



*Rev. Debria Upton*  
*Pastor*

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

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

April 21, 2021

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

Thank you to all you who joined our 9 am worship service. It was great to see so many in-person as well as those on Zoom and Facebook Live. We enjoyed the 8:30 fellowship time with pastry and coffee. I appreciate Roy Ratzlaff being our in-person liturgist. The link to the audio of the sermon is <https://umcofcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-18-2021-9-am-worship-service.mp3>.

This is National Volunteer Week, so I would like thank our volunteers for all they do. I would like to especially thank Roy Ratzlaff, Betty Felmler, Kitty Bigley, and Janet Myers for all their help with Night Out Against Crime Cookout. Thank you to Sue McClure, Roy Ratzlaff, and Hannah Metzger for the amazing work on the Easter Baskets, I would also like to thank all of you who faithfully support our food pantry and recently helped to fill 27 boxes of food for families in need in our community. I would also like to thank Kitty Bigley, Betty Felmler, Janet Myers, and Linda Warsh for their faithfulness to the weekly Cookin' For Our Neighbors. As we transition the first week of May to our once a month community dinners, we will need many volunteers to bring side dishes for BBQ pull pork in May and others to invite our community to join us. Friday night, in spite of the weather that moved our cookout indoors, we had a wonderful time honoring our law enforcement, getting to meet our K-9 officer Kit, and celebrating that we could safely gather together.

The Staff Parish Relationship team needs your help. Janet needs feedback on the clergy assessment and the congregation assessment. You may think your opinion doesn't matter, but it does. To try and help make it easy, you can choose to answer the questions and mail it back to the church or you can go to the Survey Monkey links and take 5 minutes to complete the TWO different surveys. If you have comments, you can email Janet Myers.

**Part One:** To make this a simple process, we're using a survey for the assessment for the pastor with the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/88R28BZ>. The survey should take about 5 minutes to do. Any additional comments can be given or emailed to Janet Myers [janet.k.5472@gmail.com](mailto:janet.k.5472@gmail.com)

There are 9 question or assessment factors. Considering the 9 assessment factors in the survey, identify the 3 you believe are the most characteristic of your pastor and the 3 that you believe are most important for your church. Again these answers can be given or emailed to Janet Myers [janet.k.5472@gmail.com](mailto:janet.k.5472@gmail.com).

**Part Two:** The survey for the assessment of our congregation can be found at following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8QDSLPLJ>. The survey should take about 5 minutes to do. Any additional comments can be given or emailed to Janet Myers [janet.k.5472@gmail.com](mailto:janet.k.5472@gmail.com).

The next One Church Board Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> will focus on helping to evaluate the answers submitted and complete the Clergy and Congregation Assessments that are due the first of June. We have not had the participation we had hoped from the congregation, so we are hoping that you will complete the surveys and then join the board in person or via Zoom. Janet faithfully serves our church and handles the financial records and so much more. She needs your help. Everyone is needed. Everyone's voice needs to be heard. That is the only way we can become better as a church and as your pastor.

**Today is also Administrative Assistant Appreciation Day.** I hope that you will take time to call the church or email Hannah and tell her how much we appreciate all that she does. We are so blessed to have her. She does so many things behind the scenes that we take for granted. Thank you from the bottom of hearts, Hannah. We love and appreciate you.

We are taking a short break and will resume Wednesday night Bible Study May 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm via zoom. 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. If you are interested in being a part of this study, please let me know.

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. We concluded our last segment of The Story behind the Songs since both churches are fully open now. The link that can be clicked on or pasted in your browser is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VlVDejlBRVBjT0tYNXVtUG42QTFNdz09/>. 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 have lost 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](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.

**This is a reminder April 24th will be our 2021 Mountain Sky Gathering by Zoom @ 9. No one has registered from our church, so I would appreciate it if you would consider going online and registering at <https://mtnsky-reg.brtaapp.com/2021MSCDistrictGatherings> or go to <https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/where-love-lives-creating-a-fully-inclusive-united-methodist-church-western-jurisdiction-beginning-year-long-campaign/> for more information. I know we are all busy, but participating via Zoom allows us to participate without having to travel. When no one from our church is willing to participate, it gives other churches in our district the idea that we don't want to connect with other churches and don't care about the overall mission of United Methodism; that we are only focused on us. I know this is not true, so your representation would be appreciated.**

I also invite you to stay informed about United Methodist news at UM News Weekly Digest at [www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org).

Peace for the Journey,

*Rev. Debra Upton*