

## **"The STEEPLE"**

**A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - MAY 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](http://www.facebook.com/commerceumc)**



Bloomer Park in West Bloomfield has a nicely paved basketball court. The other day, I decided to stop by and shoot a few hoops by myself. I enjoyed working on the mechanics of my shot. Admittedly there were a lot of misses, but I eventually hit a few in a row. After 30 minutes or so, I noticed a gentleman with a head full of earphones on the other side of the court practicing his shot as well. I decided to challenge him to a one-on-one game.

We agreed to play up to 10. What followed was, honestly, the ugliest game of basketball ever played. I have never witnessed so many missed shots. It was a truly pathetic sight. The game dragged on and on, but I prevailed. Yes, I won 10 to 8. I know some of you had your doubts as you read this, but your pastor came through!

Afterward, we sat on the bench and enjoyed the shade. I asked my new friend if he'd like to play basketball with me on Tuesday evenings at Commerce UMC. He declined. His work schedule prevented him from doing so as his workhours were 12pm to 9pm. From there, he kept talking. I can't explain but he just really opened up. He shared how he worked as a credit analyst for TD Auto Finance. Soon, he'd move to the IT department as he wrapped up his graduate studies in Cybersecurity.

The conversation continued to ebb and flow. I learned he could run a 5-minute mile, he liked to lift weights, and he enjoyed many sports in high school. However, he didn't play any sports in college. It was here I discovered he attended Michigan State University just as I did. We fist-bumped and laughed. Then, he told me how he graduated just as the pandemic began back in 2020. I laughed. I told him I graduated in 2010. I was a whole 10 years older than him, but he was quick to flatter me by saying, "you sure don't look 10 years older than me."

I had to leave for lunch, but before I did, I insisted on adding my new friend to the email thread for Tuesday basketball at church. I had mentioned it was possible that his work schedule might change after he switched to the IT department and when that happened, he should come and play with me at Commerce UMC. He agreed and we parted ways.

I don't know if I'll ever see this person again. I don't know if his schedule will ever allow him to swing by on Tuesday to play with me or our church guys. However, this is what I do know: there are friends out there to be made. Everywhere we go, we have the chance to strike up conversation, engage others, and listen well as people share their life story. It's fun. It'll brighten up your day and you may think of, as well as pray for, your conversation partner weeks or months later like I am now.

As the weather warms and we find ourselves out and about, let's make new friends. The Reverend Chris Grimes, a colleague and friend of mine, likes to say, "if you can't make friends, you can't make disciples." I agree with him wholeheartedly. I love making friends, and I love making disciples. So again, let's make some new friends –and disciples- this season and always.

Grace and Peace,

Andy Lee



**Confirmation Classes on Sundays 12:00pm to 1:30pm.**

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# FAITH BUILDERS



**JULY 13–19, 2025**

**Faith Builders blends summer camp and a youth missions trip. Located in Boyne Falls, MI at Lake Louise Camp!**

**Contact Youth Director Paul Elliott if you have an interested youth.**

[CAMP FLYER](#)

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# 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.



The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

**Proverbs 22:9**



MAY 2025

# ANCHORED HOPE

Stats

Outreach

Events

Thank You

## VOLUNTEERS!

In April we celebrated volunteer week. We want to thank all our Anchored Hope volunteers. Whether you are on the front lines, behind the scenes, or are praying for home, we appreciate every single one of you. We couldn't run so smoothly and be so organized without everyone's support. Everyone has a gift/talent and we thank you for sharing it with us so we can go out and support the ones we see every week during outreach.



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is always or usually a violent crime.

*The most pervasive myth about human trafficking is that it often involves kidnapping or physically forcing someone into a situation. In reality, most traffickers use psychological means such as, tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor.*

## MARCH STATS

175/518 YTD meals served  
29/55 YTD hygiene kits given  
45 women served  
12 evenings of outreach

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who came to the March Packing Event. We had a great turn out, with four new people helping! We completed the following:

- Inventoried donations from the office
- Packed 180 meals
- Packed 74 hygiene kits
- Made 31 sandwiches
- Wrote encouraging cards and verses on meal bags
- Labeled and packaged thermal pants for next year

## EVENTS

Anchored Hope presented at a Gaming Commission event. Various casinos, Michigan State Police, and others were in attendance and able to learn what Anchored Hope provides to help support women in exiting trafficking situations.

We need meal/sandwich makers for May.

Our next Packing Event is June 16th at 6:00 pm. We will pack meals, summer clothes bags, and much more.

Please click the link to sign up for either or both!

## OUTREACH REPORT

Your prayers and donations keep us uplifted! We are seeing the hand of God in the lives of some of our women and your prayers help support that. Two women from our outreach area are in recovery now and doing very well. Both look healthier and are going through their healing journey. Please pray with us for "R" and "B".

We are excited to report a new partnership with GoGo SqueeZ who will supply all of our fruit needs!

Click on our linktree link for our Top 5 needs. For example:

- new women's slippers and flip flops sizes 6-10
- sunscreen
- bug spray

Connect with us!

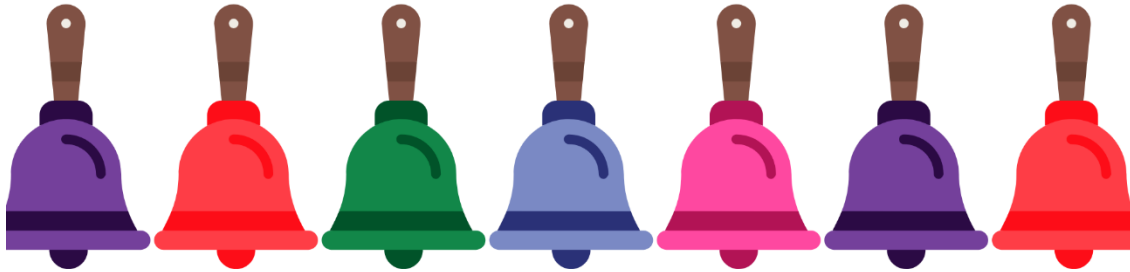
[info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org](mailto:info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org)

<https://linktr.ee/anchoredhopeoutreach>

**ALL KIDS  
ages 6-12  
welcome**



**Join us for 3  
weeks beginning  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, playing  
on Mother's Day!**



**May 2025 Christian Education News...**

**Mark you calendars:**

**May 11<sup>th</sup> Children's Bell Choir**

**May 28<sup>th</sup> Kids Klub +**

#### **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 + this month is all about Celebrating God's Garden, this 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 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

Registration is full for CUMC VBS 2025! Interested in volunteering? Sign-up in the narthex or contact Kristine!

Kristine Van Dussen- Christian Education Director

[Kristine.CUMC@gmail.com](mailto:Kristine.CUMC@gmail.com) 248.363.3935 ext. 304





**Calling all 2025 High School and College Graduates! Graduation Sunday is approaching SOON!**

- **Your Name**
- **School you are Graduating from**
- **Highlights/Honors/Scholarships you have received**
- **Your Future Plans including the School you are attending in the fall**
- **Your Career you will be Majoring in.**
- **2 jpg photos (one of your early childhood years and one more current) for the slide presentation.**
- **Are you attending service on June 8th**

**We will be honoring all of our graduates during service.**

**If you would like to be included in the graduation slideshow please provide the following information and your photos to the church office by email**

**at [commerceumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:commerceumc@sbcglobal.net) no later than May 25th.**

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MEN'S BASKETBALL WILL END MAY 20, 2025  
AND RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

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# 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 need some volunteers to sign up for May 11th. 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



Join your fellow Methodist from across the Greater Detroit District as we serve together at Cass Community Social Services. Click below NOW to choose how you would like to serve. Please select a 9am-12pm slot.

[NOW](#)



# *Mother's Da*

**Commerce United Met**  
**Saturday, May 10**

**Tickets: adults \$5, child 3-12**  
**Babysitting av**





GUEST SPEAKER: COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT W/FIRE TRUCK

TOPIC: PREVENTION & SAFETY

BRING SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS FOR DONATION,  
FIRE DEPT. HANDS THEM OUT AT ACCIDENT SCENES

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**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**

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## 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





WILL BE TAKING THE SUMMER OFF, SEE YOU IN  
OCTOBER!



### BIRTHDAY'S

2	Joyce Broyles	Colton Fletcher	Kaden Stoddard
3	Josh Simpson	Mark Watkins	Grace Hunt
5	Steve Thode	LuLu Hauser	
6	Cynthia Forsyth	Finn Gnagey	
7	Ameilia Dubin	Sawyer Summerville	Logan Nelson
10	Tim Lewandowski	Jack Caswell	
11	Graham Bennett		
14	Axel Hughes		
15	Dorothy Saari		
17	Corinne Hughes		
18	Eleanor Van Dussen		
19	Marilyn Baroni	Ally Cooper	
20	Tom Fournier	Roberta Carpenter	
21	Meghan Oliver		
22	Sue Willis	Paul Simpson	
24	Jill Hendrickson	Nancie Stoddard	Gabriel Heximer
25	Megan Abdallah	Kim Gnagey	Jerry Gill
26	Michael Stefanou	Owen Beard	Clark Kristofik
27	Amy Snyder	Heather Fagan	



28 Julia Antonelli  
29 Kevin Lambert  
30 Ann MacArthur Sandy Bakken Rebecca Flores  
31 Gary Contesti

## ANNIVERSARY'S

12 Randy & Christine Pellett  
16 Bill & Janet Boyd  
25 Paul & Vickie Armstrong  
27 Frank & Lori Hunt  
30 John & Louise Kirk-Stoddard  
30 Trent & Kristen Thiry  
31 Gary & Laura Contesti

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Please Pray for



**ASAP**

*Always say a prayer!*

Bea Maki's Family, Richard Perry and Family, Betty Ann Kathy Walters' Sister, Sara Albert,  
Bonnie Blaufuss,  
Pat Young's Family, John Himes-Linda Kornatowski's and Laura Contesti's Brother

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**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](mailto:commerceumc@sbcglobal.net)**

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