



Center

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Debria Upton
Pastor

March 16, 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 Mike Spearman 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.

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. We are taking a short break and will resume Wednesday night Bible Studies after Easter. 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. The link that can be clicked on or pasted in your browser is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VIVDejIBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/>. 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. During this last year, we have lost several faithful saints and therefore has loss their faithful offerings. As we move forward, let us remember their example and give faithfully to the ministry of Christ in our tithes and offerings. Also as we celebrated UMCOR Sunday on March 14th, I would encourage you to consider giving to UMCOR in their mission of helping people all over the world. They have been working hard during the pandemic. If you are receiving a COVID stimulus check, please consider an offering to the church in thanks for the extra blessing. 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 is drawing to a close at the end of April and will return to our Cooking with our Neighbors on May 6, 2021. We pray that those who are receiving meals will be able to join us in person and participate in our community meal – a meal where we share if we are able by bringing a covered dish containing whatever delicious food. If you are unable to bring a dish, please know that the invitation is open even if you are unable to cook or bring something. This is a time of fellowship and getting to know one another on a deeper level. Birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated as well as have the privilege of being the first ones in line. Remember our first Cooking with Our Neighbor will be May 6th with prep time at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. We hope to see you there and have you invite your neighbors. I would like to thank our faithful laity who continue the weekly meals until May 6th. I would like to thank Linda Warsh for her amazing ground beef casserole, Kitty Entz for her delicious carrot salad, Betty Felmlee for her award-winning rolls, and Janet for her scrumptious Apple Betty, and Mary Bloxsom for the yummy chocolate mint candy. What a treat! 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.

We are still 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 know that 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. Debria Upton*