



Rev. Debria Upton  
Pastor

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June 30, 2020

## 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 on Facebook live. Center's relaunch of in-person 10:30 am worship service Sunday was definitely different and uncomfortable for many of us. The service was broadcast via Facebook live as well as Zoom, so there are several ways to join. Since we do not have a sound or tech person, once I start those platforms, it is difficult for me to monitor them, and so the up close and personal connection of the 8:30 am worship service is not there. As I continue to learn and adapt to the Zoom platform or someone volunteers to step in, perhaps I will be able to make it happen in the 10:30 am service. It is odd not having many normal things like an offertory, but as we work through our restraints perhaps we can figure ways to adapt and be safe. I do appreciate the kindness and grace of all of those who were present either virtually or in-person Sunday as we work through the kinks. Please know your pastor is trying to make our return to an in-person service as worshipful an experience as possible. Know that your pastor is working tirelessly to accommodate as many people as possible while preaching and sharing the Good News, but everyone is not going to be happy. As I shared in the sermon Sunday, please remember to love through hospitality instead of hostility. If you are not happy, then sharing your unhappiness with everyone around will certainly ensure that other people will not even attempt to join us for worship. COVID is an opportunity to show the love of Christ in spite of a bad situation. Like the old saying, perhaps we can take the lemons we don't like, add some sugar and water to make lemonade which will attract more folks.

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. 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'm 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. Remember the Zoom platform can be accessed by a telephone; you don't have to have internet or a computer to participate; you just dial the number. When participating in any of the virtual services or bible studies, we will use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09> 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 for assistance.

Thank you for your generosity especially during this difficult time. Please remember that Saguache folks can send their contribution in check form to Center UMC, P.O. Box 626, Center, CO

81125. Please write the check to Saguache UMC. We can deposit those donations into First Southwest bank into the Saguache's church account. Sue McClure is depositing them in First Southwest in Center.

We are approaching our thirty day commitment of prayer at 8 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 UMC 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. I appreciate those of you who have joined me in this commitment and after July 6<sup>th</sup>, it is my prayer that we continue our time of prayer on our own.

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. Debria Upton*