

**"The STEEPLE"**  
A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - September 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](http://www.facebook.com/commerceumc) or our  
YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/>



*A Message from Pastor Andy*  
**"A NEW Season of Faith"**

In a normal year, the change in seasons particularly from summer to fall generates all kinds of energy and enthusiasm. Students return to school where they can reconnect with old friends while making new ones. Church ministries that were set on hold for the restful summer are relaunched as members come home refreshed from vacationing "up north."

Unfortunately, this is not a normal year. Many of our students will be stuck at home throughout the week as they engage in virtual learning. At church, some ministries will have to stay shelved until life is safer. For the ministries that will continue in the fall, there are questions surrounding how much participation one can reasonably expect. Many have stayed away in the summer and many will continue to stay away in the fall.

So, the new season rolls through without much fanfare. Not only is there a lack of fanfare, there is also a concern that things can get much worse. I recently read an article warning low humidity increases COVID-19. Epidemiologist Michael Ward shares, "When the humidity is lower, the air is drier and it makes the aerosols smaller. When you sneeze and cough those smaller infectious aerosols can stay suspended in the air for longer. That increases the exposure for other people." The fall is obviously less humid than the summer.

As we enter fall, will there be good news and good changes? Or, will we encounter more trouble and inconveniences? I don't have the ability to answer, but I can offer you 3 insights.

**1. God's love endures all things.**

The words of Psalm 136 proclaim repeatedly "his steadfast love endures forever." The final portion states,

<sup>23</sup> It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;  
<sup>24</sup> and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;  
<sup>25</sup> who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Please know whatever we face, God will see us through. Nothing can get in the way of God's love for us. God does not and has not forgotten us. God is in the business of tending to his people. Hold on to this truth. It is a great treasure.

**2. Our staff is working hard.**

Over the last few months, the staff has done their best to plan for the fall. There were conversations about every possible scenario imaginable. New and strange ideas have been and will continue to be tested. I've heard innovations are birthed through chaos and that appears to be true. One day, our Music Director even floated the idea of creating plexiglas "cages" in order to have multiple singers without spreading aerosols in the sanctuary. While every idea isn't flashy, the staff is doing everything in their power to meet the needs of God's people. Indeed,

with this staff, you can count on a commitment to doing ministry no matter the circumstance.

### 3. You matter.

Considering all the challenges our church has endured these last few months, Commerce UMC is in surprisingly good health. The reality is, not every church has been so fortunate. The health of our church is a reflection of the membership's willingness to dig deep into their faith. Every act of faith you have committed has made a difference from making phone calls, giving financial gifts in the midst of uncertainty, to engaging new responsibilities. I want to take this moment to simply encourage and cheer you on. The fruit of your actions are clear and visible to me. I hope they are to you. We have a long journey ahead of us so please keep it up.

Peace be with you. Pastor Andy

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### **Sock It to Me & Drop Your Drawers!**

#### **N.O.A.H. Project (Networking, Organizing and Advocating for the Homeless)**

It's that time of year again! The NOAH Project's annual "**Sock-It-To-Me September**" donation drive is here and they have asked our Mission committee to extend the invitation to our Commerce UMC Family, Friends and Local Community to help.

You can place your donation of **NEW Socks & NEW Underwear** in the designated box now through the end of September. Men's (ALL sizes) socks and underwear are most in demand, BUT Women all sizes are also needed.

Especially now with the Coronavirus going on, there is a great need for these socks and underwear. Many of our fellow churches are unable to participate this year, so it is important that we step up and help out. To make your drop off even easier, the collection box will be outside under the main entry awning by the BIG Glass Doors on Monday thru Thursday during the Office hours; 8:30 am – 2 pm. You can just drive up and drop off.

On Sunday's you can find the box just inside the main entry in the foyer area.

Please consider helping with this very important mission project.

Our collections for both the Socks & Underwear are in competition for achieving the annual highest number donated awards.

If you want to learn more about the N.O.A.H. Project, you can check out their website at [www.noahprojectdetroit.org](http://www.noahprojectdetroit.org)

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

On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 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. (refer to chart below for zoom ID & password & please note the date change from Oct. 7th to Oct. 8th, and possible extension time if needed).

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>

Chapter	Dates	Zoom ID	Zoom Password
1	Wednesday, September 23	427 137 6934	1155
2	Wednesday, September 30	427 137 6934	1155
3	*Thursday, October 8*	427 137 6934	1155
4	Wednesday October 14	427 137 6934	1155
5	Wednesday October 21	427 137 6934	1155
6	Wednesday October 28	427 137 6934	1155
Catch up day	**Wednesday, November 4**	427 137 6934	1155

\*Due to Charge Conference, Bible Study will be on Thursday .

\*\*Bible Study may be postponed due to the arrival of baby #2.

**Commerce Women's Book Group** will begin this Fall with the book: "**Listen, LOVE, REPEAT**" by Karen Ehman; *Our culture is self-obsessed - in our schedules, relationships, and especially online. (Can you say selfie?) But in this near-narcissism, people are less content than in decades past. Why? Because we forgot the joy that comes from putting others first. Doing so requires us to live alert, listening for -heart drops, - hints from those in our lives who need a helping hand or a generous dose of encouragement. Living alert lifts our own spirits, showing us that blessing others blesses us even more. Listen, Love, Repeat offers biblical teaching and suggests doable actions that are simple, heart-tugging, sentimental, even sneaky and hilarious.*

You are invited to join in with the group each **Wednesday evening's at 5:30 pm to 7 pm, beginning Sept. 9th in the Wesley Room.** For a short time, as long as weather permits, they like to meet in their comfy lawn chairs in the courtyard instead of in the classroom.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about this group study, please contact Diane Senk at [dbsenk@yahoo.com](mailto:dbsenk@yahoo.com) or 248-770-0711.



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

Happy Fall! Kick-off Sunday is September 13<sup>th</sup> and more fun stuff is on the horizon!

Read on to be 'in the know'!

**Have you heard? Mrs. Tracy's Facebook lessons are now on Sundays!** Tune in each Sunday morning on our Church Facebook Page! Now you can watch Pastor Andy's message as a family and then tune in and watch my Sunday School lesson right after!

Beginning on September 13<sup>th</sup>, the lessons on Facebook will be the same as those led in-person at Junior Church & Children's Worship, during the 9am and 11am services.

### **Junior Church & Children's Worship:**

We will begin Junior Church (9am) and Children's Worship (11am) on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be offered for our elementary aged kids the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. The first Sunday of the month will be All-In Sunday and we will all remain together to worship and take communion.

**Changes for this year:** Parents will drop their kids off **BEFORE SERVICE BEGINS** at the doors leading into the Fellowship Hall (near the bathrooms). I will be there to do a temperature check on each child. Masks must be worn and remain on. (If your child is ill, has a fever or other symptoms, we will surely miss them but please keep them at home.) Each child will have their own bag of supplies to use each week. Any extra items being used for that week will already be in their bag. The kids will pick up their bag and then sit in one of the socially distanced chairs at the tables. The bags will remain in the Fellowship Hall, where I will sanitize them and prepare them for the next week. Extra bags will be available for any new friends that join us! After service, Mrs. Tracy will escort the kids back into the Narthex to meet up with their parents. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**COIN WARS** - Coin Wars are back! The kindergarten, 1st & 2nd graders will be battling the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders now through the beginning of December. Our students can bring in their change and dollars (it all counts as positive for the actual dollar amount) and drop it in the marked jars each Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall.

All money collected will go towards purchasing animals for Heifer International.

(We began this collection in January, but were halted due to the COVID-19 closure. So....we are continuing with the same mission to 'catch-up' and boost the amount already collected).

### **Kids Klub Family Parking Lot Edition**

Kids Klub will begin on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Families are invited to come and hang out with Mrs. Tracy in the parking lot from 6:30 - 7:30pm. Bring your chalk, bring your bubbles, bring your bike and let's have some fun! I will prepare a socially distanced game for us to play each week as well. We will continue to meet each Wednesday evening in the parking lot, until the weather turns too cold. If it is raining, then we will cancel for that evening.

### **Calling all Third Graders!**

We want to make sure to honor YOU with your 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:tskramer1@ameritech.net), BEFORE September 15<sup>th</sup>. Bibles will be presented in service on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**College Ministry Program** - Our college kids are back at it, whether on campus, commuting or online. No matter, we still want to keep in touch and send them a little love over the course of the year. **I am currently in need of thirteen more \$10 Amazon gift cards.** If you are able to donate one or more, please give them to me any Sunday morning through September. THANK YOU!

Keeping you in prayer, Tracy Kramer - Christian Ed Dir [tskramer1@ameritech.net](mailto:tskramer1@ameritech.net) / (248) 346-5441 cell

## **FUN Up-Coming Events for EVERYONE ! ! ! !**

### **FREE MOVIE NIGHT!**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm! Pack up your chairs, blankets, snacks & bug spray and get ready to sit out in the parking lot. We will be showing Disney PIXAR's "Onward". (Rumor is there will be popcorn...)

**Commerce UMC's own CROP Walk** - Mark your calendars and plan on joining in on our VERY OWN Commerce UMC CROP Walk! This will be THE best one yet and is appropriate for EVERYONE!

On **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**, we will meet at Marshbank Park – 2805 Hiller Road, West Bloomfield, 48324. The walk will begin at 2pm. This walk is an EASY and GORGEOUS 1.2 mile loop through the woods, along the lake, through the fields.

The goal is to do 2-3 loops, but if you can only do one, that is okay!

NEW FOR THIS YEAR – I will have an I SPY activity for all the kids to complete during the walk! (Adults are welcome to participate too). At the end of your final loop find Mrs. Tracy for a special treat of water bottles and DONUTS!

PLEASE register yourself and family AND make sure to donate for our walk. All money collected will benefit Church World Service, Open Door Outreach Center of Waterford, Meals on Wheels of Waterford, the Baldwin Center of Pontiac, and the Good Samaritan Food Pantry of Pontiac. The link to register is: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/waterfordmi/Team/View/135534/Commerce-UMC>  
Please RSVP with how many people are walking by Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, so I know how many to plan for the day of. (tskramer1@ameritech.net)

Any cash/check donations must be given to Tracy before the beginning of the event.

**Check donations can be made out to: CWS – Waterford Area Crop Walk**

Our fundraising goal for this year is **\$500.00**. I hope you can join me!

## **Commerce Family & Community On-going Missions:**

(While during the Covid19 distancing restrictions are in place and entry to the Fellowship Hall is limited, you can give your donations for any of the following missions to Tracy on any Sunday morning)

**Blessing Box Ministry** - Thank you for your continued generous support of this ministry!

Our Blessing Box continues to be a 'blessing' to our community! **Our current needs are canned meats (tuna, chicken, spam, etc), peanut butter/JELLY, boxed cereals, instant oatmeal and canned meals (chef-boyardi, chili, beef stew, etc).**

**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 20 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.**

## **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox (Samaritan's Purse International Relief)**

For the month of **September**, we will be collecting **GAMES**.

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, clothing items, sharpened pencils, pencil sharpeners, pencil cases, big pink and pencil top erasers, black or blue pens, kids scissors, colored pencils, CRAYOLA brand crayons, markers and glue sticks.**



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.**

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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

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***Continue to Pray for:***

**Emily (Lemon) Goosey & her family**

**David Smirtka**

**Russ Courville**

**Tom Buzzo & Family**

**Virginia (Kelly) & John Sturdevant**

**Al Nagy**

**Don & Barbara Proulx**

**Ashley Amchak**

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

1	Sherrill Sundberg	Janna Robertson			
3	Virginia Smith				
4	Earl Stoddard				
5	Kaitlyn Bowen	Isabella Rendeiro			
7	Amanda Leonard	Stephanie Leonard			
8	Audrey Hunt				
9	Norma Gilbert	Anastasia Meadors	Judy Rohr	Caitlyn Oliver	
10	Don Fletcher				
11	Andrew Leon				
12	Krista Brassell	Luca Thomas			
13	Jerry Sundberg				
14	Scott Crandall	Karen Gulf	Everly MacCarreall	Frank Clappison	Emily Lemon
16	Bradley Hanson	Bruce Kargol			
19	Julie Schave	Dave Smiertka Sr			
20	Julia Keller				
21	Tom Contesti				
22	Maggi Harfoot	Andrew Pistana			
23	William Fons				
24	Max Edgington	Shirley Grupido			
25	Jeffrey Topper				
26	Betty Wallen				
28	Paul DeAngelis				
29	Gladys Schneider	Trevor Wenz			

## SEPTEMBER Anniversary's

2	Bob & Diane Senk
6	Lyle & Debbie Curry
8	Brian & Susan Nadeau
9	Rob & Paula Gulf
11	Ray & Colleen Topper
15	Steve & Becky Lemon
17	Jason & Rachel MacCarreall
19	Tom & Mackenzie Contesti
26	Ken & Dorine Walker
29	Dan & Tracy Kramer