

"The STEEPLE"
A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - NOVEMBER 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

"INVEST HERE"

As your pastor, it is my responsibility to ask, encourage, and sometimes beg you to consider giving generously to God. Every year around this time, our church participates in a stewardship campaign in which we explore the connection between God and our giving. Each person will discern what percent of their income they believe they are called to give for the upcoming calendar year (2021). The stewardship campaign normally concludes with a time in which those present on Consecration Sunday submit an "estimate of giving" card –a low stakes, nonbinding estimate.

Due to the Coronavirus, church attendance is about 40% of what it was prior to the pandemic. Having fewer people for worship in-person may be helpful for social distancing, but it makes the "estimate of giving" card submission more difficult. So, this year, the church will mail the "estimate of giving" card to each giving unit with prepaid postage for a return trip back to the church. You can expect to find these items in your mailbox in the weeks to come.

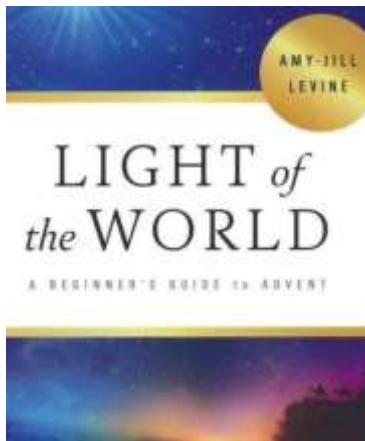
This past year, my family and I made the nonbinding commitment to give \$1100/month or what amounts to \$13,200 for the year. While that amount of money requires my family and I make a few sacrifices, we remain cheerful givers because we know God is at work right here at our church. The primary reason Commerce UMC exists is to connect our neighbors to Christ and his body so that they can be renewed. By "renewed" I am talking about Jesus transforming one's priorities, values, and outlook on life. Thus far, I have been very encouraged by what I have witnessed.

From July 1, 2019 to the start of the pandemic in March of this year, our church has welcomed dozens of visitors. This fact in itself is not exciting. However, when a visitor continues to attend over 3 times, plugs into various ministries of the church, or asks how to become a member, then suddenly, we have signs of someone experiencing a renewed life in Christ. Prior to the pandemic, I am happy to report we had 23 such individuals. That is a rate of 2.55 people per month which is very, very impressive.

Understandably, in light of the coronavirus, we lost a great deal of momentum as most individuals choose to stay home. Still, the mission continues and there are, once more, encouraging signs as new people—even during this season— make their way to our church and reveal a commitment to be more than fringe visitors. Since we have reopened our doors for in-person worship, the rate for such individuals is currently 1 person per month which is quite good considering the circumstances.

So, I am asking for your help, your support, and your partnership. It takes time, energy, and frankly, money to accomplish what we're doing. Invest in your local church and give as much as you can possibly give because the dividends are truly priceless.

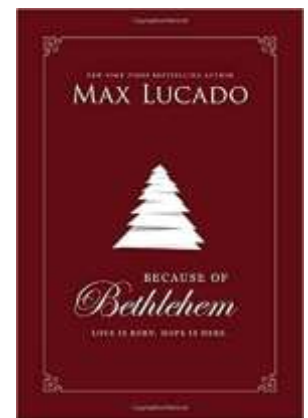
God be with you. Pastor Andy



Adult Wednesday Night Advent Bible Study with Pastor Andy, 4 week study of the book; "LIGHT of the WORLD" – *Explore the biblical texts surrounding Jesus' birth---and illuminate your own experience of Advent! Levine traces the events of the Christmas narrative, highlighting the accounts of Zechariah and Elizabeth; Mary and the Magnificat; the holy family's journey to Bethlehem; and the flight to Egypt*

We will meet in person in the **Fellowship Hall, Wednesday's... Nov.18, not Nov.25, Dec.2, Dec.9, & Dec.16.** 12 Books will be available in the office on Sunday Nov. 15th, for \$12 each. (1st come basis)

The Commerce **Women's Book Study** will begin a 4 week Advent study on November 18. (note: they will meet Nov 18, Dec 2, 9 & 16, but not Nov. 25th, the day before Thanksgiving). They will be reading Max Lucado's book; "Because of Bethlehem" ; *publishers description ... for some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration and family, while for others it is a time of loneliness, grief and loss. No matter what this season holds for you, the promise of Christmas will bring you a lifetime of hope.*



Any questions about the group - please contact Diane Senk at 248-770-0711



The **Commerce Angel Tree** is coming soon and will be set up in the Narthex early in November. With your help again this year, our angel tree will benefit **Baldwin** and some of **our own church families**.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic this year, **Baldwin is only accepting gift cards** for their Christmas Program.

Hospitality House is only accepting checks payable to Hospitality House Food Pantry; with "Santa Shop" written in the memo section and they also have a Santa Shop GoFundMe campaign for easy giving; https://www.gofundme.com/f/santa-shop-fundraiser?mc_cid=03e4b27130&mc_eid=c48ad86fbe

All donations from the tags on our angel tree need to be **returned back to the tree no later than Sunday Nov 29th. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP your gift, and make sure to return the tag you removed from the tree securely attached to your donated gift.**

If you have any question about this years Angel Tree, please contact **Laura Contesti at 248-363-2557**



Christmas Marketplace ~

Saturday December 5 9 am - 4 pm

The UMW is planning our Annual MARKETPLACE this year but it will be very different due to the Covid Pandemic. There will be a limited number of crafters (only about 16) in order to comply to social distancing regulations. Eleven crafters have already reserved a table so if you are interested in one, please contact **Kyle Caswell at 248-622-1465**. The cost is \$30.00. Set-Up will be on Friday, the day before.

Face Masks are required to be worn the entire time you are inside the building. Entrance to the Marketplace will be the Main Entrance Doors (Large Covered Glass Doors) with one-way traffic once inside through the Narthex to the Fellowship Hall to Exit out the Fellowship Hall door.

We will host our Cookie Walk... Donations from UMW members and the congregation are greatly appreciated. This is the most popular area of our event as in most years we are completely sold out of all the goodies. Please bake if you can, to maintain virus safety, ALL COOKIES will be packaged in Plastic bags (2-4 per bag depending on size). The number of people around the table will be monitored due to social distancing. WE are trying to make this safe for everyone. You will only be able to use the boxes we provide for the cookies. Gloves and hand sanitizer will be provided.

Susie Thompson will be doing the Christmas Greens again this year, if you have a container you would like filled for your Holiday decorating please contact **Susie (248-887-4773)** to give her your container. Make sure your name and phone number are attached to it. She and her helpers will also have beautifully made arrangements for sale the day of the event.

There will also be a White Elephant table again this year supplied with donations by you. These items need to be "like new", gifts you bought but never gave, or received but never used... but Please No clothing or shoes. A box will be provided in the fellowship hall to receive your donations.

If you are a crafter or enjoy needlework and would like to make an item or items for the **UM Women's Craft Table** it would be greatly appreciated. Your craftwork helps fill our table and makes it very festive at the same time. Please contact Kyle Caswell if you have any questions.

There will NOT be a Raffle this year.

There will be a 'FOOD TO GO' lunch for sale – and will NOT be any Dine-In seating provided to the general public. We will need workers and even extra workers this year to help cover/monitor area for COVID restrictions. A sign-up sheet will be on the board and YOUR Participation is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If you have any questions about this year's Marketplace Event, please contact a UM Women Member, Linda Kornatowski or Kyle Caswell.

NOVEMBER 2020 - Christian Education News

Happy Giving Thanks month! Yes, I did not mess up my words. Just a friendly reminder to remember, that having a thankful heart is more than one day. It is something we need to practice living in EVERY day! Save the date for Nov. 22nd and watch my Facebook lesson on just that! Every day is a blessing and we all have something to be thankful for each day. Check out below to see what is going on in the world of Christian Education!

Join Mrs. Tracy every Sunday on Facebook! Tune in each Sunday morning on our Church Facebook

Page, for a brief kids lesson. (Those big kids who are young at heart are also invited to watch J)

Watch Pastor Andy's message as a family and then tune in and watch my kids lesson at 9:30 am.

Junior Church & Children's Worship:

All elementary aged and older kids/youth are invited to come to Junior Church (9 am) and Children's Worship (11 am) the 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month. (The first Sunday of the month we all attend worship together in the Sanctuary)

November 8th – SHOEBOX PACKING - The kids will be packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, during both services. We are in need of \$10 cash donations to help cover the shipping costs for these boxes. If writing a check, please make it out to "Samaritans' Purse Operation Christmas Child". Please give ALL donations to Tracy Kramer. Thank you!

COIN WARS – Coin Wars wrap up on November 29th. Please remember to have all of your collected money turned in by this date. In December, the kids will be voting on which animals to purchase with their collected money, for Heifer International. We have cleared \$340.00 so far!

Kids Klub

Kids Klub meets upstairs every Wednesday, from 6:30 – 7:30pm. Drop off and pick up are from Creation Island. Masks must be worn the entire hour and all kids/youth are invited to attend. **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 25TH.**

Families....be on the lookout! Mrs. Tracy will be porch dropping some Advent family fun at the beginning of Thanksgiving week. Please keep an eye on your porch for some crazy lady leaving a mysterious bag there! Your Advent Family Fun Adventure should begin on Sunday, November 29th. (The first day of Advent).

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and as always, keeping you in prayer,
Tracy Kramer – Christian Education Dir Tskramer1@ameritech.net / (248) 346-5441cell

ON-GOING MINISTRIES ... AND YOU CAN HELP!

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), soups, canned beans (legumes), canned meals (chili, beef stew, chef-boyardi, etc), macaroni & cheese, pancake mix/syrup.**

Please do not put dried beans in the box. Unfortunately, those are never taken.

Operation Christmas Child – Through Nov. 8th, we will be collecting monetary donations, to cover the shipping costs for the boxes that the kids will be packing this day. Please provide your donation in cash or make a check out to "Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child". Make sure to give it to Tracy Kramer or Kati Brush. **If you took shoeboxes to pack at home, please note they are due back to the church no later than November 8th!**

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>

Have extra Halloween Candy? - Bring it in for Anchored Hope! They can use it in their weekly lunches. All candy donations can be given to Tracy Kramer. 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.

The Anchored Hope Tree will be up in the Narthex, beginning Sunday Dec. 6th.

Suggested items include: Women's Hats, Gloves, Coats, Socks, NEW underwear, small blankets, purses, backpacks, string bags, hand & foot warmers, hairbrushes, combs, nail clippers, file, hair ties, headbands, small compact mirrors, small flashlights with batteries, travel first aid kits, sunglasses, small umbrellas, gallon & quart sized Ziploc bags, large paper lunch bags, snack sized chips/goldfish/cheez-its, cereal/granola/protein bars, cheese/pb crackers, dried fruit, pudding/applesauce/fruit cups, individual packs of cookies, gum, mints, chapstick, Q-tips, toothbrushes, floss, wipes, washcloths, pads/tampons, small bottled water/Gatorade.

travel sized: mouthwash, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, soap, body wash, lotion, tissue, hand sanitizer, cotton balls.



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.



**Continue to Pray for: Bonnie Blaufuss Laura Elliott Lila Crossett
Susan & Mark Bianchi Mary Youtz Glen Milligan Sr.**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

1	Bev LaTurneau	Kathleen Nelson-Gora			
2	Rich Allanson				
3	Silas Mecham				
4	Jim Hawisher				
5	Beverly Hughes				
6	Vickie Armstrong				
7	Robin Fletcher	Beth Kuzak			
8	Michelle Robinson				
9	Laura Elliott	Carl Schneider			
10	Lauren Bollinger				
11	Richard Kornatowski	Kay Behrens			
12	Pamela Bergner	Ken Harfoot			
13	Kyle Oliver	Gabriel Inglis-Dubin			
14	Debbie Curry				
15	Terry Crossett				
16	Eric Bean				
18	Lyle Curry	Fisher Goosey	Emmett Snyder	Tom Kwiatkowski	Robert Beagle
19	Jeremy Ralston				
20	Matthew Whitney	Gabe Laming			
21	Abby Kaschyk				
22	Christian Carroll	Linda Casenhiser	Robert Morris		
24	Bea Burkholder				
26	Sally Courville				
27	William Boyd	Millie Kargol			
30	Nicholas Stefanou				

NOVEMBER Anniversary's

2	Al & Pat Young
5	Clayton & Bev LaTurneau
8	Robert & Andrea Beagle
8	Brian & Polly Dodson
9	Jim & Susie Thompson
19	Scott & JoAnne Crandall
23	Scott & Ann Leonard
29	Ed & Dana Wenz

