

"The STEEPLE"
A Newsletter of Commerce UMC-DEC. 2025
1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382
email: 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



Words for 2026

Dictionary.com declared “6-7” as the 2025 Word of the Year. Normally, I’d spend a few minutes researching the word’s origin and meaning, but when I Googled “6-7,” my screen started bouncing up and down like it was in the hands of a toddler. I decided to quit while I was ahead.

For the most part, “6-7” is nonsense—what’s often referred to as “brain rot”—but it has undeniably exploded onto the scene. If you’d asked me a year ago what Dictionary.com might choose as the Word of the Year, “6-7” wouldn’t have even made my list. And yet, its use kept growing. Fans in sports arenas began chanting “6-7” when their team hit 67 points. The fast food franchise In-N-Out Burger even banned order number 67 after teens flooded the counters filming reactions and slowing service for everyone else. Like it or not, “6-7” is everywhere.

I don’t know what 2026’s Word of the Year will be, but I hope it’s nothing like 2025’s. What if instead the word were something like “peace” or “love”? Just imagine it—people across the country actually living in peace, or love showing up in the most unexpected places so much so everyone is forced to talk about it. I wouldn’t just enjoy that; I’d gladly work toward it.

In this year to come, we will have plenty of opportunities to do just that. For the afflicted, the grieving, and those stretched too thin, can we take a moment to sit with them in silence, to listen, to offer words of comfort? For those that feel they’ve been forgotten -trafficked women in Detroit, foster children hungry for attention, or a neighbor on the fringes- can we show up? I know the answer is yes. I pray that goodness can deeper root in us and through us.

As we begin this new year, let’s remember what we’re working toward as God’s people. We seek to establish God’s kingdom on earth. We want Christ’s

light to shine brightly in a world that often feels dark. We strive to embody the teachings of our Lord wherever we go and in whatever we do. And if we live that way, our neighbors and friends may be quick to name what they see: "Peace." And "Love."

I am excited for, and looking forward to, another great year of ministry with you.

Grace and peace,

Andy Lee

*Kingdom
News*



Online **Kids of the Kingdom**

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

[Registration](#)



Kids' Klub + January 28th



A Family Christmas Program

What an amazingly successful production! Over **thirty** incredible children sharing their love of Jesus through songs, skits, and bells.

Many thanks to Emily and Kyle Gnagey, Kim Gnagey, Carly Miller, Kristine Van Dussen, the AV team, parents, grandparents and siblings!



Sunday School

God has blessed our church with a abundance of young children! We are looking to add to our Sunday School teacher roster, please reach out to Kristine if you are interested!



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 are celebrating snow and sand with **Luau in the Coola**. Themed games, sensory bins, and crafts are always a hit for all ages.

Commerce United Methodist Church
1155 N. Commerce Road
Commerce TWP, MI 48382



Thank you for blessing me with your generous gift this past Sunday. I am humbled and honor to be the pastor of Commerce UMC. Looking forward to doing life and ministry with you in the new year and beyond! Thank you again!

Pastor Andy Lee



The Angel Tree was a great success. We had over 100 tags returned! Thank You for making someone's Christmas a little bit brighter.

Missions Committee

DE-DECK THE HALLS

COMMERCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JANUARY 4TH • 11:45

Ash Wednesday Service



**Wednesday, Feb 18 @ 7PM
Commerce UMC**

Works of Mercy Lent 2026



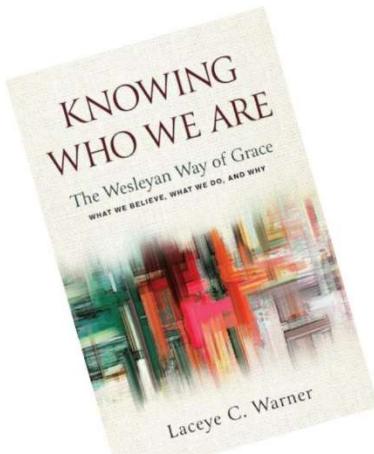
Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

KNOWING WHO WE ARE

2026 LENTEN BOOK STUDY ON UNITED METHODIST IDENTITY

MOVE BEYOND JUST BEING IN THE UMC!

Fully discover what sets us apart and empowers
us to work for justice and spread God's love!



Online
Book Study
Registration

JOIN NOW!

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE CLOSURES DUE TO HOLIDAYS



January

Thursday 1st - New Years Day



Do you know the Church has 11 gardens? Think about becoming a foster gardener in 2026 and sign up in the Narthex. For more information see Laura Elliott

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 Fellowship Hall at 1:00pm. Dates vary according to everyone's busy schedule.

The next meeting is January 22, 2026

Contact:

Kyle Caswell

248-688-1465

jrkcaswell@gmail.com

Marilynn Bruss

248-408-4869

marilynnb1943@att.net

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



JANUARY 2026

ANCHORED HOPE

Stats

Outreach

Events

Thank You

THANK YOU

Commerce UMC, you made 2025 an incredible year for Anchored Hope! Your prayers, donations, meals provided, participation in packing events, presence on the outreach team, help in the office, and so many more ways people jumped in to lend a hand greatly benefited the people we serve every week. You may never meet them, but they thank you every time we see them. We are so grateful for you and your support!

YEAR END STATS

Meals: 2475
Hygiene: 333
Outreaches: 142
Women served: 50 avg/mo
Outreach Team Members: 30
All Meals (Tu, We, Th) Sponsored

JANUARY 11 NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

Raising awareness about modern-day slavery, educate the public on identifying and stopping trafficking, and support survivors, with a focus on connecting the dots between trafficking and other social issues, and empowering people to take action. Learn how traffickers exploit vulnerabilities through force, fraud, or coercion for forced labor, commercial sex, and other types of human trafficking.

UPDATES

- Training 3 new members to lead outreach
- Added 2 Office Inventory Coordinators
- Honored to be invited to light the first candle on the Advent Wreath

PRAYER REQUESTS

- That God provide a safe way out
- That God provide warmth, healing, and safety
- That God's presence be known to them all

OUTREACH NEEDS

Life on the streets is challenging, especially medically. Recently we've seen an uptick in wounds, cuts and bruises. We are especially in need of:

- Band-Aids
- Gauze Pads
- Antibacterial Wipes

Infection prevention is key!

PACKING EVENT

Our next packing event is scheduled for February. More details in the next newsletter or at the link below. All are welcome! We'd love to see you there!

Connect with us! info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org <https://linktr.ee/anchoredhopeoutreach>

SOUP SUNDAY

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 8TH
11AM



SOUP
ROLL
COOKIE!



NEW
RINGERS
WELCOME

BELL
CHOIR

BELL CHOIR PRACTICES ON
TUESDAYS AT 6:00PM

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.



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

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. 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



**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



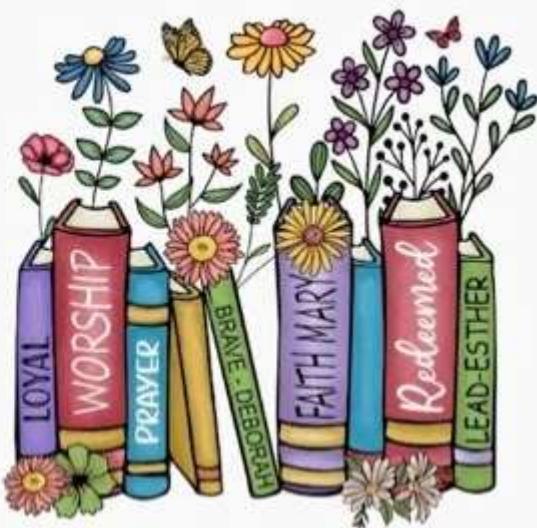
**Interested?
Contact
Diane Senk**

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



JANUARY

BIRTHDAY'S

- 2 Tim Contesti, Emma Fagan, Lukas Kristofik
- 3 Samson VanDussen
- 5 Ava Higuchi
- 6 Joe Wichowski
- 8 Ed Wenz
- 9 Denise Pistana, Courtney Long, Jeffrey Fagan, Noelle Lee
- 10 Kristine Van Dussen
- 11 Paul Elliott, Len Kumm, Betty Spehar, Nathaniel Inglis-Dubin, Emma Nelson
- 15 Ethan Schulz, Michelle Lyon, Frank Larrabee
- 17 Hannah Brassell, Becky Lund
- 20 Taylor Mroz, Rosa Bergner, Brock Nelson
- 21 Ellie Gnagey
- 25 Elizabeth Lyon, Hailey Lyon, Thomas Lyon
- 27 Pastor Andy Lee
- 30 Marsden MacCarreall
- 31 Mike Marcelli, Genika Landry

ANNIVERSARY'S

4 John & Lynn Delaney
11 Ernie & Jane Sampson
27 Robert & Nancy Strohs

Please Pray for



Always say a prayer! Jennie Gibson (Linda Kornatowski's neice), Glenna Callaghan, Tammi Fenn, Millie Kargol's friend Mike



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