

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - August 2020

1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382

Sunday Worship Times: 9 am & 11 am

and you can catch Pastor Andy's Sunday messages on our

Facebook at: www.facebook.com/commerceumc or our

YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/>



A Message from Pastor Andy

"Keep Leaning"

Before I fall asleep, I tend to lie in my bed and scroll through my phone. I know, I know. It's a bad habit, but I do it anyway. I check the news. I check my email. I check for good deals on used SUVs. Eventually, I'll hear a groan from the person lying next to me- my wife. I try to ignore it. I'm in the middle of very important business!

Unfortunately, she will proceed to toss and turn as she struggles to find a comfortable lying position. Finally, she verbalizes her complaints and frustrations, and I have to put down my phone in order to give her my undivided attention. She and I have the same conversation we had the previous night.

I nod along to the same three points: Pregnancy is hard, pregnancy is unfair, and pregnancy is too long. The last point about pregnancy being too long usually dovetails into how she can't believe she still has another two months to go. How can she possibly endure another two months of *this*?

I've never been pregnant, and barring a science fiction scenario, I will never be pregnant. Still, to a degree, I can relate to my wife's sentiment about pregnancy being too long. I acknowledge and affirm the sentiment undergirding her complaint. Though she is beyond tired of dealing with the inconveniences of pregnancy, she must press on. The journey continues whether she likes it or not.

I imagine that's how dealing with the coronavirus has been for many of us. We may be sick and tired of hearing and reading about the virus, wearing masks, and missing out on beloved activities. Sadly, the virus doesn't care, and we have no choice but to accommodate its presence. The path of least resistance might be to throw a tantrum or fall into despair. With faith, there is another option.

If you feel worn down this season, I encourage you to turn toward the everlasting God who sees and knows you. Engage in the proven spiritual disciplines that connect the grace of God to us. I am referring to good old fashion bible reading, prayer, and helping those in need. In doing so, I trust God will deepen your capacity to bear the burdens of the season.

I leave you with a few words from a beloved hymn in the hopes they bring you life:

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

God bless you and keep you. Pastor Andy Lee

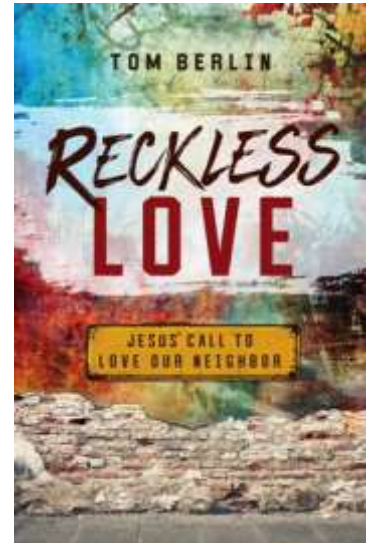


Don't forget – Hand-made Birdhouses will be on sale tomorrow, Sunday Aug. 2, from the UMW between services in the parking lot. Many designs and colors available. Cost is by donation with an \$8 minimum. Thanks in advance for your support to the Commerce UM Women and their mission work.

Sunday Worship Sermon Series with adjoining Wednesday Night Zoom Study with Pastor Andy

On Sunday, September 20th, Pastor Andy Lee will lead the church through a 6-week sermon series based on [Tom' Berlin's book *Reckless Love*](#). The sermon series will focus on Jesus' call to love our neighbors. With an election looming, we strive to set an example for the world.

For more in-depth conversation and learning, you are invited to participate in a corresponding book study via Zoom each Wednesday at 7pm beginning Sept. 23 rd. While purchasing *Reckless Love* is not a requirement, it will enhance the experience. Books can be purchased by visiting <https://www.cokesbury.com/Reckless-Love>



Come one- Come ALL ...

**YOUR'E invited to our Church-Wide Parking Lot Picnic
& Easter Egg Hunt!**

Sunday, August 23rd. 6 pm - 8 pm

**Pack & bring your own picnic along with your blanket
&/or lawn chairs for social distancing Family Style!**

**Rain date will be Sunday Aug. 30th same times. For
more about the Easter Egg Hunt, please read the PICNIC
section in Christian Education August 2020 below.**

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

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 with Mrs. Tracy, moving to Sundays!

Beginning on Sunday, August 23rd, my weekly kids lessons will move to Sundays.

With the school year starting, this will allow families to watch the kids lesson on our church Facebook page on Sunday mornings, right after viewing Pastor Andy's message. Sunday sermon and Sunday school right together as it should be! Until then, please continue to tune in on Monday, August 3rd, 10th & 17th, as we continue and finish up our *Armor of God* lesson series.

Kids Klub Zoomin' Style

Kids Klub is still on a summer break, but will return sometime in September on Zoom.

When we do begin, we will be meeting on Wednesdays @ 6:30pm. Stay tuned for more details.

Calling all Third Graders!

We want to make sure to honor YOU with your 3rd Grade Bible! If you have a third grader, please let me know! I will need their FULL name. (first, middle, last). Please email me at tskramer1@ameritech.net, BEFORE August 15th.

Hey College Students! It's time to get our college ministry up and running this fall!

Whether you are living at home and taking online courses, commuting to campus or living on campus, we want to shower you with some Commerce UMC love over your school year. Please get your name, mailing address and birthday info to Mrs. Tracy by August 15th. **Anyone that is looking to contribute to our College Ministry program, we are currently in need of \$10 Amazon Gift Cards. These may be given to Tracy any Sunday morning in August.** Thank you!

Did someone say PICNIC? Get ready for a church-wide parking lot picnic and Easter Egg Hunt! Sunday, August 23rd from 6pm - 8pm

Pack your picnic basket and blanket/chairs and meet in the rear parking lot for a socially distanced picnic. Once again this is a BYO event and we will park EVERY OTHER parking space, to ensure social distancing. All kids who have just finished 5th grade or younger are invited to bring a big bag (think kitchen-sized garbage bag) for our very very delayed Easter Egg Hunt! We will hunt for eggs in the courtyard at some point in the evening.

The building will be open for restroom use only. Rain date will be Sunday, August 30th. Any questions, please contact Tracy Kramer (248) 346-5441, tskramer1@ameritech.net

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.

Canned meats (tuna, chicken, spam, etc), peanut butter/jelly and boxed cereal/instant oatmeal seem to be high demand items.

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. If you would like to take a turn providing sandwiches for this ministry, please click on the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4faba72fa57-anchored>

If you would prefer to donate items that could be added to the lunches, they are in need of: **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.**

Donated items can be dropped off to Tracy Kramer, any Sunday morning.

- **Operation Christmas Child** - For the month of August, we will be collecting **school supplies: sharpened pencils/pencil sharpeners/pencil cases/big & pencil top erasers/pens (black & blue)/kids scissors/colored pencils/crayola crayons (other brands melt in transit), markers, glue sticks.**

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, small toys and clothing items.**

Please remember that items should be new. Donated items can be given to Tracy any Sunday morning.

Keeping you in prayer, Tracy Kramer - Christian Education Dir Tskramer1@ameritech.net / (248) 346-5441 cell



Thank YOU for ALL YOU DO to Serve the Lord at Commerce UMC! If you have questions about your scheduled to help, please contact your Committee Leader.

Thank YOU for the PLASTIC JUGS & PILL BOTTLES for P.E.T.'s With the Covid19 restrictions, all shipments on the transport units have been put on hold so.... UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE WE ARE NOT COLLECTING JUGS & BOTTLES.



We are pleased to host Life Line Screening on September 2, 2020 at Commerce UMC.

A package of 5 screenings to identify risk for Stroke, Heart Disease and other Chronic conditions is \$149 and takes about 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Registration is required and will get you a \$10 discount by calling 888-653-6441 or going on the website at <https://www.lifelinescreening.com/> or by texting the word "circle" to 797979

Continue to Pray for:

Jim Elliot
Chelsea & Sam Ott and their Medical Team
The Googasian Family
The Family of Michael Leavey (Debbie Duffina's Brother-in-law)
The Family of Jon Allen (Peggy Allen's Son)
Kathy Vitullo & Family

Pat Elliot & her Brother's Family
Faith-in-Action Workers & Programs
Owen Senk
The Stefanou Family
Jeannie Fisher
Barb Johnson

August Birthday's

1	Christine Pellett	Glen Milligan	
2	Kathy Vitullo		
5	Rich Kornatowski		
6	Brian Nadeau	Ryan Dunneback	Margaret Kwiatkowski
8	Augustine Osagie	Leroy Stoddard	
9	Rachel Fagan	Quinn Pohl	
10	Austin Edgington	Debbie Whitson	Kim Landry
11	Tammy Hager		
13	Meghan Caswell-Pohl	Olivia Brush	
15	William Broyles		
16	Ann Ralston	Diane Senk	Alec Huisman
17	Sarah Crossett		
18	Kaelynn Heximer	Robert Bergner	Caitlin Pellett
19	Charles Nelson		
20	Linda Kumm		
22	Lyla Laming		
23	Parker Bommarito		
25	Alex Marcelli	Rachel Marcelli	
27	Terri Bean		
28	Jackie Smiertka		
29	Terri Stefanou		
30	Ranny MacArthur		

August Anniversary's

1	Bruce & Rebecca Flores
2	David & Krista Brassell
2	Eric & Terri Bean
3	Mike & Vicki Kennedy
3	Tim & Julie Lewandowski

5	Jason & Jennifer Anderson
7	Brett & Gina Rendeiro
15	Pastor Andy Lee & Grace Baek
16	Paul & Kim Landry
19	Don & Robin Fletcher
19	Bill & Debbie Whitson
20	Chris & Lynne Huisman
24	Joe & Beth Fournier
30	Jay & Denise Pistana
31	Gary & Tammie Fenn

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

[Find the Commerce UMC Website by clicking here.](#)