"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - OCTOBER 2024 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



Where's My Lunchbox?

On a Thursday morning, I crossed the street with my daughter to wait for her school bus. She was excited to start the day. She approached a couple of parents and proudly informed them of her two wiggly teeth. Afterward, she joined her friend on a nearby tree stump. Together, while laughing uncontrollably, they played a version of King (or Queen) of the hill. The bus arrived, my daughter gave me one last hug, and she boarded the bus.

Within the hour, I received a message from my child's teacher. Apparently, my 6 year old was upset she forgot her lunchbox at home. From my phone, I checked our home's security footage which indicated she had her lunchbox when we left the house. I walked back to the bus stop to check if she accidently left the lunch box on the grass while playing her game on the tree stump. No luck. I concluded the lunchbox was left behind on the bus.

This was not a big deal. Schools provide lunch to every student free of charge. My child would receive the nourishment she needed. However, nourishment was not the issue. She wanted the lunch her mom packed for her, and she wanted to have in her possession the lunchbox she handpicked from the store and had used since her daycare. I could understand why she was upset. I knew she longed for her lunchbox.

I imagine you know the feeling. While most adults are not normally concerned over a lunch box, there are other important items that go missing and we are deeply unsettled. Perhaps, you have misplaced a valuable piece of jewelry at one time in your life. Maybe, your cellphone sprouted legs and decided it wanted to play a game of hide-and-seek with you. My cellphone is guilty of doing this often. In these kinds of instances, we are motived and even put in a frenzy to find that which is missing.

Over the summer, there is an expectation that people will travel and go on adventures that are not possible during the colder months. As a pastor, I support such plans. I love the rest and renewal that can come from summer fun. However, when the season comes to a close, there is yet another expectation. After summer ends, church programs that went on pause

resume and everyone returns.

It's October now. While familiar faces have returned in addition to a steady stream of newcomers, I noticed there are quite a few people still missing. People that we all know and love. Of course, I do a bit of searching. This doesn't mean I look between the couch cushions or double check the mantle and kitchen counter. (Although I suppose I could try that...) It means I make a phone call, send an email, and ask around. We are missing very important people, our siblings in Christ.

I humbly ask that you join me. You have likely noticed a friend or two is missing. Admit it, we are not the same without our beloved ones. So, go searching with me: send a card, make a call, remind our friends that they are a blessing.

God is up to great things. I pray we can experience God's wonderful plans with all our siblings.

Pastor Andy



6:30-7:30 PM

Check CUMC website calendar to confirm meeting information.



October 2024 Christian Education News...

Mark your calendars:
October 13th Kids On a Mission
October 23th First Children's Bell Choir Practice
October 19th Trunk or Treat
October 23rd Kids Klub +

Trunk or Treat

The time is here once again to welcome the community to our church for this

wonderfully fun event; last year we welcome over 400 children! Sign up in the narthex to host a trunk, or sponsor candy so that we can make this event possible. This event is INDOORS!

Table set-up will begin at 5pm, with the fun starting at 6pm on October 19th.

3rd Grade Bibles

Throughout the three years that I have been the Christian Education Director here at CUMC, I have had the honor of watching children's ministry continue to grow. Handing out third-grade bibles to over a dozen children yesterday really put God's amazing work front and center. These children are such a blessing to our church and community.

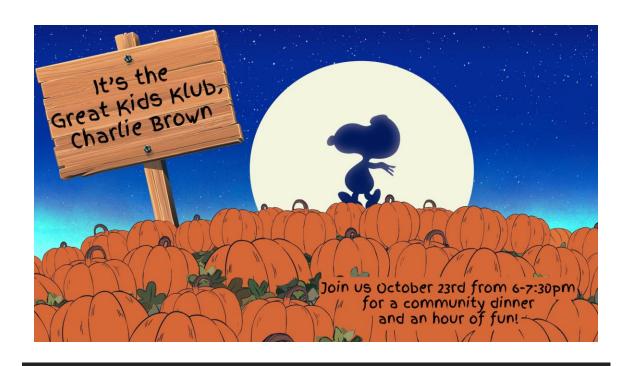
Kids Klub+

Kids Klub + is an opportunity to share a community meal, and then send the kids upstairs for an hour of fun! In September we will be having loads of It's the Great Kids' Klub, Charlie Brown. Themed games, sensory bins, and crafts are always a hit for all ages.

Children's Bell Choir

Something new is in the works! Beginning in October, all kids age 6-12 will have an opportunity to join us for eight weeks to learn the children's bells. Even if you missed the meeting, we would love to have you join! October Bell Choir Practices at 11:30am: 10/13, 10/20, and 10/27

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Director Kristine.CUMC@gmail.com 248.363.3935 est. 304







The Pumpkin Parable

By Rebecca Bradford

A parable is a simple story that illustrates a spiritual lesson. Jesus used them throughout scripture to make spiritual truth more understandable for those listening. The ultimate story is of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. We can take this amazing true story and teach its truth throughout the year by connecting it to our everyday activities. The Halloween season is a great opportunity to make this beautiful truth come to light.

Items needed: a large pumpkin and carving utensils, a small candle OR an electric tea light, and a Bible.

Use the activity of carving a pumpkin with your children to illustrate how Jesus forgives our sin, cleans out our hearts, puts his joy inside us and allows us to shine his light.

- 1. Carve the pumpkin with your children. First, have them help you clean out the yucky pumpkin guts. The smell and feel of the inside of the pumpkin will probably evoke an 'ewww, gross' response.
- 2. **READ** Matthew 23:25-28, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.²⁶ Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside

of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. ²⁷ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness." – **ASK: How is the inside of this pumpkin like our sinfulness?**

- 3. After you finish cleaning out the pumpkin, **READ** 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." **SAY**: Just like we cleaned out this pumpkin, God cleans out our hearts. This verse says that if we tell Jesus that we have sinned, then he will clean away our sin and give us right standing before him.
- 4. Carefully carve a happy face onto your pumpkin. The goal is to actually carve into the pumpkin so that the light will shine out of it in the next step. **READ** 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
- 5. **SAY**: We created a new pumpkin by cleaning out the yucky insides and carving a happy face. This is a new creation, a jack-o-lantern, with a joy-filled face. Jesus does that with us. He cleans our sinful heart and puts his joy inside us. We are a new creation!
- 6. Put the candle inside the pumpkin and light it or insert the tea light and turn it on. **READ** Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." **SAY**: God wants us to shine his light on everyone around us, just like this jack-o-lantern shines its light into the dark night. When we shine for Jesus, others see that light. **ASK**: **How can we shine our lights for God?**
- 7. SAY this with me "On a dark night, we will shine Jesus' light!"







Have

you been thinking about getting involved with the Music Ministry at CUMC? Choir and Bell Choir rehearsals will resume on September 4, and the band continues to welcome new musicians and singers. We're also excited to announce that we are offering a youth bell choir and working toward a teen worship band! If you're interested in learning more, email kgnagev@gmail.com.



PRACTICE WILL BE THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR 11:30AM: 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/8 AND 12/15 SERVICE WILL BE THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND CHILDERN'S BELL PRESENTATION!



COFFEE HOUR provides not only great food

and drinks, but a wonderful time to fellowship with people after service. Thank you to those who have signed up in the past and have served in this capacity. If you are feeling led to host a coffee hour with a few of your friends or with your committee/organization, please sign up either in the

Narthex or click the link below. We are specifically looking for

hosts for October 13th & 20th. If you've never hosted before, we will provide you with everything you need to know and will be there to help!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BACAE2BA57-46927626-commerce

Thank you for hosting a coffee hour! Kati Brush and Dana Wenz



Thank you for your donations! Mission Committee Sock-It-To-Me drive has collected 459 pairs of socks and 122 pairs of underwear for Anchored Hope. Great work

P.E.T.S NEWS

P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation) is now called Mobility Worldwide. We are all volunteers that build the carts that can be seen in the Fellowship Hall. We started in 2010 with Goodrich, Fenton, Clarkston, Olivet UMC Churches and other volunteers. Our main shop is in Linden Michigan.

The kids at Commerce United Methodist Church helped by filling bolt and tool bags. We ship these carts to over 100 countries. There is no cost to the people who receive the cart. Each cart costs \$350.00 to build and ship. Many are paid for by the committees like: Men's Club, Women's club, Missions and others. In 2010 Commerce UMC started helping build carts for Mobility Worldwide and have built 1283 carts.

You can go online to see movies about the places we send them to and recipients of the carts at <u>mobilityworldwide.org.</u>

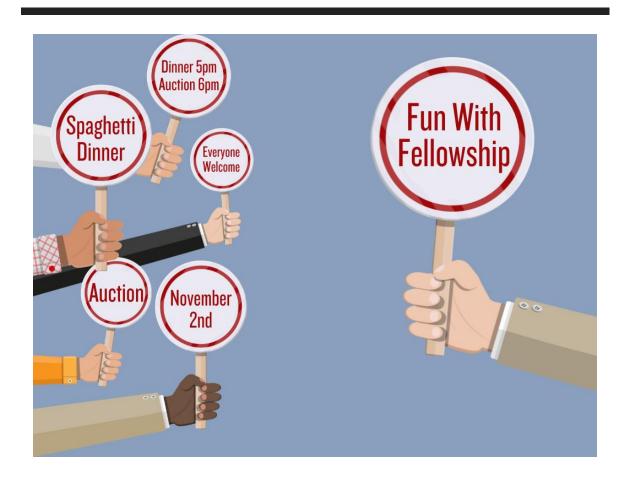
Al Young is at the door on Sunday mornings and would be happy to talk to you about P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation). You can also go to the Fellowship Hall to see one of the carts.



MISSION COMMITTEE
MEETS 2ND SUNDAY AT
11:15 AM IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM

MISSION COMMITTEE IS NEEDING SOMEONE TO LEAD THEM
PLEASE CONSIDER THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK
IF YOUR INTERESTED PLEASE SEE PASTOR ANDY







Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

Thanks to all of you for your support and prayers, Anchored Hope carried our sisters' and practiced hospitality in the following ways during August 2024:

- 202 meals were served/1627 YTD
 - 29 hygiene kits were distributed /283 YTD
 - 11 evenings of outreach
 - 88 individuals were served

Cold Weather = Socks

Thank you to the Commerce UMC Missions Committee who sponsored a sock and underwear drive! 471 pairs of socks (for men and women) and 122 pairs of underwear (for women) were collected by the congregation. Huge thanks for sponsoring it and for all the donations from the congregation. Underwear and socks are two of the top five items we pass

regularly. We pass out hundreds a year. The socks are especially necessary for warmth as winter comes and clean, new underwear is such a gift to the women. They have fulfilled a huge need and we are extraordinarily thankful!

Unit Gathering Pot Luck Dinner

Thank you to the Commerce UMC United Women in Faith for inviting us to share our story and our mission at their annual unit gathering and potluck dinner. Every time we get to share our work, we find people who are inspired to join or support us. We so appreciate being able to get our message out.

We have much to be grateful for this month. Here are few of them:

- Monetary donations from United Women in Faith and other individuals.
 We will use this money to fund Birthday Bags, fuel to help us get there to deliver them, and other needs as they arise.
- All meals and sandwiches were sponsored!
 - We need meal makers for October 16 and sandwich makers for October 17th and 30th. Please sign up on our Meal Sign-Up if you are interested or email us if you have any questions. (link and email below)
- The Ann Thomas Circle and the Women's Book Club sponsor a meal at least once a month. We appreciate that we can count on them!
- The Ann Thomas Circle hosts a Coffee Hour every month for Anchored Hope. Thank you to all who donated food and their time for the event.
- We connected with a survivor of the streets for the first time in two years. She's doing well; living on her own and holding down a job. She was grateful to reconnect!
- Two new Outreach members served in August.
- We were able to celebrate 4 birthdays with the women we serve!
- We were able to sing for a man who had not had that since his mother passed 4 years ago.

Your prayers make a difference!

We can see that women are feeling the hand of God move in their lives. Please consider adding the following prayer requests to your daily prayers:

- Good health and healing
- Safety and protection
- Successful entry into recovery

You, your prayers, and your contributions make all of the above possible! Thank you!

Connect with us!
Social Media, Meal Sign-Up, Website, and much more!
https://linktr.ee/anchoredhopeoutreach
info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org



United Women in Faith

As summer ends and we return to our fall activities so does our UWF. You are invited to attend any meetings of our three circles:

Crosby circle - Third Tuesday of the month at 10:00am at church.

Reed circle - Third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm

Thomas circle - Contact Rachael Laming as to dates for their meetings.

Fall Rummage Sale will be October 10th & 11th from 9am to 4pm.Also on the12th from 9am to 12pm.

Set up will be Sunday October 6th after coffee hour. You may drop donations off starting October 6th and Monday to Wednesday (Oct. 7th-9th) 9am to 6pm. Church members only will be able to shop prior to the sale on Wednesday Oct. 9th 6p to 8pm.

Christmas Marketplace will be December 7th 9am to 3pm. If you are interested in renting a table, contact Kyle Caswell (248-622-1465). Space is offered to church members in September. After October 1st, the spaces are offered to past crafters and new crafters. Space fills quickly so don't wait, we only have a certain amount of tables and space. We also

sell Christmas cookies, Christmas Greens and arrangements. We serve lunch and have a raffle for special donated items.

Women's Book Group

If you enjoy books and conversation you are welcome to join us for lively discussions, encouragement, and friendship.

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Questions? Call Diane Senk 248-770-0711



PICKLEBALL IN THE ACTIVITY HALL

THURSDAYS AT 7:00PM SATURDAYS AT 10:00AM



CHECK CUMC WEBSITE CALENDAR TO CONFIRM GAME INFORMATION





BETTY SPEHAR'S FAMILY, DEBBIE & BILL WHITSON'S GRANDDAUGHTER MERCEDES WHITSON, SCOTT & ANN LEONARD'S FIRST GRANDDAUGHTER SAMANTHA RAE BATES, AL & PAT YOUNG'S NIECE LAURA AND HER HUSBAND BILL HESSERT,

TIM & JULIE LEWANDOWSKI



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: commerceumc@sbcglobal.net



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

- 1 Steve Bollinger
- 2 Clara Lee
- 3 Chris Bailey, Joey Long
- 5 Jace Lambert, Jesse Goosey, Milo Chun
- 6 Chase Curry, Steve Rohr, Ella Vrnak, Rich Hager, Aurora Hendry, Rob Long
- 7 Ann Smith
- 8 Ari Gnagey
- 9 Paul Landry
- 10 Isaac Snyder
- 11 Colleen Topper
- 12 Sulaeman Kamara, Mila Woodland
- 14 Mickey Nelson, Kylie Camarda
- 15 Brett Rendeiro, Penny Masch
- 16 Al Young, Rachel MacCarreall
- 19 Debbie Duffina, Sydney Urbaniak
- 20 Tracy Kramer, Xavier Hernandez
- 21 Gina Rendeiro
- 23 Nicholas Thiry, Teddy Urbiel
- 24 Rob Gulf, Lily Cooper
- 25 Catherine Topper, Bruce Flores, Andy Van Dussen, Julianna DiMaggio
- 27 Morgan Wenz, Kati Brush
- 28 John Edgington
- 29 Brittany Leonard, Cathy Linegar
- 30 Don Gilbert Alice Flannery



- 2 Frank & Linda Casenhiser
- 3 Andy & Kristine Van Dussen
- 8 John & Julie Antonelli
- 13 Ken & Maggi Harfoot
- 15 Glen & Eve Milligan
- 16 Tim & Julie Lewandowski
- 17 John & Cathy Linegar
- 20 Mark & Sarah Grever
- 23 Rich & Linda Kornatowski
- 26 Len & Linda Kumm
- 27 Steve & Linda Bollinger