



Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

387 South Broadway Street, Center, Colorado 81125 • Church (719)-754-2243 • E-Mail: umcofcenter@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 8, 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 Linda Clutter 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 deeply appreciate it. Sunday I mentioned a colleague recently released a podcast of an interview with me. Here's the link if you are interested https://podcast.app/twenty-one-the-interview-pastor-debria-upton-e128011451/?utm_source=ios&utm_medium=share

We had a wonderful community turn out to Coffee with the Chief this past Saturday morning where several things were discussed. If you are anyone you know of doesn't have a smoke and carbon monoxide detector in your house, you may go by Town Hall or the police station and you will be given one free. We want to make everyone aware of the need to have a working detector one each floor of our homes in order to avoid tragic, unnecessary deaths due to smoke and carbon monoxide. Police Chief Dale Meek expressed his appreciation to our community in the generosity of so many to the Lino's family during this tragedy, as well as those who have given stuffed animals to the deputies which had positive results; sometimes a little love can ease the pain of hurtful events.

We have resumed with our Disciple Bible Study on Wednesdays with chapter 29. Even if you didn't join us for the first twenty-eight 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. During Lent there will be posted daily Lenten devotions on our Facebook pages. 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=VlVDejBRVBJT0tYnXVtUG42QTFNdz09/>. 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.

Due to conflicts our Bible Study called "Meditations by Chocolate" begins this Sunday, February 14, 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.

This year as we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, we will have a special Ash Wednesday service Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm in person at Center as well as virtually through Zoom and Center's as well as Saguache's Facebook pages. I invite you to join together for this special service of reflection, healing, remembrance, and reconciliation as we gather to take on the ashes in the sign of the cross where Christ took on our sins to redeem and restore us to our heavenly Father. Also, I will be available for the imposition of ashes on anyone who desires them during a drive-by Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes during the lunch hour from noon to 1 pm.

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.

Our Cooking for Our Neighbors has been a blessing. I would like to thank Kitty Entz for her scrumptious meatballs and cheese, Linda Warsh for the delicious homemade bread, Betty Felmler for her yummy cookies, and Janet Myers for her wonderful broccoli salad. 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 hope you have been able to give someone, anyone between now and Valentine's Sunday a valentine to share God's love with someone. To quote Snoopy, we all need a little love. Let's be a part of sharing that love. *Rev. Debria Upton*