

"The STEEPLE"**A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - MARCH 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****What is Lent?****Ask The UMC series provides this answer:**

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Indeed, for modern Christians we use this time of repentance and preparation for the coming of Easter to focus on our relationship with God and grow as disciples either through giving something up or adding a spiritual discipline. In conversations with others, I have discovered that most people want to grow closer to God, and they have a deep desire to engage in spiritual practices. However, the main obstacle is general busyness.

The conversation did not end there. We noticed that even though we were all busy, we still made an effort to come to take time to come to church on Sundays. We concluded that if an event or responsibility can be scheduled beforehand, the chances we show up are much higher. With that in mind, I invite you into a more meaningful lent as you prepare for Easter.

Once more, I remind you our church is offering Acts of Piety and Acts of Mercy. For Acts of Piety, a group will journey through Christine Paintner's Breath Prayer book as we check-in once a week via zoom. For our Acts of Mercy, we have several events for you to engage in works of compassion ranging from a pizza party for special needs adults to playing dodgeball with foster children.

I know we are all busy. It is for this reason these Acts of Piety and Acts of Mercy have been offered. In the simple act of signing up –writing your name on a piece of paper- the probability of following through and engaging in a practice that brings you closer to God increases considerably.

With grace and gentle nudging, I urge you to participate in any of the church's offerings for this Lenten

season. Let's grow closer to God and each other. We can do this together.

Pastor Andy



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](#)



First Confirmation Class starts March 9, 2025 and will run for 10 weeks. The classes will be 12:00pm to 1:30pm.

 A poster for 'LADIES YOGA' at Commerce United Methodist Church. The background is a green and yellow gradient with a silhouette of a person in a yoga pose against a sun. The text includes:

- 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.



March 2025 Christian Education News...

Mark you calendars:

- March 26th Kids Klub +
- March 30th Palm Sunday rehearsals begin
- April 1st VBS Registration Begins
- April 13th Palm Sunday Program
- April 19th 11am Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday

We are once again planning a Palm Sunday Children's Program! Watch the narthex for sign-ups and more information. * During 10am service * Parade of Palms * Children's Choir * Skit *

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+

Calling All Party Animals, Let's Go Wild For Jesus! Kids Klub + is an opportunity to share a community meal and then send the kids upstairs for an hour of fun! Themed sensory bins, games, and crafts for everyone. Kids are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal to join in the fun.

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. I know I know, VBS is still months away. But, the time to plan is now. Stop by the VBS table in the Narthex for information, sign-up to volunteer, and more! VBS registration begins April 1st .

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 ext. 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 March 26th!



[I'm interested!](#)

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. 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

A vertical poster with a light blue to green gradient background. At the top, it says "THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING" in blue, all-caps, sans-serif font. Below that, in smaller blue text, it says "JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL". The words "COFFEE HOUR" are written in a large, white, stylized, cursive font. At the bottom, in a smaller, dark grey font, it says "Please sign up in the Narthex to host a Sunday".



**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 generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9



ANCHORED HOPE

Stats

Outreach

Events

Thank You



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Who is vulnerable?

Human trafficking can happen to anyone but some are more vulnerable than others. Significant risk factors include recent migration or relocation, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with the child welfare system, and being a runaway or homeless youth. Often, traffickers identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities in order to create dependency.

JANUARY STATS

212/212 YTD meals served
66/66 YTD hygiene kits given
67 individuals served
14 evenings of outreach
24 outreach team members

THANK YOU!

Your prayers and donations keep us uplifted and thank you for:

- a record breaking number of 44 packers at our event! (See what we did in the next section!)
- organizing the office at CUMC during the lock-in!
- the ability to buy a fridge/freezer for prepared meals!
- having all of our meals sponsored!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at AutoRama at Huntington Place February 28th - March 2nd. We will be passing out literature on human trafficking and Anchored Hope.

We will host another packing event on March 31st, look for a sign up in the near future. At our last event we packed:

- Small Hygiene Kits: 50
- Meals: 120
- Snack Packs: 100
- Cookie Bags: 25
- Valentines Gifts: 24
- PB&Js: 36
- Bags with verses: 180

OUTREACH REPORT

We are thrilled to report that one woman is safely housed and four are in consistent recovery!

Please keep our women in prayer in these ways:

- warmth and safety
- healing from sores
- strength to leave an unhealthy situation
- protection

Needs:

- Jelly
- Cheese/PB Crackers
- Quart Ziploc bags

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





Please Pray for



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



MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 Ariella Reich | | | | |
| 2 Delores Barr | Julie Lewandowski | Laura Contesti | Linda Kornatowski | Emmitt Mercer |
| 3 Dylan Contesti | | | | |
| 6 Russ Courville | | | | |
| 7 Chris Huismann | | | | |
| 8 Owen Bailey | Matt Kositzke | Mike Kositzke | | |
| 9 Janet Tessman | | | | |
| 10 Gary Schultz | | | | |
| 11 Dane Schulz | Jeremy Schulz | Marilynn Bruss | | |
| 12 Sandy Richardson | | | | |

15 John Delaney	Addison Lee	Brent Snyder
16 Amelia Grenke		
17 Tim Brush		
18 Ashley Dunneback		
19 Joe Fournier	Carter Chun	Minhyeok Lee
21 Edwin(Brian) Dodson	Robert Strohs	
22 Holly Bailey	Julia Bailey	Sarah Grever
23 Gavin Pohl	Mary Pizarek	Jakob Spalding
24 Susie Thompson		
25 Marty Willis		
26 Donna Morris		
27 Susan Schulz	Suzanne LeVasseur	Olivia Nelson
28 Jay Pistana		
30 Erin Allanson	Ernie Sampson	Randy Pellett

MARCH ANNIVERSARY'S

28 Pat & Suzanne LeVasseur
30 Steve & Judy Rohr