

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - AUGUST 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



Yes and No

I love buffets.

Over the last 8 years of marriage, I have attempted to convince my wife a lunch date at a local buffet could be considered a romantic outing. For whatever reason, she somehow remains unconvinced. So, sadly for me, I don't frequent too many paid buffets, but I still get my fair share of buffet style meals. By the grace of God, I happen to work at a church. If you think about it, there are quite a few "all you can eat" buffet scenarios at church functions: coffee hour, the Elderberry potluck, and funeral luncheons.

While holding my plate in the buffet line, I begin to pile on food. Chicken? Yes, let's go with chicken. Cheesy potatoes? A double serving will do. I can never refuse green beans so I plop them onto the plate as well. I am happy. I am excited. Life is good. Yet, as much as I love a buffet, I notice that I have repeatedly encountered the same problem over and over again. I can't eat everything. There is limited space on my plate. Sure, I could go for seconds and even thirds, but there's limited space in my stomach. This means I have to be a bit selective. I have to choose between the foods I like and the foods I like more. I get to say yes to chocolate-chip cookies, but it means I also have to say no to cake.

Fall is right around the corner. Students will return back to school. After school programs and sports that have been on pause will now resume. It's not too different at church either. Summer is often a time for rest and renewal. It's like an extended Sabbath that is meant to recharge our

batteries and allow us to give thanks for God's goodness. Yes, summer is great, but it isn't meant to last forever. In the fall, ministries ramp back up to full capacity. Work is at hand. Christ's disciples are challenged to give of themselves in new ways in order to tangibly share God's love with a world that needs it.

I can guarantee you that I will be just as annoying as I have ever been about pushing our church to be the most loving it's ever been. Yes, I'll be making pitches about stepping up to serve the children's ministry and the youth group, because the need is growing. I'll continue to pester people to help with our ministry partners as we fight human trafficking in Detroit with Anchored Hope and as we enrich the lives of orphans at the Methodist Children's Home. More than that, with my eyes set on expanding our circle of love, I'm committed to taking a team to equip and support individuals living with special needs in our area. With all that, I also want new (and possibly younger) leaders to step up and share in the increasing demands of running a church.

When the time comes, will you say yes? I hope so! The reality is, everyone is busy. Everyone already has a tight schedule. So, how will our church grow in experiencing, sharing, and being God's love in the world? Well, just like the delicate process of filling a plate in a buffet line, we have to be selective. There are other wonderful areas in our lives that we may have to put aside so that we can say yes to something better, more purposeful and glorifying to God.

Summer is not yet over. In the next few weeks, as we prepare for the fall, may we consider the commitments we can shed so that we can make room say to yes to something new.

Pastor Andy Lee

COMMERCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

The youth group's 2023 missions trip was a huge success by every measure! We are so thankful to our church family for all of the generous support leading up to the trip. Please ask the youth about their favorite memories, but here are some highlights:

Over the four days, we served a combined 206.5 hours as a group.

We packed over 1,250 meals for senior citizens (and 20 large bags of dog food) with Meals-on-Wheels and the Freestore Food Bank.

With Wesley Chapel Mission Center, we worked with 16 at-risk kids from one of the toughest neighborhoods in the city and shared Bible stories, lunch time, and crafts with them.

We helped the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired kick off their capital campaign by addressing 5,000 envelopes to be sent out, and then we got to take a tour of their incredible recording studios.

Finally, we partnered with Matthew 25: Ministries to sort clothes and sanitary and incontinence pads to provide basic clothing and supplies for the "least of these" in impoverished countries.

I could not be more proud of the six youth we took. They exceeded the expectations of nearly every adult we encountered due to their work ethic and generosity. Make sure to congratulate them on a job well done!



August 2023 Christian Education News...

Mark your calendars:

August 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd Mid-Week Mom Moments

August 9th 6:30pm Movie Knight

August 20th Sundae Sunday

August 23rd 6-7:30pm Kids Klub+

Mid- Week Mom Moments

Have you been craving community and connection? We hear you and we feel you. Join us on Wednesdays this summer for a chance to spend time together while the kiddos play. August meet-ups are the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd from 11am-1pm.

Movie Knight

Join us on August 23rd as families come together to enjoy fresh popcorn, fellowship, and a movie. This month we are thrilled to announce we will be watching the new Super Mario Brothers.

Kids Klub+

The fourth Wednesday of every month Kids Klub offers an opportunity for families to share a dinner, and then let the kids have some fun while the parents run errands, or just sit and chat. This month we are having a Transportation Celebration complete with a bike and scooter parade in the parking lot. We are also planning on a special visit from the Commerce Fire Department!

3rd Grade Bibles

Do you have an incoming third grader? If so, we would love to present them with their own bible in September. This year we are also including children that may have missed out on this tradition due to Covid. Please contact Kristine to have your child added to the list.

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Director

Kristine.CUMC@gmail.com 248.363.3935 est. 304



Elderberries has a couple of exciting upcoming events planned.

August 17 there will be a Stained Glass Demonstration provided by Cathy Linegar at her home studio. Bring your own lunch at noon followed by the demonstration at 1pm. Seating is limited. Due to safety concerns, this is an adults only event.

September 13 there will be a trip to the Detroit Zoo for Senior's Day. This is a free event for seniors and one adult guest residing in Oakland,

Wayne, and Macomb counties. We will meet at the church and leave by 9:30 am.

There is a sign up on the board in the Narthex for both events. We are planning to carpool to both events. Please indicate if you need a ride or if you can give a ride (and how many). Any questions, please call Julie Lewandowski 248-978-7641 or Tim Lewandowski 630-689-7384.

Catching Some Z's

Puzzle 53

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

ZILPAH was the
mother OF GAD
and ASHER
and the HANDMAID
OF LEAH.
ZERESH
TRIED
WITHOUT
SUCCESS
to IMPLEMENT

A PLOT
AGAINST
MORDECAI with
her HUSBAND
HAMAN.
The AMMONITE
ZELEK
SERVED
KING
DAVID

NOBLY.
ZACCUR,
the FATHER
of SHAMMUA,
WAS A
SPY
SENT
by MOSES.
REHOBOAM'S
YOUNGEST
SON WAS
ZAHAM.
ZIPPORAH
BECAME the
WIFE of Moses,
and MOTHER
OF SONS
GERSHOM and
ELIEZER.



Just for fun

Brainteasers

Can you solve these visual word puzzles?



3.14

2. SOMEWHERE



4. MILLION

Word scramble

Unscramble the letters to find words that relate to summer.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. ROCILTAP | 5. DMNOELAE |
| 2. PIRERKNSL | 6. LFSREIIEF |
| 3. ARXEL | 7. CNIGAPM |
| 4. PUALNYGDRO | 8. SLSASNEUSG |

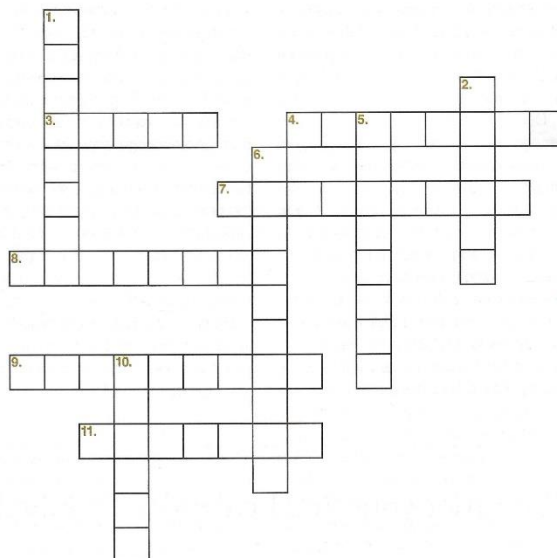
Crossword puzzle

Across

- 3. Vacation destination
- 4. Activity to cool off
- 7. Tending flowers
- 8. Hot summer weather
- 9. Worn to protect skin from the sun
- 11. Popular summer vegetable

Down

- 1. Meal cooked on the grill
- 2. Meal in the grass
- 5. Sweet summer treat
- 6. Summer fruit cut into slices
- 10. Worn to stay cool in the summer



Parable of the Fig Tree Luke 13.1-9

Word Search Puzzle

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

Galileans
sinners
tower
Jerusalem
tree
gardener

Pilate
repent
Siloam
parable
vineyard
dig

sacrifices
perish
offenders
fig
fruit
manure



MID-WEEK MOM MOMENT

Wednesdays 11am-1pm
in July and August.

Bring-Your-Own-Lunch

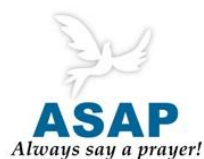
Open play for the kids
while the moms bond.

TIME OUT!
MEN'S BASKETBALL IS
TAKING THE SUMMER OFF.
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!





Yoga in the sanctuary led by Rachel MacCarreall, church member and yoga instructor, who teaches at places like Lifetime Fitness, will be on a break for the summer. Check the calendar in the fall for date and time of return.



Continue to Pray for

**The Family of Clayton LaTurneau, Logan Helgemo, Grandma
Brandt, Heather Antoon, Aza Catau, Sharon
Hernande, Kendra, Bonnie Larrabee, Richard
Kornatowski, Leo & Bea Maki, Judy Rose,
Mary Lesiak, Pat Elliot, Joyce Mikey Faust, Joy Dobson,
Sally Courville, Bruce Flores, Linda & Gary Schultz, Larry
Petersen, Gloria Jones, Rick Mead, Michael Harfoot, Sandy
Richardson, Dave Smiertka, Krull Family, Betty Barry's
Family, Randy Pellett, Brenda Oliver's Family, Rebecca
Flores, Joann Crook**



**Thank YOU for ALL YOU DO to Serve 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.**



AUGUST BIRTHDAY'S

- 1 Christine Pellett, Glen Milligan**
- 2 Kathy Vitullo**

- 5 Rich Kornatowski
- 6 Brian Nadeau, Ryan Dunneback, Margaret Kwiatkowski
- 8 Augustine Osagie, Leroy Stoddard
- 9 Rachel Fagan, Quinn Pohl
- 10 Austin Edgington, Debbie Whitson, Kim Landry, John Beard
- 11 Tammy Hager
- 13 Meghan Caswell-Pohl, Olivia Brush
- 14 Janet Doty
- 16 Ann Ralston, Diane Senk
- 18 Kaelynn Heximer, Robert Bergner, Caitlin Pellett, Mila Thomas
- 19 Charles Nelson
- 20 Linda Kumm
- 22 Lyla Laming
- 25 Alex Marcelli, Rachel Marcelli
- 27 Terri Bean
- 28 Jackie Smiertka
- 29 Terri Stefanou, Scott Robinson, Giovanni DiMaggio
- 30 Ranny MacArthur

AUGUST ANNIVERSARY'S

- 1 Bruce & Rebecca Flores
- 2 David & Krista Brassell
- 2 Eric & Terri Bean
- 3 Mike & Vicki Kennedy
- 7 Brett & Gina Rendeiro
- 14 Scott & Becky Lund
- 15 Pastor Andy Lee & Grace Baek
- 16 Paul & Kim Landry
- 19 Don & Robin Fletcher
- 19 Bill & Debbie Whitson
- 20 Chris & Lynne Huisman
- 24 Joe & Beth Fournier
- 25 Jerry & Pam Gill
- 30 Chuck & Amy Kositzke
- 30 Jay & Denise Pistana
- 31 Gary & Tammie Fenn