



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 27, 2020

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

Thank you for all who came out Saturday to have Coffee with Center Police Chief Dale Meek and meet our new K9 team. Maverick is Center's drug K9 and held an impressive demonstration. It was great to have 18 person present. Now, we just need to work on getting 18 to Sunday worship. Thank you to all you who joined our 8:30 am Zoom worship as well as those who joined via Facebook Live, Zoom, or in person for our 10:30 am morning worship. It was blessing to have Linda Warsh as our liturgist. Thank you all so much for your willingness to serve. I do appreciate the kindness and grace of all of those who were present either virtually or in-person Sunday.

As we continue to follow the COVID guidelines, the church opens at 10 am to follow those guidelines. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we seek to reopen with everyone's safety in mind. Please, if you are vulnerable or feel ill on 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.

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 Story behind the Songs is 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 be using our Zoom platform which allows us to participate via phone or computer. The link can be found at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VIVDejlBRVBJT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> 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.

Trinity District will continue hosting the forum "Race Matters" on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm and Saturday mornings 9 am through their zoom platform. Please contact me or Kathy at trinity@mtnskyumc.org for the link if you wish to participate in this important conversation. Yoga resumed with a good group following social distancing and wearing masks. Please remember the Fitness Center is open and ready for visitors.

We continue to be blessed by those who give so generously. Offerings can be left on the pew when you leave and someone will pick them up and Sue will deposit them later. 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. Donations still can be mailed to P. O. Box 626, Center, 81125.

Our Cooking for Our Neighbors continues to grow. Thank you Charleen Schaeffer, Betty Felmlee, Kitty Bigley, and Janet Myers for your hard work this past week. It is such a blessing to share the love of Christ in this unique way.

We are planning a virtual bible school about Paul's adventures in Athens August 10-14, 2020. Please consider helping and get the word out to the children in our area to participate. Information and registration is on our website. You can contact the church or me for more information and especially to help or register.

Also to help out with our UMW's annual Health Kit project, throughout July we are collecting washcloths, combs or small brushes, bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, Band-Aids, fingernail clippers, and deodorant. There is a box at the church for donations which can be left during the week or on Sunday. Vicki Ratzlaff is taking the Fall Bithell Fruit orders until August 9, 2020. Make checks to the United Methodist Women of Center and mail or give Vicki the check before the August 9th deadline. The form is online.

There are many things we can do, especially during these difficult times. Please share your ideas and let's see how we can make them a reality. 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. Debria Upton*