



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 23, 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 Norris for being our online liturgist and for Roy Ratzlaff being our in-person liturgist. Thank you all so much for your willingness to serve. 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. Last Wednesday evening our zoom charge conference went quite well. A big thank you for all those who helped to get the reports together so charge conference went so smoothly. A special thank you to Hannah for all her hard work.

Last year we started Adopt a Veteran for special gifts for our Homelake Veterans. This year we will have to do it a little differently. We are continuing our tradition of adopting a veteran from Homelake, and we invite you to participate with us! As with anything this year, there is a COVID twist. We have one hundred 10" x 8.45" brown gifts bags that we would like to be filled with items that are basic necessities but might be hard for them to get good quality of during these times. Items to include in the bag: (All items must be non-fragrant and non-gender specific): shampoo, deodorant, lotion, chapstick or lip balm, tissues, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap and a Christmas card. You may choose to pick up the brown bags or to use one grocery bag per veteran that we can put into our brown bags for delivery. Your completed bags can be dropped off at Center United Methodist Church no later than December 18, 2020. I already have 25 Adopt a Veteran bags spoken for and would like to have as many people get involved as possible. This is a great way to thank our veterans who have been isolated from family and friends and church for the last 8 months. Please contact Hannah at the church through phone message or email, or text Pastor Debbie. This is open to folks from the community and other churches to join.

The November 29, 2020 service will be our traditional Hanging of the Greens service. The 8:30 am service I will conduct and record from California and it will be posted on our FaceBook page for 10:30 am. The in-person service at 10:30 am will be more of an action-packed service as those present will help to adorn Center's sanctuary. The computer will be set up if those present wish to use the PowerPoint slides as they work or they it can be an extemporaneous movement of the Holy Spirit.

Another special day is December 3rd when our dear Ms. Isabel Geibel will be one hundred years young. Because of COVID there can't be any party as such and she has resigned herself to that, but I think we can honor her, not only for her military service but also her faithful commitment to Center. We can do this by flooding her with special birthday cards. You may wish to mail them, but we would love it if you would leave them at the church or join us in a parade. If weather is permitting, I am planning to leave the Center church at noon on December 3rd and invite any who would like to join me in their cars. We drive to her house in the mountains forming a parade, honking our horns, and delivering a personal birthday cake with birthday cards, then head our separate ways. If the weather is good enough to do this, I think this would be a wonderful way to let Ms. Isabel know we are thinking of her on her 100th birthday in spite of COVID. If you would like to join us, let Hannah know or text Pastor Debbie.

Starting December 3rd at 6:30pm via our Zoom link, we will begin our Adam Hamilton's Advent Study *Incarnation*. Please let the church office know if you wish to participate, so we can get you the resources for each week's study.

Remember that access to any worship is posted on our 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, this week is the last week of daily Morning (7:30 am) and Evening (6:30 pm) Prayers on our Facebook page. Advent readings will begin November 29, 2020. These are meant to develop our acts of piety through prayer, reading scripture, and daily devotions. On Wednesday Adam Hamilton's Advent Study *Incarnation* begins December 2nd and is open to anyone who wishes to join using our Zoom platform. Please let Hannah or me know so we can get you the book for the study. 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=VlVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> 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.

Yoga with Ms. Nancy is Tuesday at 9:30 am and Friday at 9:30 am continues. All are welcome.

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 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.

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 Cooking for Our Neighbors has been a blessing. Thank you to our good cooks and volunteers Betty Felmlee, Kitty Bigley-Entz, and Janet Myers. Thank you for the delicious Thanksgiving meal and we will be taking a break this week. We welcome anyone who wishes to join our little group. We know it is a lot of work which is much lighter as we share it together. It is not meant to be a burden but a blessing for everyone involved. It is such a delight 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. The week of Thanksgiving we will not be doing the meals.

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 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