



Rev. Debria Upton  
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 19, 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 Linda Clutter for being our online liturgist and for Janet Myers for being our in-person liturgist. Thank you all so much for your willingness to serve. It was a blessing to have Sarah Sathers join our 8:30 am Zoom worship service. What a blessing to see everyone in worship. I do appreciate the kindness and grace of all of those who were present either virtually or in-person Sunday.

Our hearts grieve with the passing of our dear Ms. Shirley. We will miss her smiling face and her wit, but we know that she has been welcomed home with "Well-done my good and faithful servant." Ms. Shirley will be laid to rest this coming Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 11 am at the San Luis Valley Cemetery. I know you join me in lifting the family in prayer during this difficult time.

I would like to invite you to join me in Dave Ramsey's workshop "Foundations in Personal Finance" both youth and adults which we will do both in-person and via Zoom. If you are struggling financially or if you wish to refresh your biblical perspective of your personal finances, then you will want to join us for this twelve-week study geared toward changing your personal financial habits. It is taken from longer class Financial Freedom and Dave Ramsey's high-school homeschool curriculum "Foundations in Personal Finance" which will include Steve Repak's 6-week money challenge. Tentatively, we are looking at Sunday afternoons at 4 pm with a repeat of the week's session on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. If you wish to participate, please contact the church office so we can get the materials for this study together for you. Both sessions are available for in person with COVID protocols in place as well as Zoom access. These sessions will be recorded; however, because of copyright restrictions they will not be posted online through our website or Facebook or our YouTube. Please get the word out to the community for this great opportunity. We will begin October 25, 2020.

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. On Wednesday the Disciple bible study on *Under the Tree of Life – The Writings – John- Revelation* continues and is open to anyone who wishes to join 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. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VIVDejBRVBJT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> is the link that can be clicked on 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.

Mark your calendars for our charge conference meeting this year will be via Zoom which is tentatively scheduled for the evening of November 18<sup>th</sup>. Benevolence, Laity, UMW, Finance, SPR and the nominations committees will be meeting to complete the reports for 2019-2020. Hannah have been going through the

directory and updating our records. I know she would appreciate your help, especially with people she has not been able to contact.

We are continuing a special call for donations toward Beaver Creek Youth Camp that is in dire need, especially since camp use is down and fundraisers weren't able to occur due to COVID. Please join us in helping to keep this worthwhile mission alive.

Our yoga group is now meeting every Tuesday and Friday at 9:30am. We meet downstairs in Drummond Hall and the type of yoga practiced makes it accessible to everyone. There will be temperature checks and masks must be worn.

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. Thank you Betty for the delicious rolls, Charleen for the yummy broccoli and cauliflower salad, and Janet for the wonderful peach crisp. We welcome anyone who wishes to join our little group and know it is a lot of work which is much lighter when shared. It is not meant to be a burden but a blessing for everyone involved. It is such a blessing to share the love of Christ in this unique way. If you know of someone who should be on our list for meals, please let us know. If you wish to be removed, please let us know. It is truly an out pouring of God's love.

Pease feel free to reach out to me to ask how to share in this unique time, especially with prayer requests and concerns. Our list continues to grow, so I hope you will join us in praying daily for our church, community, and nation. 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*