



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Greetings and Grace and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, January 11, 2021

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 Linda Warsh for 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. Please join me in lifting our nation and our leaders up in prayer especially during these difficult days. I'm very thankful for the availability of the vaccine in our area and that so many of our members were able to get their first shot. Also, I'm sure that many of you have learned that we lost our dear Sherrel Mix last week, so please keep the Mix family, especially Linda in your prayers. It is so hard for this pastor to face this year without another of our community of faith.

We have resumed with our Disciple Bible Study on Wednesdays with chapter 25. Even if you didn't join us for the first twenty-four lessons, I would encourage you to join us Wednesday night as we resume the last part of study into Revelation. 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. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejBRVBJT0tYXNvUjU4Q2QTFNdz09> 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 has resumed on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:30 am Hope to see you there.

We have been blessed by your generosity during a difficult year and as we enter 2021 we are blessed by the giving heart of some many of you. May this year be filled with God's abundant grace and blessings. The new directories are out and you will notice that Center has now moved to a one church board where it is our hope that everyone, even those who have moved away or unable to join in person can participate in the business of our church. Roy will remain as the council chair, but our first meeting for the new year will be January 12th at 6:30 pm. We will use our Zoom platform, so you may join us virtually or in person as we meet as a church. Please be sure to thank Hannah for her hard work and dedication in helping us maintain a professional online presence, beautiful worship slides and videos, this year's directory and many more. We are very blessed to have her share her many talents with us.

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.

I would thank those of you who kicked off our food donations this past Sunday. We will continue taking food donations as we prepare to join with the Center Food Bank for a food drive in February. Thanks to a generous donation we have just begun to replenish our shelves. Your help is appreciated. I would love to have the back pew of Center church packed with all types of food items. If attend in person, please bring at least one canned item – especially soup each Sunday. If you are at home, you can drop off items at the church or text me and I will pick them up. Thank you for your help.

Our Cooking for Our Neighbors has been a blessing. I would like to thank Betty Felmlee for her delicious cooked cabbage, Linda Warsh for her yummy braised kale, Kitty Entz for her wonderful cornbread, and Janet Myers for her tasty cookies. 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. I'm blessed to pastor such incredibly generous and compassionate folks. 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 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, *Rev. Debra Upton*