

**Worship  
Sundays at 10 AM**

**Mailing Address:**

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**UCSJ Staff**

**Rev. Melinda Veatch** — Pastor

**Rev. Dick Engdahl** — Pastor Emeritus

**Deacon Bob Larson** — Missional Outreach

**Deacon Kathy Graff** — Spiritual Formation

**Shirley Didier** — Administrative Assistant

**Katy Kristoffersen** — Director of Music

**Sue Stern** — Treasurer

**Laura Hagert** — Custodian

**Mike Kristoffersen** — Audio—visual Operator

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**UCSJ Council**

*(Ministry in Parentheses)*

Rev. Melinda Veatch

Charlotte Duckett *(Membership)*

Alice Goertz *(Care)*

Pam Larson *(Council Chair)*

Joan Moyer *(Operations)*

Elise Shirey *(Education)*

Carolyn Snowbarger *(Congregational Life)*

Vince Snowbarger *(Finance)*

Timothy Spangler *(Worship & Music)*

Donna Whiskeman *(Ministry)*

Lisa Young *(Mission & Outreach)*

[\*\(Learn more about their roles here\)\*](#)

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Website & Newsletter Editor — Barb Eliason

NewsLink Editor — Administrative Assistant

[ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com)

External Publicity — Kate Kellogg

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**UCSJ Office Hours**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**

**9 AM to 1 PM**



*(Drawing courtesy of Dick Engdahl)*



For the rest of the world, the year ends in December, and the new year begins in January. But for this church, June marks the year's end, and July ushers in the new.

We make that transition as we gather for our Annual Meeting, where the Council gives a recap of our year in ministry, and where we vote on a slate of Council candidates and our budget for the upcoming year.

This year, our Annual Meeting happens June 14th, and it begins, as usual, immediately after worship. I want to thank our Council members for their leadership over this past year. Our annual report will give details on how each ministry has been engaged in carrying out our mission. And I want to thank them for their thoughtful and focused work on the budget for the upcoming year. They have been clear-eyed in addressing the realities facing this congregation, and they have very deeply considered choices as they have finalized our financial picture for the upcoming year. I also want to thank the Nominating Committee for their focused, prayerful, and discerning work on developing a slate of Council nominees. I think you will agree that they have put together a great group!

Following our meeting, we'll be doing one of our favorite things—eating! Congregational Life has planned a fantastic lunch, and I hope you will stick around for it. Not only will there be amazing food, but our Long-Range Visioning group will be there as we present a draft vision for our church's ministry over the next five years.

You will remember gatherings we have had over the past year and a half, where, also over lunch, we have looked as a congregation at our mission statement (January 2025), at our community (June 2025), and at ways we might move forward as a congregation into the future (January 2026). After each gathering we wrote up your views and ideas for our newsletter, so you could see how we were thinking together. The Long-Range Visioning Team held your views and ideas close as we put together this draft vision outline, which is designed to set a direction, but allow the committees and the congregation to set the details in terms of programming and activities—all of which will happen through our ministry teams, and, hopefully, your involvement in them.

This vision is not a “done deal.” It won't be until the congregation has a chance to look at it and offer feedback. Only then can we finalize the vision and put it into action. So, on June 14th after worship, stay to enjoy great food AND participate in helping direct this church as it moves into the next five years.

*Blessings, Melinda*

### Calendar for June

(For more information, see page #s)

#### Sunday, June 7

10 AM — Communion

3 PM — Sing Colorado Concert and Ice Cream Social! (pg. 4)

#### Wednesday, June 10 — 2 PM

Council Meeting

#### Thursday, June 11 — 12 PM

Gals' Lunch, at Maven in Ridgway (pg. 6)

#### Sunday, June 14 — Following Worship

Annual Meeting and Lunch (pgs. 1, 2, 6)

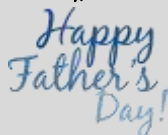
#### Wednesday, June 17 — 8 AM

Spring Creek Basin & Disappointment Valley (pg. 6)

#### Saturday, June 20 — 9 AM

Breakfast Forum (pg. 2)

#### Sunday, June 21



#### Friday, June 26 — 10:30 AM

Youth Choir Camp Concert (pg. 4)

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### Weekly Activities



#### SUNDAYS

8:30 AM — Choir Practice

10 AM — Worship Service

(Communion is served the first Sunday of each month)

#### MONDAYS — 9 AM [\(via Zoom\)](#)

Centering Prayer

#### SATURDAYS — 8:30 AM [\(via Zoom\)](#)

Men's Bible Study

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



### Council Highlights!

Please attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 14. Your Council needs to hear your voice on several issues:

1. We are proposing a budget that includes some extra monies for hiring help with the building and grounds upkeep and communications design as well as additions for current staff and increasing operating expenses.
2. We are proposing several changes to the bylaws that allow adjustment to our operations as our congregation changes and moves further from our physical location.
3. We are proposing a long slate of candidates to fulfill the Council and Nominating Committee positions.

All active and inactive members will receive the 2025-2026 Annual Report, the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget, and the Proposed Bylaw changes with explanation, by email, on or before May 31. Active members will also receive a ballot. Paper copies will be provided for those who do not have email. Ballots and a ballot box will be available in the gathering area. After the business portion of the Annual Meeting we will gather for a meal together and a presentation of the Visioning Summary. Thanks to each of you for voicing your opinion.

The May Council meetings were for developing the 2026-2027 budget and preparing for the June 14 Annual Meeting. Also noted was the preparation for renewing the staff contracts. A Pastor assessment will be completed prior to the June 10 meeting. If anyone has compliments and or concerns regarding our Pastor Melinda, please let me know and I will include them in a summary to Council. Also, evaluate how we, as a congregation, have supported her in her part-time position as a full-time pastor. Contracts for Music Director and Administrative Assistant will be considered at this June meeting. Please join us.

**Next Council meeting is Wednesday, June 10 at 2 PM.**

*Blessings, Pam Larson, Council Chair*

### Breakfast Forum — Saturday, June 20, at 9 AM



Tim Spangler's presentation will be "A River in Crisis." This is about an epic miscalculation on how much water the Colorado River will supply to the states and their reservoirs. This year looks to be a major drought with the major Colorado river flows down substantially; the Colorado River and the Rio Grand River. The states major reservoirs are presently containing 5 to 25% of their normal capacity.

*Ken Sloan*

## Treasurer's Report

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me by phone (970) 596—3755 or email [suestern1@gmail.com](mailto:suestern1@gmail.com). Thank you all for your continued support of our church and missions.

### Month End Report — As of April 30, 2026

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income ABOVE Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$186,213	\$175,834	\$10,379	\$211,000
Expenses	\$169,993			
Net <b>GAIN</b>	\$ 16,220			

*Sue Stern, Treasurer*

**Remember:** if you plan to make a stock or cash donation from a brokerage account, PLEASE notify me or have your broker send a contribution letter to UCSJ. These transactions rarely include the name of the account holder making it difficult to determine who sent the donation. Thank you!

## 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.



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

June 7



## PLUM Corner

*Weather is starting to be nice. Our garden is in. A reminder to continue enjoying God's creation all around us. Here is news from our PLUM denominations.*

*Kim Lundgren*

**Presbyterian** — The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will meet June 22-July 2, 2026, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. [Speaker information, Assembly Newsletters, and worship event information is available here.](#)

**Lutheran ELCA** — Four leaders from ministries across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) share how their faith journeys intersect with their commitment to creation care in the seven-part short film series [“Caring for the Earth: Stories from Faith Communities.”](#) The free-to-access series premiered online April 25 as part of this year's National Faith + Climate Forum. [Click here to read about and view the series.](#)

**United Church of Christ** — Boston UCC church is among interfaith leaders withdrawing \$1 million from Citizens Bank to protest detention center ties. It is possible to subscribe to the weekly UCC News Digest too. [Click here to read more.](#)

**Methodist** — The United Methodist Church website has a webpage dedicated to the UMC vision, faith in action, inspiration, and resources. [Click here for details.](#)

# Sunday, June 21



## Sing Colorado! — The Power of Place in Song

Sunday, June 7 — Free and Open to the Public

2:30-2:50 PM — Pre-Concert Discussion with Composer Dylan Fixmer

3-4 PM — Sing Colorado Concert!

Ice Cream Social to follow the performance



This is Colorado’s 150th birthday, and we are celebrating in the best way—through music! Katy Kristoffersen directs a powerful, local choir full of beautiful voices and a joyful spirit to sing music inspired by Colorado, written about Colorado, or written by Colorado composers. **We will also be performing the world premiere of a commissioned work by Colorado composer Dylan Fixmer for this concert, specifically. Dylan will be present at the concert!** This is NOT to be missed—it will be a beautiful, moving, and completely unique experience for all of us.

## Youth Choir Camp Concert!

Friday, June 26, at 10:30 AM — Free and Open to the Public



This concert is the culmination of a week-long youth summer camp, led by Katy Kristoffersen. Kids of all ages come together to learn all kinds of music, arrange it creatively, write an original song, and perform it for friends and family. Thanks to you, UCSJ, for providing us with the space and opportunity to offer an experience like this for our community! You are welcome and encouraged to join us for a lovely musical morning.

*Katy Kristoffersen, Director of Music*

## Education

A big **Thank you** to the 18+ participants that attended some or all of the six weeks of the Spring UCSJ Community book study and soup gathering that was completed on Wednesday, May 13. Gathering with you was as uplifting as it was inspirational. It was also a great culinary experience with all the varied breads and butter, and soups made available to all of us each week.



The next **“On the Same Page”** focus is on the book *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer to be held at **10 AM, on Monday, July 13**. The gathering will be facilitated by our dynamic, and so very smart, **Donna Whiskeman**, who knows a thing or two about being busy. Give yourself some time to really absorb this book. Books (\$15) are available on the pew by the east door.

*Elise Shirey, Education Chair*



### Bible Studies

**Centering Prayer — Mondays at 9 AM, via Zoom.**

Contact is Kathy Graff.

**Women’s Bible Study — Resumes in July (watch for details).**

Contact is Carol Layton.

**Men’s Bible Study — Saturdays at 8:30 AM, via Zoom.**

Contact is Bob Larson.

## Mission & Outreach

To catch you up on the activities of this spring, in May, the Mission & Outreach Team offered the UCSJ congregation several local mission projects within our community to participate in ‘Caring—Sharing—Doing.’



On May 2 there was a landscaping cleanup day for the Ouray County Food Pantry building. Several members joined with other community volunteers to help with the weeding, raking, and mulching.

We also collaborated with our Ridgway neighbors on May 22 to provide breakfast for the Ridgway high school seniors on the morning of graduation when they come to Hartwell Park to practice the graduation ceremony. Besides a yummy breakfast, we also gave them simple journals to take with them, along with our best wishes as they celebrate this significant achievement.



Throughout the month of May we have invited UCSJ attendees to support Shepherd’s Hand, a Christian nonprofit organization in Montrose committed to serving the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals experiencing homelessness or economic hardship. A special request was made for cake mixes and frosting, and it was a blessing to be able to supply them with this sweet treat.

If you are wondering what is in store for **June**, start thinking of what kind of summer snacks and easy meals you can give to the **Ouray County Food Pantry** as they gear up for summer! Think kids out of school, days in the park, and moms and dads needing a quick healthy meal on the go! They also can always use any of the following that they never have enough of: ground meat, toilet paper, paper towels, non-sugary cereal (NO CHEERIOS), gluten-free items.



*Lisa Young, Mission & Outreach Chair*



## The Faces of Help

On May 2nd the Mission & Outreach committee spearheaded a landscaping cleanup at the Ouray County Food Pantry, in Ridgway.

It was a coordinated effort with St. John’s, Ouray Community Fellowship, St. Daniels and many volunteers from the Pantry.

After much trimming, raking, weed pulling, and hauling the pantry grounds looked much improved and they were very grateful for all that was done.

*Donna Whiskeman*



## Congregational Life: Summertime in the Mountains

*The peaks are greening, the air is crisp, and the spirit of community is in full bloom. This season, we celebrate the return of our summer residents, the arrival of new visitors, and the sheer glory of the place we call home. We have a packed calendar of fellowship, food, and adventure—here is what's coming up!*

### Fellowship & Food

**Gals' Lunch: Wedding Season Edition! — Thursday, June 11, at 12 PM at Maven (540 Clinton St, Ridgway)**

Come experience Ridgway's newest farm-to-table gem! We'll be enjoying fresh salads, soups, and sandwiches. In honor of wedding season, please come ready to share a story—whether it's a memory from your own big day or a favorite moment from a wedding you've attended.

### Birthday Fellowship

We'll be celebrating **both MAY and JUNE birthdays** this coming **Sunday, May 31**. Come for the fellowship and definitely stay for the dessert!



### Special Anniversary Celebrations

We are blessed to celebrate two incredible milestones in our UCSJ family. Please join us for fellowship as we honor:

**Scott & Lucy Ledgerwood** (60th Anniversary): **Sunday, June 14**, following our all-church luncheon.

**Dave & Sue Conrad** (50th Anniversary): **Sunday, June 21**, during our regular fellowship time.

### Annual Business Meeting and All-church Luncheon — Sunday, June 14, following worship

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn what is on the horizon for UCSJ. Please join us for a BBQ lunch following the congregational meeting. Tammee from True Grit will provide the BBQ meats, and the congregational life ministry team will provide side dishes. We will also be celebrating **Scott and Lucy Ledgerwood's** 60th anniversary with cake.

### Mountain Adventures

#### Spring Creek Basin & Disappointment Valley — Wednesday, June 17, Meet at UCSJ at 8 AM

- Prepare for a high-desert excursion into southwestern Colorado to view the wild mustangs of Spring Creek Basin!
- The Drive: A two-hour trek via Hwy 62 and 145 before heading into the basin.
- Requirements: High-clearance vehicles are required. Because the roads are narrow, we strongly encourage carpooling.
- For more details, see the flyer in the gathering area or contact Carolyn Snowbarger.



#### Creede: Adventure by Day, Theater by Night! — July 28-30

If you haven't booked your room yet, do it today! Most of the group is staying at the Snowshoe Lodge (719) 658-2315. Please sign up in the gathering area or contact Carolyn Snowbarger. Check the flyer in the lobby for details on group dinners, Creede Repertory Theatre plays, and other activity options.

### With Gratitude

A huge **thank you** to those who helped with our Sunday fellowship last month: **David Stytz, Gen Spangler, Dave Young, Junella Hildreth, Lucy Ledgerwood, and Lisa Young**. Your hospitality makes our church a home.

*Blessings from Your Congregational Life Ministry Team:*

*Jenny Cheek, Sue Conrad, Charlotte Duckett, Junella Hildreth, Marge Quist, Lish Sheppard, Elise Shirey, Carolyn Snowbarger (chair), Gen Spangler, and Angela Todd*

## Caring for One Another . . .

The love and sympathy of the UCSJ family is with Susan Hart's family on the death of her husband, **Bob Hart**, who passed away on May 16, 2026, in Scottsdale, Arizona.



*If you have a prayer request or concern that you would like your UCSJ faith community to hear or a confidential prayer request for our prayer team (but not for public communication)? Please call the church office at (970) 626-5803 or email*

*[ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com). You can also contact Pastor Melinda.*

(Concerns here are printed only with the permission of the person involved.)

## A REMINDER: Scams Abound!



If you receive a text or email from anyone on our staff or Council, asking you to purchase gift cards, Bitcoin or any other form of currency, do not respond and report it to either Pastor Melinda or our Council chair, Pam Larson.

It's easy to be fooled! But we can be smart and stay safe from scammers.

**Remember don't respond but do report.**

## Graduation Congratulations

**Teya Dow** — Teya will be leaving in September to go to the University of Exeter in the UK. She is enrolled in a three-year drama program.

**Sean Lawler** — Sean is going to CSU. He is planning to play soccer on their club team. Business will be his field of study.

**Cavan Pasek** — Cavan will be attending MIT and playing basketball on their team. His major will be engineering/physics.

**Elliot Kristoffersen** — will be graduating from the 8th grade and continuing on to Ridgway High School.

**Stella Scoville** — will be graduating from the 8th grade and continuing on to Ridgway High School.

*Alice Goertz, Care Team Coordinator*



## June Birthdays

- 2 – Susette Warynick
- 6 – Joan Moyer
- 8 – Glenda Moore
- 8 – Nisha Harding
- 11 – Paul Glanville
- 14 – Dick Osterhof
- 30 – Anne Linenberger

## June Anniversaries

- 6 – Fred & Marge Quist
- 10 – Lloyd & Bridget Hannah
- 16 – Ed & Linda Ingo
- 17 – Alan & Angela Todd
- 18 – Floyd & Karen Day
- 19 – Dave & Sue Conrad
- 25 – Kim Lundgren & Rick Atmore
- 29 – Dick & Jan Osterhof
- 29 – Steve & Claudia Wolff
- 29 – Charlie & Lucy Scholpp

Please contact the church office ([ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com) or (970) 626-5803 if we are missing your birthday and/or anniversary.

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## Council Meeting

(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)



Wednesday, June 10

2 PM

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

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UCSJ QR Code

Scan to get up-to-date events



## Sego Adventure!

May 8<sup>th</sup>

Petroglyphs, Pizza's at  
Hot Tomato Pie, and  
Fellowship

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*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!*

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For up-to-date  
information, including  
newsletters, calendar, etc.  
[www.ucsjridgway.org](http://www.ucsjridgway.org)



And like us!

[www.facebook.com/ucsjridgway](http://www.facebook.com/ucsjridgway)

### Connect with UCSJ!

*We are affiliated with:*

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



PO Box 295—Ridgway, CO