



Rev. Debra Upton
Pastor

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 24, 2021

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

Happy Aldersgate Day!

First, I am so sorry that even though I did everything possible – vaccinated, wearing a mask in public, and washing my hands – I still tested positive for COVID which caused our church to be shut down until Wednesday of this week. Thankfully I have had no symptoms and all those who got tested because of their exposure to me have tested negative. Yes, it could have been a false positive, but the chances are highly unlikely with the PCR test I was given at Homelake. I do appreciate the prayers and good wishes as well as your flexibility in going back online for this past worship service. Thank you to all you who joined our 9 am virtual worship service. It was great to see those who joined virtually. If there is still no one that comes down with symptoms, we will reopen the church this Wednesday with Yoga hopefully to resume Friday. Hope to see you at in person or virtual worship services this Memorial Day weekend.

Technology allows to join even if we are on holiday. I do appreciate Charleen Schaeffer being our online liturgist, especially with all those hard names in the Scripture readings. The link to the audio of the sermon is <https://umcofcenter.com/blog/>.

We have resumed our Wednesday night Bible, so join us virtually via zoom at 6:30 pm. We've started 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. The link that can be clicked on or pasted in your browser is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8678651613?pwd=VIVDejBRVBJT0tYnXVtUG42QTFNdz09/>. 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.

Our next outreach will be Cookin' With Your Neighbor, June 3rd beginning 5:30 pm prep time and 6 pm dinner.

Then be sure to put the gospel concert Sunday, June 13th at 7 pm on your calendar and invite people to attend. New Legacy Project is a gospel group who are the descendants of the Blackwood Brothers. I would encourage you to "Like" the New Legacy Project Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NewLegacyProject> and go check them out @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrC5n_YysvI This is an awesome way to bring new folks to our church as well as welcome back several who we've been missing. We want to make this a success and reach as many people as we can for Christ.

Our next outreach will be that Tuesday, June 15th at 6:30 – Father's Day Guys Night Out. Invite all the men and their sons and grandsons, nephews, etc. for a Guys Night to celebrate the men of our community. A night of BBQ ribs, corn on the cob, potato salad, fun and fellowship, and door prizes.

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. 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.

Also June 6th will be Church in the Wildwood at Beaver Creek; therefore, morning worship will be at Beaver Creek Youth Camp that Sunday. I also invite you to stay informed about United Methodist news at UM News Weekly Digest at www.umnews.org. Peace for the Journey,

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