

Worship

Sundays at 10 AM

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 295
Ridgway, CO 81432

Email: ucsjoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.ucsjridgway.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ucsjridgway

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

UCSJ Staff

Rev. Melinda Veatch — Pastor

Rev. Dick Engdahl — Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Bob Larson — Minister of Missional Outreach

Deacon Kathy Graff — Minister of Spiritual Formation

Shirley Didier — Administrative Assistant

Katy Kristoffersen — Director of Music

Sue Stern — Treasurer

Laura Hagert — Custodian

Mike Kristoffersen — Audio-visual Operator

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

UCSJ Council

Rev. Melinda Veatch

Dennis Eliason

Kathy Graff

Pam Larson (Chair)

Dee Moore

Joan Moyer

Charlie Scholpp

Carolyn Snowbarger

Timothy Spangler

Angela Todd

Donna Whiskeman

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Website and Newsletter Editor — Barb Eliason

Newslink Editor — Administrative Assistant

ucsjoffice@gmail.com

External Publicity — Kate Kellogg

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

UCSJ Office Hours (NEW)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
9 AM to 1 PM



The Language of Pentecost



When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

— Acts 2:1-4 (The Message)

Out walking the other day in my neighborhood, I heard two neighbors talking politics at the edge of their yards. I had not been close enough to hear their whole conversation, but as I neared them, I heard one of them say to the other, “I knew we’d be speaking the same language at the ballot box!” We all waved, and I heard them continuing their discussion as I walked on by.

All kinds of things speak our language, and we are constantly listening to hear it. Back in February, after we hosted the Shrove Tuesday pancake brunch at the church for Neighbor to Neighbor, I mentioned to Anita how good the church smelled. “It does!” she said. “It smells like a country kitchen.” And it did. Immediately, I thought of the kitchen in the farmhouse where my grandfather grew up. It’s where we stayed when we visited his extended family. That family table spoke to all of us who sat around it: homegrown vegetables, plates full of tasty food prepared with love from long-cooked recipes—and a few new ones—family stories, jokes and life lessons, farm weather forecasts, plantings and harvests, price indexes on wheat and cattle, and whatever community gossip was hot at any moment. Mixed into all of that, was the language of us as a family and of what we valued as we made our way in the world—even though some of us at that table were growing up off the farm in other places. There was a sense of timelessness as we gathered there, and of deep connection to a way of living that had meaning and purpose, and helped us make sense of the world across all the generations.

These days we still listen closely for “our language,” even though we do so now less around the family kitchen table and more through 24-hour news feeds, streaming podcasts, and social media platforms. We still seek that connection that will give our lives meaning and purpose, and help us make sense of the world around us.

On that Feast of Pentecost day long, long ago, the disciples were also listening for “our language” as they contemplated what was next after Jesus’ ascension into heaven. They were expecting a certain kind of “voice,” a certain kind of “language.” What the Holy Spirit brought in gale-force winds and wildfire was not a certain kind of language, but all

continued on page 2

Calendar for May

(For more information, see page #s)

Sunday, May 5 — 10 AM

Communion

Sunday, May 12



Tuesday, May 14 — 4:30 PM

Full Council Meeting

Friday, May 17 — Noon

Gals' Lunch at Greenwood's, Ridgway (pg. 4)

Saturday, May 18 — 8:30 AM

Men's Breakfast

Sunday, May 19 — 10 AM

Pentecost Sunday

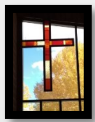


Monday, May 27



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Weekly Activities



SUNDAYS

10 AM — Worship Service (Communion is served the first Sunday of each month)

MONDAYS — 9 AM (via Zoom)

Centering Prayer

WEDNESDAYS

10 AM — Prayer Shawl Ministry

4:30 PM — Community Learning

Book Studies Followed by Soup Supper
(Ends May 22) (pg. 4)

THURSDAYS

9:30 AM (via Zoom) — Women's Bible Study

4:30 PM — Choir Practice

SATURDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Men's Bible Study

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you for your generous support. To contribute online, [click here](#) or mail your offerings to the church office at PO Box 295, Ridgway, CO 81432.

Thank you!

continued from page 1

kinds of languages. Suddenly, the language that connected and defined one small group became a language understood by those who had never spoken it, and languages never spoken by another group became a language that all could speak. And that is how Christ's Church was born—speaking a language that bridged all those separate languages, making “our language,” a language we could all understand no matter where we come from. And that is our call as church, to speak and act in ways that place no limit on love, so that love is what people see and hear when they come around this “table” that is Christ's Church. May it be so.

Blessings, Melinda

Welcome!

Shirley Didier has been hired as our Administrative Assistant. Her duties are extremely varied and include maintaining church office hours (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM) , providing office support for Pastor Melinda (especially producing the weekly Sunday bulletin) and the Council, managing communications and correspondence, overseeing the church calendar and a number of other responsibilities.



So if you have items for the Friday news, an event for the calendar or the bulletin or other information, questions or concerns regarding these responsibilities, please send it to Shirley at UCSJoffice@gmail.com or give her a call on the church phone 970.626.5803.

Please stop by during office hours to congratulate and welcome her, remember that on Sunday she is here to worship as part of our congregation.

April Administrative Committee Highlights

The Administrative team of the UCSJ Council met on April 9. Insurance coverage by Church Mutual was discussed and the coverage is in line with a professional appraisal. Knowing this we are looking for ways to protect our building in addition to the previously installed smoke alarms.

Pastor Melinda's contract is up for renewal in June, an appraisal has been conducted, and a contract will be presented at the June 11 Council meeting for approval.

The budget process for Fiscal year 24-25 will be in May, Annual reports will be sent out on June 2 and the Annual meeting is scheduled for June 16. Business at the Annual meeting will include approval of the Annual Report and the proposed budget for next fiscal year and the presentation of candidates for the Council and Nominating committee. Voting for the candidates can be done by paper at the Annual meeting or by email during June. Please plan on attending this meeting. If you have questions, input on the budget needs or concerns, please contact your Council members.

The next FULL Council meeting is on Tuesday, May 14, at 4:30 PM.

Blessings, Pam Larson, Chair

Treasurer's Report

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me by phone 970.596.3755 or email suestern1@gmail.com. Thank you all for your continued support of our church and missions.

Month End Report — As of March 31, 2024

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income BELOW Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$142,186	\$142,500	<\$314>	\$190,000
Expenses	\$152,902			
Net LOSS	<\$10,716>			

Sue Stern, Treasurer

Sunday Worship

Sunday worship service is also videotaped and posted, following the service, on [Facebook](#) and our [website](#), for those wishing to worship at home.



Communion

Join us at our Lord's Table (1st Sunday) Sunday, May 5

Easter Sunday Services March 31, 2024

Sunrise Service, the weather was questionable so it was held at the covered picnic area at Inspiration Point. Thanks to Ron and Dee James for providing the music.

Thanks to Katy Kristoffersen and the UCSJ choir for the special music during the Easter Worship service.



Pictures courtesy of Tim and Gen Spangler. Thank you!



City Market Community Rewards

Thank you to the 15 households who helped UCSJ receive \$155.64 last quarter (January 1—March 31)!



It's easy to help UCSJ receive donations using your City Market/Kroger card. You just need a digital account, so if you already have one just click [here](#) and scroll down to the "Link your shopper's card" to get started and search for United Church of the San Juans, select, and save. If you don't have a digital account, you will need to create one. Any transactions moving forward will be applied to the program at no added cost to you.

Connections at UCSJ

I ♥ Book Club

On the Same Page Book Club

Monday, April 29, at 10 AM — *Cheap Land Colorado: Off-Gridders at America's Edge* by Ted Conover.

Vince and Carolyn Snowbarger will be guiding our discussion.

Monday, June 10, at 10 AM — *The Women* by Kristen Hannah

"Times were a-changing" during the Vietnam War. This novel shares the story of the brave women who served in Vietnam and came home to a changed America. Lisa Young will be facilitating. Books are available in the gathering area (\$10).

Gals' Lunch — Friday, May 17, at Noon, at Greenwood's in Ridgway

Please sign up in the gathering area or let Carolyn Snowbarger know if you plan to attend.

Men's Breakfast — Saturday, May 18, at 8:30 AM

Community Learning

Our spring book discussions and soup supper will conclude on May 22.

Outdoor Adventure in Moab — Monday-Wednesday, June 3-5

Plan your own adventure! Join us for a trip to Moab, Utah. You'll have a chance to explore the scenic wonders and have some fun connecting with others who love this land. We'll have two "group" dinners. Here are some options to consider:

Getting There...

- Travel with the group and meet at the church at 8 AM to Moab via highways 62, 90, and 191.
- Drive to Grand Junction then take I-70 west.

Activities...

- Visit national parks — Arches (you'll need a timed entry pass) and/or Canyonlands.
- Backroad adventures — Ken Sloan will lead two offroad drives on the Chicken Corners Trail and to Long Canyon. Neither route is too challenging, but you'll need high clearance and may not even need 4-wheel drive.

Lodging...

- Choose your own motel, B&B, or campground.

If you're interested, please let Carolyn Snowbarger know or sign up in the gathering area.



Thank You!



Thanks to all who helped with our Seder Meal and Easter Brunch. Thanks also to **Gen Spangler** and **Shirley Didier** for Sunday fellowship treats and to our coffee-maker **David Stytz**.

Save the Dates

Annual Church Picnic — Wednesday, June 12

We'll gather at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk in Ridgway State Park for a potluck picnic and gospel sing.

Creede — Tuesday-Thursday, July 30-August 1

If you love the mountains, history, outdoor adventures, and great theatre productions join us in Creede.

Fall Colors — Friday, September 27

Explore Colorado's aspen gold rush around Gunnison and Crested Butte.

Congregational Life Ministry Team:

Jenny Cheek, Sue Conrad, Charlotte Duckett, Anne Linenberger, Lish Sheppard, Elise Shirey, Kay Sibold, Carolyn Snowbarger, Gen Spangler, and Angela Todd



Tasty Morsels from “PLUM” Corner

I hope you have been enjoying our ever changing springtime here on the western slope, a time of new life and growth for us all. Below are updates on our denomination general assemblies and conferences, also some online Christian education opportunities.

Kim Lundgren

PRESBYTERIANS — The Rev. Danny Morales will stand with the Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor for Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly, set for June 25 through July 4 in Salt Lake City, Utah. For details and more information [CLICK here](#).

LUTHERANS — The Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly (April 25-27, 2024) will include important elections in addition to the election of a new bishop. Arline and Tom Chase will be attending the assembly and representing UCSJ. Elections include Synod Council members, committee members, and voting members for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. For budget documents, election information, and more [CLICK here](#).

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — There are many online events provided through the UCC websites, on topics ranging from the Earth Day Summit to Justice Work and Community Engagement to Planned Giving. [CLICK here](#) for more information and be sure to bookmark this link to quickly check for future events.

METHODISTS — After several years of delays, the 2020 General Conference will be held April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Legislation submitted for consideration in 2020 still stands, but there was an opportunity to submit new proposals as well. [CLICK here for General Conference details](#).

May Birthdays

- 1 – Sue Hirshman
- 2 – Roger Brower
- 3 – Roger Duckett
- 13 – Claudia Wolff
- 14 – Glen Ely
- 17 – Stephanie Gregory
- 28 – Anna Strong
- 29 – Donna Whiskeman

May Anniversaries

- 8 – Gary & Kathy Calkins
- 20 – Roger & Charlotte Duckett
- 23 – Rev. Melinda Veatch & Glen Ely
- 24 – Randy & Jen Parker
- 29 – Tim & Kentee Pasek

Please let the church office (ucsjoffice@gmail.com or 970.626.5803) know if we’re missing your birthday and/or anniversary. Thank you.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Full Council Meeting

(Second Tuesday)

Tuesday, May 14

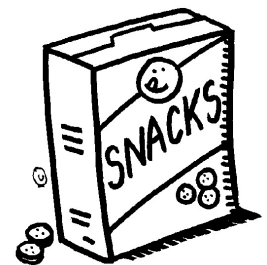
4:30 PM

Administrative Committee meets monthly. **FULL COUNCIL** (Pastor, Administrative Committee, and Ministry Committee Representatives) meets quarterly.

Ouray County Food Pantry

This month’s focus on donations for the Ouray County Food Pantry is **snack foods and breakfast foods—crackers, beef jerky, cereal, pancake mix, jam, pretzels, nuts—whatever you think makes a good snack or breakfast.** All donations are welcome, as long as the packages are unopened and unexpired. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Cindi Myers, Mission & Outreach Ministry Member



WEEKLY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- Centering Prayer ([via Zoom](#)) — Mondays at 9 AM
- Community Learning — Wednesdays at 4:30 PM with book discussions and 6 PM soup supper (Ends May 22, 2024)
- Women’s Bible Studies ([via Zoom](#)) — Thursdays at 9:30 AM
- Men’s Bible Studies ([via Zoom](#)) — Saturdays at 8:30 AM



Picture courtesy of Donna Whiskerman. Thank you!

The **Tai Chi Class** sponsored by Neighbor to Neighbor and Region 10 has been a great success. Focusing on balance, members from UCSJ and others outside the church are working hard on learning the movements that have been proven to improve balance and cognitive function.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please remember that pictures of members and their children may be posted around the church and on the internet (website and Facebook). If you do not want your picture used, please contact the church office. Thank you!



www.ucsjridgway.org

For up-to-date information, including newsletters (in color), calendar, etc.

Connect with UCSJ!



And like us!

www.facebook.com/ucsjridgway

We are affiliated with:

- ~ Presbyterian Church (USA)*
- ~ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
- ~ United Church of Christ*
- ~ United Methodist Church*



PO Box 295 — Ridgway, CO 81432