



Rev. Debria Upton  
Pastor

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**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

March 20, 2020

Dear Church Family,

In response to the spread of the COVID-19 in our state and in keeping with our Governor's and President's proclamations concerning group gatherings, and with the closing of schools across the state, the Ad Council and I feel that the wisest course of action is to suspend in-person worship and all activities effective immediately. This means that we will not have our regularly scheduled activities like Cookin' With Your Neighbor, Dinner With Your Neighbor, Martha Circle, 50+, Movie Night, Yoga, use of the Fitness Center, or any other activities until further notice. If you wish to participate in our virtual service via phone or computer, Center's Zoom worship will occur at 8:30 am. If you have internet access, at 8:15 type in [www.gettogether.org](http://www.gettogether.org) in your browser and hit enter and it will bring you to our worship website. If you wish to use your phone (cell or landline) without internet call 6468769923#, if you are asked a code, enter 440748229. We do plan to record the Zoom service and the recorded link can be emailed or texted to you. The Saguache church is invited to join the 8:30 Zoom service or to watch the recorded service at their leisure.

We are endeavoring to make wellness phone calls to members in our local area. We are finding that some phone numbers we have are disconnected or we have wrong numbers, so if you know of someone's whose number has changed, please let me know. Also if there is anyone you feel we should include in our wellness checks, please let me know that as well.

We do ask that you continue to remember Center United Methodist and Saguache United Methodist with your giving along with your prayers for the wellbeing of all. Even though we may not be present to receive an offering for the coming Sundays remember that your church counts on your consistent and faithful support. Any gifts can be mailed to Center United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 626, Center, CO 81125 or can be given online as we are in the process of trying to have online giving up by the end of the week. We are asking that any donations for Saguache United Methodist Church be labeled for Saguache and mailed to Center United Methodist's post office box for the time being where they will be deposited into the Saguache United Methodist Southwest account. Please mark what you want the donation to be used in the memo area of your check.

Several tech wizards and I have been unable to change anything on our website since Rev. Vickie Kintzel left and we have been unsuccessful connecting with Weebly to get this addressed; therefore, we now have a new website [www.umcofcenter.com](http://www.umcofcenter.com). The only thing that has changed is the org to com. This change will give us the ability to update the website and keep the website updated weekly especially during this time of restriction. We plan on having most things posted on our web page which can be reached by cell phone or computer.

We will be working remotely and will be looking for creative ways to keep our congregation connected using various forms of communication. Please feel free to reach out to me to ask how to share in this unique time. I am available via phone or text at 504-261-8860. You may wish to program my number in your phone so you will know I'm not a solicitor or Scam artist when I call. You can always reach me via email [dupton@liff.edu](mailto:dupton@liff.edu) or message me via our FaceBook page Center United Methodist Church. I would encourage those of you who are interested to join our Conference-wide daily Lenten morning devotions via Zoom at 6:30 am as we share God's word and insight as we share our joys and concerns. You can join those Zoom devotions by typing <https://zoom.us/j/436742341>. I am also including instructions of how to join a zoom meeting in this letter.

Every day that we are apart, I ask that you remember to pray for those most affected by this pandemic, especially those who are on the front lines with testing, first responders, and medical staff. Pray for our leaders and especially health officials and those working behind the scenes. Check on family, friends, and neighbors. Even consider checking on those with whom you have had disagreements. Stay safe, be wise, drink plenty of water, and get plenty of rest. Remember we are all the family of God. This is when the Jesus we love is compelling us to be his hands and feet in a real tangible way, for the fields are ripe with harvest.

Please stay advised that further developments and announcements are subject to change, so we will try to keep you informed.

Peace and grace for the journey,

*Pastor Debria Upton*

Thank you and have a blessed day.

Rev. Debbie Upton (504) 261-8860

Pastor of Center and Saguache United Methodist Churches

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## HOW TO JOIN A ZOOM MEETING

To join a Zoom meeting via the internet you will need a computer, tablet or smartphone that is connected to the internet and has a camera, speaker and microphone.

To join a meeting, simply follow these steps:

1. Click the link that was provided to you to join the meeting. The link will be something similar to <https://zoom.us/j/606913802>. (This is a sample, and NOT your link.)
2. You will be prompted to download and run Zoom. The zoomusLauncher.zip file will download.
3. Click on the file and you can install the launcher.
4. The Zoom meeting window will appear where you can join your audio and connect your video.
5. Select 'Join Audio Conference by Computer' to join the audio.
6. To connect the video select the video camera icon in the bottom left hand corner of the Zoom meeting window.

You should now be connected to the Zoom meeting with video and audio.

If you would like to watch a 1-minute video about how to join a Zoom meeting, click here: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

## MUTE AND UNMUTE

During the meeting, if you are not speaking, you may wish to mute yourself. This will help eliminate background noise for everyone. Your meeting host can also mute and unmute you.

To mute or unmute yourself click on the microphone icon. (When a slash is across the microphone you are muted and people on the Zoom meeting cannot hear you.)

## ADDITIONAL HELP

For additional help see the Zoom Help Center: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>