

**"The STEEPLE"**  
**A Newsletter of Commerce UMC-MARCH 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)**



### **Turn to God**

**Repentance is a central theme in the season of Lent. In simple terms, repentance means “to turn to God.” It’s easy for Christians to fall into sin or engage in destructive habits. Maybe we entertain gossip, withhold kindness, or nurse unhealthy addictions. It’s not usually the case that we wake up one day and decide to create distance from God — we just drift. Slowly. Quietly. Almost imperceptibly.**

**During Lent, the period before Easter, God’s people intentionally reflect on their relationship with God. Because we all stumble, repentance is the natural outcome. Repentance is not self-hatred or beating ourselves up. It’s simply noticing we’ve drifted and choosing to turn back.**

**As we choose to turn to God, this is often paired with tangible commitments. It’s common to practice self-denial. For example, some choose to abstain from social media. They notice that it consumes too much of their time and emotional energy. This change creates room. Room to reflect. Room to pray. Room to remember who we are and whose we are.**

**For some, turning to God doesn’t involve giving something up, but taking something on. Some choose to practice daily prayer. Some commit to a state-wide book study. Others step into acts of compassionate service: volunteering at a food pantry, spending time with foster children, or showing up where there is need.**

**These practices retrain the heart. When we serve, we turn outward. When we give, we loosen the grip of self-centeredness. When we show up to address someone else’s need, we begin to see as God sees.**

**By the time you receive this newsletter, we will already be nearly two weeks into Lent. So, consider this a gentle encouragement to keep turning to God. If you have been participating in a meaningful practice of self-denial or service that has brought you closer to God, I applaud you. Continue.**

**If you have not chosen a practice yet, I encourage you to begin. What’s one small way you can turn to God today? Could you set aside two minutes to sit silently in God’s presence? I invite you to give it a try.**

**Wherever you find yourself, know this: our loving God — the One who calls you — waits patiently with arms open wide.**

**Blessings on your journey,**

**Pastor Andy**



## Commerce Youth Group Sub Sandwich Fundraiser

Sandwiches \$10  
Chips \$1

**Italian**  
**Ham & Cheese**  
**Turkey & Cheese**  
**Cold Cut Combo**  
**Veggie Delight**

Order by April 3rd  
Pick-Up April 5th

**Sign-Up in the narthex**



CUMC Youth Group are selling subs just in time for the Final Four Games. You can also place an order by [email-pelliott@commerceumc.org](mailto:email-pelliott@commerceumc.org)

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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.

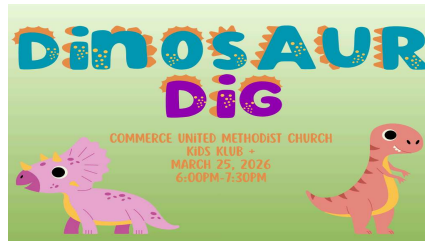
[Registration](#)



Kids' Klub + March 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 going prehistoric with a Dinosaur Dig. 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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# WOMEN'S GET ACQUAINTED BRUNCH



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SATURDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

10AM

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

MEET, GREET, CHAT, SNACK

Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office (248-363-3935) to RSVP

## Spring Rummage and Bake Sale

Volunteers Needed:  
Sign-Up in the Narthex!

April 16,17: 9-4  
April 18: 9-12

Clean Out Your Closets \* Bake Cookies



Thursday & Friday  
April 16th & 17th  
9AM - 4PM

Saturday  
April 18th  
9AM - Noon

Time for spring cleaning - Clean out a closet or two or three. What about the basement? Can you get the car in the garage? We all have areas that need a good cleaning, then you can donate your stuff to the Rummage Sale. Donations are not accepted until Sunday April 16th. We DO NOT HAVE a spot to store it until then.

Set up is on Sunday April 16th after coffee hour. We need muscles to move the racks to the fellowship hall along with props, hangers, etc. A sign up sheet has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for

Sunday set up, Monday-Wednesday set up and sorting as items come in. Wednesday evening is Church Members only sale, 6PM - 8PM. We need help Thursday thru Saturday during the sale. Sign up for whatever time you can help. Clean up is an important time as we have to have our left overs ready for Open Door by 12:30PM.

Our Bake Sale is during the Rummage sale times. We appreciate anything you would like to bake. Popular items are pies, cookies, brownies, muffins and bread. If you enjoy baking, we would really appreciate your baked goods.

This is a major fundraiser for the UMW. All sale funds are donated to various charities at the end of the year; food pantries, community shelter services for the needy. Your donation help and kindness makes it possible for this church to show the community what a caring and giving church we are.

Thank you in advance, UWF

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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.

Spring Break, March 30th - April 3rd

Blessings,

Miss Debbie

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# Works of Mercy Lent 2026



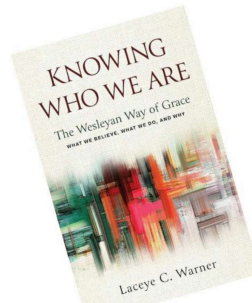
Michigan Conference  
The United Methodist Church

**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

## 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 March 19, 2026

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)



## Holy Week Schedule 2026

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Tenebrae Service</b>	<b>Egg Hunt</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
				
Sunday March 29 <sup>th</sup> 10am Sanctuary	Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6pm Fellowship Hall	Good Friday April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 7pm Sanctuary	Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup> 11am Front Courtyard	Sunday April 5 <sup>th</sup> 10am Sanctuary
Palm Parade Children's Skit	Potluck and Service			UMM Breakfast



Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.



**Hosea 6:3**

# ANCHORED HOPE

Stats      Outreach      Events      Thank You

## THANK YOU

The generous donations from the Missions Committee and the United Methodist Men's Group are greatly appreciated. These donations directly impact our ability to offer greater support to our women.

Thank you for the freshly baked Valentine's cookies! Everyone has enjoyed the taste of home that you provided with these treats!

### ANCHORED HOPE FUN FACT

Anchored Hope serves about fifty different women each month. In addition, we meet one new woman each week on average. Meals distributed: 236 Hygiene kits distributed: 22

### OUTREACH NEEDS

- ◆ Baby Wipes/Body Wipes
- ◆ Snack size Ziploc Bags
- ◆ Flavored Powder Packs
- ◆ Twin size or smaller blankets
- ◆ Hand and toe warmers - the weather is improving, but it's Michigan.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- For God to break chains of manipulation and control.
- For God to keep a woman safe, strengthen her with courage and provide peace for her soul.
- For God's healing and relief for several that are sick, one with a broken nose, one with a burn.
- For God to soften men's hearts towards the women.

### PRAISES

- We passed out 30 Valentines sharing the message of John 3:16.
- One woman entered rehab and another is considering it.
- Some women are healing from their illnesses.

### UPDATES


- ◆ We mourn the loss of one of the women we have come to know over years. The first time we gave her a Christmas gift she told us, "I have never received a Christmas gift before." May she rest easy in His grace, finally knowing peace and safety. May her family find comfort in Christ.
- ◆ We spent a good weekend educating and raising awareness at the Autorama.
- ◆ We are excited for a new Outreach member to join us on outreaches in March!

### PACKING EVENT

Our next packing event is scheduled for April 13th 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**  
6/15, 8/17,  
10/12, 12/7

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



# 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.



## 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

**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



## 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

### ANNIVERSARY'S

- 28 Pat & Suzanne LeVasseur
- 30 Steve & Judy Rohr



*Please Pray for*

Bob Morris, Sandy Richardson, Pat Elliot, Kayla Nichols' Brother, Michelle Edwards (Dorothy Saari's cousin), Kari Aro (Dorothy Saari's friend), Sharon Marquez (Dorothy Saari's niece), Kristin Lemon (Steve & Becky Lemon's daughter), Terry Shaw (Steve Lemon's brother-in-law)



**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](#).