



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 18, 2021

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

As we observe Martin Luther King Day this week, may we remember his quote "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." I'm asking that you join me Wednesday, January 20, 2021 in pausing throughout the day, but especially at noon to lift up our country and our leaders in prayer, praying for divine guidance from our Lord help heal our land. Let us remember 2 Chronicles 7:14 *"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* It is as true today as it was in Old Testament days.

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 Charleen Schaeffer for being our online liturgist and for Janet Myers 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.

Last Tuesday, January 12, 2021 Center's One Church Board met virtually and in person. I'm sorry that so many of you could not join in this meeting. We will have another one on February 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm both virtually and in person. It is my prayer that you will join us as we discuss the business and outreach of our church. Your voice is needed and wanted.

We have resumed with our Disciple Bible Study on Wednesdays with chapter 26. 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. This is the link that can be clicked on or pasted in your browser <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/>. 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 We 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 your giving heart. As we begin this new year, again we wish to thank all of those who have so faithfully supported Center during 2020 and look to continuing the work of Christ through your generosity. 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 have brought food donations these past two weeks. 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 Linda Warsh for her scrumptious roast beef and gravy, Kitty Entz for her delicious mashed potatoes, Betty Felmlee for her yummy green bean casserole, and Janet Myers for the tasty oranges. 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.

I begin my 4th CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) unit this week and I also will be finishing the draft of my ordination packet answering doctrinal questions and expanding on my call to ministry. During the next couple of weeks, I would appreciate your prayers as I attempt to complete this daunting task. Please remember our leaders and our neighbors, family, and friends struggling in these uncertain times. As Christ reminds us in Matthew 19:26, "with God all things are possible" and Paul's urging in Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

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 for the journey,

Rev. Debria Upton