

"The STEEPLE"

A Newsletter of Commerce UMC - MARCH 2021

1155 N. Commerce Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382

Sunday Worship: In-Person Worship

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

"ENGAGE YOUR RESOURCE"

February was a tough month. Let me tell you about it. For several days, I had to strap on my winter boots and walk to work. Trekking through the snow from the backdoor of the parsonage to the main entrance of the church is exhausting. My thighs were on fire! Besides the foot of snow we received, the weather was cold even by Michigan standards. I'm still shivering. I don't ever want to see single digit temperatures again. Who's with me?

While I love complaining, I recognize things could have been much worse. In particular, I think of the nightmare our friends in Texas had to endure. Due to the extreme weather, millions were left without power. Tragically, in some cases, lives were lost as a result. For those that were fortunate enough to have power, a portion of these folks were greeted with an astronomically high electricity bill. In response, they have taken to Twitter, Facebook, and other social media platforms in order to vent their frustration and plea for financial relief. It's not uncommon to see a bill for \$5000.

Apparently, these residents had variable-rate power plans. Basically, these plans charge different prices for electricity depending on how much demand there is. The more demand, the higher the price. NPR explains the lure of such a plan, "Variable-rate plans are enticing to many people because the price of electricity is often low during normal weather conditions and because it theoretically allows people to use more electricity when the price is lower — for example, by running appliances overnight." Obviously, when a historic winter storm blows through and shuts down most of the Texas' grid, the price of electricity naturally skyrockets.

I don't know what's going to happen to all those individuals who are stuck with a monstrous bills. It seems likely the state government will step in and the residents ultimately will not have to pay. Whatever the outcome, I imagine if they were faced with the decision to do it all over again, they would still opt to use the power that was available to them.

I share all that to say this. We have a tremendous resource at our disposal and so often we opt not to engage with it. I'm talking about our relationship with the resurrected Christ. We can give him our worries and fears. We can lean on him for strength during our toughest days. Or, we can simply draw near to him in order to smooth out the rough edges of our character. His power is available every moment of every day and best of all, there's no monthly bill!

However, for whatever reason, we choose not to stay plugged into all that Jesus has to offer. It's much more likely we choose to go down a road of great difficulty leaning on our own strength. During this season of lent, let us remember what we're preparing for. Easter

is only a few weeks away. Now is the time to repent from sin or foolish living and instead live into a reality that appropriately reflects what God has, can, and will do for us.

In much the same way you flip the switch and expect the lamp to illuminate your room, may you connect and rely upon the power of Christ in your daily living this season and always.

Peace be with you, my friends.
Pastor Andy



Dear Church Family & Friends,
In-person services continue at Commerce UMC. As a reminder, our services are approx 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. No matter how we worship, know it is always great to be in ministry from where ever you are!

Our Small Group Gatherings are beginning to meet again with building use approval and all the same Covid precautions that were followed previous to our last in-pause. Our Physical Activity Groups such as basketball - pickleball or tennis are still on hold with no building use at this time.

Mission Committee Soup Sunday - March 7, 2021

You will be able to grab your Lunch-To-Go on Sunday March 7th.
after both the 9 & 11 am services.

For only \$4 each meal; a bowl of soup of your choice
(Pasta Fagioli, Broccoli Cheese, Zuppa Toscana, Chili or Chicken Noodle)
plus a roll and a cookie!

The Fellowship Hall / Kitchen area will be arranged as a walk-thru for you
to order and receive your meal packed to go with you on your way out.
All proceeds support the many initiatives of our Mission Committee.



MARCH 2021 Christian Education News...

Happy Lenten Season! As we continue our journey through Lent, I am hoping that you have taken the time to reflect, repent and GROW! We need to reflect on what we have been doing (or not doing), repent for what needs to be forgiven and find ways to GROW ourselves spiritually! This can be through prayer, reading the Bible and/or other devotional study, fasting, quiet time with GOD or through service to someone else.

May this Lenten season not just be another 40 days, but a deep and meaningful 40 days of a life-changing and growth experience!

Kids Klub is back! Kids Klub is for Kindergarten through 5th grade. We meet each Wednesday for an hour (6:30 - 7:30pm). We have 30 minutes of fun in the Activity Hall and then 30 minutes of arts/crafts or service project. Everyone must wear a mask at all times and temp checks are done at drop-off. Drop off and pick up occur in the upstairs hallway, outside of Creation Island.

Weekly Kids/Youth Lesson's on Facebook ~ Don't forget to view my children/youth lessons on Facebook every Sunday morning @ 9:30am ! This lesson is the same as in-person Junior Church & Children's Worship, so no matter how you do church, you will not miss out!

Junior Church/Children's Worship is back, during both our 9am and 11am services. Children in Kindergarten and older are welcome to join! We meet up in the Narthex, right when you arrive for a temp check and hand sanitizer squirt and then head immediately upstairs to Creation Island for our time together. (Weekly lessons are the same as the weekly Facebook lesson)

Spring Coin Wars have begun! Please plan to drop your change in the marked jars, outside of Creation Island, upstairs each week. All money is counted at its' face value and will be going to the Methodist Children's Home, in Redford. **We have collected almost \$50 so far.**

Lent Giving Challenge benefiting the Student Pantry! Our annual Lent Giving Challenge is back once again. In addition to a time of reflection, prayer and self-denial, Lent is an opportunity to also give of ourselves. Our collection challenge begins on February 21st and runs 31 days, through March 23rd . Each day, you are encouraged to donate one item off the list. Collection day will be on Palm Sunday, March 28th .

Please bring in all of your collected items on this day. The collection list for Student Pantry is included in another section of the Steeple.

Egg Hunt ~ I am planning on having an Egg Hunt, in the front courtyard at 11am on Saturday, April 3rd. In order for it to be a success, **I am looking for donations of small wrapped candy/toys to put into the plethora of eggs that we have!** Please drop off any donated items to Tracy by Sunday, March 21st (to give ample egg stuffing time!). Thank you!

Commerce UMC Vacation Bible School

2021 Mystery Island ~ WE NEED YOUR ENERGY!

The plan is to have a reduced capacity Vacation Bible School on June 21st - 25th, from 9am to noon, but we need YOUR excitement and energy to make it happen!

Here are our remaining opportunities for THE BEST WEEK OF THE YEAR!

Kindergarten - 2nd adult (lead is covered)

1st Grade - 2nd adult (lead is covered)

3rd Grade - Lead and 2nd Adult

4th Grade - Lead and 2nd Adult

5th Grade - Lead and 2nd Adult

Snack - 1 Adult helper Store - 1 Adult helper Craft - 4 Adult helpers

Rec - 1-2 Adult helpers Medical Professional - current certification required

Please contact Tracy Kramer TODAY at tskramer1@ameritech.net or 248-346-5441

to join in on the excitement! I am looking forward to FINALLY making it to Mystery Island VBS 2021! ~ Chaos ~ (aka Tracy Kramer)





KIDS-ON-A-MISSION Lent Giving Calendar

Instead of giving something “up” this year, we would like to invite you in giving something “away” during our season of Lent. The idea is to give a non-perishable

food or school supply item a day,
starting February 21st to March 23rd.

In the end, there will be 31 items that can be donated to “**The Student Pantry**” .

All items are to be returned to church by Sunday, March 28th in the Fellowship Hall on the back table. KOM will then donate it to The Student Pantry which services six schools in the Walled Lake School District. The Student Pantry’s mission is to give students who do not have access to basic food, clothes, or school supplies the ability to obtain these items at no cost. For more information and community events, their website is: <https://thestudentpantry.weebly.com/>.

SUGGESTED LIST

Day 1: Soup, Day 2: Applesauce Cups, Day 3: Canned Chili, Day 4: Cereal,
Day 5: Granola Bars, Day 6: Canned Vegetables, Day 7: Colored Pencils,
Day 8: Canned Fruit, Day 9: Peanut Butter, Day 10: Rice, Day 11: Crayons,
Day 12: Canned Tuna, Day 13: #2 Pencils, Day 14: 1” 3-Ring Binders, Day 15: Nuts,
Day 16: Cereal Bars, Day 17: Dried Fruit, Day 18: Canned Chicken, Day 19: Loose Leaf Paper, Day 20:
Glue Sticks, Day 21: Trail Mix, Day 22: Protein Bars, Day 23: Individual Oatmeal Packs, Day 24: Fruit
Cups, Day 25: Pens, Day 26: Jelly/Jam, Day 27: Healthy Snack Foods, Day 28: Canned Beans, Day
29: Canned Stew, Day 30: Beef Jerky,
Day 31: Popcorn

Attention all Commerce UMC High School Seniors!

Applications for the CUMC Legacy Scholarship are still being accepted and can be picked up in the church office or online from the website. 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/>.

**Completed application are due back into the Church office
no later than MARCH 15, 2021.**



Continue to Pray for

Don Fletcher Ann MacArthur Bill Krug
Rev. Jim Smith Kristine VanDussen Sally Courville
Laura Elliott's Grandson The Family of William Broyles
The Family of Miles Hammond The Family of Kathy Behrens

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN MARCH ...

- 3/1/21 - World Compliment Day
3/3 & each Wed. thru 3/31-Lenten Bible Study 7p w/Pastor Andy; "SOUL RESET"
3/3/21 & every Wednesday after thru May - Kids Klub at Commerce UMC (K-5, 6:30 to 7:30 pm)
3/7/21 - Soup Sunday at Commerce UMC
3/7/21 - YOUTH Groups meet at Commerce UMC (Middle & High School 6 pm)
3/13/21 - Set your CLOCKS AHEAD 1 hour before you hit the pillow.
3/14/21 - UMCOR Sunday - find out about UMCOR at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS65C0RI5AU>
3/14/21 - Begins Daylight Savings Time
3/17/21 - St. Patrick's Day
3/20/21 - First Day of SPRING - YIPPIE YAHOO, we're certainly all looking forward to this day!
Spring Fever Is In The Air ...
bringing back the hibernating animals and their little babies
the buds on the trees - the colorful tulips - daffodils and crocuses.
"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants." Deuteronomy 32:2 (NIV)
3/27/21 - Begins Passover
3/28/21 - Palm Sunday
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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.



Just for a LUAGH !!!

- How do you stop an astronaut's baby from crying? **Answer:** You rocket!
What did the Dalmatian say after eating lunch? **A:** Wow, that really hit the spot!
Why did the child cross the playground? **A:** To get to the other slide!
Knock, knock. Who's there? Cargo. Cargo, who? **A:** Car go, "Beep beep, vroom, vroom!"
What does an angel use to light a campfire? **A:** A match made in heaven!
What did one plate say to the other? **A:** Dinner is on me!
What do you call bears with no ears? **A:** B
What does the gingerbread boy put on his bed? **A:** Cookie sheets!
What is the best time to go to the dentist? **A:** 2:30 - Tooth hurty!
How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself? **A:** With a hare dryer!
What did the right eye say to the left eye? **A:** Just between you and me, something smells!
Why did the scientist install a door knocker on his door? **A:** He wanted to win the no-bell prize!

MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

2 Delores Barr Julie Lewandowski Laura Contesti
2 Linda Kornatowski Emmitt Mercer
3 Dylan Contesti
6 Russ Courville
7 Chris Huisman
8 Owen Bailey
9 Janet Tessman
10 Gary Schultz
11 Dane Schulz Jeremy Schulz Marilyn Bruss
12 Sandy Richardson
14 Peggy Allen
15 John Delaney Addison Lee Brent Snyder
18 Ashley Dunneback
19 Joe Fournier
21 Edwin(Brian) Dodson Robert Strohs
22 Holly Bailey Julia Bailey
23 Gavin Pohl Mary Pizarek
24 Susie Thompson
25 Marty Willis
26 Donna Morris Hannah Bommarito
27 Susan Schulz Suzanne LeVasseur Olivia Nelson
28 Jay Pistana
30 Erin Allanson Ernie Sampson Randy Pellett Julia Kubek

MARCH ANNIVERSARY'S

28 Pat & Suzanne LeVasseur
30 Steve & Judy Rohr