



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 26, 2020

Grace and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Murphy's law strikes again. Yesterday's Facebook live stopped streaming 8-10 minutes into the broadcast, so I posted the 8:30 am Zoom worship recording on Facebook. As we release Gene from his hosting duties, I have a deeper appreciation for his help during the previous weeks. If there is anyone that regularly logs into the 8:30 am Zoom worship and who would be willing to be a cohost, please let me know and I can walk you through the steps. We had a beautiful 10:30 am drive-in service and I thank all who participated. I was reminded about Manna bags, so if you are in need of manna bags to give out, I will have them outside for the drive-in services. Remember our recordings are posted on slvumc.org and on our website www.umcofcenter.com. Also remember that I am still doing Children's Moments after the 8:30 Zoom Sunday service and the Story behind the Songs live on Facebook on Wednesdays at 1 pm. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these days of restrictions. **Church in the Wildwood at Beaver Creek Youth Camp has been canceled.** We will try and reopen Center for worship on June 14th.

We will continue the 8:30 am Zoom worship as joint Center and Saguache church group for those who are not able to join us physically or who are vulnerable to COVID-19. On June 14, 2020, the Center church will begin our reopening process according to the Relaunch and CD instructions. We will follow the COVID-19 updated guidelines which may change as we move closer to the reopening date. Right now those restrictions require 25 people or less in each room wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. According to the state and county guidelines, a family unit can count for 1 person and do not need separate. Non-touch temperatures will be taken and anyone with fever will not be able to enter. Restrooms will be available but with posted restrictions to follow. Unfortunately coffee and fellowship can't occur at this time, but you are welcome to bring your coffee or drink in your container. Again, if you do not feel safe or you do not wish to follow the precautions or if you do not feel well, please join via Zoom and we will look forward to gathering together when we don't have to follow so many of these precautions and it's safe. If you are vulnerable or feel ill, as much as we would love to see you, please remain at home and join us for the Zoom worship. It is my prayer that all of you do what you feel is necessary for maintaining your health and protecting yourself.

To help us open up and celebrate God's goodness, we are honored to host an evening of worship and praise June 15th at 7 pm with the New Legacy Project leading us in worship and proclaiming the gospel through the timeless music of the Blackwood Brothers, as well as new country and gospel hits. You can check them out at <https://vimeo.com/256270962/b84a28caec> or on our Facebook page or at www.umcofcenter.com. We will take a love offering and they will have their albums for sale at the event as well. The church will open at 6:30 pm so that we can follow the safety protocols and there will be an overflow area once we have met the seating limit for the sanctuary.

I would like to deeply thank you for your generosity especially during this difficult time. Thanks to you we have been able to meet our obligations both local and connectional giving. We have truly been blessed by God and wish to be good stewards as we move forward. We deeply appreciate all who have graciously supported us with their donations. Online donations can be made at www.umcofcenter.com or you can text the amount you wish to give to (719)628-1830 which will walk you through the secure donation. There is a fee that is charged the church when payments are made online and by text. Both the online and text options are secure and the funds are immediately processed into Center UMC's bank account. Of course, you can always mail in your donation to Center UMC, P. O. Box 626, Center, CO 81125. Again we are urging Saguache folks to mail

their donations to Center UMC, P.O. Box 626, Center, CO 81125. Please note for Saguache UMC in the memo area of your check. We can deposit those donations into First Southwest bank into the Saguache's church account. We do appreciate your support. Also many of you know Bob Myers died on Mother's Day and the family has requested that any memorials be given to our church, Beaver Creek Youth Camp, or a charity of your choice in Bob's memory. He will be missed. We have lost many friends and family during these difficult times, so I know an updated prayer list is important. We are trying to keep it updated daily. Please check out our website and you will notice there is a tab especially for our Saguache Church updates.

Our mission project collecting protein items which can be canned meat or frozen one-pound package of meat continues through this month. We thank Tommy at Tommy's Plumbing for allowing Linda Clutter to lead this and accept collections 8-noon and 1-5 Monday through Friday. She will get them to our local food bank as the donations come in.

I am praying that at least two members will step forward to represent our church at Mountain Sky Annual Conference which will be held digitally June 19-20. Since there is no travel involved which has caused us not to be represented at annual conferences in the past by laity, this would allow us to have voting representation from our laity for this annual conference. The registration fee of \$39 will be paid by the church once you have registered. If you need to have a computer and internet access, but the church will be open for that capability. Your voice does make a difference and needs to be heard.

In June we will begin a Disciple bible study on *Under the Tree of Life – The Writings – John- Revelation*. **If you are interested, please let me know whether you would be interested in doing this as a Zoom Bible Study or in-person Bible Study or both.** If we do Zoom it would make it possible for both churches to participate together. Please contact me by phone, text, or email so we can make plans to start in June. Our AA group has resumed virtually on Saturdays at 10 am. If you are interested in that, please contact Pastor Debbie via text (504)261-8860.

We will use our Zoom platform for all Zoom services and meetings, so you may wish to save this information for easy access. Remember Zoom allows for connection with a standard or cell phone or computer. If you have internet access, 15 min. before time to start, type in the link or press ctrl on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VIVDejIBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09> and it should take you to our Zoom platform. If you have the Zoom app, you can go to the app on your phone or your computer and type in Meeting ID: 867 865 1613 and enter the password: 2618860. If you wish to use your phone (cell or landline) without internet call +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) or +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose). Enter the Meeting ID: 867 865 1613 and then the Password: 2618860. You can call me at (504)261-8860 if you need assistance.

Remember, please feel free to reach out to me to ask how to share in this unique time, especially with prayer requests and concerns. I am available via phone or text at 504-261-8860. You can always reach me via email dupton@liff.edu or message me via our Center United Methodist Church Facebook page. Stay safe and remember we are all essential people in the family of God.

Peace and grace for the journey,

Rev. Debra Upton

Thank you and have a blessed day.

Rev. Debbie Upton (504) 261-8860, dupton@liff.edu

Pastor of Center and Saguache United Methodist Churches