



Saguache

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Christy and 6th
P. O. Box 184, Saguache, Colorado 81149 • Church E-Mail: umcofcenter@gmail.com

Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

November 16, 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"X8.45" 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.

As part of reaching our Saguache community we now have a Facebook page Saguache United Methodist Church <https://www.facebook.com/Saguache-United-Methodist-Church-100823578454283>, so be sure to like us and pass our link to others who might be interested in our faith community. We also have a new mailing address which is P. O. Box 184, Saguache, CO 81149.

Starting December 3rd at 6:30 pm 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, 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=VIVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> 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.

We are launching 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.

Thank you for your generosity especially during this difficult time. We have a new mailing address for Saguache United Methodist, so Saguache folks can send their contribution in check form to Saguache UMC, P.O. Box 184, Saguache, CO 81149. Please write the check to Saguache UMC. Bill will now be able to deposit those donations into First Southwest bank in Saguache into the Saguache's church account. We deeply appreciate Sue McClure's graciousness to have made Saguache UMC deposits over the last thirty weeks, and now that the branch in Saguache is open again, we can resume making our own deposits. We deeply appreciate Bill and Jeannie with their financial leadership. 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. The worldwide service fund, African University, the ministerial educational fund, and so many other funds need our help. If you wish to give, you can mark your checks for Saguache for 3% giving and mail it to P. O. Box 184, Saguache, CO 81149 where they will be deposited in Saguache UMC's account.

Our Cooking for Our Neighbors has been a blessing. Thank you to our good cooks and volunteers Betty Felmler, 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.

Please 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. Debra Upton