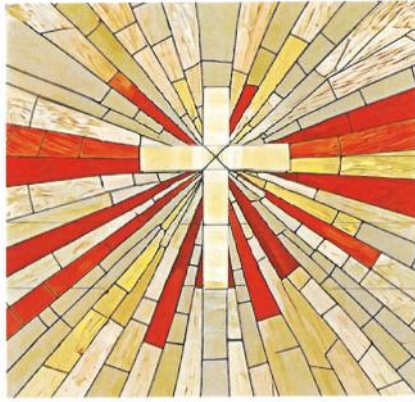




COMMERCE
FIRST METHODIST
CHURCH

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

August 2026 Newsletter

Minister: **Rev. Joshua Carr**

Email: Joshua@cfmc.life

Minister of Music: **Leanne Wadsworth**

Email: Music@cfmc.life

Treasurer: **Lisa Nesbit**

Email: Treasurer@cfmc.life

Secretary: **Holly Hempton**

Email: Office@cfmc.life

Website: www.cfmc.life

Office Email: **office@cfmc.life**

Address: 16 Cherry St. Commerce, GA 30529

Office Phone: (706) 340-8611

Commerce First Methodist Church

16 Cherry St.

Commerce, GA 30529



www.cfmc.life

August 2026 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

Janet Varner

25 Glen Lake Parkway NE Apt 1215

Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Those at home:

Lucy Gailey

The Pines

P.O. Box 458, Maysville, GA 30558

Dr. Don McFadden

119 University Dr., Commerce, GA 30529

Shirley Parham

2900 McEver Rd, Gainesville, GA 30504

Pat and Jimmy Purcell

108 Windy Hills Rd. Commerce, GA 30529

Prayers for Strength and Healing:

Ed Adams

Mitchell Adams

Grant Anderson

Keith Ariail

Heather Ballenger

Pam Barnett

Betty Baxter

Roger Beauchamp

Saoirse Bergman

Phillippe Berra

Steave Breeding

Amy Brown

Marie Canady

Elton Collins

Betty Corn

Bob Crocket

Sonia Davis

Anna Diemond

Lorraine Dipple

Cathy Fletcher

Carol Hatcher

Kenny Hill

Dash Hughes

Philip Jones

Ezra King

Claudia Lacy

Dave Ladd

Linda Lamb

Jack Legg

Kim & Doug Legg

Debbie Manus

Bobby Marshburn

Greg Martin

Charlotte Massey

Tiffany Mathis

Mike Matthews

Charlotte Maxwell

Patsy McCall

Larry & Brenda Meadows

Charles Morris

Reagan Mullinax

John Murphy

Tom Murphy

Wanda Murphy

Jackie Pearce

Kim Reaves

Jean Roberts

Barry Roper

Stone Shirley

Steve Shoun

Winona Siwick

Janice Smith

Jade Stickland

Faye Sullens

James Thomas

Lisa Till

Paul Vecker

Blakeley Waddell

Chester Walters

Samantha Watson



Prayers of Christian sympathy are extended to Tom Murphy and his family on the loss of his wife, June. A Celebration of Life honoring June's amazing life will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, August 29, at 11:00 a.m. Please keep Tom and his family in your prayers during this time.

Trustee of the Month

Dave Moon

Counters

8/2	Dave Moon Ray Morris
8/9	Al Fleming Pete McClellan
8/16	Bill Davis Dave Crouch
8/23	Jimmy Bolton Elton Collins
8/30	Bill Davis Dave Crouch

A/V

8/2	Zachary Crouch Karen Hill Manning Pittard
8/9	Russell Crouch Sara Hill Elise Phillips
8/16	Julia Crouch Evvie Phillips Manning Pittard
8/23	Sara Hill Karen Hill Evvie Phillips
8/30	Julia Crouch Evvie Phillips Timohty Sweeney

Altar Guild

Carolyn Stephenson

Joy Scott

Acolytes

8/2	Julia Crouch Elise Phillips
8/9	Karen Hill Anna Riley Phillips
8/16	Rosemary Phillips OPEN
8/23	Julia Crouch OPEN
8/30	Sara Hill OPEN

Parents, online scheduling for Acolytes is now available. Please click [here](#) to sign your child up. Thank you!!

Children's Church

8/2	Remain in worship
8/9	Lydia Hoadley
8/16	Joy Scott
8/23	Kristen Hill
8/30	Elizabeth Phillips

SAVE THE DATE

9/2- LIFT

9/13- Youth Pool Party

9/16- Beans, Franks, & Bingo

9/19- Great Day of Service

9/30- Apple Picking Trip

Happy Birthday

Jennifer Griffin	8/1
Kim Savage	8/1
Larry Meadows	8/2
Donna Wilson	8/3
Tate Bowers	8/4
John Pittard	8/4
Elton Collins	8/5
Charlotte Massey	8/9
Doris Parr	8/11
Roger Waters	8/11
David Nichols	8/12
Martha Evans	8/12
Nancy Gaines	8/13
Tom Murphy	8/13
Todd Mize	8/14
Steve Savage	8/15
Holly Hempton	8/16
McKenzie Smith	8/16
Abigail Suarez	8/19
Barbra Hendricks	8/19
Kelly Cassidy	8/19
Linda Brake	8/20
Sara Hill	8/20
Karen Hill	8/20
Bill Davis	8/23
Robert Lyle	8/27
Linda Lamb	8/29
Lauren Legg	8/30
Riah Smith	8/30

HAPPY Anniversary!

Renee and Dave Moon	8/5
Pam and Tony Barnett	8/7
Joyce and Kinsey Phillips	8/10
Mary and Chester Walters	8/15
Pattie and Robbie Griffith	8/20
Kathleen and Jimmy Hooper	8/27
Brenda and Larry Meadows	8/31

THANK YOU!

Commerce First Methodist Church

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for awarding me the Lang Scholarship. I was a bit shocked to see my invoice and learn how much a college education costs.

This scholarship will help me out a great deal with these expenses.

Thank you so very much for all your love, care, and support.

Sincerely,

Jack

Dear CFMC,

Thank y'all for the bible, It will be very helpful in my faith. I would also like to thank y'all for the wonderful opportunities to play the trumpet and share my talent.

Love, John William Pittard



LIFT (Living in Faith Together)

August 5 kicks off the 4th year of our monthly intergenerational gathering, **LIFT (Living in Faith Together)**! Participants meet together for dinner and Bible Study on the **1st Wednesday of each month from 5:30-6:30pm** (August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4) and will resume in January 2027. This is an opportunity to learn and grow in faith together with church friends of all ages (yes, ALL ages!). Please RSVP [here](#).

Whether you've attended before or are joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you as we grow in faith together with our church family!



Training Sunday

If you are looking for a place to serve, here is a great opportunity. Join us on Sunday, August 9th from 10:00am-10:45am for training Sunday. All those who are current acolytes, ushers and greeters, **as well as those that are interested** in becoming one of said service positions, please plan on attending. Thank you!



Kids Club

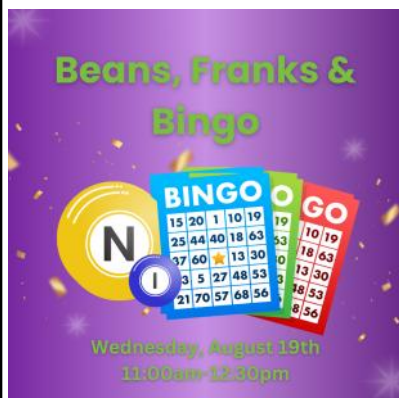
Kids Club will resume on Sunday, August 9th from 5:30-6:30pm at CFMC. Kids club is designed for kids ages 3-12 years old and is open to all. Don't forget to invite a friend.

To wrap up summer, there will be a pool party for the children on August 9th at 3:00pm. The party will take place at Mrs. Lisa Whitmire's pool. Parents plan on being there and staying with your children for the duration of the event. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be served.



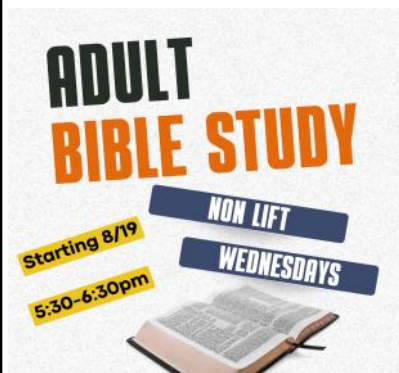
Youth Group

Summer is almost over, school is starting up, and it's time to resume youth group starting August 10th. Plan on youth group meeting on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 5:30-6:30pm. Commerce First Methodist's youth ministry is designed for 6th-12th grades, and is open to all CFMC youth and friends, as well as the community. So don't forget to spread the word and invite a friend!



Beans, Franks & BINGO

Join us for Beans, Franks & BINGO on Wednesday, August 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Enjoy free food, fun, and fellowship with friends! There is no cost to attend, and no sign-up is required—just come and join us for a great time!



Adult Bible Study

Wednesday night Adult Bible Study is resuming on non LIFT Wednesday nights starting August 19th. The study will take place in the Family Life Center from 5:30-6:30pm. Sign up is not required.



Choir & Handbells

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, August 12th at 7:00pm.

-Choir Practice is held on all Wednesdays 7:00 pm-8:00 pm (all are welcome to join)

-Hand Bells practice is held on non LIFT Wednesdays (beginning 8/19) 5:45pm-6:45pm.

(If you are interested in joining, please contact Leanne)



On Tuesday, August 25, Commerce First Methodist Church will host a dinner for the Spanish exchange students from Commerce High School and their host families. We are looking forward to welcoming them and giving them a taste of Southern cooking and hospitality.

Please keep these students and their host families in your prayers as they build new friendships, experience a different culture, and begin this exciting school year. May they feel welcomed, supported, and blessed during their time in our community.



We are excited to resume the CFMC Preschool Readers Program on September 9th! This is designed to build stronger connections with our preschool, and it has been a wonderful success—the children absolutely love it! Once a month, we are looking for a volunteer to spend 30 minutes to 1 hour reading to our preschool students. Because our preschool enrollment has grown this year, volunteers will read to two groups during that time. A Bible story and an age-appropriate book will be provided, so all we need is your time and your voice! If you're interested in participating, please sign up [here](#) or call the church office. To give more people the opportunity to serve, **please sign up for no more than two reading dates**. If you have any questions, please contact K. Ellen Hagan.



Commerce First Methodist Preschool will host an Open House for children and their parents on **Monday, August 3, from 5:30–6:30 p.m.** Families will have the opportunity to meet their teachers, explore the classrooms, and prepare for an exciting new school year. Cookies and church activity schedules will be provided for all attending families. The first day of preschool will be Tuesday, August 4. Greeters will be stationed at the front entrance to welcome families and assist the preschool staff as everyone arrives. As we begin this new school year, please continue to keep our preschool families, teachers, staff, and students in your prayers. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth, and God's blessings.



CFMC Preschool is ready for an exciting 2026–2027 school year! We are thrilled to welcome **80 students** this year and can't wait to see all of our families! Please join us in welcoming our newest staff members: Abby House, Brittany McMahan, and Tabitha Tullis. School starts Tuesday, August 4th. We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, laughter, and growth. We can't wait to see everyone soon!



The IPM is beginning it's third season. Everyone is invited to participate in person or at home.

What is the IPM?

- Have you ever experienced a time in your life when you needed to someone to lift you up in prayer?
- Have you ever had someone ask you to lift them up in prayer?
- We have all been in these situations and weren't sure where to go or who to turn to.
- Welcome to Intercessory Prayer Ministry. Intercessory prayer is praying on behalf of others and is a powerful expression of love. Intercessory Prayer Ministry ensures that there is continuous, effectual, fervent prayer and intercession in our church.

How can I participate?

- **Pray.** Pray for this ministry. Pray for those who participate and how their lives will be changed. Pray about those who will be prayed for. Pray about how it will reach out into the community and even farther.
- **Sign up.** Commit to setting aside one hour each week to come and pray in the chapel. There is a prayer list along with devotion/prayer books. There will also be stationery and stamps so that you may send a note to someone on the list.

Ready to pray? Click [here](#) to claim your hour or contact Leanne to sign up or for more details.

Bible & Book Binding Workshop

Saturday, August 8th | 9:00 AM

Commerce First Methodist Church

Bring your own Bible or hardcover book to transform.

Enjoy fun, fellowship, and a light brunch.

Feel free to bring a dish to share if you'd like.

RVSP by 8/5 to Alison 770-519-3185

Suggested Donation: \$50 Supporting Mountain View Homeschooling

Childcare services will be available throughout the event.



Doug and Janna Cleveland

August 2026 Trustee Flash

Phase 1 has completely transformed the Victoria Street parking lot into a beautiful, welcoming space for our church! And best of all, a new drainage system — tucked out of sight — is already hard at work keeping our buildings safe and dry. Our Phase 1 contract with Griffin Bros is nearing the finish line: trash has been cleared, landscaping is nearly complete, irrigation is running, and the new lighting is in place.

The Preschool's new playground is still a few weeks out and won't be quite ready for opening day on August 3rd — but it's coming soon, and we can't wait to see the children enjoying it!

Because the project has come along so beautifully, **we're delighted to open the parking lot for use on Sunday, August 2nd!** Striping and handicap signage will follow shortly, but we felt it was time to welcome everyone back. Thank you so much for your patience and grace while using alternate parking facilities. It has truly been remarkable.

A dedication celebration is being planned for September — stay tuned!

Have you noticed the lovely refresh in the Sanctuary lounge? It's been freshly painted with beautiful new pictures hung throughout.

While Joshua is on sabbatical, we've been giving his office a wonderful upgrade — freshly painted with new furniture. It looks great, and we think he'll be delighted when he returns! We thank Charlotte Williams and Gina Hagan who led these improvements!

None of this would be possible without this wonderful congregation. Thank you for your patience, your prayers, and your continued support as we take care of God's house together. We're so grateful to be on this journey with each of you!

-Linda Exley

Join Our Kids & Youth Ministry Team!

Do you have a heart for the next generation? We'd love for you to be part of our Kids & Youth Ministry Team! Serving with our children and youth is a meaningful way to share God's love and help nurture young hearts in their faith. Whether you enjoy teaching, encouraging, organizing, or simply lending a helping hand, there's a place for you. No matter your experience, we'll provide the training and support you need.

Our greatest need right now is for volunteers to serve in our 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School class. We also need two adults who are willing to teach Youth Sunday School on the third Sunday of each month.

We're asking you to prayerfully consider giving **just one hour each month** to make a lasting impact in the lives of our children and families. For the safety of all our children, every volunteer serving in Kids & Youth Ministry is required to complete a background check and child safety training.

Interested in learning more?

Please contact the church office to discover the volunteer opportunity that's right for you.

We'd love to welcome you to the team as we invest in the faith and future of our children and youth!



Honduras Outreach, INC

MISSION TRIP

We invite you to participate in our upcoming mission trip to Honduras. Together, we will serve through hands-on service projects, including building, teaching, and providing care to those in need. This trip is designed to challenge participants in their commitment to serving others while fostering growth in their faith and deepening their relationship with God.

Mission Trip Details:

- **Date:** October 3–10
- **Age Requirement:** Ages 12 and up
- **Cost:** \$950 per person + airfare
- **Travel Requirements:** Participants must have a current passport.
- **Travel Note:** Airfare is separate and to be booked by each group individually.



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT
KINSEY PHILLIPS**

Lay Leadership—Here to Serve!

Finance

Jimmy Hooper, Chairperson
Ray Morris, Vice Chairperson
Jimmy Bolton
Jane Bedell
Dave Crouch
Bill Davis
Barbara Hendricks
Todd Mize
Donna Shaner

Staff-Parish Relations

Kinsey Phillips, Chairperson
Jason Phillips, Vice Chairperson
Carl Bowers
Nariman Crouch
Craig Gieler
Bob Griffeth
Anne Fleming
Judy Harbin
Debbie Manus

Trustees

Linda Exley, Chairperson
Brian Anderson
Carine Griffeth
Preston Hempton
Robert Lyle
Mike Manus
Dave Moon
Carolyn Stephenson
Jim Williams

Administrative Council

David Stephenson, Chairperson
Linda Exley, Trustees
Al Fleming, Lay Leader
Jimmy Hooper, Finance
Kinsey Phillips, SPR
Lisa Nesbit, Treasurer
Donna Shaner, Recording Secretary



COMMERCE
FIRST METHODIST
CHURCH