

The Messenger news & updates

May 2020 | Electronic #2



Upcoming Events

See what's happening this month:

Because we have not been able to gather in person, we will be postponing Confirmation until fall. At that time we will resume the classes and set another Sunday for confirmation. If there are any students grade 6-12 that want to join the confirmation class, please contact Pastor Camilla:

pastorcamilla@decaturfirstumc.org

Bishop Beard has announced that Annual Conference, scheduled for June, has been postponed. The new date is August 14th and 15th in Peoria, Illinois.

Each weekday around noon during this “shelter in place” order, Pastor Camilla sends an email with some thoughts for the day. If you are not receiving it and would like to, contact Barbi at office@decaturfirstumc.org.

Pastor Camilla also sends a weekday evening devotional. You can subscribe to that by sending your request to office@decaturfirstumc.org.



Wow. Just Wow.

Who would have thought in mid-March as we were preparing the April newsletter that by May we would not have been together for worship for over a month, with no immediate end in sight. After the initial shock wore off, we settled in to something of a routine at home and at church. I have to give a huge shout out to the office staff—Amy, Nysa, and Barbi; the audio video team—John Rasche and Bill Brown; our custodial staff—Jim and Susie Pope; Mary Beth (music) and her volunteer singers; and Jennifer (children’s ministry). Because of these people, you can continue to connect with the church weekly in worship.

When will this all end? When will we get back to normal? No one knows those answers. I’m not sure that what we used to think of as “normal” will be what we will find on the other side of this. That’s not all bad. We have learned to care for each other in new ways. Families are finding ways to enjoy spending time together. We have been reminded that the church is not a building. We have learned that not only can we have worship weekly when we are not together, we can even celebrate Easter!

Who knows what the next month will bring? Your guess is as good as mine. What I DO know is that Christ is risen—present tense. Christ is with us today and every day, even when we don’t know what comes next. Alleluia!

- Camilla Hempstead

BLOOD DRIVE is ESSENTIAL

Our May 2, 2020 blood drive is essential to American Red Cross and our area blood supply. Additional safety measures have been implemented. Donors will be asked to wear face masks. If you do not have one, one will be provided for you. To help manage donor flow and social distancing at blood drives, appointments are highly encouraged. Sign online at redcrossblood.com and enter your time on Decatur First United Methodist Church THIS SATURDAY, May 2. You may also call Carol Drayton at 217-520-4676 to make an appointment.

Please do not bring guests with you. All donors will be checked for temperature at door and asked about travel to China, Hong Kong, Macau, Iran, Italy and South Korea. Red Cross staff will be wearing masks and gloves and wiping down donor-touched areas after every collection, using sterile collection sets for every donation and arm scrubbing.

Though the church is closed, it will open for blood donors on THIS Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 7 am to 12 noon. Please make a reservation and help us give the gift of life to someone in need of blood. Thanks.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

LIVE online Bible study Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm. If you haven't gotten an email about it, Email [Barbi](#) and she will send it to you.

Have your Bible with you when you log in. If you have never logged in to Zoom before, you'll want to get started early, maybe about 6:20 so you don't miss out on the beginning. I will be recording it and if you would like a copy, please request one from office@decaturfirstumc.org.

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Since this situation is going to continue for a while longer, we need to continue the work of the church.

Each committee needs to have some type of meeting. It can be a series of emails, or on Facebook messenger, or Skype or Zoom. You may not have anything that needs action, but please at least take time to connect with your whole committee.

After you have "gathered", please send some type of summary/minutes to Amy at receptionist@decaturfirstumc.org no later than May 11. We will then have a Zoom council meeting on May 19 at 6 pm. As we get closer to that date, information about that meeting will be sent to you at the email Amy has for you.

If you prefer to use a different email address for the meeting, please send that email address to Amy by May 11. Thank you for all you are doing to keep us functioning! --Camilla



Congratulations Stacy and Paul Benda

Olivia (Liv) Elise
Born April 15, 2020
7 lbs, 12 oz.

Big Sister: Della
Grandparents: Jane & Randy Malcolm



Congratulations Kristy Logan and Jason Taulbee

Logan Taulbee
Born on April 12, 2020
Easter Sunday!

Big sisters: Adalyn and Lynleigh

PROJECT: Scrub Caps with Buttons

There is a growing need for MALE scrub caps with buttons at the St. Louis University Hospital. There is a link to directions below that you can use. Once you have some finished projects, please contact Susan Moorehead (520-6930) and she will pick them up. Also, if anyone has need of material for this project, please contact Virginia McQuiston (877-2217) and she will deliver.

Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry

Northeast Community Fund's food pantry is busier than it has ever been as a result of the pandemic's economic impacts on our community. While it isn't accepting food donations at this time, monetary donations are still needed to keep its food pantry stocked.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation, it can be mailed to Northeast Community Fund, 839 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Decatur, IL 62521. Thank you for your commitment to our neighbors in need and being the church!

- Mission Committee

Electronics - Pros and Cons

During the COVID-19 "sheltering at home" have you, or others you love, been spending more time on with electronics? This has been very beneficial during the current pandemic to maintain our connections. I know I would miss the connections with my grandchildren if the internet was no longer available. Many have found comfort in reconnecting with old friends. And what about the wonder of worshipping with others through a live stream or receiving a daily email of encouragement from our pastor. Then there is the availability of on-line school for children, and the ability for many to work from home during this pandemic. There are so many benefits with new technology. However.....Do you every wonder about the downside of electronic addiction?

Before the Coronavirus, the average person spent about **6 hours a day** using the internet worldwide. A **Pew Research study** showed that internet usage is a daily activity for most American adults:

- 77% of American adults go online every day
- 43% go online several times a day
- 26% are online almost constantly
- 8% go online once a day
- 11% go online a few times a week
- 11% don't use the Internet at all

Children between the ages of 8 and 10 spend an average of **8 hours a day** using various kinds of electronic media, with the internet increasingly dominating that time. Children ages 10–18 spend an average of more than **11 hours per day** using electronic media.

Addictions often occur when we are facing painful situations and avoid them by seeking something that will provide a quick rush. Addictions can be the internet, food, gambling, alcohol, pornography, and work. In our fast-paced society, we forget to practice self-care and in turn we become overwhelmed with life. Self-care isn't just important, it is crucial. Don't neglect your inner peace. It's okay to indulge yourself to a treat. On the contrary, it helps you stay strong for whatever life may throw at you. If you need to break a habit of too much time with electronics, try some activities that redirect your attention.

Finally, each person is called to examine their own habits and be aware of things that take you away from important relationships with God, family, and neighbors. If you need some accountability and support in making these changes Celebrate Recovery is a Christian12 step group that has helped many people establish that balance. Check out www.celebraterecovery.org for a local group. Also, tips and tricks for parents, teachers and teens to balance technology can be found at <https://humanetech.com/parents-students/>

- Mission Committee

Kids Club News

Kids Club has been in hiatus during the past month, but not without activity. If you haven't seen the quarterly e-newsletter click here for the latest information, [Kids Club Newsletter March – May](#)

2020.

In the newsletter, you will read about Kara Outlaw moving into the leadership position this summer, and Joshua Lui's Eagle Scout project in the Turtle Trail Garden. Even though we were "social distancing" at the time of the March Kids Club, thirty sand pails loaded with craft supplies and Easter activities were provided for kids and their families at the Good Samaritan Inn pick up site on March 28th.

Thanks to the following members of the community who helped with Kids Club in the last quarter:

Devon Joyner

Old Kings Orchard for speaking at the Community Engagement Conversations

Cindy Jackson

Good Samaritan Inn, speaker at Community Engagement Conversations

James Keith

United Way, speaker at Community Engagement Conversations

Kim Spicer and Abby Steele

Growing Strong for providing the program for February's Kids Club

Krystle

Macon County Health Department for February's Volunteer Training

Kate Stankovic

Prairieland Punishers for hosting a Skating party in March

Alida Graham

Old Kings Orchard for loaning van for Skating party

Mona Busch and Carol Janusick

Master Gardner Interns for helping children plant seeds at Good Samaritan Inn at Spring Break

Melody Arnold

Master Naturalist who provided consultation for our March Field Trip (to be rescheduled)

Molley Whitlock

Millikin student preparing for the 2020 Garden Program (to be determined)

Josie Bethard

MacArthur H.S. Student, lead intern for 2020 Garden Program (to be determined)

Nikki Garry, Money Management Specialist ready to offer training to Apprentices in the Garden Program this summer. (to be determined)

Scott Turner

Author, who donated 30 signed copies of his book Money A to Z

Ben Frazier

Good Samaritan Inn, Advisory Council

Bea Hall

Retired Teacher, Advisory Council

Joshua Liu (with Tim Lee)

Eagle Scout who provided benches, signs, and a sundial to the Kids Club Garden Program

Alyssa Banton, and Kelsey Miller

Social Media Team – Job training

Bruce Porter and Evita Boey

Outreach Team – Job training



Virtual Baby Shower for Heather Sobottka

Heather is a participant in the Drug Court Program and has been in recovery for over a year. She is expecting her 2nd child - her 2nd daughter - June 6th. I had hoped to have a baby shower for her but that isn't going to be possible. So, I am hoping to have a virtual baby shower.

Heather is registered at WalMart. if you select an item from the registry, WalMart will deliver it to her. The registry includes gift cards as well as diapers, in addition to the more traditional shower gifts.

If you would rather send a gift, a gift card or a card of encouragement, her address is 2120 E Cleveland Ave, Decatur, IL 62521

Thank you for your amazing generosity and support for this group of people!

Susan Moorehead



ALUMNI Youth Sunday

Earlier this year some of our older youth talked about an Alumni Youth Sunday Service which was planned for May 31st.

With the possibility of still being online for worship service, a few of our young adults will plan to participate with Pastor Camilla.

We look forward to hearing liturgy and music from our young adults on May 31st in person or online!



Thanks for the many prayers, cards and calls made for us and to us. We're getting stronger day by day, and look forward to the time we can all be together again. In the meantime, we are still held together in Christ.

Grace and peace, Miley and Janet

We'd like to thank everyone who called, sent emails, and or sympathy cards after the death of Linda's mom, 93 year old Vivian Goodrich of Arthur. Vivian passed away on April 4th and was laid to rest on April 7, 2020. Your compassion and caring was greatly appreciated and heart warming. We are so thankful for our caring congregation especially during these difficult times. May God keep each of you safe and well. Praying we will all be together again soon.

Ralf & Linda Henkel

My family and I would like to thank the church for the recent offering to the Ned Hawbecker Scholarship Fund at Garret Seminary. It will help so many students in the future and is so appreciated. Gods Blessings to each one of you.

Susan Hawbecker

Thank you for the cards, calls, and prayers that I have received from you. I appreciate you're thoughtfulness as I recover from my recent shoulder surgery.

Sincerely, Jeff Burnham

Dear FUMC friends,

Thank you for the trustee scholarship for this spring semester. As always, I appreciate your generosity and your thoughtfulness as I continue my accounting degree at Millikin University.

Sincerely, Lucas McCoskey

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