

# The Messenger news & updates

---

June 2020 | Electronic #3 | FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | Decatur, Illinois



## Upcoming Events

See what's happening this month:

- I am pleased to announce that Bishop Beard has appointed April Patek (pronounced PAH-tek) to our staff as an associate pastor effective July 1. April will be serving half time at First UMC and half time at Macon UMC. At First UMC, April will be primarily responsible for youth and young adult ministries. You can read her biography below. As we get closer to the time to welcome her, I will be exploring ways for her to meet you (based on what regulations we are under at that time). You can email her a greeting at [apatek@rochestermethodist.org](mailto:apatek@rochestermethodist.org)
- Beginning June 3, Pastor Camilla will be leading an online Bible study on Adam Hamilton's book, "Unafraid" on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm The link will be emailed to everyone who is on the email list for the morning email. If you are not on that list, you can request the link from Barbi at [office@decaturfirumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirumc.org) The book is available in electronic format, Audible, or hardcover. You are responsible for ordering your own book. (Camilla has a couple extra of books if you need one. Please let her know at: [pastorcamilla@decaturfirumc.org](mailto:pastorcamilla@decaturfirumc.org).)
- Just a reminder - 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](mailto:pastorcamilla@decaturfirstumc.org)

- Bishop Beard has announced that Annual Conference, scheduled for June, has been postponed. The new date is August 15th, and it will be online. Curt and Elaine Beam are our representatives to Annual Conference.
- Are you getting Camilla's daily emails and evening devotions? If not, you can send your email address to Barbi at [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org)

## Wow. Just Wow.

I am disappointed that I am writing the June newsletter and we are still at home. I am disappointed that it will still be a undetermined amount of time before we can join in person again. Please know that I am paying close attention to everything that comes from both the governor's office and the bishop's office. I am aware that it is possible that the state could be moving to Phase 3 soon. That might allow us to relax some of the restrictions on building usage, but it will still not allow for gatherings of more than 10 people. I will be working with leadership of the church as we make ongoing decisions. These decisions will not be easy, nor will they be foolproof. Let me say one thing very clearly—YOU are the best one to make decisions for YOU and YOUR FAMILY. Even when we start to be able to gather in person in small groups, we will continue to post worship online as we had been doing before the pandemic. I will also be continuing to have online Bible study that will be open to everyone.

Right now, stay home. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Reach out to others via phone, computer, or make a "driveway visit.". And remember: the church of Christ is not a building. It is a body. Continue to be the body of Christ for our community.

- Camilla Hempstead

## APRIL PATEK

April Patek comes from us by way of Rochester First United Methodist Church where she has been working as the Director of Family Ministries since December 2014. She previously served at Christ UMC, Algonquin; Trinity UMC, Mt. Prospect; and Prince of Peace UMC, Elk Grove Village.

She earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Northern Illinois University and taught band, orchestra, choir and music in public schools before going into ministry. In 2012, she received a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, and is in process of being ordained as a deacon. In her spare time, she enjoys time with her cats, playing flute, and playing cards and other games. You can email her a greeting at [apatek@rochestermethodist.org](mailto:apatek@rochestermethodist.org)

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

LIVE online Bible study Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm. If you haven't gotten an email about it, email Barbi at: [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org) 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. Our next study begins this Wednesday, June 3rd. It's Adam Hamilton's "Unafraid". If you'd like to join in, please contact: [pastorcamilla@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:pastorcamilla@decaturfirstumc.org) or Barbi at: [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org).

---


## **GRADUATES TO CELEBRATE!**

**FROM HIGH SCHOOL**



**Christian B.  
Griffin B.  
Austin F.  
Emily K-N.  
Aidan L.  
Griffin R.**

**FROM COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY**



**Claire B.  
Gina G.  
Anna S.  
Angela T.**

---

**Easter Flowers donated**

This year turned out a little different than anticipated with Easter spent at home in quarantine. As such there was little chance for flower donations being collected, accepted and posted as we usually do. We'd love to thank those of you who took the time to give to our flower fund unbidden.

- Ruth Cortright in memory of Judi Gibbons
- Kimberly Egbert & Family in memory of Louie Logan (Grandpa)
- Marty Fore
- Susan Hawbecker in memory of Rev. Ned Hawbecker
- Ellen Lamb in memory of Doyle Lamb, Henrietta & Jodie Armstrong

and in honor of the Covenant Sunday School Class

---

## **Card Shower for Stevens!**

Like a sudden rain on a spring morning, we'd like to honor Matt & Marilyn Stevens with our expressions of love and good wishes. Please send your card to Matt & Marilyn posted by June 15th in order for them to get at their current address: 2132 S. Windsor Rd, Decatur IL 62521-4875. If you send it later, please mail it to their new address: 331 Wendwood Drive, Newport News, VA 23602-7543.

---

## **Kids Club News**

In early March 2020 (which now seems years ago) Kids Club was at Good Samaritan Inn over Spring Break. Bea Hall and her 4-H kids from Old Kings Orchard, and two Master Gardner Interns, helped kids from Good Samaritan Inn plant seeds. The children and their families each took a seed home to see the “miracle” of seeds coming to life. Then they each took a tour of the greenhouse at Good Samaritan Inn and left a plant in the greenhouse in the care of Ben Frazier, the Garden Educator there. Then on May 10th, Mother’s Day, those plants were presented to the folks at Good Samaritan Inn. Along with some lilies and canna bulbs that were donated, people were able to choose from flowers, and vegetables. The selection included marigolds, zinnias, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, peas, watermelon, and herbs. Since the children were generous with their seeds, many people left with multiple plants in each pot.

*Like many other groups, no one knows what the future of Kids Club will look like, but children of food-insecure families will need support and encouragement for months to come. Please pray for the Advisory Council as they plan the future direction for the program.*

---

## **Summer Schedule changes for Children and Youth**

With the pandemic and the current limitations for gatherings, the following events will NOT be held as usual:

Church Camp  
Vacation Bible School  
Youth Service Squad  
Scout Camp

---

# COVID-19 and Nursing Homes

Illinois People's Action in Macon County - article by Sister JoAn Schullian, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, with additional information by Paul and Verlyn Rosenberger and Ruth Cortright

The Decatur Chapter of the Illinois People's Action has been meeting regularly via ZOOM during the COVID - 19 virus pandemic in an effort to address what is happening in Fair Haven's nursing home and to prevent it in other nursing homes.

The IPA group is advocating that nursing homes must follow state guidelines (sadly, some nursing homes don't!) and that they must be transparent with the public about what is happening in their nursing homes. We also developed a list of questions that we believe nursing home residents and loved ones have a right to have answered.

For example: What are the criteria for moving a patient with COVID - 19 from a nursing home to a hospital? What kind of medical and supportive care can a person expect a loved one to receive if they are diagnosed with COVID -19 and/or exposed to COVID - 19 and/or worried about getting COVID-19?

First United Methodist Church has members and family members of members living at Fair Havens. There will be more information and questions that our Decatur Chapter of IPA will report in the near future. If you'd like to get involved, please contact IPA at [ilpeoplesaction12@gmail.com](mailto:ilpeoplesaction12@gmail.com) or Paul and Verlyn Rosenberger, [pcrvkr@aol.com](mailto:pcrvkr@aol.com) or at 877-4789

---

## United Methodist Women (UMW)

From President Virginia McQuiston:

Do you sometimes feel as I do that there are so many needs out there, but all I can do is sit at home and feel helpless? Well, here is an idea for anyone, anywhere so you can continue to be involved in mission.

United Methodist Women is a world-wide organization. Many missions are located in countries which have limited means for meeting their needs during Covid-19. Listed below are some of these missions. Select one and include it in your daily prayers.

- Emuci Fonds Exterieurs, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire: *Healthy food for children*
- Center for Victims of Torture, Nairobi, Kenya: *Mental health and physical education*
- Amity Foundation, Hong Kong: *Alleviating intergenerational poverty*
- Grace Ministries of Mongolia: *Salary support for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, bookkeepers*
- Federacion de Mujeres Methodistias: *Workshops on pre- and post-natal health, nutrition*
- Accion Medica Christiana: *Protection of the rights of children and youth*
- Nyadire United Methodist Hospital, Zimbabwe: *Community health*

*Peace and blessings as you continue to care for the needs of women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world.*

Cunningham Children's Home 16<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Quilts will be the first-ever

virtual Festival of Quilts! To add to the excitement, this year's Festival will be a five-day virtual event from June 1 - 5! It will be featured on [www.Cunninghamhome.org](http://www.Cunninghamhome.org) with additional updates and content on the Cunningham Children's Home Facebook page. Quilts and gifts shop items will be available to purchase online only at various price points. Cunningham is grateful for the auction quilts and boutique and gift shop items donated for this year's Festival of Quilts.

---



- Our Church office mails out a Birthday & Anniversary list every month? If you're interested in receiving this list, please email Amy at: [receptionist@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:receptionist@decaturfirstumc.org) She'll get you on the list!
  - If you are watching our worship service online, please let us know. We'd love to know each Sunday and how many in your household were watching. Just drop us a line at: [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org). It's important!
  - If you are unable to watch online, but have DVD capabilities, we'll be happy to mail you a recording of our worship service each week. Please contact Amy at: [receptionist@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:receptionist@decaturfirstumc.org) to be added to the list.
  - If you'd like to start having your small groups meet via Zoom, the church has purchased a professional account and would be glad to help facilitate and host your weekly small group meetings via Zoom for you. Just let us know. If you have any questions about this, please contact Barbi at: [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org).
  - Our staff is continuing to do as much as we can to keep the church functioning as smoothly as possible by continuing to work from our homes. Barbi is available during normal church hours (8:30-5:00) to answer any questions, or offer help in any way she can. Please call or text her at: 217-561-3628 or send her an email at: [office@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:office@decaturfirstumc.org) and she'll be happy to help in whatever way possible. Our financial secretary, Nysa, is also available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00-4:30 via email. Please send any questions to her at: [financeoffice@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:financeoffice@decaturfirstumc.org). She'll be happy to help as well. Amy, our receptionist, is still working the calendar and other parts of her job from home Monday-Friday, 12-5, and can answer any questions you might have also. You can contact her at: [receptionist@decaturfirstumc.org](mailto:receptionist@decaturfirstumc.org).
-

