



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 28, 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. We had some technological problems for the 10:30 service and I appreciate everyone's patience while we participated in the Conference produced worship. Next Sunday we celebrate Epiphany as we begin the New Year with our recommitment to God.

There will be no Bible Study this week but we will resume with our Disciple Bible Study on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. 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. 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 link that can be clicked on or pasted in your browser is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejIjBRVBJT0tYjYXVtUG42QTFNdz09/>. 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 which hopefully will resume on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:30 am next week.

As we come to the end of 2020, Center has been blessed to be able to pay our bills, but we have had to use some of our reserve funds to do so. As part of our responsible stewardship, we need to replenish those funds, so if you are able to help with that endeavor, it would be deeply appreciated. We have been blessed by your generosity during a difficult year we never imagined when this year's budget was designed. We have held down costs as much as possible and our administrative council and finance committee have been prudent in guiding us through this time. Thankfully, we have been able to receive grant money that has also helped, but I would be remiss not to acknowledge that it is due to the generosity of previous years that has helped us through this difficult time. As we draw close to the end of 2020 and move into 2021, we pray you would join us making an extra gift of faith toward our ministries in the coming year. 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.

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@liff.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*