



Rev. Debra Upton  
Pastor

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**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

April 6, 2020

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

Thank you again to those who continue to join our Zoom worship. Again, I continue to thank Gene for his time and effort to make our 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. He has also been helpful in keeping our new website [www.umcofcenter.com](http://www.umcofcenter.com) up and functioning with our updated information including a link to our recorded services as well as a link to our FaceBook and 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'm excited to invite you to get out of your house Easter Sunday and join us at our Drive-In Sunrise Easter service at Center 7 am April 12<sup>th</sup> where I will conduct the service on the steps of our church and where KYDN 95.3 FM will broadcast that morning. We can celebrate Easter together while remaining in our cars. I hope you will be able to join us. 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. We will still do a regular Zoom Easter service. I will join several of the local ministers as we will have a joint Easter Celebration at 11 am at the Movie Manor Drive In. I would invite you to join us if you are able. That service will be broadcast by KYDN 95.3 FM. On this Good Friday, we will have a Zoom Tenebrae service of remembrance at 6 pm. I hope you will join us for this moving service by computer or phone.

If you wish to participate in our virtual service via phone or computer, Center's Zoom worship will occur at 8:30 am and Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 6 pm. We are inviting Saguache to join our 8:30 or 6 pm Zoom worship. If you have internet access, at 8:15 am or 5:45, type in [www.GetTogetherOnline.org](http://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. I am burning dvds to be mailed out with my printed sermon. If you are unable to play a dvd, an audio cd can be burned and sent to you instead which can play in any cd player.

I want to continue to thank Vicki Ratzlaff, Sue McClure, Janet Myers, and Linda Clutter for checking our members. We still have not gotten updated numbers for David and Caren Graham, Gerald and Darlen Gunther, and Ian and Kathi Wright. 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 has resumed virtually on Saturdays 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](mailto: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. As many of us have lost friends and family to the virus; let us give thanks for those who are recovering. Check on family, friends, and neighbors. 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.

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