

**"The STEEPLE"**  
**A Newsletter of Commerce UMC-FEBRUARY 2026**  
**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)**



## **Miracles at Commerce**

I had the opportunity to share this good news in worship on January 25th, but I believe it warrants repeating here in the newsletter. We experienced a miracle at our church. I want to remind you that during the final quarter of the year, Commerce UMC experienced a significant financial challenge.

For the first time since I've been here, by October of last year, we had amassed a \$55,000 deficit. While a small deficit is to be expected—especially after the leaner summer months—this deficit was \$40,000 more than usual. As such, we made cuts where we could, including pausing extra mortgage payments and ministry share payments. The Finance Committee and I also hosted a town hall explaining our financial situation, which was quite simple: expenses of every kind were up, but giving remained the same or slightly down. The finance team and I asked the congregation to respond.

As a result, in December, we gave like no other month in the last 60 months. Truly, in miraculous fashion, we broke even for the year. We erased the \$55,000 deficit. Extreme deficit, extreme response. Praise God! I truly thank everyone who gave generously to close out 2025 in a position of strength, so that we could begin 2026 on the right footing.

I understand that one of the primary reasons for such a strong response was the impact our ministries are having. Despite the decline that many churches have experienced—especially after the pandemic—Commerce UMC has grown. God is at work in the children's ministry, which has grown considerably during my time here. God is at work in the ten infants born to our church family in 2025. God is at work in bringing the lost home, as we welcome new members from all walks of life.

God is also at work as we launch new ministries, like a caregivers' support

group for those supporting loved ones living with dementia. God is at work as more people move toward discipleship through Bible study with Pastor Tonya or through acts of mercy with ministry partners like Anchored Hope, the Methodist Children's Home, or the local food pantry, Hospitality House.

Thank you for your faithful response to our financial challenge in 2025. Our community is truly experiencing unexpected, surprising, and abundant blessings from God. As such, let us continue to share our blessings, moving them outward as we connect all people to the renewing, transforming love of Jesus Christ. In so doing, I expect to witness God's hand at work in miraculous fashion in 2026 and beyond.

May the grace and peace of our Lord be with you!

*Andy Lee*



**Come join the fun!**

CUMC Youth Group and Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church youth group is having a Lock-In February 6th at 7pm through Saturday 8pm. There will be games, food, drinks, inflatables and loads of fun activities.

There will be no youth group meeting on February 8th.

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# 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' Bells** February 8th

**Kids' Klub +** February 25th

**Palm Sunday** March 29th

**Easter Egg Hunt** April 4th



## 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 having breakfast for dinner & building block fun with **Lego my Ego**. Themed games, sensory bins, and crafts are always a hit for all ages.



## **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 \* Kids' Bells \* Skit \*



## **Easter Egg Hunt**

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 15th. A designated basket can be found in the Narthex, thank you for making this event possible.

Commerce United Methodist Church

1155 N. Commerce Road

Commerce TWP, MI 48382

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### **MUSTARD SEEDS NEWS**

**We are moving along in our school year and registering for the 2026-2027 school year. Please contact Debbie Whitson if you want to learn more of what we have to offer. We have been studying about God's forgiving love for us with bible stories and crafts.**

**Mid Winter break is February 16-20th.**

**Blessings,**

**Miss Debbie**

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A vibrant green poster for a chili cook-off event. The background features stylized orange and yellow flames. Two bowls of chili are shown: one in a purple bowl on the left and one in a white bowl on the right. The white bowl is labeled 'Prizes Awarded'. The text is in various colors and fonts, including a large yellow title and a smaller white invitation.

**Chili Cook Off & Euchre**

Bring a chili or just bring yourself—everyone is welcome!

**COMMERCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
AT COMMERCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

*Prizes Awarded*

*Judging Categories*  
Best Overall  
Crowd Favorite  
Kids Choice

A black poster with a white chalk-style cross in the center. The text is in white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is a dark, textured black.

**Ash Wednesday Service**

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

# Works of Mercy Lent 2026



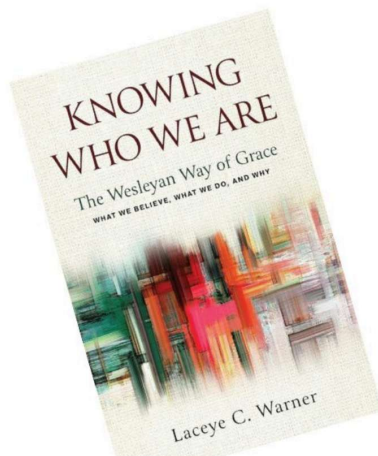
Michigan Conference  
The United Methodist Church

## 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!**

# Adopt a Garden 2026



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

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

**The next meeting is February 19, 2026**

**Contact:**

**Kyle Caswell**

**248-688-1465**

**jrkcaswell@gmail.com**

**Marilynn Bruss**

**248-408-4869**

**marilynnb1943@att.net**

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But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

**Ephesians 2:4-5**



FEBRUARY 2026

# ANCHORED HOPE

Stats

Outreach

Events

Thank You

## THANK YOU

Kids on a Mission made 30 medical kits for us this month. The people we serve often do not have access to basic supplies to treat basic wounds. People come to us with cuts, bruises, scrapes, and other basic injuries and do not have a simple band-aid to cover them up. Thanks to Kids on a Mission we are able to supply people with these basic supplies to try to keep infection at bay and a small wound from becoming a dangerous one.

### ANCHORED HOPE FUN FACT

Outreach happens three times every week. We offer support Tuesdays during the day and Wednesday and Thursday evenings. We plan to add additional outreaches this year. If you would like to be part of this, email us!

### OUTREACH NEEDS

The ice and cold are particularly harsh this year and at a time when lack of love may be especially felt due to the holiday. We are especially in need of:

- Hand Warmers
- Valentine's Candy
- Travel Size Hand Sanitizer

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- For God to make a way and to provide resources for a woman so she can get an apartment of her own.
- For God's mercy and grace to touch a woman's heart bringing healing into her life so she breaks free from the chains that bind her and be filled with the hope of God.
- For God to provide guidance for a woman to get her life in order and get a job.
- For God to guide a woman in her life choices and that he will strengthen her to take next steps into recovery.
- For God's healing from all ailments, large and small.

### UPDATES

- Passed out 27 Christmas gifts, 5 of them to survivors
- Passed out awareness material at the Detroit Auto Show
- A woman entered recovery in January and is doing well!

### PACKING EVENT

Our next packing event is scheduled for February 23 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will pack meals, snack packs, and other essentials for outreach. All are welcome! We'd love to see you there!

### Future Dates

4/13, 6/15,  
8/17, 10/12,  
12/7

**Connect with us!** [info@anchoredhopeoutreach.org](mailto: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.

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**CUMC**  
**WORSHIP**  
*join the band*

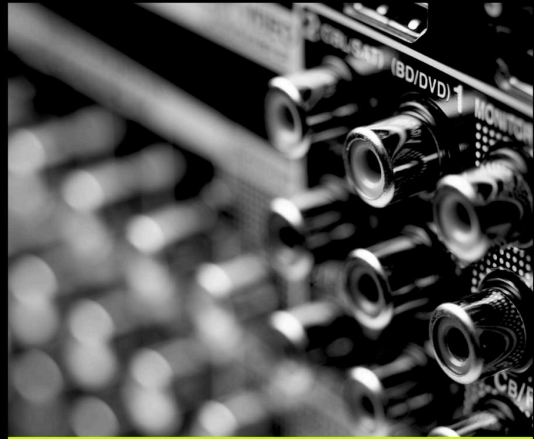
Singers and instrumentalists welcome!  
Email [kgnagey@commerceumc.org](mailto:kgnagey@commerceumc.org)

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# 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

**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!

## 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



## 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 Ginny Hubble  
27 Kathy Walters  
28 Frank Casenhiser

## ANNIVERSARY'S

- 19 Rich & Lori Kornatowski  
25 Alex & Terri Stefanou



*Please Pray for*  
Kristin Lemon-Steve and Becky's daughter-n-law, Pat Elliot



**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)**

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Access the Calendar [HERE](#) for Events and Important Dates

Find the Commerce UMC Website by [clicking here.](#)

