

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

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UCSJ Staff

Rev. Charles Packard — Interim Pastor
(beginning April 18, 2021)

Rev. Dick Engdahl — Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Bob Larson — Minister of Missional
Outreach

Deacon Kathy Graff — Minister of Spiritual
Formation

Anita Posey — Administrative Assistant

Katy Kristoffersen — Director of Music

Sue Stern — Treasurer

Laura Hagert — Custodian

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UCSJ Council

Floyd Day

Dennis Eliason

Alice Goertz

Linda Ingo

Pam Larson

Joan Moyer (Secretary)

Jen Parker (Vice Chair)

Carolyn Snowbarger (Chair)

Donna Whiskeman

Dave Young

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Newsletter Editor — Barb Eliason

Newslink Editor — Administrative Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com

External Publicity — Kate Kellogg

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UCSJ Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

8:30 AM — 1:30 PM



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday — March 28

- Regular service with Palms

Good Friday — Open Stations of the Cross Prayer Space

April 2 from 4 PM to 6 PM

- Join us for a meditative prayer experience in the Sanctuary.
- Slides and commentary of beautiful copper statues depicting the Stations of the Cross will be shown continuously from 4-6 PM.
- Live meditative music will be provided by UCSJ musicians.

Easter Sunday — April 4



Sunrise Service at 7 AM — Log Hill Overlook (Inspiration Point)

- Greet the New Day with the sun and fellow early risers at the Log Hill Overlook.
- The service will be led by Bob Larson and Kathy Graff and will be around 20-30 minutes long.

Easter Services in the Sanctuary — 9 AM and 11 AM

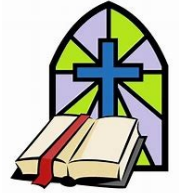
- Join UCSJ as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!
- Reverend Carol Layton will lead the celebration and communion.

The Worship Committee would like congregation members, family and guests to sign up for Easter Church Service either at 9 AM or 11 AM through the Friday newslink or at the church website ucsjridgway.org. This is a reservation for a seat in the sanctuary, so please be on time; any open seating at the start of the service will then be available for other guests. Remember that we are still under limited COVID restrictions of distancing and masks.

Welcome Pastor Charlie!

The UCSJ Council announced, early in March, that Rev. Charlie Packard has agreed to be our interim/transition pastor at UCSJ. Pastor Charlie will begin his time with us on **Sunday, April 18**. He plans to work part time, staying in Ridgway a few days per week, also working remotely from his home near Durango. Pastor Charlie has expressed excitement and enthusiasm to be back at UCSJ, helping our congregation create a transition plan for our next permanent pastor.

Thanks to the transition team (Lynne Evans, Randy Parker, Joan Moyer, Vince Snowbarger and Alice Goertz) for their diligence and for the prayers of the congregation.



Calendar for April

(For more information, see page #s)

Friday, April 2

4-6 PM — Open Stations of the Cross (pg. 1)



Sunday, April 4 — Happy Easter!

7 AM — Sunrise Service at Log Hill Overlook/
Inspiration Point (pg. 1)

9 AM and 11 AM — Communion

Rev. Carol Layton, Guest Preacher (pg. 1)



Sunday, April 11 — 10 AM

Rev. Leslie Wood, Guest Preacher

Sunday, April 18 — 10 AM

Pastor Charlie Packard's First Sunday!

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Weekly Activities



SUNDAYS — 10 AM

Worship Service

Due to limited seating please sign up [here](#) or call the church office.

Sunday worship at 10 AM is also LIVE-STREAMED on [Facebook](#), or through our [website](#), for you to worship at home.

MONDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Centering Prayer (pg. 5)

WEDNESDAYS — 7 PM (via Zoom)

Community Learning (pg. 5)

THURSDAYS — 10:30 AM (via Zoom)

Woman's Bible Study (pg. 5)

SATURDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Men's Bible Study (pg. 5)



March Council Update

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. . ."

If you've participated in our Sunday services in person or online, you've felt God's love and guidance during our transitional time. We've had great preachers, glorious music, and a strong sense of community. While we're eagerly awaiting **Pastor Charlie Packard's first Sunday on April 18**, we do have wonderful supply preachers lined up: Deacon Bob Larson – March 28 (Palm Sunday); Rev. Carol Layton – April 4 (Easter); Rev. Leslie Wood – April 11.

Council had another busy month, meeting twice in March, on the 2nd and the 11th. Here are some of the highlights from our meetings:

- Our transition team (Lynne Evans, Alice Goertz, Joan Moyer, Randy Parker, and Vince Snowbarger) unanimously recommended Pastor Charles Packard as our interim pastor. Council also voted unanimously to hire Pastor Charlie.
- Dennis Eliason, Randy Parker, and Vince Snowbarger negotiated the contract with Pastor Charlie which council has approved.
- Many of you stayed after worship or tuned in for our short congregational meeting on March 7. Purpose of the meeting was to elect Pam Larson to our council, and she has agreed to serve as our Worship & Music Chair. Thanks to all who assisted with the vote and meeting: Bob McDaniel, Dee Moore, Anita Posey, Deacon Bob Larson, Jackie Berger, Linda Ingo, Barb Eliason, Randy Parker, and Joan Moyer.
- We welcomed Pam Larson as a voting council member on March 11.
- A proposed bylaws change, which reorganizes the council, was unanimously approved. You'll be receiving information about the proposed changes and a future congregational vote is needed for implementation.
- Pam Larson reported that Ouray County is currently code blue on the state's covid dial. The worship committee has recommended proceeding cautiously and to continue the practice of masks and 6-foot social distancing.
- Pastor Charlie and Carolyn Snowbarger met with the Committee on Ministries on March 15. They welcomed Charlie into the Western Presbytery and congratulated UCSJ on finding an interim so quickly. They offered continued support and resources to our congregation.

Carolyn Snowbarger, Council Chair

April 1 — Maundy Thursday
April 2 — Good Friday
April 4 — Easter Sunday

Treasurer’s Report

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me by phone 970.626.4397 or email suestern1@gmail.com. Thank you all for your continued support of our church and missions.

Month End Report — As of February 28, 2021

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income BELOW Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 131,827	\$ 142,000	<\$ 10,173>	\$213,000
Expenses	\$ 123,496			
Net GAIN	\$ 8,331			

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!

Sue Stern, Treasurer

10 AM Sunday Worship is Live-streamed on Facebook



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Prayer Requests or Announcements for the Sunday bulletin **(deadline is Wednesday at noon).**
Address, Phone, Email Changes
 Please email ucsjoffice@gmail.com or leave a detailed message on the church phone 970.626.5803.

Good Things in Threes

“The rule of three” (Latin-“omne trium perfectum”) principle suggests things that come in threes are inherently more satisfying and effective than any other number of things.

Things in three do seem to be ever present in our lives. As children we heard stories of Goldilocks and the three bears, the Three Little Pigs, and genies that granted three wishes. As we grew, we learned that our country has three tenets: *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*. And in science class we discovered that even the planet we live on is the third from the sun!

The church was no different. In Christmas pageants we always sang the carol, *We Three Kings*. And then as we advanced into church confirmation, we were introduced to the mysterious meaning behind the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy: God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity*.

The number three again had significance after I became ordained and prepared to officiate my first wedding. In that first wedding liturgy, and every marriage since, I charge the couple to embrace a Bible verse, Ecclesiastes 4:12, which says “a cord with three strands is not quickly broken.” That third strand is of course having the marriage keep a deep faith in God.

Now, since being called (*or re-called*) as a Transitional Pastor for UCSJ, I’ve been again thinking about how true good things do come in threes. Some in the congregation may not be aware that this is actually the third time I’ve interviewed for a pastoral position at UCSJ. In each incident, the Spirit was definitely present.

The first interview was seven years ago while serving as a pastor in Texas. I was not seeking a new call but was intrigued when the Spirit intervened and introduced me to the uniqueness of UCSJ. I inquired and interviewed, but the timing was not right. The second interview was in 2017, again I was not seeking any call, but the Spirit opened my ears to explore UCSJ’s desire to have an Interim Pastor. I inquired, interviewed, was called, and joyfully served this grand body for eight months. And now, the third time. Again, I wasn’t seeking a call, but God is relentless and moved both the UCSJ search committee and me to once again have meaningful dialogue and have a third interview.

I am so humbled and excited to be called again to serve UCSJ. My first Sunday in the pulpit will be April 18. At the conclusion of the worship service, I will have a brief message about ministerial plans.

In the coming months you’ll often hear the same blessing and benediction from me that will conclude with giving thanks to the Divine Good Things in Three: *“In the name of God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and Holy Spirit the Sustainer of life.”*

I look so forward to seeing everyone.

Blessings, Pastor Charlie

Tasty Morsels from “PLUM” Corner

PRESBYTERIANS — “God Sightings” is a report from Rev. Joel Adams, Associate Presbytery for Congregations of the Denver Presbytery. He has been meeting with pastors to see how their congregations have been faring throughout the pandemic. He found that “God is on the move!” Good Shepherd, St. Paul and Westminster Churches have kept their food banks open, adapting their process and procedures to serve even more families. Genesis Church, of Littleton, hosted a worship service for about 30 residents of the care facility across the street. And folks from Golden Presbyterian have partnered with the local Methodist congregation to make sure the homeless have a meal and hot showers every week. During the region’s last extreme cold snap, the churches helped those without motel vouchers find a warm and safe place to sleep.



LUTHERANS — The Asian and Pacific Islander Association of the ELCA has issued a statement addressing the increase in violence directed toward Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The ELCA Conference of Bishops affirmed the statement during their virtual meeting. The statement reads: “The COVID-related surge in anti-Asian violence is physically and spiritually assaulting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities....Asian American and Pacific Islander children and adults are facing assaults with racial slurs, bullying, spitting, physical injury, and even death..... in cities and towns across the United States. The virus of racism cannot be allowed to run rampant.” The Association calls on the ELCA to once again unequivocally denounce racism by taking immediate actions “to defend, protect, and uphold the safety and lives of Asian Americans.”

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — First Plymouth UCC, of Englewood, is one of five congregations in the country to receive the Interfaith Power & Light 2021 Cool Congregations award. The church’s Facilities Management Team and the Creation Justice Ministry partnered to switch out interior incandescent and florescent bulbs in the building and replace them with energy-efficient LED bulbs. The church will deposit the \$1,000 check that came with this national honor in a Green Energy Fund for future projects that reduce the church’s carbon footprint. Once the building is open full time, the Team estimates that the church will reduce carbon emissions by about 36 tons annually, and also lower its electric bill by \$3,800 a year. Interfaith Power & Light is a national faith-based organization mobilizing a religious response to global warming in congregations through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

METHODISTS — The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) seeks help for Texas residents who are suffering from the devastating power crisis that occurred there in February. An unusually cold weather event caused massive power outages and failed water systems across the state. As a result, dozens of Texans lost their lives and millions were without power for days. As of mid-March, many Texans still needed to boil tap water before using. In addition, burst pipes have caused untold property damage to homes and businesses. With our nation still struggling with the COVID pandemic, this disaster has also increased food insecurity and poverty issues for a growing segment of the state’s population. The immediate need is financial support for food, clean water, and reconstruction. Donations can be made [here](#) to UMCOR—US Disaster Response.

Kate Kellogg

A Heartfelt Thank You

There are times when “Thank You” is never enough. This is one of those times. The outpouring of love and support, the cards that fill my mailbox each day, the beautiful flowers and gift basket have been such a comfort since Pete’s passing. He has left a huge hole in our family’s life, but we are determined to remember that smile and all the wonderful memories he has left us with.

Many have asked about a memorial service. We are going to wait until summer and do something in the park. Our children will be here and, hopefully, folks will be more comfortable coming out. If anyone would like to make a contribution in Pete’s name, we would like it to go to the Memorial Fund at UCSJ.

As for me, I have made the decision to stay here. This is where my base of support is; my church family, dear friends, my work and Neighbor to Neighbor. These have all combined to make my life very full and I am grateful.

May God Bless you all, Donna Whiskeman



From Our Congregation

Do you have a prayer request or pastoral care 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.

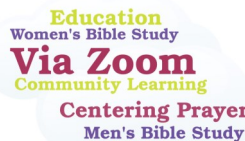


Concerns shown here are printed only with the permission of the person involved.

Education Ministry

Centering Prayer — Mondays at 8:30 AM via Zoom

Click [here](#) for the link (Meeting ID: 852 3660 4342; Passcode: 884595)



Community Learning — Wednesdays at 7 PM via Zoom

Our spring session begins **April 7**. We need your help to select our books. You may turn in your votes to Mick Graff or Carolyn Snowbarger by Sunday, March 28. Books will be on display in the gathering area if you'd like to check them out. Please vote for one or split your votes between two.

1. *The Common Heart: An Experience of Interreligious Dialog* by Netanel Miles-Yepey and Ken Wilbur
2. *Radical Optimism: Practical Spirituality in an Uncertain World* by Beatrice Bruteau
3. *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
4. *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls: Revealing the Jewish Roots of Christianity* by John Bergsma
5. *Love Is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry and Sarah Grace
6. *Broken Signposts: How Christianity Makes Sense of the World* by N.T. Wright

Zoom Weekly Bible Studies

Women's Group meets Thursdays at 10:30 AM — click [here](#) for the link (Meeting ID: 880 4354 0565; Passcode: 361347)

Men's Group meets Saturdays at 8:30 AM — click [here](#) for the link (Meeting ID: 338 789 3558; Passcode: 604010)

Carolyn Snowbarger, Education Chair

AmazonSmile

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought us face coverings, social distancing, Zoom meetings/events, and I'm sure most of us are doing more online shopping including Amazon. Did you know that you can create an account with SmileAmazon and select The United Church of the San Juans as your recipient and have .5% of your eligible purchase donated to our church?

If you do not already have an account you can create one [here](#) and choose your charity (UCSJ). There is no additional cost to you for using AmazonSmile, and you can order any items on Smile.Amazon.com that you would order on Amazon.com. Let's all "SMILE" and earn funds for UCSJ!



April Birthdays

- 2 – Dale Laidlaw
- 3 – Jim Hill
- 3 – Melodee Kelly
- 3 – Jan Osterhof
- 3 – Cavan Pasek
- 4 – Dee Moore
- 4 – Harriet Turner
- 6 – Dave Conrad
- 6 – Marge Quist
- 16 – Edward Beall
- 16 – Terry Thomas
- 17 – Sally Swartz
- 18 – Bob O'Rourke
- 19 – Sandy Sloan
- 19 – Casey Welch
- 20 – Jean Bosworth
- 20 – Eric Lattanner
- 20 – Sprague Mayger
- 21 – Laura Hagert
- 23 – Charlotte Duckett
- 27 – Chuck Anderson

April Anniversaries

- 12 – Bob & Pam Larson
- 21 – Gary & Martha Elliott
- 28 – Don Scholl & Lysa Riggs

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

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May Newsletter

DEADLINE is NOON

Friday, April 16

Please submit items to:

Barbara Eliason at baeliason2006@msn.com.

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Flowers for Sunday Worship

Please sign up to provide flowers for Sunday worship. The sign-up sheet is in the office on the bulletin board or call the office at 970.626.5803. You can choose to bring your own flower arrangement to church or have UCSJ order a flower arrangement. Thank you!



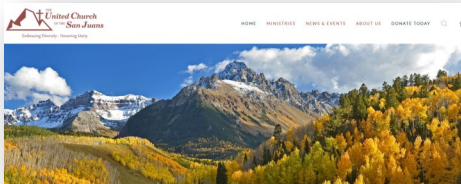


Thank You

Thank you for your generous support during this time of social distancing. Your gifts enable our ministry to continue even while we're taking extra precautions because of COVID-19. To contribute online just click the donate button below. You can also send your offerings to church at P.O. Box 295, Ridgway, CO 81432.

[Click Here to Donate Today](#)

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 council highlights, newsletters (in color), calendar, etc.

Connect with UCSJ!

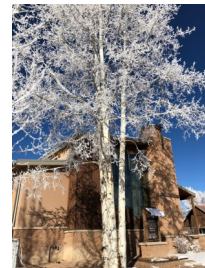


And like us!

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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