



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 8, 2021

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

With this letter 52, we have completed a year of change and continue to weather the pandemic. I would really like to 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 being our online liturgist and for Kitty Bigley Entz for being our in-person liturgist. Thank you all so much for your willingness to serve. It was wonderful to have Norma Weems join us from Kansas via Zoom during the 10:30 am worship. I do appreciate the kindness and grace of all of those who were present either virtually or in-person. It is truly a blessing each Sunday to see everyone who attends virtually and in person.

I would like to thank those folks who joined Meditation by Chocolate Sunday evening at 5 pm. I hope you enjoyed another tasty time of meditation. Yesterday was our final Meditation by Chocolate. Remember if you participated, I would love your feedback.

As we continue our season of Lent we are having noon devotions taken from the Book of Common Prayer. The Sanctuary for Lent daily devotions are available as we journey through Lent. Disciple Bible Study this Wednesday is our final Lesson. It has been a wonderful times of Bible Study learning and sharing insights to John's Writings. We will take short break and then resume Wednesday night Bible Studies. I'm hoping that we will be able to study *Mothers in Israel* (Methodist beginnings through the eyes of women) by my friend from the 2016 Wesleyan Pilgrimage Donna Fowler who is now serving in England. More details will follow.

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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDeilBRVBJT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/> 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.

We continue to be blessed by your generosity and we are continuing to maintain the work of Christ through your generosity, so we deeply appreciate your gifts during these first slow months of 2021. 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 continues to be a blessing. I would like to thank Kitty Entz for helping me with Emeril's Natchitoches meat pies. They turned out beautifully. Linda Warsh's delicious potato salad, Betty Felmlee's amazing desert, and Janet Myer's scrumptious mixed vegetables made the meal perfect. 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. We are looking forward to the possibility of a return to our Cooking with Our Neighbors the first Thursday evening of May. 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 outpouring of God's love.

Vicki Ratzlaff is collecting Bithell Farms Spring Fruit orders. Orders are due by March 12th.

We are seeking volunteers to help with Center Food Drive March 31, 2021 at CUMC in connection with Center Food Bank. So far I haven't gotten any volunteers, so please let me know if you can help.

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 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