



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

387 South Broadway Street, Center, Colorado 81125 • Church (719)-754-2243 • E-Mail: umcofcenter@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

What a wonderful Easter! The weather was crisp and beautiful. Thank you to all who came to our 7 am Drive-In Easter Sunrise service. It was wonderful. A special thank you goes to Bob Richards from KYDN 95.3 for broadcasting our service. The link for that service is <https://kydncountry.com/church-service-podcasts/>. Thank you to those who joined our Easter Zoom worship at 8:30 am. If you wish to participate in our virtual service via phone or computer, Zoom worship will occur at 8:30 am. If you have internet access, at 8:15 am or 5:45, 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 646-876-9923 if you are asked a code, enter 440748229. 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. Also thank you to those who joined us at Movie Manor for a joint 11 am Easter service. It was truly wonderful. A special thank you for all who joined our joint Good Friday service. In spite of the difficulties in this pandemic, God was able to provide ways for us to connect which was truly heart-warming.

Gene continues to be helpful in keeping our new website 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. There is a fee that is charged the church when payments are made online. 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 81123. 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. We will have regular Zoom worship at 8:30 am. I'm excited to invite you to get out of your house on Sundays and join us at Center UMC for a 10:30 am Drive-In Worship service. I will conduct the service on the steps of our church using our church's sound system where I will invite you to participate in your car as we remain safely separated and yet together. We will follow the COVID-19 guidelines including distancing. If you are vulnerable or feel ill, please remain at home and join us for the Zoom worship. You must remain in your cars. Bulletins will be slipped through the window as well as emailed prior to Sunday. The church will not be open which means, unfortunately, the restrooms will not be open.

Links for all of Sunday's services have been posted on the slv.org coop page and our website and Facebook page. I have had several requests not to send the DVDs or CDs; therefore, I will not be mailing those out unless someone lets me know that they want one and specifies whether they want a DVD or audio CD.

I want to thank our wonderful administrative council for their hard work during this pandemic. I would like to thank Dick Wilson for continuing to check daily on the church. He certainly takes his job as a trustee very seriously. I would like to thank Sue for her faithful depositing checks that come in weekly. I would especially like to thank Janet for her unwavering faithful service over our finances especially during this stressful time. I continue to thank Vicki Ratzlaff, Sue McClure, Janet Myers, and Linda Clutter for regularly checking on our members. I appreciate all of you who let me know of prayer requests and praises. The prayer chain has been

busy, so if you are not on that chain and wish to be added, please let me know. We still have no contact with a few of our members, so please let us know if you have new numbers for folks.

The Wednesday the Story behind Our Songs continues on Facebook Live on Center United Methodist Church FB page between 1-1:30 pm. It's 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. I will begin a 9-week sermon series on Biblical characters who struggled with depression. If you wish to dig deeper into those scriptures each week, please contact me by phone, text, or email so we can get together virtually for a deeper 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 can always reach me via email dupton@iliff.edu or message me via our Facebook page Center United Methodist Church.

We are the church and God will use us to minister during this difficult time. Stay safe, be wise, drink plenty of water, and get plenty of rest. Remember we are all the family of God.

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

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously ... The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation." (Exodus 15:1a, 2a)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Acts 5:40-42 - When (the leaders) had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the Name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3, 8-9 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.