



Commerce First United Methodist Church

A Place to Know, Grow, and Show God's Love

October 2023 Newsletter

Pastor: **Rev. Joshua Carr**

Email: joshua@commercefumc.org

Associate Pastor: **Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard**

Email: whitney@commercefumc.org

Minister of Music: **Leanne Wadsworth**

Email: music@commercefumc.org

Treasurer: **Lisa Nesbit**

Email: treasurer@commercefumc.org

Secretary: **Holly Hempton**

Email: office@commercefumc.org

Website: www.commercefumc.org

Office Email: office@commercefumc.org

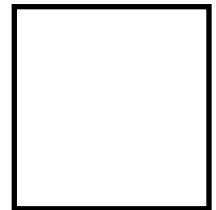
Address: 16 Cherry St. Commerce, GA 30529

Office Phone: (706) 340-8611

Commerce First United Methodist Church

16 Cherry St.

Commerce, GA 30529



October Events

10/4 LIFT 5:30-6:30pm

10/21 Spirit Spa 9AM-12pm

10/26 Boo Fest 5:30-7:30pm

10/29 Fall Festival at Bowers Farm
4pm



10/4 LIFT 5:30-6:30pm

10/8 Youth Group 5:30-6:30pm

10/22 Youth Group 5:30-6:30pm

10/29 Fall Festival at Bowers Farm 4pm



10/4 LIFT 5:30-6:30pm

10/8 Kids Club 5:30-6:30pm

10/22 Kids Club 5:30-6:30pm

10/26 Boo Fest 5:30-7:30pm

10/29 Fall Festival at Bowers Farm 4pm





October 2023 Prayer List

"Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers." -Ephesians 6:18

Prayer Requests For Our Community & Beyond:

Our church, its ministries, and leadership.
Our country, our community, and our church leaders.
For those affected by injustice and violence in all the ways they present themselves.
All medical and emergency personnel.
The Kairos Prison Ministry.
The World with all its needs, near and far from us.

Our Men and Women in the Military:

Ryan Buckingham, nephew of Jane Bedell, US Army
Karl Buckingham, nephew of Jane Bedell, US Army
Tyler Buckingham, nephew of Jane Bedell, US Army
Bobby Marshburn, Ensign in the Navy
Mason McDaniel, Godson of Janni & Dynelle Martin, US Army
Major Scott Powell, son of Thomas Powell, US Army
Steven Wheeler, brother-in-law of Jan Roe
PFC Connor Legg, grandson of Jack Legg, US Army

Those in Assisted Living:

Gayle Pritchett

Brighter Mornings at the Shoals
7456 Hwy 82 Spur, Maysville, GA 30558

Those at home:

Lucy Gailey

228 Honeysuckle Dr., Commerce, GA 30529

Dr. Don McFadden

119 University Dr., Commerce, GA 30529

Pat and Jimmy Purcell

Prayers for Strength and Healing:

Mitchell Adams
Grant Anderson
Henry Arostegui
Heather & Jimmy Ballenger
Betty Baxter
Nathan Baxter
Lisa Bennett
Whitney Bergmann
Gail Brock
LaNelle Davis
Anna Diamond
Peter Green
Lee Hagan
Sara Harber
Holona Lance
Laurel Lauria
Winnie Mullinax
Gayle Pritchett
Pat Purcell
Clarence Rogue
Steve & Donna Shoun
Winona & John Siwick
Calvin Smith
Timothy Sweeney
Roger Thoms
Reese Tiller
Mary Walters

Joys and Celebrations:

If you have any joys or celebrations you'd like to share with the congregation please contact the church office at 706-340-8611 or office@commercefumc.org

Trustee of the Month

Joanna Suarez

Altar Guild

Elizabeth Phillips

Judy Harbin

Counters

10/1 Dave Moon
 Lee Hagan

10/8 Al Fleming
 Tom Murphy

10/15 Jack Legg
 Bill Davis

10/22 Jimmy Bolton
 Elton Collins

10/29 Al Fleming
 Tom Murphy

Acolytes

10/1 Matthew Whitlock
 William Whitlock

10/8 Karen Hill

10/15 Isabella Whitlock
 Sara Hill

10/2 Britton Jones-Leggett
 Manning Pittard

10/29 Elise Phillips
 Llewynn Jones-Leggett

Birthdays

Lynnly Drinkard 10/2

Preston Hempton 10/5

John Cassidy 10/5

Lindley Jones-Leggett 10/6

Charles Blair 10/7

Mike Bowers 10/7

Tony Barnett 10/9

Llewyn Jones-Leggett 10/9

Mary Alice Wood 10/10

Karen Benton 10/16

Rosemary Phillips 10/19

Roger Thomas 10/19

Dave Moon 10/20

Logan Cassidy 10/21

Peggy Purcell 10/22

Ellen Smith 10/22

Debbie Manus 10/25

Nancy Nichols 10/27

Roy Cartee 10/30

Anniversaries

Carol and Don McFadden 10/6

Martha and George Evans 10/7

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY	8:30 AM: FITNESS CLASS
TUESDAY	8:05 AM: COFFEE & CONVERSATION 4:00 PM: PICKLEBALL
WEDNESDAY	8:30 AM: FITNESS CLASS 5:30 PM: ADULT BIBLE STUDY (NON LIFT WEDNESDAYS) 6:45 PM: CHOIR
THURSDAY	9:00 AM: RAY VANDER LAAN STUDY

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship/Communion	2 8:30a Fitness Class	3 8:05a Coffee & Conversation 4p Pickleball/gym	4 8:30a Fitness Class 5:30pm Lift Dinner 6:45p Choir	5 9:00a Ray Vander Laan Study	6	7
8 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 5:30p Youth Group & Kids Club	9 Office Closed	10 8:05a Coffee & Conversation 4p Pickleball/gym	13 8:30a Fitness Class 5:30p Adult Bible Study 5:30p Hand Bells 6:45p Choir	12 9:00a Ray Vander Laan Study	13	14 7a iServe
15 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship	16 8:30a Fitness Class 7p Circle 3	17 8:05a Coffee & Conversation 4p Pickleball/gym 6p Circle 5	13 8:30a Fitness Class 5:30p Adult Bible Study 5:30p Hand Bells 6:45p Choir	19 9:00a Ray Vander Laan Study	20	21 9:00a Spirit Spa (Women's Gathering)
22 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 5:30p Youth Group & Kids Club	23 8:30a Fitness Class	24 8:05a Coffee & Conversation 4p Pickleball/gym	13 8:30a Fitness Class 5:30p Adult Bible Study 5:30p Hand Bells 6:45p Choir	26 9:00a Ray Vander Laan Study 5:30p Boo Fest	27	28
29 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 4p Fall Festival at Bowers	30 8:30a Fitness Class	31 8:05a Coffee & Conversation 4p Pickleball/gym				



Each year, our church dedicates some time in the fall to focus on reminding ourselves of why we're in ministry, how our ministry impacts the lives of those around us, and how we can continue to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We call this "Stewardship". Each year, our annual ministry plan is created based on the commitments (aka pledges) of our church family. With these commitments, we're able to plan for the following year's ministry by identifying individuals ready to serve in a large number of ways. We're also able to financially dedicate funds to ministry areas based on the commitments received during the stewardship season. When you commit to praying, presence, gifting, serving, and witnessing with your church, you're fulfilling your commitment to Christ.

Our goal for 2024 stewardship season is for everyone to find a place to serve and grow in their relationship with God.

We are inviting you to move **Forward in Faith** with us. Please ask for a pledge card or email Lisa Nesbit with your 2024 pledge at treasurer@commercefumc.org by October 31st.

A flyer for a "Spirit Spa" event. The background is dark green with white text and decorative elements. At the top, it says "FALL 2023 COMMERCE FUMC WOMEN'S GATHERING". Below that, "Spirit Spa" is written in a large, elegant script font. Underneath, it reads "A MORNING OF REST & SPIRITUAL SELF-CARE". The date and time are "SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 9:00am-noon". At the bottom, it says "Register on Realm Connect" and "call office at 706.340.8611 for assistance". There is also a note "Childcare available upon request." and a quote from Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." -Matthew 11:28. The flyer includes images of lit candles, a labyrinth, and a person meditating in a landscape.

Jesus says, "Come to me, you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." At *Spirit Spa*, our upcoming **women's gathering**, we are inviting you to do just that – to find rest, to explore opportunities for spiritual self-care, to break bread, have conversation, and worship God with women in your community.

Trustees Flash

Trustees Flash October, 2023

It's October - Halloween, ghosts, trick or treat, and mysteries!

Keith Whitfield dug out a 6 ft x 8 ft x 4.5 ft hole around the mystery sink hole in the back yard of the Victoria house. He filled it with dirt and planted grass on it. We found an old coke bottle and an old gear and a few roots. There were two iron $\frac{3}{4}$ in pipes which came up vertically and then went away from the house toward the fence. What was once there remains a mystery.

While trimming limbs and trees around the fence surrounding our property, John Waldrop unexpectedly discovered that one of the big oak trees at the driveway to the Victoria house had a very large limb that had a long deep crack through its middle. In the interest of precaution, we decided that the tree should go. The large sycamore tree on the front lawn by the sidewalk is dying and it will be removed soon.

There are many, many fluorescent light fixtures throughout our facilities. We must constantly replace them. To address this, we are developing a plan to change them out to LED fixtures. Our idea is to choose the same fixtures throughout the buildings so that we can keep one type of replacement on hand. Because there are so many, the project will be expensive. We will develop a phased-in approach. We will also address the sensor in the hallway of the FLC.

The fiber from the City is adequate, but the connectivity among the access points throughout the facilities needs attention. We are considering adding and/or replacing several of them.

The Trustees continue to make plans to meet our obligations toward disaffiliation.

- Linda Exley



Commerce FUMC will have a table at the Library's 10th Annual Boo Fest! Come out and support this Commerce community event! Volunteers are needed to help Whitney at the event. If you can help let Whitney know.



Fall is here and it's time for the annual Fall Festival at Bowers Farm!! All are welcome. Please RSVP by October 25th to the church office (706-340-8611 or office@commercefumc.org).

Great Day of Service 2023



Great Day of Service 2023 was a great success! We had about 70 volunteers helping throughout the day! We packed 50 toiletry bags and made 10 no-sew blankets that will go to Street Love Ministries to be shared with those experiencing homelessness; we packed 25 Compassion Kits for our folks to take and keep in their cars and hand out to people in need; we planted flowers at Brookside; we packed food and loaded it into the cars of people who needed it at iServe; we collected several carloads of food (more than the pantry could hold!) for Warren Chapel's pantry; tended to some long overdue projects around the church property; sorted donations at Peace Place; wrote notes; prepped our children's activity bags; and more! Thank you to all who participated!



Great Day of Service 2023



Lay Leadership—Here to Serve!

Finance

Bill Davis, Chairperson

Janet Adams

Elton Collins

Lee Hagan

Tom Murphy

David Stephenson

Staff-Parish Relations

Charles Blair, Chairperson

Bette Rose Bowers

Anne Fleming

K. Ellen Hagan

Kristen Hill

Matt Lund

Charlotte Massey

Jason Phillips

Stewart Smith

Trustees

Linda Exley, Chairperson

Brian Anderson

Preston Hempton

Robert Lyle

Mike Manus

Joanna Suarez

George Turk

Jim Williams

Administrative Council

Dave Moon, Chairperson

Charles Blair

Bill Davis

Jean Davis, Lay Delegate

Linda Exley

Al Fleming, Lay Leader

June Murphy, Recording Secretary

Lisa Nesbit, Treasurer

