



Rev. Debra Upton  
Pastor

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**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

February 15, 2021

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

Happy President's Day. 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, even though the snow hampered in-person attendance, it was great to see so many virtually.

I would like to thank the seven brave souls who joined Meditation by Chocolate Sunday evening at 5 pm. I hope this time of meditation helped you as we move toward Ash Wednesday. If you missed it, I hope you will join us next Sunday evening at 5 pm as we continue. 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. The Sanctuary for Lent daily devotions are available as we begin our time of Lent.

Disciple Bible Study this Wednesday has been postponed until the following week because of our Ash Wednesday service which both virtual and in-person. Remember that access to any worship is posted on our [www.umcofcenter.com](http://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. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> is the link that can be clicked on or pasted in your browser is. 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](http://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 Janet Myers for her amazing cubed steak, Kitty Entz for the yummy ranch potatoes, Linda Warsh for the delicious mixed vegetable, and Betty Felmlee for her tasty Jello 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.

Please 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](mailto: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. Debra Upton*