

THE OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 2021

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Commerce First United Methodist

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*Commerce First United Methodist Church
(Facebook)*

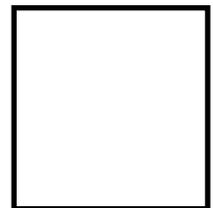
*Commerce First United Methodist Church
(YouTube)*

commercefumc (Instagram)

Commerce First United Methodist Church

16 Cherry St.

Commerce, GA 30529



LOOKING BEHIND / LOOKING AHEAD

November is a time to pause and take stock of where life is. We see the beauty of Autumn in full force, with the dropping of temperatures reminding us that seasons change regularly. The world may be ready to hurriedly turn its attention to what is next, but the Body of Christ does the exact opposite. Before we start making plans for Thanksgiving dinner later this month, the coming Advent and Christmas season ahead, or even all the promises of what next year may bring, the Church pauses to look back.



Not in the sense we want to return to a time that no longer exists, but to remind ourselves that the Saints who have gone ahead of us are alive and well. Theologically, we would say they have been perfected by the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. We stop and celebrate their love, their work, and their uniqueness that makes them so special to us. We give thanksgiving to God for their life, but more importantly, that they live! Death may have taken them from us, but it brought them face to face with God. At the perfection of our faith, we will reunite with them as we enjoy the same embrace from God. Looking back points us to our eternal future, as our loved ones speak encouragement for us to finish our race and keep hold of our faith.

It also was intentional that I spent the last few weeks looking ahead at what is coming ahead for us as a church. I hope what I shared resonated with you and stirred in you hope and excitement for the ministries we will both continue strongly and new ones we will build that will help you in your daily walk with God. The goal is to be multigenerational in our ministries, and invite all people, from all places, in all times to come and know the powerful love of Jesus Christ. I am excited at the foundation already present to work with, and I cannot wait to see what God will do!

Your church leadership continues its work to plan for 2022. They are currently putting budgets together that consider the needs present while practically using our financial resources effectively towards the vision of ministry we all would like to see thrive at Commerce First UMC. Because it was a move year, we have not had a traditional stewardship program. If you like, you can call it a soft approach. That was my choice, and I am thankful I received support for it. That does not mean that it is any less important for us as we look towards next year and what we can realistically do. As I mentioned Sunday, I know I am asking a great deal when I ask you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

This week we will mail a letter asking you to consider your financial commitment for 2021. Commitment cards are the main tool we use in the church to help us financially forecast the upcoming year. Leadership will take the results of the commitment cards and responsibly address next year's budget in committees until the Finance Committee makes a final recommendation that our Administrative Council will vote on.

I ask that you take time to pray over where you and your family are currently and consider what God is asking you to commit to for 2022. Our tithes and offerings are one part of discipleship, not more or less important than any other. If you have any questions about that or anything else, please call me. In order to accommodate schedules and give you thorough time to weigh your decisions, we will have three Sundays where you can return your cards at the end of service: Nov. 21, Nov. 28, and Dec. 5. Thank you!

Blessings,
Joshua

FALL FUN ON THE FARM

The Fall Fun on the Farm was a success! We had so much fun fellowshiping, sharing a great meal together, and enjoying the laughter and games. Our great thanks to the Bowers for hosting and everyone who made this event possible.



SERMON SCRIPTURE FOR NOVEMBER

11/7	All Saints Sunday	Isaiah 25:6-9 Revelation 21:1-6
11/14		Hebrews 9:24-28
11/21	Christ the King / Thanksgiving	John 18:33-37 Revelation 1:4-8
11/28	1st Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

George Turk

ALTAR GUILD

Judy Harbin
Barbara Hendricks
Elizabeth Phillips

COUNTERS

11/7	Dave Moon and Lee Hagan
11/14	Al Fleming and Tom Murphy
11/21	Jack Legg and Bill Davis
11/28	Jimmy Bolton and Elton Collins

BIRTHDAYS

Stephanie Hill	11/1
Anna Riley Phillips	11/3
Carolyn Stephenson	11/4
Reese Tiller	11/4
Sophia Linn	11/5
Joyce Phillips	11/5
Ray Morris	11/6
Ron Wilson	11/7
Rebecca Marshburn	11/10
James Bramlett	11/11
Wesley Christiansen	11/11
Barbara Sweetser	11/13
Shonda Jones-Leggett	11/17
Jimmy Bolton	11/20
Kendell Moon	11/20
Johnnie Blair	11/21
Judy Harbin	11/25
Matthew Lund	11/26
Cathleen Hill	11/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Stewart & McKenzie Smith	11/4
Craig & Susan Gieler	11/5
James & Jane Bramlett	11/11
Ray & Linda Lamb	11/25

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note the Church Office will be closed November 11th for Veterans Day and November 25th for Thanksgiving.

TRUSTEES FLASH

“Time Flies”! As I write this Flash, we are preparing for Halloween and the celebration of Reformation Sunday. We are thinking of all that we, together, have accomplished and at the same time, how much we have left to do.

We are working with Lisa Nesbit, our Treasurer, on a budget for 2022. Because many parts of our campus are aging, we will anticipate the need to replace old equipment. HVAC units are a prime example. Ten in the FLC are 20 years old. Eight others are 15 years old. We are replacing a unit on the Education Building that was installed in 1999. The lighting system in the Sanctuary is aging. The AV equipment is beginning to be outdated. Prior planning will prevent us from coming up short financially in the future.

The “patching” on the Sanctuary roof over the Choir Room held up during the last heavy rain. We remain hopeful that this means no more leaking into the choir room and the upstairs classrooms. The sloping that your Trustees did on the playground kept water from entering under the door into the Education Building. We will monitor this on a regular basis.

To help the drainage at the Youth Room door off the ramp, we considered adding a 4-inch gutter guard on the gutter above that door. However, we discovered that cleaning the downspout on that end of the Sanctuary seemed to solve the problem! We are exploring options to hire someone to clean the gutters and downspouts periodically and to inspect all roofs.

The large pipe that drains practically everything from the parking lot and a downspout off the Sanctuary backed up at the street. This caused the downspout to overflow. The City will install a larger pipe at the end of that drain, hopefully soon.

We have cleaned up and repaired the bus and van to get them ready to sell. Our plan is to sell them if we can get a reasonable price and to offer the shed and trailer (separately) to church members at a silent auction to be held after the vehicles are sold. Several people have expressed interest in all of them.

The fence around the back of the campus was repaired several months ago. Now we have pressure washed it and will spray a weatherproofing solution on it.

Victoria house continues to be ready to rent. Hopefully, that will be soon.

To address our continuing internet connection issues, the City installed a fiber connection to the Sanctuary. This will improve the reliability as well as speed of our connection. Also, with a generous gift from a church member, your Trustees have approved connecting all campus buildings with fiber. The present system uses antennae on the building tops to connect the campus. These units need constant repair due to age, lightning, and water damage. Making fiber connections will eliminate these problems. Your Trustees are very pleased to make this change with our profound appreciation to the church member who has made it possible. It will allow us to strengthen our virtual ministries.

General maintenance issues addressed include replacing the “closer” on the exit door to the Sanctuary on the FLC side, sealing the fireplace in the Office Building, and replacing the light bulbs in the Chapel with LEDs.

Anticipating a return to events in the FLC, Circle 5 did a “deep” clean of the kitchen. Circle 3 emptied the small room next to the Men’s room in the FLC. We plan to use this room to store all tables used in the FLC. This will free up the storage room next to the pantry so that Sherly will have space to store her cleaning supplies and equipment. The Trustees are very grateful to these volunteers!!

Trustees are organizing all files, records, etc. that are scattered in several locations around the campus. Dates of repairs, additions, etc. will be recorded in a spread sheet.

By the time we publish the next “Flash,” we will have celebrated Thanksgiving, and we will be in a new church year. Tempus fugit!

—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.



Thank you all for the gifts, encouragement, support, and love for Pastor Appreciation Month. You have made the transition to Commerce so very easy for Stephanie and I. We are forever grateful and look forward to continuing to spend more time getting to know each of you!

-Joshua



November 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

Prayers for Strength and Healing:

Louellen Besuden

Colleen Cunningham

Anna and Glenn Diamond

Clara Hemphill

Ricky Hutchins

Ed Lacy

Harrison Lund

Drew McCormack

Todd Mize

Ray Rayburn

Bill Roberts

John Siwick

Calvin Smith

John Varner

Matthew Wright

Those in Assisted Living:

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

Bountiful Hills (200 Bolton Ave, Commerce, GA 30529): *Helen Siegel (111)*

Jackson Oaks Senior Living (50 Sumner Way, Jefferson, GA 30549): *Ann Linn (260) (Mother of Chad Linn)*

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)



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

