

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - JANUARY 2021
1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382
Sunday Worship: Pausing In-Person through Jan. 9, 2021
In-Person Worship Resumes Sunday Jan. 10, 2021
in the Sanctuary, 9 am & 11 am with face masking,
social distance & sign-in contact tracing.

You can also 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

"Shine On"

Matthew 5:46-47:

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Back in high school, I had an eccentric US History teacher who insisted that history books were overrated. Don't be alarmed. The lesson plan and daily homework still made use of textbooks from a reputable publisher. However, to supplement the curriculum, my fellow classmates and I were required to interview senior citizens who had directly experienced the events taught in the course.

As such, I was forced to find someone that not only remembered the Great Depression but was willing to talk about it for a project. Although I was tempted to simply make up an interview with a fictional person of interest (I know, I'm bad), I ultimately decided to be honest out of fear my teacher would find out. So, I spent a Saturday morning at the Older Person's Commission in Rochester.

After speaking with a woman at the front desk who was sure to let me know I should have called beforehand, 3 or 4 adults gathered around a table for the assignment. Initially, each person's story was unique and unrelated as they emphasized the particulars of their hometowns and families of origin. Eventually though, the bulk of the attention began to shift toward one common topic: parents. Everyone spoke with pride and appreciation for the way their parents lived and handled themselves during such a crisis. "I don't know if I could do what they did," one said.

I mention this 10th grade US History assignment, because I wonder what our loved ones or our little ones would say about the way we handled the Pandemic of the early 2020's. My daughters are likely too young to have any significant memories regarding this chapter, but if they could speak upon what they witnessed from me and the church I serve, what would they say? Would they speak with pride and appreciation?

There's a nonprofit here in Commerce that specifically ensures local students have enough food to eat. Normally, at the end of the school week, these students would take a bag of groceries on the bus ride home for the weekend. Unfortunately, due to virtual learning, the nutritious groceries that would otherwise be sent with them must now be delivered to each individual residence. Volunteers have routinely been in short supply.

For the last few weeks of 2020, our church members stepped in and stepped up to meet the need. On Friday December 18th, when the organization had to supply 3 weeks of groceries for winter break and the need for volunteers doubled, our church members stepped in and stepped up again.

Sometime during this new year, we will toss the Pandemic to the curb like the unwanted guest it is. A day is coming when we will sing, dance, and host 100 consecutive potlucks to make up for lost time. And in that glorious future, we might occasionally reflect upon the bizarre and unpleasant nature of the past chapter. As we do, I hope and pray that we, and those who look up to us, will be proud of the people we chose to be.

Through every season, may the light of Christ shine in and through you. Amen.
Pastor Andy



Dear Friends of Commerce UMC,

In-person services will resume on January 10, 2021. As a reminder, our services are approximately 30 minutes without congregational singing. Also, we practice social distancing, wear masks, and participate in contact tracing. The services will continue to be available online. All other in-person gatherings outside of worship will remain paused until further notice. No matter how we worship, know 2021 will be a great year of ministry!

UM Men Thank YOU!

"Thanks to the congregation and our CBS families who purchased candy from the UMM this year. We had a great year with sales of \$2,241.

Through your generosity the UMM will contribute \$1,471 (100% of profits) to help with feeding and clothing our local communities."

Scott Leonard, UMM President



Attention all Commerce UMC High School Seniors!

NOW is the time to pick up an application for the **CUMC Legacy Scholarship**. This application is 2 parts; A & B; "GENERIC" 4 page Application & "CENTRAL" 2 page Application. Blank Copies are located just inside the church office door under the first aid kit in the tray on the wall or you can find the scholarship application to download from our Website -

<http://www.commerceumc.org/ministries/youth-ministries/>. Complete application are due back to the Church office no later than **MAR 15, 2021**.

JANUARY 2021 - Christian Education News

Happy New Year! We made it! 2020 is behind us and hopefully things are looking up for 2021!

Anchored Hope Collection - Please plan to bring any items you have purchased for the December Anchored Hope Tree on **THIS Sunday, January 3rd between 9 am & 10 am.**

I will be at the church's main entrance to receive your items. Thank you for your support once again of this important ministry!

Operation Shoebox Update - We have found out where some of our shoeboxes shipped! So far, we have discovered that some of our 85 boxes ended up in Madagascar and Burundi! If you paid the shipping of your shoebox online and did the tracking label, please let me know where your box ended up, so that I can share this information with our children. It is so cool to see how far the boxes from Commerce UMC went!

Coin Wars is a wrap! For the entire year of 2020, our Kids on a Mission Coin Wars have been collected for Heifer International. Our grand total is \$373.00! (Mustard Seeds - \$82.25 and Kids on a Mission - \$290.75). In January, the kids will be selecting which animals they will purchase with their collected funds.

Let's learn about Jesus' childhood!

Each Sunday morning, join Mrs. Tracy on our church's Facebook page for our weekly lesson. The lessons are appropriate for ALL ages. For January, we are going to learn what happened after Jesus was born. The story doesn't end at Christmas, in fact it is just beginning!

Junior Church & Children's Worship: Suspended until in-person services resume.

You may still take advantage of weekly lessons on the church's Facebook page. Every Sunday morning at 9:30 am a new lesson posts.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!

Tracy Kramer - Christian Education Director, Tskramer1@ameritech.net / (248) 346-5441 cell



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

If you would like information about helping with a committee or mission of the church please contact Pastor Andy at the church office or by email.



Continue to Pray for

Clayton & Bev LaTurneau & Family Brett Young
 Robin & Don Fletcher Shannon, Kyle Bolthouse & Family
 Doug & Patricia Hodson Bill Krug Jason, Pat & Jim Elliot
 Betty Barry & The Jack Tunycliff Family The Abdallah Family
 Tom Buzzo Dan Kniffen The Family of Donald Skarritt Bruce Johnson
 Lori Johnson Meny Don; Judy Rohr's Brother Walter, Annett & Paul Caryl
 Helen McCredie & Family

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

2	Tim Contesti	Emma Fagan		
3	Samson VanDussen			
4	Bill Gulf			
5	Ava Higuchi			
8	Ed Wenz			
9	Denise Pistana	Courtney Long	Jeffrey Fagan	Noelle Lee
11	Paul Elliott	Len Kumm	Betty Spehar	Nathaniel Inglis-Dubin
13	Dan Kramer			
15	Ethan Schulz	Michelle Lyon		
16	Stephen Bollinger			
17	Hannah Brassell			
20	Taylor Mroz	Rosa Bergner	Brock Nelson	
24	Glenn Oliver			
25	Elizabeth Lyon	Hailey Lyon	Thomas Lyon	
27	Pastor Andy Lee			
30	Marsden MacCarreall			
31	Mike Marcelli	Genika Landry		

JANUARY Anniversary's

4 John & Lynn Delaney
 11 Ernie & Jane Sampson
 20 Frank & Linda Clappison
 27 Robert & Nancy Strohs