

November 2020

Pastor Debbie

Volume 35 Issue 11

Center United Methodist Church

PO Box 626
4th & Broadway,
Center CO 81125
Worship Services: 10:30 am
Zoom: 8:30 am & 10:30 am
Church Phone: 719-754-2243
E-mail: umcofcenter@gmail.com
Financial E-mail:
CUMCfin@yahoo.com
Website: umcofcenter.com

Saguache United Methodist Church

6th & Christie, Saguache
Worship Service: Zoom Only
(8:30 am & 10:30 am)

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Upton

Phone: 719-754-2243
Cell phone: 504-261-8860
167 W. 4th
Center CO 81125
Email: dupton@iliff.edu

Administrative Assistant/
Newsletter Editor:

Hannah Metzger
Phone: (719) 989-0987
Office Hours: Mon—Thurs
8:30am-11:30am

At the writing of this newsletter article, our hearts are heavy with the loss of our precious Shirley Myers. Please continue to lift the Myers family especially in prayers.

We also rejoice in our upcoming birthdays for Mary Bloxsom and Isabel Geibel as they celebrate their milestone birthdays very differently than they expected because of COVID.

It is sobering to realize that this holiday season will be very different than years before, but we can still rejoice that God is with us and if we focus on God, we can find many things to thank God for and celebrate Advent and Christmas, perhaps with a new awareness of our dependence on God, not ourselves. During these holiday seasons there are many on our prayer list, so let us remember to lift them in prayer daily. Reach out and touch people through phone calls, cards and letters, and tangible ways to offer grace and love to those around. Remember those who work tirelessly to deliver our mail, teach our children, police our neighborhoods, to plant and harvest our food, those who deliver items we need to our stores and our doors, plumbers, electricians, and so many more. There are so many that go unseen and forgotten, so pray that God will open our eyes.

November 1st we will celebrate our saints who have left us with their legacy, and we hope you will join us this Sunday for celebration and communion with the saints, so if you are joining us virtually, you will need the butterfly mailed to you and you will need juice and bread for communion. This Sunday you will gain an extra hour as we fall back from **Daylights Saving time. Tuesday, we pray that if you haven't already voted that you will be sure to vote.** The following week, we will celebrate our veterans as we show gratitude for their service.

Our Charge Conference is the evening of November 18th. We still don't have the exact link or time, but as the date approaches, we will send out that information as soon as we get it.

The Monday before Thanksgiving I plan on leaving to travel to be with my son and family. Of course, COVID may block even travel in my car. There will be a special Thanksgiving time of prayer on Thanksgiving morning at noon and the 8:30 am Zoom service will go on as usual. That Sunday will be our virtual hanging of the greens and our first Sunday of Advent. We are looking for folks who are willing to share special Christmas treasures or traditions that would be a part of our service that day. If you have something your grandparents or great-grandparents have like ornaments, candle, wreaths, or ritual, please contact the church office, so we can make sure to include it in our worship service. That will be our final sermon in the Politics of Compassion and Common Ground as we begin the Advent season. We hope you will share your rich heritage with us and enrich our worship service. We will have an Advent Calendar of devotions that will be available the week before Thanksgiving.

With all the loss in both Center and Saguache, this year we will have a Blue Christmas service on the longest night of the year, December 21st, via Zoom, open to all in our community who have lost loved ones or who are grieving any loss even if it is just the loss of doing things normally. Our traditional special candlelight Christmas Eve service will be at 5 pm in Saguache and 7 pm in Center. It will be both by Zoom and in person unless restrictions keep us from meeting in person. We are working on making it a very special evening for everyone who participates.

The holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas is the giving season and I would encourage you to join us in giving to our church and its ministries as we continue to do

God's work in uncertain times. If God lays it upon your heart, enclosed is a return envelope for your generous gift. As our prayer list grows, we covet your daily prayers. Thank you for your faithful service.

"Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

- Psalm 107:8-9 (NIV)

Manna Bags

We are looking for people to donate items for our Manna Bags that we give out to those people who are in immediate need. If you could donate any of the following items that would be absolutely wonderful.

Items in the Manna Bags:

Water Bottles
Canned Vienna Sausage
Raisins
Rice Crispy Treats
Keebler Cookies
Toasty Cracker
Sandwiches (Cheese & Peanut Butter)
Fruit Snacks
Nuts
Jerky
Gum
Singles to Go Drink
Mixes
*All these items need to be snack size and individually wrapped.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day

We bow our hearts to You and pray.

We give You thanks for all You've done

Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see

For joy and health, friends and family,

For daily provision, Your mercy, and care

These are the blessings You graciously share.

So today we offer this response of praise

With a promise to follow You all of our days.

—Mary Fairchild



Joke of the Month

A priest and a pastor are standing by the side of a road holding up a sign that reads "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!"

A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" and speeds past them. From around the curve, they hear screeching tires—then a big splash.

The priest turns to the pastor and says, "Do you think we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

Green Bean Casserole

Recipe by: Jan (Allrecipes.com)

Ingredients

- 2 (14.5) cans green beans, drained
- 1 (10.75) can condensed cream of mushroom
- 1 (6) can French fried onions
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Place green beans and soup in a large microwave-safe bowl. Mix well and heat in the microwave on HI GH until warm (3 to 5 minutes). Stir in 1/2 cup of cheese and heat mixture for another 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer green bean mixture to a casserole dish and sprinkle with French fried onions and remaining cheese.
3. Bake in a preheated oven until the cheese melts and the onions just begin to brown.



Allrecipes.com