



*Decatur First*  
United Methodist

*Please note that this newsletter is meant to be read like an email. It is not formatted for printing. However, if you choose to print it first, please know that the columns are linear and will print top to bottom and not side by side. This can make it difficult to read.*

## FROM THE DESK OF: Pastor Camilla

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."  
(Luke 24:5b)

April is here! Flowers are blooming, grass is turning green, birds are singing in the trees. And like you, I have been anticipating the great celebration of Easter with my church family.

Now things are uncertain. We don't completely understand the COVID-19 virus yet. What we do know is that it is important to keep ourselves and our family and friends safe. Unfortunately that means "social distancing" so that we don't share our germs. Things seem off-kilter right now.

I think the women at the tomb that first Easter morning were experiencing some of the same fear and upheaval. Their dear friend, a simple innocent teacher, had been violently put to death by the Romans. In their grief, they did what they knew—they went to the tomb to properly prepare the body. When they got there, the world seemed even more upside down. Their fear overtook them. Their friend's body was gone, and there were two strange men saying something about him being alive. They ran back to the rest of their friends and together they all tried to make sense of it.

Eventually fear turned to rejoicing as they began to understand what the message "He has risen" meant for their lives. They shared their excitement first with each other, and eventually to all they met.

Psalm 30:5b says "Weeping lasts for a night, but joy comes in the morning." When our world is turned upside down, it's a time of weeping, sadness, fear, confusion. But those feelings, while very real, are also temporary. God's joy will bring us into the light of a new day.

During this time of uncertainty, I am asking for your help:

- Pray for each other, and check on those who are vulnerable and lonely.
- Pray for me as I have heart-wrenching decisions to make for the benefit of the whole church.
- Start a "gratitude journal". Write down something every day that reminds you of the joy we have as people of God.
- Don't panic! This is very temporary. It won't be long until we are back in church together (and you will be able to walk into the store and easily buy toilet paper again!)

We will walk through this together, my dear friends. We will come out into the sunshine of morning as we continue to proclaim, "Christ is risen! Alleluia!"

Until we can be together face to face, we will be together in spirit.

Pastor Camilla

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## A Little Good News

**Audrey Elizabeth Tate** was  
born March 13th!

7 pounds 5oz and 20.5" long  
She is the 10th grandchild of  
Larry and Cheryl Tate

## A Little More Good News

**Lucas Eugene**, 3 lbs, 11 oz.  
**Rosemary "Rosie" Elizabeth**, 5 obs. 14 oz.  
Born on March 25th

Born to Abbey & Kyle Bradford  
Grandparents: Mitch & Connie Bublitz



**Note: Dinner Downtown will not be served from FUMC this month, but will be served at Good Samaritan Inn instead.**

### THANK YOU NOTES

*Dear Comrade:  
The members of the Macon County Honor Guard, Inc., would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation to our organization. We truly appreciate your generosity.  
Sincerely, Charles Loury, Commander*

Dear FUMC:  
Speaking for the Board of Directors, staff and members of the Boys and Girls Club of Decatur Inc. we would like to thank you for your generous contribution that was received at our club. Because of your involvement, our programs will be more effective. For this, each club member is grateful.  
Sincerely, Shamika Bond, Executive Director

*Dear First United Methodist:  
Thank you for your generous donation and for choosing to help others through The Salvation Army. Your act of compassion will not be forgotten.  
Sincerely, The Salvation Army*

Dear friends,  
Thank you so much for all the cards, notes and prayers during Jeff's cancer and then in his death. I can't explain how much your support mean to myself and

### THANK YOU NOTES (cont'd)

Dear FUMC and Scholarship Committee:  
Thank you for the scholarship money for my Spring semester at Augustana college. Your support helps not only in the physical cost of tuition, but also serves as a tangible reminder of my loving church family back in Decatur.  
Sincerely, Karina Forshee

*Thanks to our generous congregation, \$1,143 was donated to the Hawbecker Scholarship at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. Garrett is a theological school that prepares skilled, bold and articulate leaders who share the transforming love of Jesus Christ. theological school that prepares skilled, bold and articulate leaders who share the transforming love of Jesus Christ.*

Also thanks to our generous congregation, \$1,279 was contributed to Kids Club through the Christmas Offering. The funds have been used to help with expenses incurred by the ministry. We were also able to hire a Millikin student, Molley Whitlock, who has been working this semester to organize details for the Garden Program this summer. She is majoring in Human Relations and has used her skills to help interview our

my family. Thanks again, Steve Mitchell

FUMC,

*We celebrated Souper Bowl Sunday during the whole month of February, and it was quite a success. Our collections totaled 202 cans of soup and 20 bags and boxes of crackers. The soup and crackers have been delivered to Northeast Community Fund for distribution to persons in our community who need a helping hand. Thank you for your donations.*

*Thank you again, The Missions Committee*

interns and apprentices for this summer's program. She will be providing an orientation for the students before she heads home for the summer.

*Dear Friends,*

*I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and calls following my foot surgeries. I felt your prayers and the cards definely cheered me up. A special "Thank you" to Ruth Cortright.*

*Linda Mollohan.*

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*All UMW events have been either postponed or cancelled until further notice. UMW will keep you posted on events as they occur. Your health and safety is our highest concern.*

Prayer: "God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around Coronavirus.

Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days, not with fear, but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Congratulations to Matthew Peters!

He completed his Eagle Scout project by building 2 cabinets that will store the gifts donated to the Christmas Shoppe ministry.



Bibles, Books and Bagels will cancel all meetings until further notice. Our main concern is for your health and well-being. We'll be sure to let you know when we will start back.



The Green Team will not be meeting on April 1st. We will keep you informed as to the next meeting.

## GAMBLING ADDICTION

*The Mission Committee's focus for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is addictions and healthy alternatives.*

April's addiction addresses compulsive gambling, which is an illness, progressive in its nature, which can never be cured, but can be arrested. Any type of addiction is the same no matter what you're addicted to: It means you can't stop doing the activity or substance with which you're obsessed. When your loved one keeps promising to quit but can't seem to actually do it, he or she may be an addict.

Each person has to decide when his or her gambling has them licked and he or she needs help. Some compulsive gamblers go through terrifying experiences before they are ready to accept help. Others are faced with a slow, subtle deterioration which finally brings them to the point of admitting defeat.

Here are five signs of gambling addiction:

1. Not being able to stop
2. Gambling until there's nothing left
3. Keeping secrets or lying
4. Denial
5. Behavioral symptoms, anxiety, depression, and suicidal tendencies

We have easy access to gaming in Illinois. Illinois currently has 10 riverboat casinos, almost 30 pari-mutuel betting facilities and 6,800 slot parlors. Sports betting was available starting in March, in time for March Madness.

A 62-year-old lawyer and grandfather from Chicago saw a good chunk of his retirement account disappear at casino craps tables. He estimates that he lost between \$600,000 and \$700,000. A man in Maroa lost more than \$25,000 in 2015 and 2016 playing video gambling machines locally. Gamblers in IL have lost over \$5 billion since video gaming went live in October 2012. Gambling was intended to be a means of pulling the state out of its financial tailspin but has presented us with new, unfunded regulatory and social costs.

In order to stop gambling, the compulsive gambler needs to be willing to accept the fact that he or she is in the grip of a progressive illness and has a desire to get well. When they reach this point, Gamblers Anonymous is one means of help. Gamblers Anonymous has a Twelve-Step Recovery Program, which is fundamentally based on ancient spiritual principles and rooted in sound medical therapy.

Gam-Anon is another 12 Step self-help fellowship of men and women who have been affected by the gambling problem of another.

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Local meetings are held at First Church of the Nazarene (1177 West Hickory Point Road, Decatur) at 6 pm on Thursdays.



## 2020 EASTER OFFERING

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40*

The Mission Team has selected three organizations as recipients of the FUMC Easter Offering this year.

The local focus is **Decatur Habitat for Humanity**, which has a vision to see everyone in our community have the opportunity to live in a decent place and have the ability to afford the place they live in. They partner with local residents to build their own homes along side volunteers. Homeowners are able to achieve the independence they need to build a better life. The local organization also has a ReStore, which accepts new and gently used donations. All donations stay local.

The IGRAC Conference focus is **Baby Fold** in Normal, Illinois. Founded by Methodist deaconesses as an orphanage, Baby Fold has grown over its nearly 120 years to meet a great variety of the needs of children and families, such as special education for students having difficulty in public school, early intervention programs to break the cycle of abuse and neglect, and finding foster families.

The national focus is the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**, a ministry which provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict or natural disasters disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. They assist the most vulnerable with essential relief supplies and support for long-term rebuilding efforts. UMCOR also supports United Methodist churches to provide direct ministry to those impacted by disasters. UMCOR provides training, supplies and funding to conferences that are responding to disasters.

Please support these three ministries with your prayers and generous financial support on or before April 12<sup>th</sup>. Mark your gift clearly for Easter Offering, and send it to the church, attention Nysa Leggions, Financial Secretary:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
201 W. North Street, Decatur, IL 62522

Prevention resources begin with early education. The best time to talk to your children about the values of money and risk or gambling is between the ages of 9 to 11.

A common characteristic of compulsive gamblers is spending lots of time creating images of the great and wonderful things they are going to do as soon as they make the big win. However, the winning never seems to be big enough to make even the smallest dream come true. When compulsive gamblers succeed, they just gamble to dream still greater dreams.

The Mission Committee had hoped to host an on-site mission project on Sunday, April 19. That project will be rescheduled for a later date.

**201 W. North Street**  
Decatur, IL 62522

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