

January 2020

Pastor Debbie

Volume 35 Issue 1

Center United Methodist Church

PO Box 626
4th & Broadway,
Center CO 81125
Worship Services: 8:30 am
Church Phone: 719-754-2243
E-mail: umcofcenter@gmail.com
Financial E-mail:
CUMCfin@yahoo.com

Saguache United Methodist Church

6th & Christie, Saguache
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Upton

Phone: 754-2243
Cell phone: 504-261-8860
167 W. 4th
Center CO 81125
Email: dupton@liff.edu

Administrative Assistant/ Newsletter Editor:

Hannah Metzger
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed,
and Thurs.
8:30am-12:30pm

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I would like to thank both Center and Saguache United Methodist Churches for allowing me the freedom to complete my first unit of CPE. I appreciate the birthday wishes and graduation wishes so much. I would like to thank Lori for the beautiful navy blue jacket top for my birthday, graduation, and Christmas gift. I would like to thank Glenda and Charleen for their generous donations to my birthday **Beaver Creek fundraiser and Charleen's** darling Boston Terrier bath towel for a Christmas surprise. I would also like to thank Brent for the delicious bag of Christmas goodies. I would also like to thank Janet for **the beautiful bee's wax candles**. I would like to thank Jeannie and Mike for the Christmas dip bowl of delicious holiday dips. I deeply appreciate your outpouring of love during this blue holiday season. Thank you also for the beautiful Christmas cards several of you sent me this holiday season.

Christmas Eve services at both Center and Saguache were beautiful. It is my prayer that it was a meaningful way to celebrate the nativity. Thank you for those who came. We had several community members at both churches as well as the delight of having Vickie and **Gerald attend Center's service**. It is definitely answered prayer seeing Vickie doing so well. Although Mary Morfitt was still in the hospital, I was able to share Christmas Eve communion with her on Christmas day. Keep the prayers coming.

As 2019 closes and 2020 begins, it is time for us to reflect on our previous year and celebrate the successes and grieve the losses in an altogether peace, altogether hope, altogether love, and altogether joy. As we begin the New Year let us spend time reflecting and considering the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

Dear Lord,
I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full,

let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

May these words echo across our faith community as we embrace the opportunities God gives us for our future. May we no longer **be our own, but God's**. May God put us to what God wishes, rank us with whom God will, put us to doing, put us to suffering, let us be employed for God, or laid aside by God, exalted for God, or brought low for God. Let us be full, let us be empty, let us have all things, let us have nothing. We freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are ours and we are Yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

I will be spending time with family, so I'm asking that the Center community to step in and support the community January 2nd for a **tailgating Cookin' with Your Neighbor**. We've had a large crowd both for Thanksgiving and **Christmas, so let's keep things going for 2020**. I will provide a large ham for sandwiches, so **let's see what we can add to it**. **Breakfast with Police Chief Dale Meek** will be January 4th from 8-10 am which will feature **Sunflower's delicious sweet rolls, so you don't want to miss that**. **Saguache's Dinner with Your Neighbor** will be January 9th with a theme to be determined. Beginning the first week after Epiphany, the Bible Study based on the movie Overcomer will begin at noon on Wednesdays with lunch provided at Center and after church on Sundays at Saguache. The sermon series after Epiphany will be based on the Bible Study as well, so I hope everyone will be able to join us for Sunday service and the weekly Bible Study.

Twelve Days of Love

December 25 – **Call or visit someone you haven't** talked to in a long time to wish them a Merry Christmas.

December 26 – Write a thank you note to your mail carrier or garbage collector or police officer or someone who serves others.

December 27 – Hold the door open for someone or **return someone's shopping cart.**

December 28 – **Bring your neighbor's garbage up to** their house or pick up the litter on the area in front of your house.

December 29 – Feed the birds and/or squirrels or tell a child they are special and loved.

December 30 – **Call or write someone who wasn't at** church and tell them they were missed.

December 31 – Leave a random happy note sharing **God's love somewhere you go in town.**

January 1 – Tell someone how much you love them.

January 2 – Smile at everyone you meet and wish them a wonderful day.

January 3 – Write a letter to a service member or veteran thanking them for their sacrifice.

January 4 – Go through your closets to find clothes and items to give to the thrift store.

January 5 – Collect non-perishable food items for the food bank to bring tomorrow.



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Bible Study

Starting the first week after Epiphany, we will be having a Bible study at noon on Wednesdays based on the movie *Overcomer*. Lunch will be provided at Center. Saguache will be having their Bible study after service on Sundays. The Sunday Services will also be based on the movie so the Bible study will tie in nicely. Please join us for this enlightening experience.

Epiphany

On the 12th day after Christmas (January 6th) we celebrate Epiphany. The word epiphany means divine manifestation and is in reference to a visit of God to earth. This is the day we celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. This day also marks the arrival of the Magi from the east who brought their gifts of devotion to the baby Jesus. Below you will find the **story of the Majis' visit to Jesus from Matthew 2.**



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The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, **“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”**

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴**When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.** ⁵**“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:**

⁶**““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””**

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸**He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”**

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

AA Meeting

The AA group in Center meet Saturdays at 10am in Center. We are so grateful for this opportunity God has given us to host these life changing AA Meetings and we welcome anyone who wishes to be a part of this group.

Breakfast with the Police

Breakfast with the Police will be January 4th from 8-10am and Police Chief Dale Meek will be there. Sunflower Café has provided their delicious sweet rolls for the breakfast. Everyone is invited!



Movie Night

This month's movie will be *Dora The Explorer*. Join Dora as she tackles her most dangerous adventure yet: High School. This new live action film based on the beloved animated character is filled with adventure that the whole family will love. Please join us!

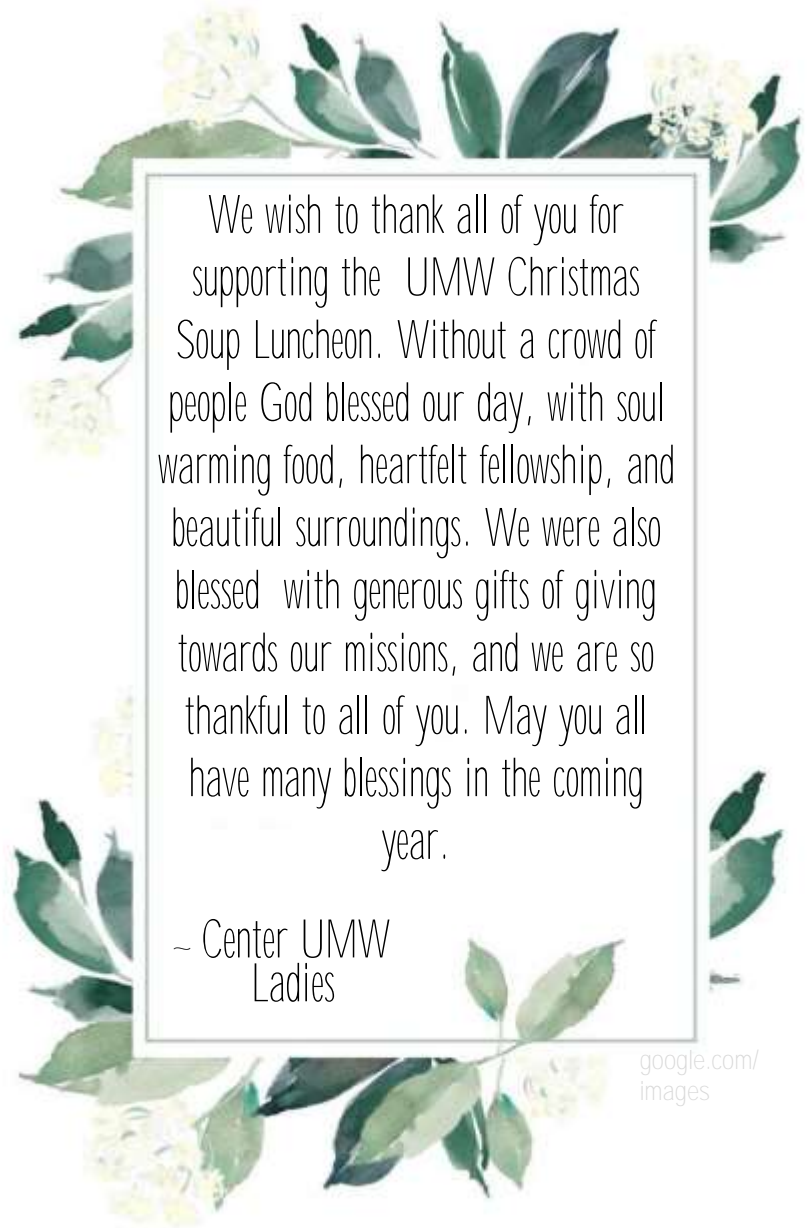
Sunday Youth Fellowship

With the exception of January 5th, There will be a youth fellowship downstairs during Sunday service. This service is provided in the hopes it will allow those with children to come to service and worship with us. There will be activities for all ages so please come.

Martha Circle Meetings

Martha Circle will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month throughout the year. Meetings start at 9:30.

If you know of anyone that could use a greeting card please call Vickie Myers @ 754-3598. Vickie has a great selection of cards on hand. We welcome new members and invite all to attend meetings at any time. For more information of these events call Martha Circle President, Marilyn Eagles 754-3704.



We wish to thank all of you for supporting the UMW Christmas Soup Luncheon. Without a crowd of people God blessed our day, with soul warming food, heartfelt fellowship, and beautiful surroundings. We were also blessed with generous gifts of giving towards our missions, and we are so thankful to all of you. May you all have many blessings in the coming year.

~ Center UMW Ladies

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Center United Methodist Women

We will meet on January 7th at 9:30 for our Pledge to Mission Program.

Please join us to learn about our giving programs and how many lives we touch. Everyone is welcome - you do not have to be a member of the church or UMW to attend this service.



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Human Relations Day

On Jan. 19, across the United Methodist connection, we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community. We do this by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this church wide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during **his life: every one of God's children is important.**

The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and works with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Such ministries give us the opportunity to walk in the margins and continue the work of Jesus.

Now is a great time to assemble a planning team and design a ministry plan that reflects the spirit of Human Relations Day. We have created a tool kit for you to prepare and lead worship, children and youth ministries and small-group discussions. Promote Human Relations Day through social media, videos and newsletter articles with relevant and meaningful messages. Please use and adapt the resources to fit your context and to encourage generous giving on Jan. 19.

As you prepare for Human Relations Day 2020, invite **the Holy Spirit to open your congregation's heart to the** message found in Romans: to love and to honor one another. Please be in prayer with the people whose programs reach out to neighborhoods and teens in crisis and share the love and hope of Jesus Christ. We pray that your congregation will celebrate wholeheartedly and join us in this important work.

- United Methodist Communications

Alzheimer's Association Pot-luck

On Wednesday, February 26th there will be a pot-luck and presentation put on by the Alzheimer's Association. It will be from 11:30 am — 1:30 pm and the presentation will cover not only the strategies around brain health and prevention, but also information about the disease itself, warning signs, how to work best with a doctor for a good diagnosis, and the services the Alzheimer's Association provides. This is an incredibly important event so please join us.



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Financial Report

January Finance Report

2019 was a fairly calm year for us financially. We did do some upkeep and maintenance projects, mostly on trees, but nothing huge. One big project was changing all the lights to LED and they were put on motion sensors. A big thank-you, once again, to Pastor Debbie, as this project was funded through her **mother's memorial funds. We received a dishwasher thanks to the giving of Charleen Schaeffer and Janet Myers, no more dish pan hands.** □ Pastor Debbie has been working with grant money to help support the yoga classes, and also to fund a new senior exercise room that will be available after the first of the year. We had a great turn out for our Stewardship Supper, it was a fun night, thank you all for attending.

Here are our figures for November. The end of year figures will be the February newsletter, as we do not have a December statement at the time of this writing.

For November:

Giving	\$11,672.22
Expenses	\$7,111.58
Net income	\$4,560.64

We are once again thankful that the final numbers for November are in the positive. Thank you all for your giving, as you know, every cent counts. I would like to welcome Vicki Ratzlaff to the finance committee, as co-chair. Please give her a big thank you for taking on this responsibility. We appreciate her willingness to come on board. Thank you, Janet Myers and Sue McClure, for all the behind the scenes, bookkeeping and paper processing, that you spend many hours doing for our church. We appreciate it!!

Many Blessings for your Christmas,

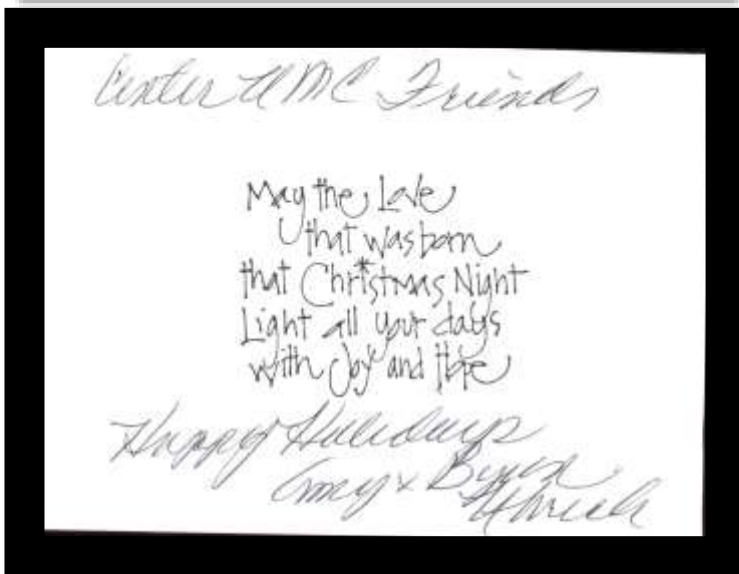
Tony Holcomb

Finance Chairman

“Arise, shine; for your
light has come, and the
glory of the Lord has
risen upon you”
Isaiah 60:1



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Greetings to all -
Enclosed please find a love gift for the Martha
Circle (\$25) and a memorial for Bob Felmelee
(\$50).

Byron is still in a wheelchair in rehab. Calls &
cards are so spirit lifting.

1-719-849-5630

-or-

3321 Corvina ct
Greeley, CO 80634

Amy & Byron Ulrich



Recipe for a Happy New Year

— Deborah Ann Belka

Take a cup of Forgiveness,
stir in some of God's grace
then fold it into your heart
and this recipe you'll embrace.

But, you'll need to keep adding,
more ingredients as you go
if you plan on having a year
where Love can rise and grow.

You're going to need Patience,
at least a cup or two . . .
if you want to have Meekness
bubbling up inside of you.

You'll need to slowly blend in,
a heaping spoonful of Goodness
then beat it into the mixture
so you can whip up Gentleness.

Don't forget to add a pinch of Joy,
and as you whisk it into Peace
add a dollop of Faith and Trust
and Hope you will release.

If you live in the Spirit,
you'll need to walk in it too . . .
and if you follow this recipe
it'll produce His fruit in you!

Gourmet Sweet Potato Casserole

Ingredients

Recipe by: Heather (Allrecipes.com)

- 5 sweet potatoes
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans



Allrecipes.com

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
2. Bake sweet potatoes 35 minutes in the preheated oven, or until they begin to soften. Cool slightly, peel, and mash.
3. In a large bowl, mix the mashed sweet potatoes, salt, 1/4 cup butter, eggs, vanilla extract, cinnamon, sugar, and heavy cream. Transfer to the prepared baking dish.
4. In a medium bowl, combine 1/4 cup butter, flour, brown sugar, and chopped pecans. Mix with a pastry blender or your fingers to the consistency of coarse meal. Sprinkle over the sweet potato mixture.
5. Bake 30 minutes in the preheated oven, until topping is crisp and lightly browned.

Joke of the Month

At the Christmas Eve service at my church, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked,

“What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?”

“Gold!” one child yelled.

“Frankincense!” shouted another. After a pause, a third asked, “Gift cards?”



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Things to Remember for January!

- ◆ Its officially 2020! I hope everyone celebrated the new year with their friends and family and I wish everyone the best of luck with their New Years resolutions.
- ◆ Every Tuesday and Friday at 9:30 am we have yoga. Everyone is welcome and no prior experience or impressive flexibility is required.
- ◆ We are in the process of installing our Exercise Room downstairs at CUMC. The room is open to all with the hopes of getting and keeping church members and the people of the community active during the cold and snowy winter. It should be up and running very soon.
- ◆ Homelake Has its own chapel service every Sunday at 3:30 pm. It is a different type of service each week so that all denominations are available to their residents. All are welcome to attend.
- ◆ 50+ is back to their normal schedule and will be meeting this month on the 11th.
- ◆ Come join us for brunch after service at CUMC on the 19th for some delicious food. Everyone is welcome to come and bring their favorite brunch foods.
- ◆ The 20th of this month is Martin Luther King Jr. Day in celebration and remembrance of the man who inspired so much change and progress in our country.



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Cooking With Your Neighbor

This month's Cookin' with your Neighbor will be a tailgate party on January 2nd. A large ham will be provided for the sandwiches and everyone is invited to bring their favorite tailgating dishes. We have had a great turnout the past two dinners, so invite your friends and neighbors! Saguache has yet to decide on a theme, but their Dinner with Your Neighbor will be on January 9th.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day	Cooking With Your Neighbor 5:30p		Police Breakfast Breakfast Provided 8a
CUMC Service 8:30a		DVD Yoga 9:30a	Crossroads 9:30a		Yoga With Instructor 9:30a	AA Meeting 10am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Homelake 3:30p			Overcomer Bible Study 12p Lunch Provided	SUMC Supper With Your Neighbor 5:30p		50+ 12p
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday Youth Fellowship Homelake 3:30p	Town & Country 7p	Worship Committee mtg 8:30a CUMC Council 6:30p	Martha Circle 9:30a Overcomer Bible Study 12p Lunch Provided	Movie Night <i>Dora The Explorer</i> 6p		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday Youth Fellowship CUMC Brunch Homelake 3:30p	Martin Luther King Jr. Day		Overcomer Bible Study 12p Lunch Provided			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday Youth Fellowship Homelake 3:30p			Overcomer Bible Study 12p Lunch Provided			