



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 15, 2020

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

I would like to thank all of you who have been joining via Zoom or the Drive In service. Remember that access to any worship is posted on our 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 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 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 (7:30 am) and Evening (6:30 pm) Prayers on our Facebook page. These are meant to develop our acts of piety through prayer, reading scripture, and daily devotions. The Disciple bible study on Under the *Tree of Life – The Writings – John- Revelation* this Wednesday, has begun and will continue every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm using our Zoom platform. When 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. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejIjBRVBJT0tYnNkVlUzQzQTFNdz09> and if you click on it or copy and paste the address in the browser, 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.

With the leveling off of cases in our area, we are set to begin a cautionary reopening of Center church June 28th. This will require that we follow the Relaunch and CDC protocol for COVID-19 guidelines. Right now those restrictions require 25 - 50 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 Bibles 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. There is no coffee fellowship, but you are welcome to bring your own coffee or beverage for yourself. If you are vulnerable or feel ill on that 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.

Our fitness center is open, but we are asking that you call the church office or text me when you are coming, so we can make sure you can safely use it. We have a new treadmill and everything in the fitness center has been cleaned thoroughly and is ready for use. We are planning to resume Yoga July 10th – the first Friday after the 4th of July at 9:30 am if COVID cases continue to decline.

Again, I would like to deeply thank you for your generosity and as we continue to be 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 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.

I hope many of you have decided to join those of us who are joining with every United Methodist around the world to join in prayer at 8:46 a.m. and p.m. for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, to pray for all persons of color who suffer at the hands of injustice and oppression, pray for our church as we take a stand against racism and injustice in a concert of prayer heard around the world. This commitment to pray for our nation, our world, and our denomination for God's grace, mercy, wisdom, and direction as we move forward demonstrates our willingness to turn to God for guidance.

This week on June 19-20, Mountain Sky Annual Conference is being held virtually. I will be at Center during the two days of the conference. You are welcome to join me if you wish to participate.

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 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