

THE OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 2021

VOL.29, ISSUE 12



Commerce First United Methodist

Pastor: **Rev. Joshua Carr**

16 Cherry St. Commerce, GA 30529

*Commerce First United Methodist Church
(Facebook)*

Email: **joshua@commercefumc.org**

Office Phone: (706)340-8611

Minister of Music: **Leanne Wadsworth**

Email: office@commercefumc.org

*Commerce First United Methodist Church
(YouTube)*

Treasurer: **Lisa Nesbit**

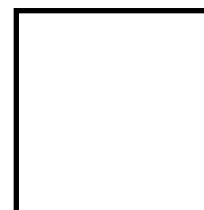
Website: www.comercefumc.org

commercefumc (Instagram)

Commerce First United Methodist Church

16 Cherry St.

Commerce, GA 30529



THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

Once again it is time to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ into the world! I sense that so many of us need the encouragement from both recognizing and receiving the hope, peace, joy, and love that God has for us all through this Advent season. It is for us, the people of God. It is also for the world, a light in the darkness. As I have relayed to you on Sunday morning, God wants you to know His powerful presence with you every step of the way, that God is for you and not against you, and that God's love will cover over every shortcoming, sin, and brokenness that exists in our lives and this world, forevermore!



I look forward to learning all the traditions for this season of our church over the next few weeks and participating in them alongside you. It was great to see Advent Adventure, and my gratitude goes to all of you who volunteered to make that a success. I know we have plans for caroling, for community cantatas, and a service of hope and healing for those in need through our Longest Night service. Undoubtedly, there will be times that are festive with family and friends, full of food, laughter, and some sweet treats and hot chocolate to keep the cold far from touching our body or spirits. It is a time of making memories that last forever.

I also would like to start a new tradition here. My favorite service on Christmas Eve has always been the late one, the one that ends right at the stroke of Midnight. The one where when you walk outside the doors, you truly are in the midst of the story of Christmas brought alive to the forefront of your experience. The one where it is cold and calm, quiet and ordinary, and it feels just like it must have some 2,000 years ago. The one where God still speaks in the still small voice and whispers, "I love you, child of God!"

My family had a tradition of going to that service, and upon arriving home, we would share our gifts to one another. Since there were seven of us, there were plenty to give and to receive. It was like a mini-Christmas event of its own. But it was smaller, and intimate, and in time bore a heart within me that learned it really was more fun to give to those I loved the most, than anything that I could ever receive in return. I have additionally come to learn as I have matured in my faith, this must be exactly how God feels on this special night. That the gift God the Father gives us in Jesus Christ, sealed in us through the Holy Spirit, is the greatest gift anyone could ever receive. God joyously gives this gift to all of humanity.

I invite you to join us through all of our events and offerings this month. I hope you find a place where you receive all God has in store for you. Maybe it will also be a place where you even bless someone else simply by being right by their side. I look forward to worshipping with you and receiving Holy Communion at both our services on Christmas Eve, at 6 and 11pm. My prayer is we all truly experience, know, and are transformed by the heart of Christmas, Jesus Christ!

Blessings,
Joshua



December 2021 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:

For the many who are struggling with the effects of the COVID pandemic in our church family and community.

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.

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

Keenen McDaniel, Godson of Janni & Dynelle Martin, US Army

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

Those in Assisted Living:

Brookside Senior Living 199 W. West Gary Rd., Commerce, GA 30529): *Margie Brown; Bo Holland (130)*

Those at home:

Louellen Besuden (332 Victoria St., Commerce, GA 30529)

Lucy Gailey (228 Honeysuckle Dr., Commerce, GA 30529)

Brenda Hay (Magnolia Hills #46 504 Old Historic US 441 Demorest, GA 30535)

Velma Long (34 Norwood Dr. Normal, IL 61761) (Mother of Janni Martin)

Dr. Don McFadden (119 University Dr., Commerce, GA 30529)

Gayle Pritchett (289 Wilson Dr., Commerce, GA 30529)

Pat and Jimmy Purcell (108 Windy Hills Rd. Commerce, GA 30529)

Prayers for Strength and Healing:

Louellen Besuden

Jane Bramlett

Don Canady

Colleen Cunningham

Anna and Glenn Diemond

Ricky Hutchins

Shonda Jones

Ed Lacy

Linda Lamb

Drew McCormack

Todd Mize

Shannon Palmer

Patsy Purcell

Ray Rayburn

Bill Roberts

John Siwick

Calvin Smith

John Varner

Matthew Wright



SERMON SCRIPTURE FOR DECEMBER

12/5	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 3:1-6
12/12	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Luke 3:7-18
12/19	Micah 5:2-5	Luke 1:39-55
12/24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-20
12/26	1 Sam 2:18-20, 26	Luke 2:41-52

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

Sally Bunker May

ALTAR GUILD

Kathleen Hooper

Brenda Meadows

COUNTERS

12/5	Dave Moon and Lee Hagan
12/12	Al Fleming and Tom Murphy
12/19	Jack Legg and Bill Davis
12/26	Jimmy Bolton and Elton Collins

BIRTHDAYS

Tatum Jones	12/1
Ann Griffeth	12/2
Mike Manus	12/7
Zachary Mitcham	12/7
Mary Walters	12/7
Betty Corn	12/9
Trish Edwards	12/9
Evvie Phillips	12/13
Becky Huss	12/15
Att Stephenson	12/19
Gayle Pritchett	12/20
Josh Rider	12/20
June Murphy	12/24
Mikayla Wiggley	12/24
James Drinkard	12/27
Sam Suarez	12/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Kelly and John Cassidy	12/14
Amy and BJ Harbin	12/18
Annette and Brian Anderson	12/21
Pat and Jimmy Purcell	12/21

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note the Church Office will be closed December 23rd for Christmas Eve and December 30th for New Years Day.

TRUSTEES FLASH



As we enter the season of Advent, the Trustees are setting goals for the new year.

The lighting system and the audio-visual equipment in our Sanctuary was installed in 2007 and is showing signs of aging. The Finance Committee has announced a donation of \$10,000 as matching money from a generous church member to move us forward with upgrading these. The idea is that if individuals donate to the Sanctuary fund, this donor will match the donations up to \$10,000. These upgrades will greatly improve our sound system and our livestreaming.

Another big project to shuffle all the pianos throughout the campus will start in January. The grand piano will move from the FLC to the Sanctuary, the upright in the Sanctuary will move to the Choir Room, the Clavinova in the chapel will move to the FLC, and the piano in the Choir Room will be given away. This will require a reconfiguration of the flooring in the space where the Sanctuary piano is located. Naturally, this will be expensive. But, here again another generous church member has donated funds to cover these costs!

Roofs and gutters are a constant issue for our facilities. The Trustees hired Martin Roofing to clean all gutters and downspouts as well as inspect all roofs. Hopefully, this will prevent some of the leaking and drainage issues that have been a constant issue.

Circle 5 continues to clean in the kitchen. It is immaculate!! It will be ready for the reception after our Christmas Cantata on the 19th.

The spirit of cooperation and contribution gives us hope that the new year will be amazing!

—Linda Exley Chair, Board of Trustees



Banks-Jackson Food Bank

Remember your donations to the Banks-Jackson Food Bank make a difference to those who are struggling during this difficult time. Please drop off items at the church office. Cash contributions are also accepted. Checks can be made payable to CFUMC and designated to food bank in the memo line. The Food Bank also needs volunteers for the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of the month. Please call 706-335-5143 for more info.

Weekly Bible study

You are invited to join Ray Morris' Bible study group as they continue the series "A Clash of Kingdoms" that will include video, study of both the Old and New Testaments, and discussion based on the Ray Vander Laan video series "That the World May Know." The study will meet Thursdays at 9 AM in the Family Life Center.

Tools for Schools

You have the opportunity to support our preschool just by purchasing the groceries that you were already going to buy! Just ask to register your Ingles Advantage card with Tools for Schools. See Renee Moon for more information.



Christmas Cantata Schedule

Sunday, December 5th

Commerce Presbyterian Church—7pm

Sunday, December 12th

Commerce First Baptist Church —7pm

Sunday, December 19th

Commerce First UMC—7pm

Reception to Follow in Family Life Center

Thursday, December 16th

Longest Night Service—7pm, Chapel

Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight—6pm

Candlelight Communion—11pm

ADVENT ADVENTURE!!!



Here to Serve

Finance

Bill Davis (Chairperson)
Elton Collins
Lee Hagan
Shonda Jones-Leggett

Trustees

Linda Exley (Chairperson)
Brian Anderson
Joe Fenn
Robert Lyle
Sally May
Ray Morris
Joanna Suarez
George Turk
Jim Williams

Staff-Parish Relations

Charles Blair (Chairperson)
Stewart Smith
Pam Barnett
Matt Lund
Jason Phillips
Bette Rose Bowers
Tom Murphy

Administrative Council

Dave Moon (Chairperson)
Charles Blair
Jean Davis
Linda Exley
Al Fleming
June Murphy
Lisa Nesbit

