

## **"The STEEPLE"**

**A Newsletter of Commerce UMC-APRIL 2026**  
**1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382**

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**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)



### **Easter People**

You and I are Easter people. No, I'm not suggesting that Easter festivities are your favorite. You don't have to love egg hunts, pastel colors, bunnies, or ham. By "Easter people," I mean that we are shaped by the good news of Easter. We carry it with us wherever we go. Even in moments of trouble or chaos, we rest in Christ's ultimate victory. We trust that God has the final word—even over suffering—and that, in the end, all will be well.

I give thanks because I have seen our church living as Easter people these past several weeks. During Lent, we hosted three events that mobilized our members to serve others through acts of mercy. The people we served are those Scripture calls "the least of these"—orphans, exploited women, and those facing hunger. At each event, the response was enthusiastic and generous.

Our focus wasn't on solving every complex problem or fully understanding every circumstance. Instead, we showed up. We were present. We served as we were able. It can be easy to talk ourselves out of doing good. It's easy to assume our impact is too small or to get stuck overthinking what the "best" solution might be. But Easter people don't wait for perfect conditions. We overcome darkness with light. We move toward love. And I was proud to see that in action.

I saw it again in a quieter setting as well. As you may know, our church has a caregivers support group that meets monthly to share, vent, and simply belong. While I am not a caregiver myself, I joined one of their gatherings in

my role as pastor.

I expected to hear mostly stories of hardship, and there were some. Caregiving brings real challenges: frustration, exhaustion, grief. But what surprised me was what filled most of the conversation. Gratitude. Again and again, people named blessings: a good day, an upcoming trip, the support of friends and family, a helpful resource, even a peaceful passing.

That kind of perspective might seem unlikely. But it begins to make sense when you remember who was in the room: Easter people. People shaped by the resurrection. People who know that death and darkness do not have the final word.

And that is who we are, too.

So wherever this month finds you...in joy or in struggle, in clarity or in uncertainty, remember this: you are an Easter person. Christ is risen. Hope is alive. And that good news is not just something we celebrate once a year. It is something we live, every single day.

Grace and peace to you, my fellow Easter person.

Pastor Andy

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## THE EASTER STORY

The story of Easter is a powerful journey of love, sacrifice, and hope. It tells of Jesus' final days, his death on the cross, and his miraculous resurrection, offering a message of forgiveness and new life for all. Whether you've heard it many times or are discovering it for the first time, this story continues to

**shape hearts and inspire lives around the world.**

**As the time of Passover approached, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He was greeted by crowds waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” People celebrated him as their long-awaited king, though many of the religious leaders were uneasy about his growing influence. (Matthew 21)**

**On the night before his arrest, Jesus gathered with his closest disciples for a meal, now known as the Last Supper. He broke bread and shared wine with them, saying they represented his body and blood, soon to be given for their forgiveness. During this meal, he also humbly washed his disciples’ feet and spoke of the betrayal that was coming. (Luke 22)**

**After supper, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew he was about to die and was deeply troubled and sorrowful. He asked God if the coming suffering could be taken from him, but ultimately submitted: “Not my will, but yours be done.” Meanwhile, Judas, one of his own disciples, arrived with soldiers to betray him with a kiss. (Mark 14)**

**Jesus was arrested and taken before the Jewish council, where he was falsely accused and mocked. The next morning, he was brought to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Though Pilate found no reason to condemn Jesus, the crowd, stirred by the religious leaders, demanded his crucifixion. Pilate washed his hands of responsibility and handed Jesus over. (Luke 22–23)**

**Jesus was beaten, mocked, and crowned with a wreath of thorns. Weakened by the torture, he was forced to carry his cross through the streets toward Golgotha, the place of execution. Along the way, Simon of Cyrene was pulled from the crowd to help carry the heavy wood. (Luke 23)**

**At Golgotha, Jesus was nailed to the cross between two criminals. The soldiers divided his clothes, and people who watched hurled insults at him. Above his head hung a sign: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”**

**Darkness covered the land for three hours, and with a final cry — “It is finished” — Jesus gave up his spirit. (John 19)**

**A man named Joseph of Arimathea, a quiet follower of Jesus, asked Pilate for his body. Jesus was carefully wrapped in linen and laid in a new tomb carved into the rock. A heavy stone was rolled across the entrance, and guards were posted to prevent anyone from tampering with the body. (Mark 15)**

**Early on the third day, some women — Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome — went to the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus’ body. But when they arrived, they found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. An angel appeared, telling them, “He is not here; he has risen!” (Luke 24)**

**Jesus began to appear to his disciples and followers, showing them his hands and side to prove he was alive. He met two travelers on the road to Emmaus, appeared in a locked room, and even shared a meal of fish with them. His message was clear: the scriptures had been fulfilled, and forgiveness and new life were now offered to all. (John 20–21)**

**Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gathered his disciples and gave them a mission: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all I have commanded.” With a promise that he would be with them always, Jesus ascended, leaving his followers to spread the good news of his resurrection to the world. (Matthew 28)**





## 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)

Kingdom  
News



Online Kids of the Kingdom

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

[Registration](#)



**VBS Registration Opens** April 1st

**Easter Egg Hunt** April 4th

**Kids' Klub +** April 22nd



**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 is all about **Fairy Tale Fun**. Themed games, sensory bins, and crafts are always a hit for all ages.



## 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

VBS Registration



**REMINDER: Participant GRADE LEVEL is what grade they are entering in the FALL!**

[Participant Registration](#)

Interested in volunteering? Register Below.

[Volunteer Registration](#)



**Kristine Van Dussen**

**Christian Education Director . VBS Coordinator**

**Commerce United Methodist Church**

**248.363.3935 ext 304**

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**Spring Rummage and Bake Sale**

**Volunteers Needed:  
Sign-Up in the Narthex!**

**Clean Out Your Closets \* Bake Cookies**

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

A large, brown, tag-shaped graphic with rounded corners and a white border. The text is in white, bold, sans-serif font. A smaller, light brown tag is attached to the left side, containing the dates and times. The background of the main tag is a solid brown color.

**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 12th**. We DO NOT HAVE a spot to store it until then.**

**Set up is on **Sunday April 12th** 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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# 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 April 22, 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>  Sunday March 29 <sup>th</sup> 10am Sanctuary Palm Parade Children's Skit	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>  Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6pm Fellowship Hall Potluck and Service	<b>Tenebrae Service</b>  Good Friday April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 7pm Sanctuary	<b>Egg Hunt</b>  Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup> 11am Front Courtyard	<b>Easter Sunday</b>  Sunday April 5 <sup>th</sup> 10am Sanctuary UMM Breakfast
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# *Easter Sunday Service*

*Commerce United Methodist Church  
Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 10am*



There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

**Proverbs 23:18**



APRIL 2026

# ANCHORED HOPE

Stats

Outreach

Events

Thank You

## THANK YOU, YOUTH!

It's not often we do a 10:00 PM packing event! However, our Youth Group was up to the challenge. During their lock in they packed meals for the following Tuesday outreach, made 30 Valentine Cards, labeled water bottles with the verse of the month, packed candy bags, packed body wipes bags, sorted clothes, and completed inventory. Thank you to our youth for sharing their love of Christ through service to others.

## ANCHORED HOPE UPDATES

We are excited to report:

- A new position – Packing Event Coordinator – has been filled
- A new outreach member
- 5 different events where we presented and educated others

## ANCHORED HOPE FUN FACT

Consistency is the root of our relationships with these people. We are there the same three days every week, at the same times for each outreach. Tuesday 11am-2pm, Wednesday and Thursday 7pm-10pm.  
**Meals distributed: 238**  
**Hygiene kits distributed: 13**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For God to open doors for 2 different women to get into their own apartments.
- For God to keep people safe in a house, that He would help them to find freedom in Jesus.

## PRAISES

- A woman was so thankful for wipes and new clothes because she hadn't been able to shower in a week. She was going to go and take a "bird bath" (get clean without a shower, using body wipes or water from a bottle or sink).
- A woman is out of jail and all her charges have been dropped.
- A woman was in recovery for 83 days. She is moving out of the area.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to 39 wonderful volunteers show up who attended our packing event at the end of February! We packed:

- 160 Meal Bags
- 100 Snack Packs
- 150 Large Hygiene Kits
- 35 Winter Kits
- 50 Bath Wipes Kits
- 225 Feminine Kits

## UMC COLLECTION

Commerce UMC will be collecting flip flops and sunscreen from the end of April through the end of May. The box will be in the Narthex. Thank you for making sure our women are protected through the heat as well as you have through the snow!

## NEEDS

- Sunscreen
- Snack size Ziploc bags
- Condiment packets

## 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 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*

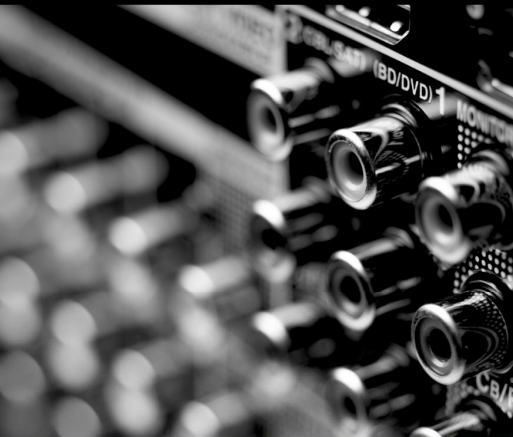
Singers and instrumentalists welcome!  
Email [kgnagey@commerceumc.org](mailto:kgnagey@commerceumc.org)

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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](mailto: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**

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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



**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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# Ushers Needed



**Interested?  
Contact  
Diane Senk**

## BIBLE JOURNALING

1st Thursday @ 5:30pm  
3rd Thursday @ 3:00pm

No experience needed,  
everyone is welcome to  
join the fun!



CHECK CUMC WEBSITE CALENDAR TO  
CONFIRM MEETING INFORMATION



# APRIL

## BIRTHDAY'S

- 1 Deborah Biermacher, Mary Mandilk
- 2 Drew Henwood
- 4 Rachael Laming
- 5 Barbara Felice
- 6 Lisa Lie
- 10 Jimmy Pittman, Grace Gnagey
- 11 Emma Cooper
- 12 Greg Baroni, Mike Kennedy
- 13 Brenda Oliver
- 14 Aubrey Cooper
- 15 Sophia Grever
- 16 Samantha Pellett, Denise "Chip" Black
- 19 Devin Hager, Sloan Mecham
- 20 Ray Topper, Tammie Fenn
- 21 Lila Crossett
- 22 Janet Boyd, Landon Freels
- 23 Beth Fournier, Nancy Strohs
- 24 Ken Dunneback
- 25 Kayla Lennox

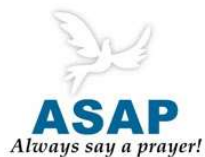
- 26 Nathan Lie, Kristopher Lussenden  
30 Trent Thiry, Saidu Kamara, Coralyn Walsh

### ANNIVERSARY'S

- 4 Don & Penny Masch  
17 Greg & Marilyn Baroni  
19 Mike & Kathy Stiltner  
20 Ken & Bonnie Dunneback  
20 Harry & Marilyn Bruss  
21 Carl & Gladys Schneider  
26 Pete & Kim Bommarito  
26 Dave & Jackie Smiertka

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**Please Pray for**



**Kristin Lemon (Steve & Becky Lemon's daughter), Terry Shaw (Steve Lemon's brother-in-law), Ben Lemon, Kyle Oliver, Ainsley Kraft & her Family, Dorothy Saari's Family, Leroy Stoddard and Family**



**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.](#)**