



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**

August 31, 2020

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

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. I appreciate Mike Spearman being our online liturgist and Janet Myers as our in-person liturgist. Thank you all so much for your willingness to serve. It was great to have Kent Sather as well Shirley Myers join via Zoom. I do appreciate the kindness and grace of all of those who were present either virtually or in-person Sunday.

Please note that on Labor Day weekend because I will be on vacation, the 8:30 am Zoom worship on September 6, 2020 will take place as usual and I will conduct it from California. That service will be recorded and posted on our Facebook page at 10:30 am for all those who attend the 10:30 am service. There will not be an in-person service on September 6, 2020. Please join us on Zoom at 8:30 am or Facebook Live at 10:30 am.

Also on Friday, September 4, 2020, the city of Center's power grid will be undergoing repairs and maintenance, so the power could be off from 9 am for four-five hours after. Therefore, Yoga for Friday morning has been canceled. The church office will not be open either.

It has been brought to my attention that recently I neglected to add Sue McClure to the ladies to thank for helping with the Back to School Luncheon. I deeply apologize for omitting Sue's important contribution. If I have missed anyone else, please let me know. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful cooks in our congregation.

Early Friday morning, I received an email from Global Giving concerning Hurricane Laura. "Hurricane Laura left a path of destruction along the Louisiana coast after making landfall as a Category 4 storm early Thursday morning. At least six people (the number is now eighteen) have been reported dead and hundreds of thousands remain without power in Louisiana and Texas as a result of 150 mph winds and extensive flooding. You can help life-saving relief efforts by making a donation to the **Hurricane Laura Relief Fund**. Your secure donation will help survivors by providing emergency supplies like food, water, shelter, and medicine. GlobalGiving.org." You can also give to UMCOR which is our United Methodist Committee on Relief.

We have also had a request from the Center Consolidated Schools grades K-5 classes for items to play with when they have recess. They can't share anything, so items like sidewalk chalk and jump ropes, Frisbees, basketball or any other item that a child can play with by themselves would be appreciated. Please contact Vicki Ratzlaff for more information.

Remember Wednesdays and Thursdays the school is using our Drummond Hall as an overflow space in their daycare. Since they are doing a hybrid learning model, children are alternating days in the classroom and virtually. Because of COVID-19 protocol restrictions, they are in need of space for an overflow of day care needs. There is the possibility that they will need our help longer in order to start school and keep school open safely. The board has agreed to help them in accordance to our church insurance guidelines which they have agreed to follow should they need to continue the use of Drummond Hall. Their presence should not be an issue for the regular operations of our church. The Fitness Center is still accessible and available as is the sanctuary and office and upstairs meeting room. The area where the children would be, should they continue will be in the hall area which will be blocked off. The family bathroom will be their restroom to use. Their teachers will be present with the nine or less children and the school will take care of maintenance and cleaning of the area each day they are present. We are called by God to help those in need and we feel blessed that God has given us the space to help them.

There will be no worship committee meeting for September, but will resume in October. The Ad Council will meet Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 6:30 both in-person and via Zoom.

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 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 following link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VIVDejIBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> can be clicked on or pasted in your, 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. Coming in October is Dave Ramsey's worship on Finances for both youth and adults which we will do both in-person and via Zoom. Keep a look out for more information.

I do appreciate my former students Gerard Ortega and Richard Smith for helping me with the music each Sunday especially to add a special blessing for the 8:30 am Zoom worship. While Linda Wilson has been out, I've been able to use the audio link for the 10:30 am service. If you wish to send them a thank you, please write your note and I will scan it to their private message page. Our prayers are with Linda and we hope that she will heal quickly and be back with us soon for the 10:30 am service to bless us with her wonderful talent.

Thank you to all who are bringing supplies for the Manna Bags. A big thank you goes to Mary Bloxsom, Betty Felmlee, Lori Sanchez, and Charleen Schaeffer for putting 31 bags together for our immediate use. Thank you to Janet Myers, Mary Bloxsom, Charleen Schaeffer, and anyone else who donated items for the manna bags. I will put an updated list out of needs once I return from vacation.

We have several on our prayer list, so I hope you will use the prayer list in your daily prayers. With so much happening in our world and community every daily, our prayers are needed. Please remember to pray for our school personnel, parents and students. God loves to hear our voice and scripture tells us that he listens to our request.

We continue to be blessed by the generosity of you who continue to support our church through your tithes and offerings. I would also like to encourage you to consider giving above and beyond for the 3% initiative for global giving especially during this time of COVID-19. We have been blessed by riding out the virus with minor consequences although no death is minor. The worldwide service fund, African University, the ministerial educational fund, and so many other funds need our help. I hope you will prayer about it and consider giving. If you are attending in-person worship, the 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](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. Donations still can be mailed to P. O. Box 626, Center, 81125.

Our Cooking for Our Neighbors continues to grow. Thank you to our good cooks and volunteers Charleen Schaeffer, Betty Felmlee, Kitty Bigley-Entz, and Janet Myers. It is such a blessing to share the love of Christ in this unique way. A special thanks to Bill Hazard who donated two big bags of apples from his trees. We will be taking a break Labor Day weekend but meals will resume the weekend after Labor Day.

Pease 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*