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Rev. Debra Upton  
Pastor

September 8, 2020

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

I have to apologize for those who join the 8:30 am Zoom which was later reposted on Facebook. I was using my son's headphones and couldn't hear the sound in the latter half of the service and it appears you all could hear it and me making it a cacophony. I should know when using new tech, I need to test it out. I would like to thank Linda Clutter for being my liturgist in spite of my error. I do appreciate the kindness and grace of all of those who were present either virtually or in-person Sunday.

This coming Sunday, we will resume 8:30 am Zoom service and 10:30 am in-person service which will be broadcast on our Zoom platform and Facebook live. 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 can be clicked on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> or pasted in your 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. 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.

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.

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.

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. We will resume our Friday and Saturday meals this coming week.

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. Debra Upton*