



Rev. Debria Upton  
Pastor

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**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

March 23, 2020

**Beloved,**

First I would like to thank all those who attempted to join our Zoom worship. For those who had issues, I'm going to be sending out a YouTube video that may help. I want to thank Gene for all his time and effort to make Sunday work. I would have had difficult doing the service as it was Sunday without his help. Please pray for him as he is helping with our new website, online giving set up, and many other issues with us as well as many other churches in our area.

As with anything, there have been some mistakes and learning moments. 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. Please call or text me if you need to pick up something or drop off something at the church and I will open up for you. Some folks have requested to borrow a hymnal to have for worship, which you may by contacting me.

If you wish to participate in our virtual service via phone or computer, Center's Zoom worship will occur at 8:30 am. We are inviting Saguache to join our 8:30 Zoom worship. If you have internet access, at 8:15 type in [www.GetTogetherOnline.org](http://www.GetTogetherOnline.org) in your browser and hit enter and it will bring you to our worship website. (PLEASE NOTICE THAT THE PREVIOUS LETTER OMITTED ONLINE, SO IF YOU JUST PUT IN GETTOGETHER YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO A WEDDING REGISTRY – I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THAT MAY HAVE CAUSED. THE SHORT EMAIL THAT WAS FORWARDED FROM GENE ON SATURDAY DID HAVE THE CORRECT INFORMATION.) If you wish to use your phone (cell or landline) without internet call 6468769923#, if you are asked a code, enter 440748229.

I have texted to the prayer chain group and an email to the link to the recorded service is in process. I am burning dvd to be mailed out with my printed sermon. If you received Week four of the Lenten devotions, you will be up to date. I can resend Ash Wednesday through the fourth week via email.

We continue to make wellness phone calls to members in our local area. We aren't wanting to annoy anyone; however, we do want to check on everyone knowing that as this virus advances, it is aggressive and moves quickly. We are still 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.

Any easy way to give is by texting the amount you wish to give to (719)628-1830 (please use the area code). It will walk you through setting up your account once and every time you text that number, it will process your gift. You can enter ACH checking info or a credit card/debit card and the next time you wish to give simply enter the amount you wish to give and text it to the (719)628-1830 and your payment will be processed into the Center UMC account and you will be sent a receipt.

The online giving button is being placed on our new website [www.umcofcenter.com](http://www.umcofcenter.com) along with a link to Sunday's service and updated information.

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.



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/968022104>. By phone you can call 1(669)900-6833 or 1(646)558-8656. The devotion meeting ID: 968-022-104.

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,

*Rev. Debra Upton*

Thank you and have a blessed day.

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Pastor of Center and Saguache United Methodist Churches

