

"The STEEPLE"
A Newsletter of Commerce UMC
July 2020



A Message from Pastor Andy
"Do All Things with Love"

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 states, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

Sunday, June 21st, our church reopened its doors for in-person worship. If you haven't heard by now, it was a great success. The trustees ensured the safest possible arrangement by setting chairs six feet away, alternating the use of pews, and leaving tables in the narthex to encourage one way traffic in and out of the sanctuary. The ushers masterfully directed traffic. For music, while the congregation couldn't sing, one singer placed in the cry room -don't worry it wasn't against her will- sang on behalf of all who gathered. After worship concluded, people socialized outside in the parking lot. I could not have asked for a smoother worship experience.

I have to admit I was a bit worried leading up to the grand reopening. I don't know about anyone else, but I have seen several video clips of angry customers who refused to wear masks. More often than not, these incidents turned violent. As I stood outside, my heart sank when I saw someone approaching without a mask. I wondered if he/she would comply with my request to put a mask on. My worries were unfounded, because as each person got closer to the entrance, he/she pulled a mask from a back pocket or a purse and put it on.

After weeks of in-person worship, I can foresee the temptation to ease our precautions. They are, after all, what we consider burdens and inconveniences. Believe me, I get it: masks are uncomfortable, sitting silently during a praise song is counter-intuitive, and skipping out on coffee hour seems almost criminal.

However, I want to remind you that these precautions are not meant to be burdensome. Every Sunday as you participate in these extra little precautions, view them as little sign-acts of love, because that's exactly what they are. You put on a mask out of love. Yes, you do it out of love for your neighbor and fellow church attendee. By sitting in silence instead of singing, you prevent liquid droplets from being aerosolized. Or, by socializing outside after service instead of in the fellowship hall over a cup of coffee and donuts, you greatly reduce the risk of any COVID transmission.

So, I thank you for your past deeds of love and I encourage you to continue in them. Let us love one another weekly by abiding by all the necessary precautions so that we can have more opportunities to love another through conventional means in the future.

God bless you and keep you. Pastor Andy Lee



Thank YOU for ALL YOU DO to Serve the Lord
at Commerce UMC!

If you have questions about when you are scheduled
to help, please contact your Committee Leader.

Access the Calendar [HERE](#) for Events and Important Dates

Here's the Scoop ... Christian Education JULY 2020

Happy Summer! It has been so wonderful seeing many of you back at church on Sundays! I have been missing your kids like crazy! Read on as we have some FUN FAMILY events on the horizon!!!!

Sunday Activity Bags

I will be providing activity bags each Sunday, that relate to Pastor Andy's message. These bags are to be picked up on your way in and then taken home. Nothing is to be returned. Some weeks I may also provide a craft activity that can be done at home.

Kids/Youth & Kids Young at Heart Lessons on Mondays with Mrs. Tracy!

Join me each Monday morning for a kids/youth lesson on our church's Facebook page.

Each Monday, I host a short lesson, followed by a demonstration, experiment or cooking activity.

I follow up this lesson with emailing a copy of the lesson, a few related activity pages and a couple of coloring pages. If you are not receiving my emails, please email me at tskramer1@ameritech.net and I can add you to the distribution list. All of you big kids (18+) are welcome to tune in and watch the lessons too! We are all kids at heart and if anything, you can get a laugh at my antics.

Parent Zoom & Kids Klub Zoomin' Style

We are taking a break for the month of July. We will revisit this toward the end of the month and may begin again sometime in August.

Blessing Box Ministry Our Blessing Box continues to be a 'blessing' to our community!

A couple of us are checking the box and re-stocking it as needed and a huge thank you to all of you who have swung by and added items yourself.

Please remember that we CANNOT put expired food into the box. Please also remember that hygiene, paper & cleaning products are also welcomed items in the box! Please refrain from fresh items, such as bread and produce. Also keep in mind that the box gets HOT, so items that can melt would not be good choices during the summer.

Other On-going Collection Ministries:

- **Anchored Hope Street Outreach** - The Ann Thomas circle of the UMW has been preparing sandwiches/lunch every other week for Anchored Hope. Anchored Hope has continued taking lunches to Detroit for the human-trafficked ladies, every week during this pandemic. Items

that are very helpful for these lunches include: **juice pouches or small bottles of water, individually packaged salty food item (chips, crackers, pretzels), sweet food item (cookies, rice krispy treats, little Debbie's), fruit cups and granola/breakfast bars.**

- **Operation Christmas Child** -For the MONTH OF JULY, we will be collecting clothing items: If you would like to 'catch-up' on what we have collected so far this calendar year, here is what we were looking for: **IVORY Bar Soap, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Washcloths, Combs/Brushes, Chapstick, Hats/gloves/scarves, SMALL stuffed animals (think beanie baby sized). accessories (hair/sunglasses/ballcaps/jewelry/watches), small quality crafts and small toys.** Please remember that items should be new.

Keeping you in prayer, Tracy Kramer - Christian Education Dir
346-5441cell

Tskramer1@ameritech.net / (248)

2020 Virtual 5K - to help those affected by the Mid Michigan Flooding

Walk, Run or Ride a 5K (3.1 miles) anytime between July 26 and July 28! All funds raised go to the Michigan Disaster Relief and Recovery fund, which is assisting those affected by the collapse of dams and 500-year flooding in mid-Michigan.

See more information on [mid-Michigan flooding](#).

Donations of \$35 for Adults & \$25 for Children 10 and younger get a T-Shirt. Registration must be received by Friday, July 10 for guaranteed T-Shirt delivery. You can also sponsor a flood bucket for \$75, which includes a T-Shirt, or simply donate. We'll email registrants their race bib to print and pin for "race day". Send us a picture of your 5K using #MIUMC5K.

Our own TRACY KRAMER, Christian Ed Director will be taking the walk - please contact her if you would like to find out more.

Thanks to our generous sponsors 100% of your donation will go to the Michigan Disaster Relief and Recovery fund.

Register at <https://michiganumc.org/2020-virtual-5k/>



Continue to Pray for:

The Covid-19 Virus affects and finding a vaccine.

The Racial Issues across the world!

Judy Rose

Dave Crook

Terri Bean & Family

David Zimmerman

Laura Stover

the Landry Family

Robert Fournier

Bonnie Blaufuss

Pat Elliot

Kaitlyn Young

Owen Senk

Ann Googasian

The Family of Larry Renton

July Birthday's

- 1 Gary Fenn - Bill Hendrickson**
- 2 Keyona Aguilar -Paul Armstrong**
- 3 Wendy Brassell**
- 6 Bob Bozyk - Steve Lemon**
Ajay Mercer
- 7 Andrea Geagle - Paula Gulf**
- 8 Ben Abdallah - June Stevenson**
Kendra Kornatowski
- 9 Trevor Dion - Pat LeVasseur**
Alex Stefanou
- 11 Kevin Leon**
- 12 Bonnie Blaufuss - Lori Hunt**
Gary Pipkin
- 12 Alec LeVasseur**
- 14 Lynne Delaney-Elizabeth Thiry**
- 15 Alaina Lie - Lauren Watkins**
- 16 Bonnie Dunneback- Dana Wenz**
Grant LeVasseur-Ellianna Robinson
- 17 Carter Vrnak**
- 18 Kim Bommarito - Alissa Pellett**
- 19 Kyle Caswell**
- 20 Jeni Fletcher**
- 21 Luca DeAngelis - Marilyn Hannon**
Pat Young
- 22 Melissa Kramer - Ajay Ralston**
- 25 Wayne Duffine - Sunny Brassell**
- 26 Vicky Ebert - Polly Keller**
Liam & Molly Fons
- 29 Nicole Marcelli - Azlynn Pohl**

July Anniversary's

- 9 Terry & Lila Crossett**
- 9 Dave & Gloria Jones**
- 9 Marty & Sue Willis**
- 11 Bill & Jill Hendrickson**
- 15 Lee & Susan Schulz**
- 17 Jeremy & Ann Ralston**
- 20 Jerry & Sherrill Sundberg**
- 21 Charles & Mickey Nelson**
- 21 John & Virginia Sturdevant**
- 25 Rich & Tammy Hager**

Find the Commerce UMC Website by clicking here.