

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - January 2023

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



Of Frogs and Christians

I've recently been invited to speak at a winter retreat taking place later this season. Apparently, a cousin of mine mentioned my name during the retreat-planning committee. When I received the call, I was actually quite surprised to be asked in the first place. It had been years since I had been involved in a retreat at any capacity. The invitation led me to think about all the times I attended these kinds of functions as a youth and young adult.

Some of the speakers were bad, others spoke powerfully, but most were forgettable. Over the years, they all blur into one another. While I cannot readily recall what each one said, I do remember hearing the same illustration used multiple times by a few of them. The urban myth of the boiling frog was a popular sermon point.

You know the story. If there's a pot of boiling water and you throw a frog in, the frog will immediately jump out. Of course, it's going to make a quick and hasty exit. The water is hot and an immediate danger to the frog's life. The trick is, if you put a frog in tepid water, and then slowly and incrementally heat the water, the frog will not perceive the danger and be cooked to death. At this point, the preacher would tell us to keep our young minds and hearts on high alert for sin. Don't give sin an inch!

Those preachers really seemed to love that illustration. As we begin a new year, I wonder if we could flip the illustration a bit. In addition to being leery of sin, which is still a positive practice, what if we took a small and intentional step toward being more Christ-like? For example, what if we decided to begin each day with just 3 minutes of prayer? Or, I suppose we could make a commitment to say a word of encouragement to at least one person a day. Engaging in a short scriptural devotion consistently isn't a bad idea either.

Consider where these small steps might take us. By the same logic of the boiling frog, we might find ourselves unknowingly and gradually increasing our capacity to communicate with and embody the presence of Christ. So let's give it a try. I know God will present tremendous ministry opportunities for us as a church in 2023 but that will also mean the demand for mature, self-giving Christians will be greater as well. Let us continue to grow in Christ as we establish his kingdom on earth.

Happy New Year and God's blessing to you.
Pastor Andy

Thanks to the congregation and friends who purchased candy from the UMM or provided monetary gifts this year. We had our 2nd best year with sales of \$3,356. Through your generosity the UMM contributed \$300 towards the General Fund and will make a contribution of \$872 to both PETS and Anchor Hope.



If you have not already, please pick up your poinsettias in the conference room.

Women's Book Study

We will begin a new book on January 18
called *Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer.

The God who loved you enough to die for you loves you enough to talk to you. And wherever you are in your spiritual walk, God will find a way to speak to you in a way you will understand. Become acquainted with the Voice that has spoken from a fire and a cloud; with visible signs and an invisible Spirit; through a burning bush and burning hearts. Hear from some of the most well-known Christians in history about how God speaks to them—and discover for yourself how you can discern the voice of God.





POINSETTIAS DEDICATIONS



FROM

Bob & Andi Beagle
Bob & Andi Beagle
Sally & Russ Courville
Sally & Russ Courville
Gary & Laura Contesti
Lynn & John Delaney
Ken & Maggi Harfoot
Jones, Pistana, Pellett Families
Polly Keller
Kornatowski & Contesti Families
Richard & Linda Kornatowski
Richard & Linda Kornatowski
Richard & Linda Kornatowski
Frank & Bonnie Larrabee
Frank & Bonnie Larrabee
Bev & Clayton LaTurneau
Bev & Clayton LaTurneau
Steve & Judy Rohr
Barbara Runnels
Dorothy Saari
Jackie Smiertka
Jackie Smiertka
Jackie Smiertka
Ann Smith
Jim & Susie Thompson
Lynn, Michael, Matthew Whitney

DEDICATION

In Memory of GEORGIA & WILLIAM MYERS, and JEFF MYERS
In Memory of ROBERT BEAGLE SR.
In Memory of FRED & JOAN COURVILLE
In Honor of HARRIET & GEORGE GEDEN, LOIS & GEORGE COURVILLE
In Honor of Grandchildren; LANDON and DYLAN and DOMINIC CONTESTI
In Honor and Memory of OUR FAMILIES
In Memory of EDITH BENNETT
In Memory of DAVID JONES
In Memory of RALPH KELLER and NORA KELLER
In Memory of JOHN and MARIE HIMES
In Honor of Grandchildren; KENDRA, BREANNA & MARISSA KORNATOWSKI
In Honor of Grandchildren; JONATHAN and WESTON KRULL
In Honor of Grandchildren; AJ, KALEY, CHARLOTTE & WYATT CARRAWAY
In Memory of JACK KILTS
In Honor of LORRAINE KILTS
In Memory of LELAND & MARY TATU
In Honor GRACE & WILLARD LATURNEAU
In Honor of OUR FAMILY
In Memory of HUSBAND, JIM RUNNELS
In Memory of my Sisters, EDITH & BETTY
Dedicated to Lou & Erna Smiertka
Dedicated to Dean & Albert O'Dell
Dedicated to Terry & Roger and Our Children
Dedicated to my Husband, REX SMITH
In Memory of Our Son, MIKE Thompson
In Memory of Joseph Whitney, Husband & Father

DEVOTION

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Neither sugar nor salt tastes particularly good by itself. Each is at its best when used to season other things. Love is the same way. Use it to "season" people. —Vera Nazarian

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot" (Matthew 5:13, NIV).

If you are like me, perhaps you think that the *primary* use for salt is in food preparation, or as a seasoning for food.

According to salt experts, however, food preparation and seasoning accounts for only 6 percent of salt usage. In fact, salt can be used in more than 14,000 different ways. These applications can be sorted into five major categories: Water conditioning, food grade salt, agriculture, highway deicing and industrial chemicals. Salt is used in the making of products as varied as plastic, paper, glass, polyester, rubber and fertilizers. It is used in household bleach, soaps, detergents and dyes.

I read recently of another use for salt. In Jordan, a country that borders Israel in the Middle East, salt is sometimes used to help the cooking process. In rural Jordan, the Jordanians put salt on fire to increase the temperature of the rocks for baking bread. When the salt they use for this purpose is no longer effective, it's taken away and thrown onto the path, just as Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth. What I really like is that this metaphor leaves a lot of space for us to all have different "uses," functions and purposes. Some salt is used as seasoning. Salt is sometimes used as a preservative. Salt can also be used to thaw ice. Salt can also be used to make water potable.

As Christians, we do not all look alike, nor do we have the same function. We have our own ministries and things we do well, just like salt!

So, let's be salty Christians this week! Let's be the salt of the earth! Let's be the person Jesus wants us to be, and bring glory to God!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep me from getting in the way of the blessing you have for others. Instead, help me to be the seasoning and love to make their blessing even better! In your name. Amen.

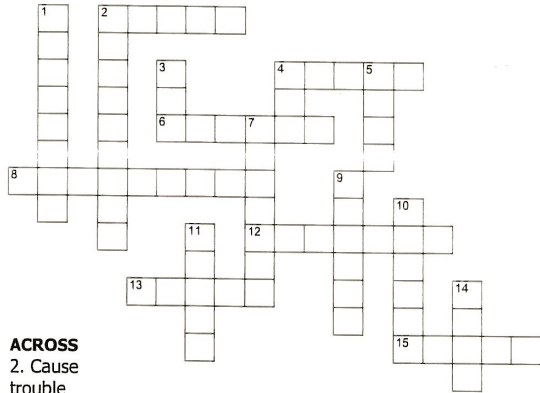
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ACTIVITY PAGE

Verse to Remember

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
—Isaiah 40:31

CROSSWORD: All of the clues and answers are taken from the story of Job, the book in the Bible that comes right before Psalms.

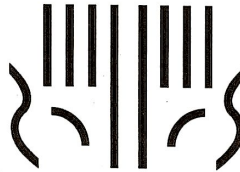


ACROSS

- 2. Cause trouble
- 4. Twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. The Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. Creature of the deep, (41:1)
- 12. The Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. Sores
- 15. Job had 7,000

DOWN

- 1. The One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. Affliction
- 3. Had seven sons
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Precipitation
- 9. The Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's 4th friend (32:2)
- 14. Job had 500 yoke



Nevertheless, the righteous
will hold to their ways, and
those with clean hands will
grow stronger.

J o b 1 7 : 9



January 2023 Christian Education News...

Mark your calendars:

January 25th Kids Klub +

February 5th College Care Packages Due

Kids of the Kingdom Family Christmas

Thank you to Aaron Hendrix, Kristen Thiry, the Christian Ed Team, the parents, and most importantly the KIDS for all your time and dedication to the Christmas Program. It was an amazing sight to see, and we look forward to many more in the future!

College Ministry

College care packages will be going out earlier this year, with donations due February 5th. We are looking for volunteers to bake goodies, as well as donate snacks to be mailed. Sign up in the Narthex or online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DAFAF2FAAFEC07-college1>

Sunday School

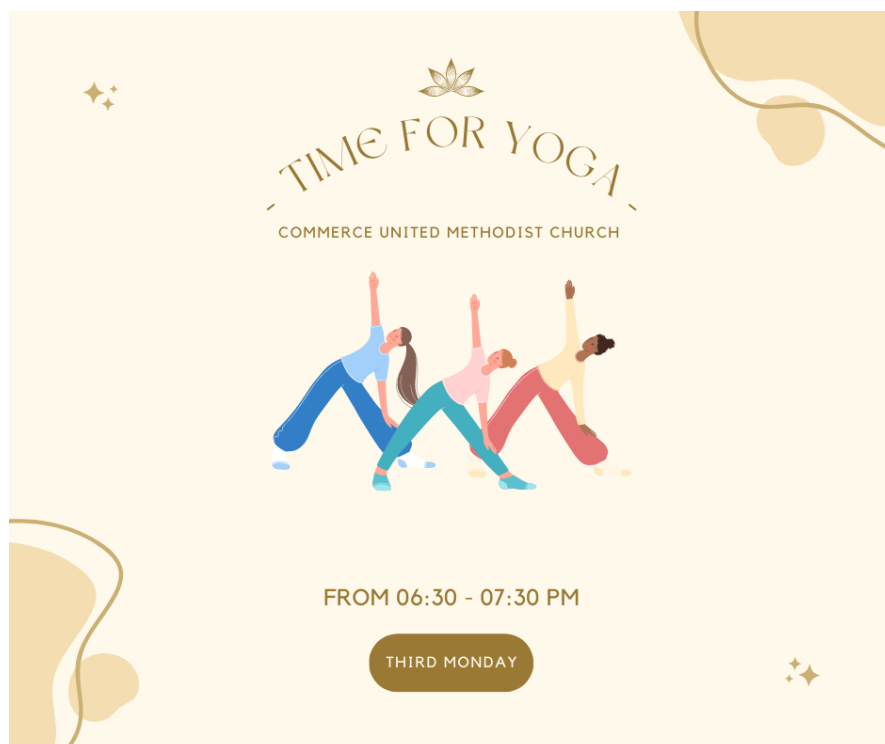
What happens upstairs in Sunday School you might wonder; skits, scripture reading, crafts, memory verses and more! We have been averaging about 18 kiddos each week and could not do it without glorious volunteers. Please contact Kristine if God is leading you to help with Sunday School.

Kids Klub +

Kids Klub + is an opportunity to share a community meal, and then send the kids upstairs for an hour of fun! January's Kids Klub + theme is Hula in the Coola! Yes, you read that correctly, we are having a beach party in January!

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Director

Kristine.CUMC@gmail.com 248.363.3935 ext. 304





Elderberries visit to DIA Van Gogh Exhibit

Thursday January 5, 2023

Leave CUMC 12:00, Return 4:00,

Attendees here is some information from the museum:

AUDIO TOUR: This is a self-guided exhibition. There will be an audio tour provided through individual's smartphone.

IMPORTANT MUSEUM GUIDELINES: No backpacks, backpack-style child carriers, briefcases, laptop bags, outside tote bags, luggage, bags, or purses larger than 11" X 10" X 3" are allowed in the museum. Families with small children and those with medically necessary items will be provided with a clear plastic bag that may be used to transport medically necessary items into the museum. For the protection of the art, nothing may be carried on the back, or over or atop the shoulders, in the museum. Coats are not allowed in the special exhibition (Van Gogh only).

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](#)



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 & Eli 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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

2 Tim Contesti, Emma Fagan
 3 Samson VanDussen
 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, Becky Lund
 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
 27 Robert & Nancy Strohs