



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 5, 2021

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

Thank you to all you who joined our 7:30 am Sunrise Easter Service. For those of you who tried to join the Zoom worship, we had technical difficulties during that service. The internet connection wasn't strong enough to run Zoom from the steps of the church. If we do this next time, I will need to use an Ethernet line to ensure we can broadcast. Anyway, we had to go old-school with no PowerPoint or mission, so we had to sing a cappella. I deeply Roy Ratzlaff for showing up to help set up for the service and then to be our liturgist for the service. I appreciate Lewis Entz for helping Roy bring out the Easter baskets. I appreciate being our usher to meet each car and give them a bulletin, communion cup, and Easter bookmark. Then I was so appreciative as Dick Wilson, Roy Ratzlaff, Roy's son, Lewis and Kitty Entz, Lori Sanchez, and Janet Myers help to put everything away. It really helped me be able to leave for Saguache more quickly. I am truly blessed by all your servant leadership. Thank you so much. We had a good turn-out. It was great to see the children that attended. It would be so great to have more children attend. Remember our service time will now be 9 am on Sunday with fellowship time at 8:30 am. This coming Sunday there will be coffee and pastry. The link to the audio of the sermon is <https://umcofcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/April-4-2021-sermon-Terror-and-Amazement.mp3>

We are taking a short break and will resume Wednesday night Bible Study in May. I will be sharing the 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. This is a look at how women have shaped Methodism and our faith.

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. We concluded our last segment of The Story behind the Songs since both churches are fully open now. <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.

Remember beginning April 11th Center worship will be at 9 am for in-person and virtual worship with a fellowship time from 8:30 prior to worship.

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. If you are receiving a COVID stimulus check, please consider an offering to the church in thanks for the extra blessing. As we move forward, let us remember their example and give faithfully to the ministry of Christ in our tithes and offerings. 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.

This is a reminder that we are taking a break from Our Cooking for Our Neighbors this week. Next week on April 16th, we will be hosting a Night Out Against Crime Cookout to honor our law enforcement, so we hope those who receive meals will join us. As we draw to a close of April, we 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 Janet Myers for her delicious ambrosia, Kitty Bigley-Entz for her yummy green bean casserole, Betty Felmlee for her amazing sweet potato casserole, and Linda Warsh for her wonderful bread. 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.

Peace for the Journey,

Rev. Debra Upton