. 304



With the holiday season approaching, I have been thinking a lot about gratitude. And when I think about gratitude, I often think about the words of Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I admit that I am not always great about living out those words. Sure, when I really have a reason to celebrate, it's easy. And of course, when things aren't going according to plan - when your bathroom ceiling leaks, when you get laid off from a job, when your car needs new brakes and calipers and there's a three-day wait to get the part - it's more difficult to continue to be grateful about the things you do have.

Maybe that's just me. But regardless of my circumstances, I'm challenging myself this holiday season to be more intentional about gratitude in all things. In particular, I'm extremely grateful to be able to come to church with my wife on Sunday evenings (we also love Sunday morning worship, but that's another

discussion) and greet six to fifteen curious teens ready to have some great conversations.

It keeps me energized, keeps me feeling young, and it keeps me feeling grateful.

--

Andrew Ruhlen
Youth Director
Commerce United Methodist Church
1155 N. Commerce Rd.
Commerce Twp, MI 48382
(248) 363-3935 x305



POINSETTIAS



Cost \$10.00 with a choice of white or red. See envelopes on offering table. Place your orders by Dec. 11th, They will be put in front of the church on Dec. 18th and You may take them home on Christmas Eve.





Elderberries visit to DIA Van Gogh Exhibit

Thursday January 5, 2023

Leave CUMC 12:00, Return 4:00, Cost \$12:00

If you have a membership at the DIA complete the membership form on the bulletin board in the hall or call Sherrill. 248-563-4886

The free bus trip is available for seniors. The \$12:00 cost of the exhibit must be turned in by Sunday, December 18 to Sherrill Sundberg

We must have at least 25 people to get the bus. Invite your friends.

Let the Pilgrimage Begin!



Deepen Your Understanding of Wesleyan Heritage!

***Join us for the 2023 Wesley Pilgrimage in England
July 10-20, 2023***

Get ready to explore historic sites while walking in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley.

This 10-day event, cosponsored by The Upper Room, is led by Rev. Steven Manskar, former director of Wesleyan Leadership at Discipleship Ministries, and Dr. Paul Chilcote, professor of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies at Ashland Theological Seminary.

This journey offers an opportunity to:

- Immerse yourself in the Christian experiences of John and Charles Wesley
- Learn, pray, worship, and explore places where the Wesley brothers encountered the living God
- Form spiritual friendships with fellow pilgrims and Wesley scholars
- Integrate Wesleyan theology, ministry, and missional leadership
- Rekindle your spiritual passion

Scholarships are available to provisional elders and deacons, and this wonderful event qualifies for three Continuing Education Units!

Click the link below to join the Wesley Pilgrimage mailing list. We'll share updates, trip tips, scholarship information, and testimonials from past attendees.

[JOIN THE MAILING LIST](#)

BIBLE CROSSWORD I - SOLUTION

S	H	E	K	E	L		A	P	P	E	A	R	E	D	
H		X		A		B		A		N		A		O	
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A		O		T		K		S		H		B		I	
R	A	R	E		M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	
E		T		N		R		O		N				G	
R	A	I	S	I	N	S		N	A	T	H	A	N		
S		N		N						E		S		P	
		A	G	R	E	E	D		T	O	R	C	H	E	S
T				T					I	S		T		A	
A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	S		B	A	A	L	
U		M		E		A		T		A		R		T	
G	L	E	A	N		M	I	L	L	S	T	O	N	E	
H		G		T		E		E		I		T		R	
T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S			R	A	S	H	L	Y

Across: 1 Shekel, 4 Appeared, 10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare, 13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan, 19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonements, 25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone, 29 Teachers, 30 Rashly.

Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East, 5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi, 8 Doting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth, 17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psalter, 20 Dreamer, 21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Christmas Word Find

G C P M E H E F F N Y Y A S E
 V F I O G K N O C Y R R I L B
 Z H S J Z X U H E G A B Z N B
 H A T I D U R X S Z M E I P E
 R P L R S I L E N T N I G H T
 R K O Q S N E M E S I W A J H
 Y L X T Y Z S W C Z S P E P L
 M I M F H F N P N S J V E K E
 J A B T T B A R I O R S X Z H
 S A I Y L Y T E K V O F L W E
 H A Y E Y T I G N J I O E E M
 F A M K R H V N A E V U G P E
 M A A N W A I A R S A S N O E
 C I H O T C T M F U S O A H F
 D J E D K Q Y S V S W T E K Q

JESUS
 MARY
 JOSEPH
 WISEMEN
 MANGER
 NATIVITY
 BETHLEHEM
 CAMEL
 DONKEY
 STAR
 HAY
 ANGEL
 FAITH
 HOPE
 FRANKINCENSE
 MYRRH
 SILENTNIGHT
 LORD
 SAVIOR
 CHRISTMAS



Continue to Pray for



Clayton LaTurneau Betty Barry Aza Catau
 Susan Nadeau's Family Olivia Brush
 Kendra Richard Kornatowski Laming Family
 Roberta Crepeau Brett Young Sue B. Joyce
 Carnilla Lewis's Family Joy Dobson
 Judy Rauhut Mary & Ell Pizarek Bruce Flores Linda & Gary Schultz

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.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

- 2 Peter Bommarito
- 3 Efe Osagie, Jake Watkins
- 4 MacKenzie Contesti, Allie Henwood, Evelyn Hauser
- 6 Spencer Landry
- 7 Stella Keesling, Jason MacCarreall
- 8 Landon Contesti, Rachel Mroz
- 9 Marissa Kornatowski, Michael Whitney, Kara Lambert
- 10 Mike Lie, Nathan Robinson, Patti Watkins, Rich Perry
- 11 Cassidy Caswell
- 12 Breanna Kornatowski
- 17 Scott Leonard
- 18 JD Ralston, Sharon Young
- 20 William Krug, Don McAfee, Elizabeth Kositzke
- 21 Isha Kamara
- 23 Adri Higuchi, Devin Mroz, Larry Petersen
- 24 Vicki Kennedy
- 25 Lucas Simpson, Owen Williams
- 27 Lochlan Heximer
- 30 Makenna Rendeiro, Don Masch



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY'S

- 20 Virgil & Julie Schave
- 24 Jim & Nita (Craft) Hawisher