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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 26, 2021

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

Thank you to all you who joined our 11 am in person worship. We didn't have anyone for fellowship before worship, but perhaps that will take hold soon. Thank you to Jaxene for opening up and making coffee for the fellowship. It was also great to have Jaxene's family visit Sunday morning. The link to the audio of the sermon is <https://umcofcenter.com/blog/>.

This is a reminder about completing the clergy and congregation surveys. They should be mailed or emailed to Hannah who will compile the information for Mike Norris and the church to complete for Saguache United Methodist. Even if you haven't been to church in the past year, Hannah and I have worked very hard to send paper and email copies of church information and events each week as well as monthly with the Upper Room. You can help by completing the parts of surveys that apply. We can only grow and get better with everyone's input as we move toward perfection.

We are taking a short break and will resume Wednesday night Bible Study May 12, 2021 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 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.

As part of reaching our Saguache community we now have a Facebook page Saguache United Methodist Church <https://www.facebook.com/Saguache-United-Methodist-Church-100823578454283>, so be sure to like us and pass our link to others who might be interested in our faith community. We also have a new mailing address which is P. O. Box 184, Saguache, CO 81149.

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. We have a new mailing address for Saguache United Methodist, so Saguache folks can send their contribution in check form to Saguache UMC, P.O. Box 184, Saguache, CO 81149. Please write the check to Saguache UMC. Bill will deposit those donations into First Southwest bank in Saguache into the Saguache's church account. We deeply appreciate Bill and Jeannie with their financial leadership.

As we draw to a close of April, we will return to our Cooking with our Neighbors on May 13, 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 we will resume Dinner with Our Neighbor will be May 13th at 5:30 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'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.

Remember May 22nd as Beaver Creek Youth Camp Work Day and that they are looking for counselors and campers for the summer. I also invite you to stay informed about United Methodist news at UM News Weekly Digest at www.umnews.org.

Peace and Grace for the Journey,

Rev. Debria Upton