



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 4, 2020

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

Again, thank you to those who joined our 8:30 am Zoom worship and to all who came to our 10:30 am Drive-In service. Your faithful presence is deeply appreciated. This Sunday, the fifth Sunday of Easter is also Mother's Day. We will gather for worship via 8:30 am zoom and 10:30 am Drive-In Worship on the front steps of Center United Methodist Church to celebrate this wonderful day. The drive-in service follows the COVID-19 guidelines including distancing. Bulletins were slipped through the window as well as emailed prior to Sunday. The church is not open which means, unfortunately, the restrooms are 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 my prayer that all of you do what you feel is necessary in maintaining your health and protecting yourself.

This Tuesday, May 5th is #GivingTuesdayNow. We deeply appreciate all who have graciously supported us with their donations. Tuesday is a special day globally for giving to organizations including churches. Center UMC leadership chose not to apply for the Cares Act, so that those with greater needs could have an opportunity for the funds. Therefore, we welcome any additional donations from anyone who received stimulus funds who are able to make an offering from those unexpected funds. Online donations can be made at www.umcofcenter.com or you can text the amount you wish to give to (719)628-1830 which will walk you through the secure donation. There is a fee that is charged the church when payments are made online and by text. 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.

This Thursday, May 7th is the National Day of Prayer. I would like to ask you join us in prayer for our community and our elected and appointed leaders as we pray for healing and unity on this National Day of Prayer. You can join me Thursday on our Center United Methodist Church FaceBook live at noon for prayer or you can simply stop where you are at noon any pray.

There are plans for Church in the Wildwood at Beaver Creek to occur June 7th and the camp is planning to open for campers July 1st. If you or anyone you know is able and willing to help get the camp ready for summer activities, please contact Gene Haning (719)873-5311 about a time to go and work. Gene has been so gracious to host our worship services and help us with our website www.umcofcenter.com, so we are hoping that several of you will want to get out of the house and take a trip up to South Fork to help get the camp ready.

As we prepare for Heritage Sunday in May, we are asking that you take a family photo with a caption and send it to our dear Hannah at umcofcenter@gmail.com for a special service on May 24th – Aldersgate Day and Ascension Sunday, we are planning that day both via zoom and drive-in. It can be a silly or serious picture of the family together or just of yourself. Please put a caption with your picture and try to get them to Hannah by the Monday after Mother's Day, May 11th. It doesn't have to be a professional picture; a cell phone photo will work. We hope to have many pictures for this activity.

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#. You can call Gene at (719)873-5311 if you need assistance.

The Story behind Our Songs continues on our Center United Methodist Church FB page live between 1-1:30 pm on Wednesday. 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 activities with kids about Jesus parables. We began 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@liff.edu or message me via our Center United Methodist

Church FB page. Stay safe and remember we are all essential people in the family of God. *Rev. Debria Upton*