

COMMERCE
FIRST METHODIST
CHURCH

A Place to Know, Grow, and Show God's Love
September 2025 Newsletter

Minister: **Rev. Joshua Carr**

Email: Joshua@cfmc.life

Associate Minister: **Rev. April Briant**

Email: April@cfmc.life

Minister of Music: **Leanne Wadsworth**

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Treasurer: **Lisa Nesbit**

Email: Treasurer@cfmc.life

Secretary: **Holly Hempton**

Email: Office@cfmc.life

Commerce First Methodist Church

16 Cherry St.

Commerce, GA 30529

Website: www.cfmc.life

Office Email: office@cfmc.life

Address: 16 Cherry St. Commerce, GA 30529

Office Phone: (706) 340-8611



www.cfmc.life

September 2025 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

4355 Georgetown Sq Apt. 202

Atlanta, GA 30338

Those at home:

Lucy Gailey

228 Honeysuckle Dr., Commerce, GA 30529

Dr. Don McFadden

119 University Dr., Commerce, GA 30529

Pat and Jimmy Purcell

108 Windy Hills Rd. Commerce, GA 30529

Prayers for Strength and Healing:

Ed Adams

Mitchell Adams

Jay Allen

Grant Anderson

Eddie Babb

Betty Baxter

Diana Bermudez

Phillippe Berra

Elizabeth Brown

Joe Brown

Denis Cain

Marie Canady

Willard Cartledge

Betty Corn

Bill Davis

Sonia Davis

Anna Diamond

Lorraine Dipple

George Evans

Cathy Fletcher

Bob Herrin

Kenny Hill

William Hitchcock

Dashiell Hughes

Steve Johnson

Philip Jones

Ezra King

Claudia Lacy

Dave Ladd

Linda Lamb

Doug Legg

Jack Legg

Lauren Legg

Sanford Lewis

Tiffany Mathis

Mike Matthews

Charlotte Maxwell

Patsy McCall

Lewis McClellan

Dewayne Morris

John Murphy

June Murphy

Pat Murphy

Tom Murphy

Wanda Murphy

Billy Nash

Colleen Rios

Barry Roper

Stone Shirley

Steve Shoun

Faye Sullens

Lincoln Thomas

Lisa Till

Blakeley Waddell

Samantha Watson

Please contact the church office with any updates. Thank you!

Joys & 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@cfmc.life

Trustee of the Month

Jim Williams

Counters

9/7	Dave Moon Jane Bedell
9/14	Al Fleming Tom Murphy
9/21	Bill Davis Ray Morris
9/28	Jimmy Bolton Elton Collins

Meetings

9/4	Finance 6:30pm
9/11	Trustee 7:00pm
9/22	Administrative 7:00pm

Please Note

- The church office will be closed Monday, September 1st in honor of Labor Day.
- Exercise class with resume on Wednesday, September 3rd from 8:30-9:30am.
- There will be no Beans, Franks, & Bingo in September. We will see you in October!!

Altar Guild

Kathleen Hooper

Susan Gieler

Acolytes

9/7	Julia Crouch Karen Hill
9/14	Evvie Phillips Rosemary Phillips
9/21	Liam Smith Marci Sweeney
9/28	Manning Pittard Sara Hill

Children's Church

9/7	Remain in worship
9/14	OPEN
9/21	OPEN
9/28	Kristen Hill

We need two volunteers each Sunday to lead Children's Church. Please sign up [here](#).

Curriculum is provided.

Reminder, all must be in compliance with

SAVE THE DATE

10/1-LIFT

10/12-Hiking after Worship

10/12-Kids Club & Youth Group

10/15-Beans, Franks, & Bingo

10/19-Fall Festival at Bowers Farm

10/26-Kids Club & Youth Group

10/30-BooFest at the Library

Happy Birthday

HAPPY Anniversary!

Mike Mize	9/1
Noah Mitcham	9/2
Joy Scott	9/4
Gabriel Hoadley	9/6
Susan Gieler	9/10
Elise Philips	9/10
Daniel Hill	9/13
Janet Adams	9/16
Susie McClellan	9/21
Jack Legg	9/26
Jimmy Purcell	9/28
Bob Marshburn	9/29

Barbara and Kenneth Reid	9/20
Gina and Lee Hagan	9/25
Susie and Pete McClellan	9/27

Birthdays and Anniversaries

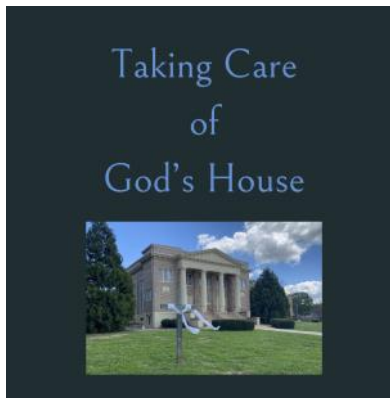
If your birthday and/or anniversary has not appeared in the church newsletter, please contact the church office, 706-340-8611 or office@cfmc.life with the correct information.



On September 24th, we are resuming the CFMC Preschool Readers program. We started this program last school year to build bridges with our preschool. It was a great success, the children loved it!! Once a month we are asking for a volunteer to read to the preschool students for 30 minutes to an hour. The preschool has a big enrollment this year, so you will be reading to two groups within that time. A Bible story and a book will be provided so we just need your time and your voice. If you are interested please sign up [here](#). If you have any question please contact K.Ellen Hagan.



The 2025/2026 school year is off to a great start! Classes began on August 5th and we currently have 77 preschoolers enrolled and are all excited to start learning. This month we are learning to make friends and learning the rules of preschool. We will be having a sports day to kick off football season!! Go Dogs!! After Labor Day, we will start Chapel and Music & Movement. We are excited for all the fun things we will be doing this school year.



Please mark your calendars for two informational luncheons in the FLC after Worship this month.

Sunday, September 7th– Trustee Committee will present further information on the Phase 1 Building Campaign.

Sunday, September 28th– Finance Committee will present financial options for the Phase 1 Building Campaign.

Would we like for everyone to attend both informational luncheons. If you are unable, please plan on attending at least one. Thank you!

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

The IPM is beginning it's second 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.

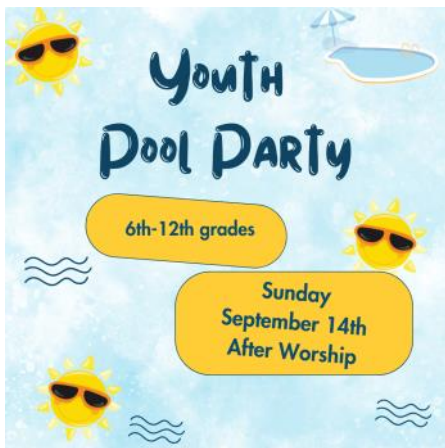
Sign up. Commit to setting aside one hour each week to come and pray in the chapel. There is a prayer list along with devotion/prayer books. There will also be stationery and stamps so that you may send a note to someone on the list.

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



LIFT

Our next LIFT dinner and intergenerational study will be on **Wednesday, September 3rd**, 5:30-6:30pm. We will be serving tacos! You can sign up [here](#) or call the church office.



Youth Pool Party & Youth Group

- There will be a pool party for the youth on September 14th after worship. The party will take place at Mrs. Lisa Whitmire's pool. Plan on being there around 12:30pm. Parents are invited by are not required to stay with your youth. Don't worry about lunch because pizza and drinks will be served.
- Youth Group will meet at CFMC, 5:30-6:30pm at CFMC on September 14th and 28th (for those not going to Bigger Vision).



Kids Club

Kids Club will meet at Commerce First Methodist Church on September 14th and 28th from 5:30-6:30pm. Don't forget to invite a friend.



CFMC Youth at Bigger Vision

- CFMC Youth are going to Bigger Vision Community Shelter (in Athens) to serve dinner with Street Love Ministries on Sunday, September 28th. The chicken casseroles to be served, will be prepared at 2:00pm in the FLC kitchen on the 28th. **All youth are invited to help (parents do not need to be there). The Deep Blue class is also invited to help (parents must be there).**
- Because of safety and space, **only 4 youth can sign up** to serve the meal at Bigger Vision. Plan on leaving by 5:00pm to be there by 5:30pm. Please sign up [here](#).



Volunteers Needed

CFMC Youth are going to Bigger Vision Community Shelter (in Athens) to serve dinner with Street Love Ministries on Sunday, September 28th. The youth will be preparing the chicken casseroles to be served. We are asking you to help provide the rest of the food that they will serve to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. If you can help, please sign up [here](#).



Apple Picking Trip

What is a better way to start off the fall season than apple picking? Well, we are going to do just that!! Join us for this adult ministry on **Wednesday, September 24th**. Transportation will be provided and we will be back in time for evening Bible Study and music ministries. Please sign up [here](#) or call the church office.



CFMC Great Day of Service 2025

It's one of the most beloved events in the life of our church and it's coming up on **Saturday, September 20!** Sign up and plan to help us love God and love neighbor by going out into the community and serving others! We have come up with a variety of service sites to choose from. In addition, we thought starting the day off together with breakfast and Holy Communion at 7:30am would be a beautiful way to begin this wonderful event. Sign up for your service site [here](#).



Volunteers Needed

The informational luncheon on September 7th will be catered, but we will need volunteers to bring 8-10 desserts. Please sign up [here](#) or you can call the church office. Please bring your dessert to the FLC before Worship on the 7th. Thank you.



HUGS-Help Us Go To School

HUGS provides school supplies, backpacks, uniforms, shoes, laptops, tuition and more for students in Panajachel and surrounding villages in Guatemala. Some of the students are malnourished, sleep on concrete or dirt floors, and have never seen a dentist. For these families, HUGS also provides bunk beds, monthly groceries, and dental care.

On Tuesday, September 16th, you have an opportunity to hear more about this important mission that is home based in our community. A Fundraising Dinner will be held at Commerce First Methodist Church's Family Life Center at 6pm. We to see you there.

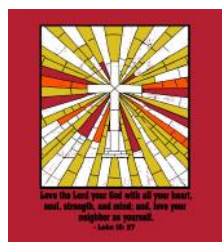


Weekly at CFMC

- Tuesdays- Coffee and Conversation @ 9:00am in the youth room.
- Tuesdays- Pickleball @ 4:00pm in the gym.
- Wednesdays- Exercise Class @ 8:30am in the gym.
- Wednesdays- Adult Bible Study (non-LIFT) @ 5:30pm in the FLC.



Front



Back

Commerce First Methodist Church T-Shirt

Church t-shirts are now available for purchase. We currently have medium, large, and extra-large in stock for \$15 a shirt. We plan on placing another order, so if you would like to purchase a different size, or if you want one that we have in stock please click [here](#).

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind; and, love your neighbor as your self.

-Luke 10:27

September 2025 Trustee Flash

Recent Accomplishments

Victoria House Rental Success - Great news! The house is now rented for \$1,750 per month. We've contracted with Kim Davis of KDD Realtors to manage the property professionally. Special thanks to John Waldrop, who volunteered his time and equipment to add topsoil, plant grass seed, remove an old stump, and smooth the yard at no charge to the church.

HVAC Maintenance - We've replaced the second HVAC unit on the Education Building. The 12-year-old unit was reaching the end of its service life, and this proactive replacement ensures continued comfort and efficiency.

Phase 1 Master Plan Update

Six Years of Planning Come Together - Over the past six years, we've developed a comprehensive Master Plan for our facilities. When the full scope proved financially challenging, we strategically divided it into manageable phases, with Phase 1 addressing the most critical foundation needs.

Thorough Contractor Research - We've been diligent in our planning process:

- Contacted 12 companies for bids
- Received 7 responses (2 for asphalt-only work)
- Evaluated 5 comprehensive proposals
- 3 credible contractors with comparable bids

The Phase 1 Investment - Based on three comprehensive bids from credible contractors, each approximately \$1.7 million, our recommended Phase 1 investment is:

\$1.7 million for comprehensive infrastructure project

\$100,000 contingency fund

Total: \$1.8 million

What Phase 1 Delivers - This comprehensive plan addresses multiple facility needs simultaneously:

- Essential drainage infrastructure (the foundation for everything else)
- Safe preschool drop-off area and also for church members
- Improved handicap accessibility
- Better traffic flow and parking solutions
- More welcoming entrance to the sanctuary without a ramp
- Prevention of future costly emergency repairs
- Enlarged playground area for preschool
- Enhanced parking lot safety
- Foundation infrastructure for any future building expansion

Trustee Flash Continued..

Next Steps: Finance Committee and Congregation Decision

The Trustees' Role Complete - We have fulfilled our responsibility by:

- Developing a comprehensive plan with professional site design
- Obtaining all necessary city permits
- Securing multiple credible contractor bids
- Presenting the complete proposal to Administrative Council

Finance Committee's Critical Role - We have provided the \$1.8 million total as a starting point to determine what level of investment our church can afford. The Finance Committee will analyze our financial capacity and present funding options.

Your Decision to Make - Ultimately, this decision belongs to our congregation. The Trustees have listened to your suggestions for facility improvements and worked to develop a comprehensive solution. Now it's up to all of us together to decide:

- What level of investment can we responsibly make
- How to fund the project (if approved)

When to move forward with implementation

Responding to Your Input - This Phase 1 plan directly addresses many concerns and suggestions we've heard from church members over the years. The Trustees have worked hard to create a solution that improves multiple aspects of our facilities while providing the essential foundation for future growth.

A Foundation for the Future - Whatever the congregation decides, Phase 1 provides the infrastructure foundation essential for any future building projects. This isn't just about fixing current problems – it's about enabling our church's continued growth and ministry expansion for decades to come.

The Trustees stand ready to support whatever decision the congregation makes regarding this important investment in our church's future.

-Linda Exley

Lay Leadership—Here to Serve!

Finance

Jimmy Hooper, Chairperson

Ray Morris, Vice Chair

Jimmy Bolton

Jane Bedell

Bill Davis

Barbara Hendricks

Kathleen Hooper

Todd Mize

Staff-Parish Relations

Kinsey Phillips, Chairperson

Craig Gieler

Bob Griffeth

Anne Fleming

Judy Harbin

Debbie Manus

Charlotte Massey

Jason Phillips

Stewart Smith

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

June Murphy, Recording Secretary

Kinsey Phillips, SPR

Lisa Nesbit, Treasurer



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