

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - FEBRUARY 2025

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



Works of Piety and Mercy

What does a well-rounded Christian look like? This individual likely prays often, spends time in God's word, receives communion, and participate in Christian community by going to church. Yes, that is all true, but it is only half the equation. The practices that tend to one's own soul are what John Wesley called "Works of Piety."

And the other half of the equation? It includes actions that bring comfort to others or work to bring change to flawed or unjust systems. These practices are what John Wesley called "Works of Mercy." A well-rounded Christian does not simply pray or insulate oneself from the world. Rather, a well-rounded Christian serves meals to the hungry, builds homes for those without, or raises funds and awareness for children living in foster care. So, basically, you and I are meant to participate in both works of piety and works of mercy.

Lent is right around the corner. It begins on March 5th. For Lent, I invite you to participate in works of piety or works of mercy. If you want to participate in both, that's even better. Here are some options to consider.

For our works of piety, I offer to you the ancient practice of breath prayer. If you are unfamiliar with breath prayer, I highly recommend it. I find that I am more at peace, living in the moment, and better able to recognize God's presence every day. By reading through the book *Breath Prayer: An Ancient Practice for the Everyday Sacred*, we will work through 40 breath prayers and a daily devotion. In addition, we will meet virtually once a week to check in and share our insights. If interested, you can sign up on the narthex bulletin board or through our weekly email announcement. Books will be available for sale in the office.

For those who find they have mastered breath prayers and are looking to engage in more works of mercy, I got you covered. Like last year, I will offer ways to serve ministry partners through lent. This includes visiting the foster children at the Methodist Children's Home to play dodgeball with them. Freedom Works, a job training nonprofit for special needs adults, meets right at our

church every Tuesday. Perhaps you can spend your lunch hour eating pizza and chatting with our Freedom Works crew. The sign-up sheets and links are coming. Be prepared. I am sure these slots will fill up quickly.

Because our works of mercy events went so well last year, I have decided to add two more beyond Lent. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3rd as we go down to Cass Community Social Services for what's called "Hands Around Detroit." We will join our Methodist siblings from across the district for a day of service. I hope we can be well represented.

For the following Saturday, May 10th, I hope we can have an even bigger turnout for Spring Work-bee day -a day of service for our church. At 10AM, we will work to beautify the grounds: yard work, mulching, planting. Our building is a blessing. In addition to our worship service and countless ministries, it enables us to offer space for preschool, and for nonprofits free of charge like Anchored Hope and Samaritan counseling. A little TLC will go a long way in helping us to do more good. I know there will be a strong turnout for this too.

I look forward to the coming Lenten season and beyond. Get ready to try something new. Let us all grow and live as well-rounded Christians.

Membership Class



If you are interested in formally joining Commerce UMC as a member, click below or sign up in the narthex. Pastor Andy will offer a one-hour class after service on Sunday, February 23.

[Sign Up Now!](#)



Practice the spiritual discipline of Breath Prayer during lent. This group will read through Christine Paintner's *Breath Prayer* for 40 days. The book offers daily devotions and a different breath prayer to draw us deeper into the gifts of presence, stability, gratitude.

We will meet virtually at 7:15PM on Mar 13, Mar 20, Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17 to check-in and discuss our insights. Books will be provided for \$10.

[Sign-up](#)



Confirmation Class Meeting February 9, 2025 11:30am during Coffee Hour.



CUMC YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP PARENTS' MEETING FEB. 23, 2025 11:30 AM DURING COFFEE HOUR

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.



February 2025 Christian Education News...

Mark you calendars:

February 26th Kids Klub +

April 1st VBS

Registration Begins

April 19th 11am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday School

Sunday School for elementary aged children takes weekly during service. Children start the service with their parents and are then dismissed upstairs after to sing songs of worship and learn through hands-on Sunday school lessons. We are currently looking to add to our roster of Sunday School Teachers, please reach out to Kristine if you are interested in learning more.

Kids Klub+

Kids Klub + is an opportunity to share a community meal and then send the kids upstairs for an hour of fun! This month we will "Ready, Set, Glow!" With themed sensory bins, games, and crafts for everyone.

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

VBS 2025

Commerce UMC is getting ready for VBS 2025! Our VBS theme this year will be Magnified, where kids will look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God! VBS will be held June 16th-20th, from 9:00am-12:15pm. Registration begins online March 1st. The VBS table will soon be arriving in the narthex, so be on the lookout for volunteer and participant information.

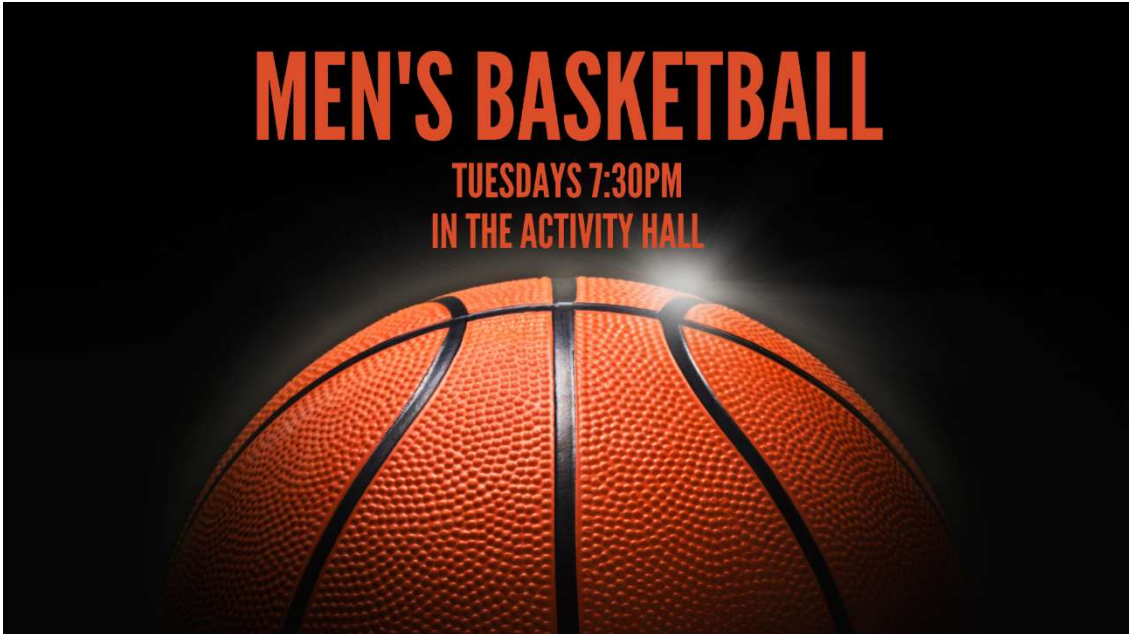
Easter Egg Hunt 2025

Hip Hop Hooray, Easter is on it's way! We need your help to fill FIVE THOUSAND Easter Eggs! Please bring peanut free candy and small toy donations to CUMC between now and March 16th. A designated basket can be found in the Narthex, thank you for making this event possible.

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



Join us for our monthly Kids Klub! Let your children invite their friends and classmates. We love sharing God's love through free food, fun, and crafts. See you February 26th!



[I'm interested!](#)

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 February 16th. 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

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Ball Gown
 Boyfriend
 Cards
 Chocolate
 Crush
 Date
 Diamond
 Fairy Tale
 Girlfriend
 Heart
 Love Song
 Pink
 Proposal
 Red
 Romantic
 Serenade
 Slow Dance
 Strawberry
 Sunset
 Tuxedo
 Valentine

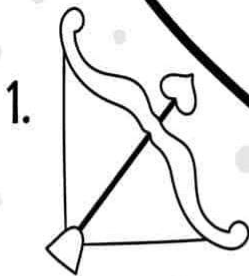
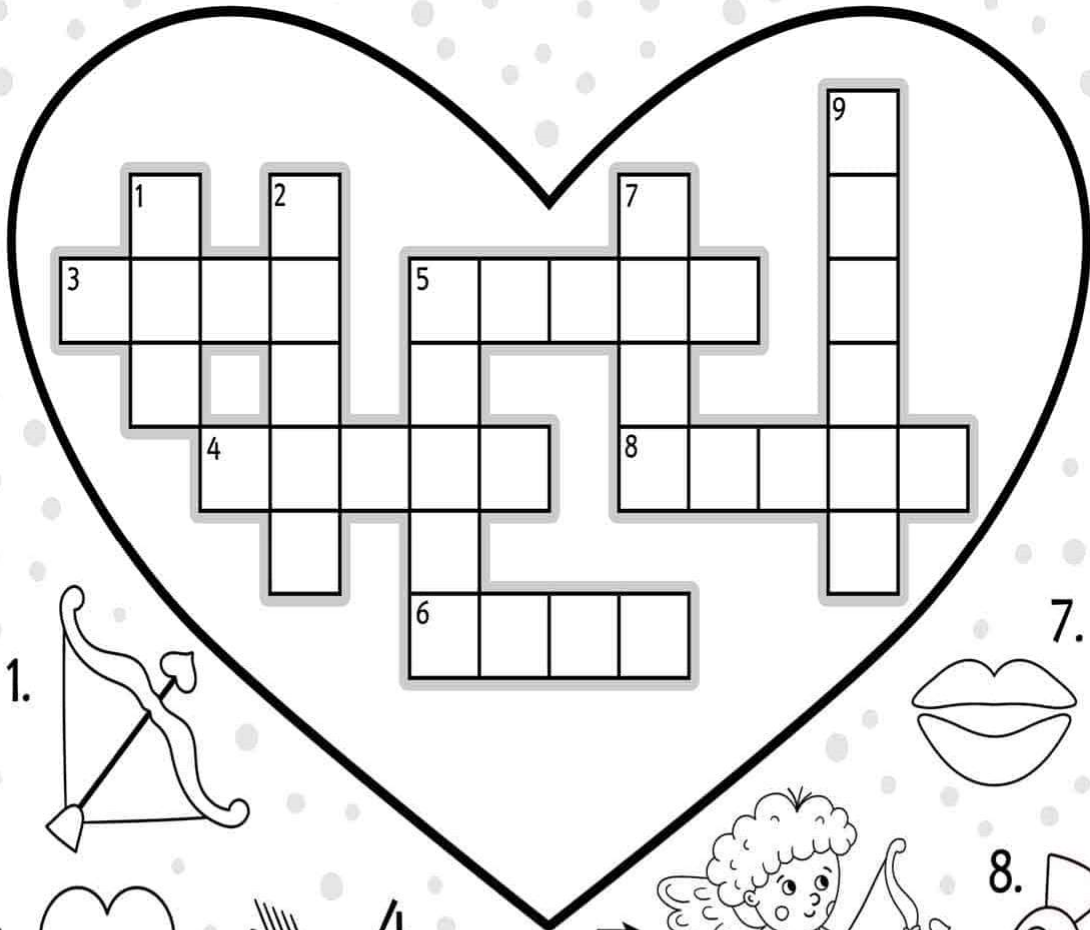
Chicken Scratch NY



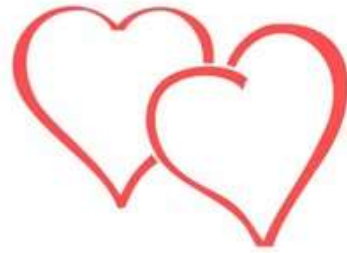
G	K	N	I	P	W	L	S	B	Z	T	N	V	X	M	J	U	D
E	Z	N	K	L	P	H	P	B	T	N	F	R	G	Y	S	C	Z
R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C	Y	U	Y	O	F	I	T	F	F	E
L	A	S	O	P	O	R	P	Y	X	L	P	J	R	K	G	V	D
L	X	S	K	V	S	J	K	P	E	B	M	A	L	K	P	X	I
Z	Z	C	D	A	T	E	Q	H	D	E	W	K	F	Q	J	M	A
A	E	B	H	Y	Q	Q	Y	I	O	B	W	S	R	G	C	Q	M
B	C	A	L	O	F	W	E	C	E	H	P	D	I	M	W	S	O
C	H	L	O	A	C	D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

VALENTINE'S DAY

— crossword puzzle —



Valentine's Day Word Search



Circle each word in the Valentine's Day word search puzzle below.

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

1: HEART

2: CUPID

3: CARD

4: VALENTINE

5: LOVE

6: POEM

7: CHOCOLATE

8: CANDY

9: KISS

10: ROSE

11: FLOWERS

12: PINK

13: SWEETHEART

14: GIFT

15: HUG



**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**



**NOT ONLY SO, BUT WE ALSO GLORY IN OUR SUFFERINGS, BECAUSE WE KNOW
SUFFERING PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE; PERSEVERANCE CHARACTER; AND
CHARACTER, HOPE. Romans 5:3-4**

What is Human Trafficking?

The act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. According to the federal law, a minor is anyone under the age of 18, therefore force, fraud, and coercion does not need to be proven.

December Stats

- Meals distributed: 168/2,410 YTD
- Hygiene kits distributed: 9/414 YTD
- Days/Nights of Outreach: 13
- Outreach Team: 19 members
- Meal/Sandwich Makers: 6
- Total Served: 60

Thank you, Youth Group!

Thank you to the youth group for helping organize our hygiene, recovery bags, ministry literature, towels, and holiday supplies during their lock-in. The office looks much more organized because of all your hard work.

Upcoming Events

The Youth Group will have a small packing event on February 9th, during their meeting time. They will pack snack packs, meal kits, and recovery bags. We are really looking forward to serving with the youth again!

Please join us for a Packing Event on February 10th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will pack clothes bags and complete food preparation for upcoming outreaches. This promises to be a time of joyful fellowship and service. All are welcome; we'd love to see you there! We are looking for about 15 people to help during this event, so please follow the link to sign up or sign up in the narthex at church! <https://linktr.ee/anchoredhopeoutreach>

Outreach Report

We had two women choose to enter into recovery at the end of the year.

- One was a higher risk situation which required some advance planning. She was able to get away from her trafficker.

- We were very thankful for God's provision for the other woman who wanted to get off the streets at that exact moment. We were able to work through other organizations to help her get her set up in a recovery center within an hour.

Connect with us!

info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org

<https://linktr.ee/anchoredhopeoutreach>

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

Ash Wednesday Service



Wednesday, March 5 @ 7PM
Commerce UMC

Please Pray for



Always say a prayer! Mark Richardson, Janice Schnueringer, Dan Cunningham, Bonnie Blaufuss, John Delaney, George & Judy Dobson Jr. (Beth Fournier's parents), Joe Skarrett's Family for his passing (Kyle Casswell and Diane Schaap's brother), Darrell Gilman's Family for his passing (Dorothy Saari's brother), Charlotte, Pauline Hausauer



**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**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 | Leah Lambert | | | |
| 4 | Patricia Elliot | Donna Haney | | |
| 7 | Polly Dodson | Virgil Schave | Eve Milligan | Bob Doty |
| 8 | Nancy Bennett | Caiden Jones | Camden Jones | |
| 10 | Mark Grever | | | |
| 11 | Jacob Caswell | | | |
| 12 | Hailie Curry | Landin Long | | |
| 14 | Tony Contesti | Scott Lyon | | |
| 15 | Alex Kaschyk | | | |

16	Hannah Ralston	Jessica Simpson	
18	Lee Schulz		
19	Tracy Thode		
20	Pam Gill		
22	Brady Thiry		
23	Julia Masch	Barbara Runnels	
25	Gloria Jones	Austin Osagie	Rabi Osagie
26	Bea Maki	Ginny Hubble	
27	Kathy Walters		
28	FrankCasenhiser		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY'S

19	Rich & Lori Kornatowski
25	Alex & Terri Stefanou