



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 20, 2020

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

Thank you to those who joined our 8:30 am Zoom worship. Thank you for your faithful presence. Thank you to all who came to our 10:30 am Drive-In service. We were given permission by the health department and the police chief to have these Sunday morning drive-in services for those in our area who do not have the ability to worship online with us. It is wonderful to see the faces of those who attend in their cars and we even had a neighbor join us for worship. This service went live on our Center United Methodist Church Facebook page and is assessable for viewing there as well. I conducted the service on the steps of our church using our church's sound system where those who came remained safely separated in their cars. We followed the COVID-19 guidelines including distancing. Bulletins were slipped through the window as well as emailed prior to Sunday. The church was not open which meant, unfortunately, the restrooms were not open. If you are vulnerable or feel ill next Sunday, as much as we would love to see you, please remain at home and join us for the Zoom worship. It is our prayer that we will again be able to open the doors of our church soon but perhaps with social distancing as part of our routine. It is my prayer that all of you do what you feel is necessary in maintaining your health and protecting yourself. Just as we still deal with the remnants of the Spanish flu in our flu season; hopefully, there will soon be a vaccine and treatment protocol for COVID 19.

Again we thank Gene for his help and for posting our worship service recordings on slvumc.org and our website. He 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 that walks you through the donation. 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 81125. 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 do appreciate your support.

Remember, 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, 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#.

The Wednesday the Story behind Our Songs continues on our Center United Methodist Church FB page live between 1-1:30 pm. The videos are 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. We began a 9-week sermon series on Biblical characters who struggled with depression with a look at Thomas and David. This week we will celebrate Native American Ministries as we look at the biblical character of Elijah. 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.

Again thank you for all who are working so hard during this pandemic. I appreciate everything you do. Keep up the good work and continue to reach out to those who are most isolated. A special thank you to our prayer warriors who are scattered across the US. We are the church and God is using us to minister during this difficult time. Stay safe, be wise, drink plenty of water, and get plenty of rest. Remember we are all essential people in the family of God.

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

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