



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 26, 2021

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

As most of you know, Center experienced the tragic loss of a teenager in a recent trailer fire. I have been blessed by the generosity and compassion of our community. The fact that this her death might have been avoided with fire and carbon monoxide detectors. So prudently I urge our community to make sure there are working detectors in our homes with new batteries. These are relatively inexpensive and are needed in any home to avoid many unnecessary deaths. Let us continue to lift the family and community in prayer during this difficult time. If there is anyone reading this who doesn't have a fire detector and carbon monoxide detector and would like one for your home, please let me know and I will make sure to get the detectors for you and have them installed in your home. This also applies if you need new batteries for your devices. I believe this is another way we can serve our community.

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 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.

We have resumed with our Disciple Bible Study on Wednesdays with chapter 27. Even if you didn't join us for the first twenty-six 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. The link that can be clicked on or pasted in your browser is <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.

We continue to be blessed by your generosity as we begin 2021 and look forward 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.

Yoga continues if weather permits and I would like to thank Nancy for her willingness to travel during our wintry months. Also, I would thank those of you who have brought food donations these past weeks. This Sunday will be our last Sunday taking food donations as we prepare to join with the Center Food Bank for a food drive in February. Your help is appreciated. Let's fill the back pew of Center church packing it with all types of food items. If you attend in person, please bring at least one canned item – especially soup 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 delicious taco meat sauce, Kitty Entz for her yummy refried beans and cheese, Betty Felmlee for her wonderful lettuce and tomatoes, and Janet Myers for the shredded cheese making a wonderful meal last 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. 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.

Please feel free to reach out to me 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*