



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 30, 2020

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

Thank you again to those who attempted to join our Zoom worship. I want to thank Gene for all his time and effort to make these Zoom worship services work. If you are still having difficulty connecting, I would encourage you to call Gene at (719)873-5311 so he can try and walk you through how to connect. Our new website www.umcofcenter.com is up and functioning with our updated information including a button for online donations and information to text a donation at (719)628-1830 and it will walk you through the process. Both the online and text options are secure and the funds are immediately processed into Center UMC's bank account. 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 are able to deposit those donations into First Southwest bank into the Saguache's church account.

We will remain closed as long as virus restrictions are in place. I am working to try and have a drive in Sunrise Easter service at Center 7 am, April 12th using the church loud outside loud speaker which we usually play music on Sunday mornings. We will then have a regular Zoom Easter service at 8:30 am, and I will be working with other pastors in the area for a possible drive in Easter worship at 11 am. The drive in service is tentative right now and we should have something decided by the end of the week. I am including Passion Week devotions to lead us through Passion Week in a very different way. 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 do 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 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.

I have texted this week's sermon 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.

I do wish to thank Vicki Ratzlaff, Sue McClure, Janet Myers, and Linda Clutter for checking our members. We have found that David and Caren Graham's phone number is not in service, as well as Gerald and Darlen Gunther's number. Ian and Kathi Wright's number is a potato company number that we cannot leave a message. If you have any way of contacting any of these, please let us know. Also if there is anyone you feel we should include in our wellness checks, please let me know that as well.

On Wednesdays between 1-1:30 pm, I will broadcast FaceBook live The Story Behind Our Songs – a look at the hymns we love so dearly. Those videos will be available on the Center United Methodist Church FaceBook page. I also started Children's Moments this Sunday immediately after virtual worship which feature crafts with kids about Jesus parables. If the restrictions continue, we will be looking at possibility doing virtual Sunday School or Bible study. Our AA group will resume virtually this Saturday at 10 am. If you are interested in that, please contact Pastor Debbie via text (504)261-8860. 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 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@iliff.edu or message me via our FaceBook page Center United Methodist Church.

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.

Peace and grace for the journey, Thank you and have a blessed day.

Rev. Debra Upton Pastor of Center and Saguache United Methodist Churches, dupton@iliff.edu, (504)261-8860