



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 1, 2021

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 Charleen Schaeffer for being our online liturgist and for Sue McClure 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. I would also like to thank Lewis Entz for keeping our parking spots cleared of snow during our recent weather. We deeply appreciate it.

We have resumed with our Disciple Bible Study on Wednesdays with chapter 28. Even if you didn't join us for the first twenty-seven 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=VlVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> 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.

I just turned in my ordination paperwork to the conference and I am looking for some volunteers. I had to compose a Bible Study that I could conduct during February and get feedback. So I decided to do a Bible Study called "Meditations by Chocolate" since February is known as candy month and Lent begins in February some folks take it out on chocolate by giving up chocolate for Lent. This Bible Study will begin this Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 5 pm for an hour long Bible study using chocolate, Scripture, and music as inspiration. I hope you will consider joining me. Please text, email, or call me so that I will make sure you have everything you need as we virtually engage the Scriptures together. There is an option of joining us in person, if anyone desires doing so at Center United Methodist.

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. We are connecting with the Center Food Bank to set up a food drive sometime this February, so there is still time to contribute if you wish to. Thank you for your help.

Our Cooking for Our Neighbors has been a blessing. I would like to thank Kitty Entz for her scrumptious beef stroganoff, Linda Warsh for the delicious noodles and salad, Betty Felmler for her wonderful mixed vegetable casserole, and Janet Myers for her amazing Texas sheet cake. 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 want you to be a part of caring and sharing so those who are receiving this week's information by mail, you have an unaddressed valentine that I would like for you to give to someone, anyone between now and Valentine's Sunday. You may mail it or deliver it. For those of you receiving this information through email, I would invite you to get or make a valentine and mail it or deliver it to someone. To quote Snoopy, we all need a little love. Let's be a part of sharing that 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@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 for the journey,

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