

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - DECEMBER 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



It is here again. We have arrived at another Advent season which will be followed by Christmas. There will most certainly be moments of profound joy: excited children, familiar songs, and the promise of Christ's light entering into the dark places of our lives. Yet, it's possible that the joy we are expected to experience is muted by the pain in our lives. Instead of feeling cheerful during this most wonderful time of the year, you may, in fact, feel blue.

Blue—yes, as in "the blues," as in feeling down or heavy-hearted. Not everyone feels cheerful and celebratory during the Christmas season. For many, this time of year brings reminders of loss, such as the death of a loved one, the pain of divorce or separation, the uncertainty of unemployment, the challenges of illness, or other struggles that make the festive atmosphere difficult to embrace.

Recognizing this, more churches are offering sacred spaces for those who find this season especially challenging. These services, often called Blue Christmas or Longest Night services are held on December 21st –the winter solstice. It provides a reflective and compassionate setting. They honor where we are, acknowledge the weight we carry, and offer the promise of healing and hope.

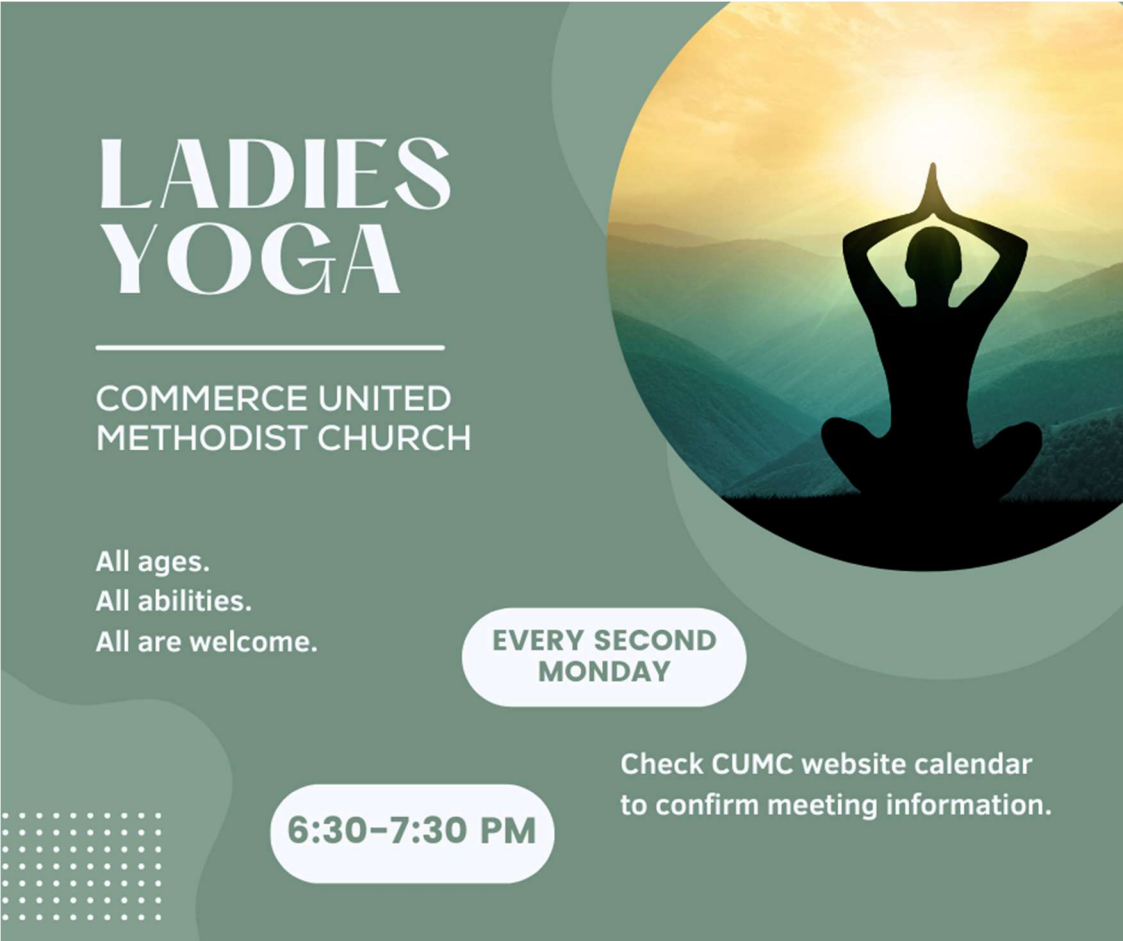
After some discussion with the worship committee, our Music Director, and I, we decided it would be helpful to have a Blue Christmas of our own. Yes, we have experienced the loss of many beloved mentors, friends, and church members this last year. Yes, we are aggrieved by the division, polarization, and lack of humanity found in our politics. Yes, we lament the endless

violence and destruction that plagues our world. And yes, we feel lonelier than ever as we are conditioned to put on a smile and go through the motions especially during this season.

So, this is my invitation to you to come and be present at our Blue Christmas service on Saturday, December 21st at 5PM in the historic chapel. It is open to all and any. I pray God will use this service to bring healing, hope, and wholeness to our church and community as we make room for that which makes us blue.

Like those that came before us, may Christ come to meet us in our struggle, our pain, and our grief.

Pastor Andy



**LADIES
YOGA**

COMMERCE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

All ages.
All abilities.
All are welcome.

**EVERY SECOND
MONDAY**

6:30-7:30 PM

Check CUMC website calendar
to confirm meeting information.



December 2024 Christian Education News...

**Mark your calendars:
December 15th The True Tale**

Advent Program

We are once again putting on a fantastic and fun filled Christmas program! Contact Kristine ASAP if your children are interested in joining and have not yet signed up.

Here are some details:

- December 15th during 10am ALL IN service**
- Combined skit and songs**

-Rehearsals December 1st, 4th, 8th, and 11th.

Attending all rehearsals is not necessary, hopefully you can attend at least two.

Kids Klub+

No Kids Klub this month in honor of Jesus' birthday

Sunday School

We are wrapping up our ten-week Bible Buddies series and will be beginning something new in the new year. We are looking for 3 new teachers to add to our roster and would love to have you join us upstairs. Please reach out if you are interested.

Thanks!

Kids On a Mission

As you may already know, on the Second Sunday of each month, our children do a "Kids On a Mission" project. This is an opportunity for children to do hands-on missions work for friends in our community. We need a few adult volunteers to assist the children with stuffing care packages, etc. and are hoping that you can assist! We have created a Sign-Up and would love to see you upstairs. Commerce UMC: Kids On a Mission

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



MEN'S BASKETBALL
TUESDAYS 7:30PM
IN THE ACTIVITY HALL

A close-up, low-angle shot of an orange basketball with black lines, set against a dark background with a subtle light flare behind it.



The advertisement features a blue background. On the left, there is a brown chocolate bar with six squares, partially obscured by a white and grey bag of candy. The bag has a blue arched window with a white cross and the text "Commerce Candy Makers" below it. To the right of the bag is the UMM logo, which consists of a red flame-like shape next to the letters "UMM" in white and red, with "UNITED METHODIST MEN" in smaller red text below. Below the logo, the text "Homemade Candy sold by 1/2 pound and 1 pound." is written in white. Further down, the text "Order by November 24th" and "Pick-up on December 1st" is written in white.

UMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN

Homemade Candy
sold by
1/2 pound
and 1 pound.

Order by
November 24th

Pick-up on
December 1st

**Commerce
Candy Makers**

The United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men (UMM) is a group of men that meet monthly at our church. We are part of an international organization within the United Methodist discipline. We engage in a variety of activities and are open to new ideas and new members. Our meetings start with a prayer and devotional and cover subjects on how we can help church members or other church groups with volunteer or donation actions.

Our only fundraiser is our annual Chocolate Candy Sales where we donate hundreds of dollars annually to the CUMC General Fund and selected charities. We make the candy on Black Friday after

Thanksgiving. About 15 of us show up and have a great time mixing, baking, spooning, weighing, and boxing the candy in one long day. Come join us November 29.

Other charities we regularly support are Anchored Hope and PETS (Personal Energy Transportation Systems), the wheelchair initiative. We donate as well as help construct the chairs to support handicap people internationally.

UMM meetings are the second Saturday of the month at 9am held in Fellowship Hall. We have an email distribution you can join to stay informed. Scott Leonard is our leader and would welcome adding you. Our church is growing, and we know there are men that could join us in fellowship and service. Please consider attending a meeting and check us out.

**ALL KIDS
ages 6-12
welcome**



**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 CHILDREN'S BELL
PRESENTATION!**

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

COFFEE HOUR

Please sign up in the
Narthex to host a
Sunday

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 December 8th & 29th**. 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

Blue Christmas

A Service of Healing and Hope



December 21 at 5PM
Historic Chapel



The Poinsettia's that are distributed throughout the Sanctuary that were dedicated to loved ones.

Dana & Ed Wenz

In Memory of DONALD BINGHAM, Dana's Father

Linda & Richard Kornatowski

In Honor of their GRANDCHILDREN

Sally & Russ Courville

In Honor of all their PARENTS

Sally & Russ Courville

In Honor of all their RELATIVES

Laura & Gary Contesti	In Honor of GRANDCHILDREN
Lynn & John Delaney	In Honor and Memory of OUR FAMILIES
Gloria Jones	In Memory of DAVID JONES, Father, Husband and Papa
Bonnie & Frank Larrabee	In Honor of LORRAINE KILTS
Krug Sisters	In Memory of their parents, BILL & RUTH KRUG
Tami Streber	In Memory of her mother MARGIE BQARRETT
Meghan Phol & Family	In Memory of AUSTIN POHL
Susie Thompson	In Memory of her son MIKE THOMPSON
Susie Thompson	In Memory of her husband JIM THOMPSON
David Streber	In Honor of NANCY STREBER
Lynn & John Delaney	In Honor and Memory of their FAMILIES
Linda & Gary Schultz	In Memory of their parents MYRTIE & LEVI, ARNOLD & HELEN
Linda & Gary Schultz	In Honor of their grandchildren, LUKAS, IAN, VIOLET
Janet & Bob Doty	
Chan Won Lee	



**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**

The True Tale



**A Comedic Christmas Program
Commerce United Methodist Church
December 15th 2024, 10am**



Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17

Thanks to all of you for your support and prayers. Anchored Hope was able to demonstrate kindness in the following ways during October 2024:

- **271 meals were served/2086 YTD**
- **50 hygiene kits were distributed /390 YTD**
- **15 evenings of outreach**
- **82 individuals were served**

DECEMBER PACKING EVENT:

We are hosting a packing event on December 9th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Kids and adults are welcome. We will be packing: Christmas gifts, birthday bags, meals, snack packs, and more. Please sign up either on the link below or on the sign up in the narthex. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DACAA2CA6F5C16-53436890-anchored>

LEFTOVER HALLOWEEN CANDY:

Thank you to everyone who donated their leftover candy to us. It's now being bagged and prayed upon for us and we will soon pass it out in our hygiene kits, snack packs, and weekend bags. Thank you to KOM who bagged and wrote messages for 100 candy bags.

THANKSGIVING MEAL

Thank you to the United Women in Faith board who helped sponsor our Thanksgiving meal once again this year. They generously made 24 meals for us to pass out the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The home cooked, warm meals were enjoyed by everyone who received one. The holidays are very hard for those we see, and this gesture gives them a sense of normalcy, happiness, and hope during this time.

Your prayers make a difference!

You 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:

- **Safety and protection for all the women**
- **Freedom from drugs**
- **Healing for the sores that so many suffer**

**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

The United Women in Faith (UWF) is a worldwide organization that brings women together in faith and fellowship. We do mission work to benefit women and children locally, nationally and around the world.

At CUMC, we have 3 circles; Crosby circle who meets the 3rd Tuesday at 10:00am in the CUMC fellowship hall; Reed circle who meets 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm mostly at CUMC; Thomas circle (the internet group) which meets for dinner occasionally and receives information about UWF through the internet.

The circles enjoy studies in faith, friendship and sharing. We also plan fundraisers and unit gathering luncheons/dinners. All our fundraisers' funds are given to charities locally, to the UWF conference for world missions and to projects here in our church.

We encourage new members to join us in our mission work. We started based on your needs for involvement and fellowship. Please consider joining the UWF. If you have any questions, contact Kyle Caswell (248-622-1465) or Linda Kornatowski (245-505-3191) for more information. Thank you for considering our circles.



Christmas Marketplace will be December 7th 9am to 3pm.

COOKIES

Delicious Christmas cookies are sold by the pound. We ask UWF members to make 10 dozen cookies and appreciate any donations from the congregation.

CRAFTS

Great hand-made crafts are sold by the church crafters and outside crafters. Table rentals are \$35.00 per table. If you are interested in have a table contact Kyle Caswell at 248-622-1465.

FRESH CHRISTMAS GREENS ARRANGEMENTS

Susie Thompson and her helpers create lovely greens for your holiday

decorating. She will also fill your own container(s) prior to the sale. Bring the container(s) to church and contact Susie.

LUNCH

UWF ladies make and sell delicious soup, sloppy joes, hot dogs and desserts.

RAFFLE

Five to six items will be raffled off. Currently we need two more items. Tickets are \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00

A sign-up sheet for workers will be posted soon. This event is our largest fundraiser.

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



A graphic featuring a green pickleball paddle on the left and a green pickleball with white spots on the right. The paddle's head is a rounded rectangle containing text. The background is a light green gradient.

PICKLEBALL
IN THE ACTIVITY HALL
THURSDAYS AT 7:00PM
SATURDAYS AT 10:00AM

CHECK CUMC WEBSITE CALENDAR TO
CONFIRM GAME INFORMATION





**KEEP
CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS**

Please Pray for



Maggie Harfoot's family for the passing of her sister Ethel , Jim Thompson, Diane Wright-Leo & Bea Maki's daughter, Cecilia Kumm



**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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

- 2 Peter Bommarito, Jeff Walters**
- 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, Frank Hunt**
- 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**
- 19 Florencia Hernandez**
- 20 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, Ericka Propst**
- 30 Makenna Rendeiro, Don Masch**



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY'S

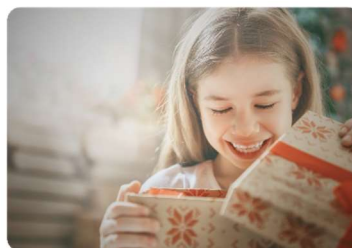
4 Linda & Gary Shcultz
20 Virgil & Julie Schave



Dear Friend,

As the holiday season approaches, we're reminded of the joy of giving and the difference it can make. This year, you have the opportunity to bring smiles to children's faces and hope to families in need.

Through our Adopt-a-Wish List program, your generosity can help fulfill holiday wishes for children, youth, and families in our care. From warm clothes to cherished toys, every gift tells them, "You are loved."



But this season, your impact can go even further. Our holiday fundraising campaign will help us launch The Center for Pediatric Health and Wellness in Northwest Detroit—a transformative space where

Children and families can access the mental health and wellness support they deserve and so desperately need.

Your donation makes all this possible! Together, we can light up the holidays and create brighter futures for those who need it most.

Join us in Spreading Joy and Hope:

[Adopt a Wish List](#)

[Holiday Donation](#)

Thank you for making this season truly magical for our children and families!

If you have any questions about making a donation, our programs at MCHS, or want to inquire about taking a tour of a campus, please contact our Chief Development Officer, Raquel Sulaiman at rsulaiman@mchsmi.org or (313) 531-9464.

Volunteer Opportunities. Contact Development Coordinator, Eriann Scharer at escharer@mchsmi.org.

Interested in Becoming a Foster Parent? Contact Senior Director of Child Welfare Programs, Stephanie Sears at ssear@mchsmi.org.

MCHS Family of Services is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. EIN 38-1240951. Please consult your tax professional with your tax or donation questions.

Warm wishes,

MCHS Family of Services

Connect with us on social media! [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)

Contact Us

MCHS Family of Services

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Redford, MI 48240

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