

**"The STEEPLE"**  
**A Newsletter of Commerce UMC-DEC. 2025**  
**1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382**  
**email: [officeadmin@commerceumc.org](mailto:officeadmin@commerceumc.org)**  
**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)**



I was torn. Initially, I thought it was a good idea to text my neighbor and invite her and her children to our next kids' event. But as a true over-thinker, doubts began to creep in: *What if she thinks I'm annoying or pushy? What if I've misread all our previous interactions and she secretly hates me?* I wasn't sure what to do. Should I send the text or not?

I ultimately sent the text message, because I remembered all the benefits of this event: free dinner, exercise, creative play, and a chance to make new connections or friends. This is something my neighbor and her little ones would enjoy. After I sent the text, I did not receive an immediate response which (sadly) caused me to panic. However, a few hours later, my neighbor came to church for the event, and they absolutely loved it.

At the end of this month, we have Christmas—a time when we remember and celebrate how God stepped down from eternity to be with us. All people, without exception, have been and continue to be invited to encounter the power and presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The benefits of such an encounter include hope, peace, joy, and love, to name just a few.

With that in mind, I wonder if you might be willing to help get the word out about Jesus' arrival and everything he offers. If you've encountered Christ and know what it's like to walk with him, would you consider inviting a friend or family member to get acquainted—or reacquainted—with Jesus, too?

Maybe that means texting a neighbor to join you on December 14th for the Children's Pageant. (This is how one of our new members began attending our church—they came for the pageant in 2024, and they've been here ever since!)

Or maybe you can bring a friend to our Longest Night service on December 20th, led by Pastor Tonya. This service acknowledges that for many, Christmas can be a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, or sadness. We make room for those feelings while surrounding one another with the compassionate love of God, experiencing healing and hope together.

And of course, you can always invite someone to our Christmas Eve services at 7pm or 10pm. Faraway relatives, out-of-town college students, and church friends we haven't seen in a while often come on Christmas Eve. Most people *want* to be invited. Most people *want* to be with others to celebrate and hear the good news of God's light coming into the world. Consider who you might invite to one of our Christmas Eve services this year.

As we prepare for Christ's arrival, let us recall what we ourselves have been invited into, let us consider who in our lives might be blessed in the same way, and let us eagerly extend the invitation.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Andy Lee

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**Christmas Marketplace will be**



**December 6th 9am to 3pm.**

Set up on Thursday December 4th at 10:00am

Cookies-They need to be dropped on Dec.5th at 9:00am to 6:00pm

Crafters Set up is Friday December 5th at 9:00am to 6:00pm or early Saturday Dec. 6th

Clean up on Saturday December 6th at 3:15pm

Christmas Greens & Arrangements-Susie Thompson will bring your arrangements on Saturday Dec. 6th or when agreed upon.

A fun day to shop for Christmas, enjoy lunch and get some great cookies.

### Poinsettia Dedications

FROM	DEDICATION
Dana & Ed Wenz	In memory of Donald Bingham & Ed Wenz Sr.
Linda & Richard Kornatowski	In honor of their grandchildren & in memory of John, Marie & Johnny Himes
Susie Thompson	In memory of Jim Thompson
The Robinsons	In honor and memory of our grandparents
Laura & Gary Contesti	In honor of our grandchildren
Lynn & John Delaney	In honor of our families
Al Young	In memory of Pat Young
Bonnie & Frank Larrabee	In memory of Lorraine Kilts
Carrieann Towne	In memory of Joshua Pate
Linda Schultz	In honor of our grandchildren
Chris Kuhn	In honor of Gloria Kuhn
Mickey & Charlie Nelson	In memory of our Mission Family- Harry, Pat, Pauline, & Peggy
Meghan Pohl & Family	In memory of Austin Pohl
Ken & Maggi Harfoot	In honor of families
The Lauderbaughs	In memory of grandparents
Stefanie Kuhn	In honor of John Angiulo
Jessica & Mike Adnson	In honor and memory of Buck Van Tine
Worship Committee	In honor of our visitors and friends

Kingdom  
News



Online Kids of the Kingdom

registration is now available! Please follow the link below to update your child(ren)'s information.

[Registration](#)



December 14th Children's Bell Choir

December 14th Christmas Skit

December 14th Children's Choir



#### A Family Christmas Program

The time has come once again for the Kids of the Kingdom to prepare an advent skit to share with the congregation. Children's Program will take place on Sunday, December 14th during service.

#### Rehearsals:

12-3 at 6:30pm

12-7 at 11:30am

12-10 at 6:30pm

Invite your Friends, Family, and Neighbors!

#### Children's Choir

Hi! We are so excited for the kids to share songs with the congregation on December 14th. There are three songs worked into the skit: one is a duet for some of our older kids, and then there are two Christmas carols: "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger," just the first verse of each.

[In This Folder](#)

You'll find lyrics and recordings that your kiddos can practice at home. All kids involved in the program are welcome to sing the group songs.



#### Children's Bell Choir

There's still time to join the Children's Bell Choir. Kiddos ages 5-12 can join us for rehearsal on December 7th at 11:30am. Children will be sharing a song during service on December 14th!

Commerce United Methodist Church

1155 N. Commerce Road

Commerce TWP, MI 48382

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**A Family Christmas Program**  
**Commerce United Methodist Church**  
**December, 14th 2025 10am**



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**ALL KIDS**  
**ages 5-12**  
**welcome**

**Practice 11:30am**  
**November 23rd**  
**December 7th**

**Perform 10:00am**  
**December 14th**



**KIDS OF THE KINGDOM**  
**BELL CHOIR**



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## Longest Night Service

**December 20th @ 5pm**  
**Lead by Pastor Tonya**

**All are welcome to be their truest self,**  
**to contemplate, to remember, and to heal.**

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## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

### OFFICE CLOSURES DUE TO HOLIDAYS



### December

Wednesday 24th - Christmas Eve

Thursday 25th - Christmas Day

Wednesday 31st - New Years Eve

### January

Thursday 1st - New Years Day



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## A NOTE FROM MUSTARD SEEDS PRESCHOOL

Hi,

Mustard Seeds Preschool will be having their Christmas Program on December 19th at 6:30 p.m. We will be having cookies after. We would love for you to join us.

We are now enrolling for 2026-2027 school year. If you are interested in an excellent preschool program contact Debbie Whitson at 248-520-0855 or email me at [Dwmseeds@aol.com](mailto:Dwmseeds@aol.com) and I can give you a form to fill out or meet with you

to tell you what we are about.

Blessings,  
Miss Debbie

#### SCHOOL CLOSINGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Monday December 22nd 2025 Through January 2nd 2026

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#### CAREGIVERS

**Past Experience as a Caregiver? We can use your input.**

**Present Caregivers? We meet to support each other in an informal environment.**

**Think being a Caregiver is in your future? Maybe we can help in some small way.**

**Please join us:**

**We meet once a month at CUMC at 1:00pm. Dates vary according to everyone's busy schedule.**

**The next meeting is December 12, 2025**

**Contact:**

**Kyle Caswell**  
**248-688-1465**  
[jrkcaswell@gmail.com](mailto:jrkcaswell@gmail.com)

**Marilynn Bruss**  
**248-408-4869**  
[marilynnb1943@att.net](mailto:marilynnb1943@att.net)

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## Anchored Hope Packing Event December 8th 6:00 - 7:00pm



Everyone  
Welcome!







# ANCHORED HOPE

Stats

Outreach

Events

Thank You

## EXTRA CANDY

WE ARE (STILL) COLLECTING LEFTOVER HALLOWEEN CANDY!!!! Please label any donation bags (Kati Brush - AH) and put them on the back tables in the Fellowship Hall. We make candy bags and put them in our hygiene kits, weekend bags, and snack packs throughout the year. Thank you for thinking of us!

*Thank you to those who came to help switch the office over from summer to winter.*

## OCTOBER STATS

Meals: 230  
Hygiene: 34  
Outreaches: 14  
People served: 46

## OUTREACH NEEDS

We hand out birthday bags to the women we serve to acknowledge and celebrate their special day. We will make these in December. We need:

- Nail Polish
- Lip Gloss
- Hand Lotion

Thank you for helping us make the girls and women feel special on their birthday!

## THANK YOU

Thank you to UWF for supplying and preparing the food for our Thanksgiving meal that we passed out. We were able to hand out 24 hot Thanksgiving meals to those who would not have received one otherwise. The food was delicious and very much appreciated by the ones we serve!

## MORE THANKS

Thank you for donating items from the Angel tree. Some of these items are for the women's Christmas bags to be distributed the week before Christmas.

Thank you to all who came to our packing event where we packed:

- 132 clothes bags
- 140 meals
- 100 snack packs
- 16 food hygiene bags
- 20 Tuesday meals
- 50+ spoon bags
- 100 verses on bags
- labeled 60 waters with monthly verse
- 36 PB&Js

## PACKING EVENT

Our next packing event is December 8th at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. We will make meals, snack packs, Christmas gifts, Birthday Bags, and more. All are welcome! Follow the Treelink below to register. We'd love to see you there!

**Connect with us!** [info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org](mailto:info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org) <https://linktr.ee/anchoredhopeoutreach>





**Bell Choir is Back!**

The Bell Choir is back this January for a shortened season. The group will be playing in church Sunday, February 15, and Easter Sunday, April 5. New ringers welcome! New ringer orientation practices are 1/13/26 and 1/20/26 at 6:00 pm. Want more information? [Fill out this quick form to stay in the loop!](#)

**Kim Gnagey.**





# CUMC WORSHIP

*join the band*

Singers and instrumentalists welcome!  
Email [kgnagey@commerceumc.org](mailto:kgnagey@commerceumc.org)

## JOIN THE TEAM

The AV team needs your help!  
We are looking for 2-3 more team members to serve once a month.

If you're willing to learn,  
you're already qualified.

Want to learn more?  
Email Kim Gnagey

[kgnagey@commerceumc.org](mailto:kgnagey@commerceumc.org)

**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 **Nov. 23rd & 30th**. If you've never hosted before, we will provide you with everything you need to know and will be there to help!

## THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

# COFFEE HOUR

Please sign up in the Narthex to host a Sunday

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BACAE2BA57-46927626-commerce>  
Thank you for hosting a coffee hour! Kati Brush and Dana Wenz



**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**

## **Ushers Needed**

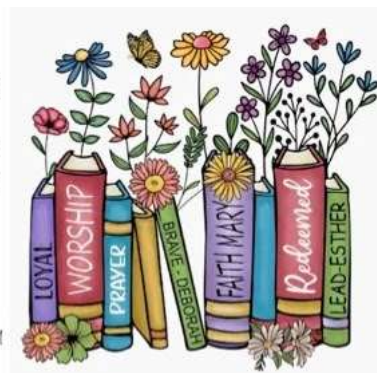


**Interested?  
Contact  
Diane Senk**

## **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





# DECEMBER

## BIRTHDAY'S

- 2 Peter Bommarito, Jeff Walters
- 3 Efe Osagie, Jake Watkins
- 4 Mackenzie Contesti, Allie Henwood
- 5 Chasen Daniel
- 6 Spencer Landry
- 7 Stella Keesling, Jason MacCarreall
- 8 Landon Contesti, Rachel Mroz, Frank Hunt
- 9 Marissa Kornatowski, Kara Lambert
- 10 Aleks Kristofik, Nathan Robinson, Patti Watkins, Rich Perry, Mike Lie
- 11 Cassidy Caswell
- 12 Breanna Kornatowski
- 17 Scott Leonard, Bennett James
- 18 JD Ralston, Sharon Young
- 19 Florencia Hernandez
- 20 Elizabeth Kositzke, Don McAfee
- 21 Isha Kamara
- 23 Adri Higuchi, Devin Mroz, Larry Petersen
- 24 Vicki Kennedy
- 25 Lucas Simpson, Owen Williams
- 27 Lochlan Heximer
- 30 Makenna Rendeiro, Don Masch

## ANNIVERSARY'S

- 20 Virgil & Julie Schave

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### Please Pray for

Toby (Laura Elliott's grandson), Watkins Family, Baroni Family,  
Eric Wood (Makenzi Contesti's father)



**Thank YOU for ALL YOU DO to  
Serve at Commerce UMC!**  
**If you would like information about joining  
with a committee or mission of the church  
please contact Pastor Andy at the church office  
or by email: [pastorandy@commerceumc.org](mailto:pastorandy@commerceumc.org)**