



Rev. Debra Upton  
Pastor

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 1, 2020

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

I would like to thank all of you who joined via Zoom or at the Drive In service yesterday. Pentecost Sunday is one of my favorite Sundays to preach. How amazing it is to imagine the first Christian who experienced the Holy Spirit filling them. I pray that we may all be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the people God wants us to be. A special thank you goes to those who joined me via Facebook live or your presence for our Prayer Vigil last night at 8 pm. The prayer vigil gives us an opportunity to join together in prayer for our community, our nation, and the world. Right now, God is calling us to be his people in real and tangible ways. The Prayer Vigil is one way to do this. Remember that access to any worship is posted on our [www.umcofcenter.com](http://www.umcofcenter.com) website, so feel free to go back and watch what you may have missed and forward it to your friends. The Zoom worship services are also posted on [www.slvumc.org](http://www.slvumc.org) website as well. Remember that I am still doing Children's Moments after the Zoom worship service with at home activity suggestions. These are also posted on our website and the [www.slvumc.org](http://www.slvumc.org) website. I am still doing the Story behind the Songs on Facebook Live every Wednesday at 1 pm. During this common time between Pentecost and Advent, I will be posting daily Morning and Evening Prayers on our Facebook page. These are meant to develop our acts of piety through prayer, reading scripture, and daily devotions. I will begin the Disciple bible study on Under the *Tree of Life – The Writings – John- Revelation* this Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm using our Zoom platform. If you are interested in participating in person, please contact me and we can make arrangements for you to join at the church in Center. If you are interested in participating in Grief Talk, please contact me by phone, text, or email.

Participating in any of the virtual services or bible studies, we will be using our Zoom platform which allows us to participate via phone or computer. If you have internet access, control click on

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VIVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09> and it should take you to our Zoom platform. If you have the Zoom app, you can go to the app on your phone or your computer and type in Meeting ID: 867 865 1613 and enter the password: 2618860. If you wish to use your phone (cell or landline) without internet call +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) or +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose). Enter the Meeting ID: 867 865 1613 and then the Password: 2618860. You can call me at (504)261-8860 if you need assistance.

We have been given permission to begin a cautionary reopening of Center church June 14<sup>th</sup>. This will require that we follow the Relaunch and CDC protocol for COVID-19 guidelines which may change as we move closer to June 14<sup>th</sup>. Right now those restriction require 25 people or less in each room wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. Singing will not be allowed, but humming behind your mask should be ok. You will notice a Plexiglas partition separating me from the congregation as I lead and preach. Temperatures will be taken at the door and if the temperature requires an oximeter's reading, then that will be taken. Hymnals and books have been put up, but you are able to bring your own. Bulletins with everything you will need will be placed in the seats where you are permitted to sit. *To help us open up and celebrate God's goodness, we are honored to host an evening of worship and praise June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm with the New Legacy Project leading us in worship and proclaiming the gospel through the timeless music of the Blackwood Brothers, as well as new country and gospel hits. You can check them out at <https://vimeo.com/256270962/b84a28caec> or on our Facebook page or at [www.umcofcenter.com](http://www.umcofcenter.com). We will take a love offering and they will have their albums for sale at the event as well. The church will open at 6:30 pm so that we can follow the safety protocols and there will be an overflow area once we have met the seating limit for the sanctuary.*

I would like to deeply thank you for your generosity and we have been able to meet our obligations both local and connectional giving. We deeply appreciate all who have graciously supported us with their donations. Online donations can be made at [www.umcofcenter.com](http://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 can deposit those donations into First Southwest bank into the Saguache's church account. We do appreciate your support.

Our Mountain Sky Annual Conference will be held digitally June 19-20. Since there is no travel involved which has caused us not to be represented at annual conferences in the past by laity, this would allow us to have voting representation from our laity for this annual conference. I am still looking for someone from Center and Saguache to be our lay delegate for our churches, please let me know as soon as possible, so that I can get you registered. You would need to have a computer and internet access, but that can be provided at Center if you don't have that capability.

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](mailto:dupton@iliff.edu) or message me via our Center United Methodist Church Facebook page. Stay safe and remember we are all essential people in the family of God.

Peace and grace for the journey, *Rev. Debra Upton* (504) 261-8860, [dupton@iliff.edu](mailto:dupton@iliff.edu)