



Embracing Diversity - Honoring Unity

February 2023

295 N. Lena Street, Ridgway, Colorado

Volume 20, Issue 2

Worship Sundays at 10 AM

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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

Anita Posey — Administrative Assistant

Katy Kristoffersen — Director of Music

Sue Stern — Treasurer

Laura Hagert — Custodian

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UCSJ Council

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Dennis Eliason

Alice Goertz

Kathy Graff

Pam Larson

Bob McDaniel

Dee Moore

Joan Moyer

Vince Snowbarger (Chair)

Donna Whiskeman

Vacant

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Newsletter Editor — Barb Eliason

Newslink Editor — Administrative Assistant
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External Publicity — Kate Kellogg

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UCSJ Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

9 AM — 2 PM (New Hours)



A Message From Our New Pastor

As I write, I am looking out to sea. A sunny forecast has turned to grey, rainy skies. The happy sounds of people bobbing in the surf are stilled, and only a few intrepid beachcombers are walking along the shore.

The plan for a week of hiking, exploring, and swimming on warm, sun-kissed beaches on the big island of Hawaii has abruptly turned to searching for activities with less exposure to cold, rainy weather. We're having to pivot, and it is disappointing. But it's also doable, and it has me thinking about how the ability to flex our plans brings blessings of its own.



Sitting on the balcony of our room, I have a broader perspective of the ocean than I do when I'm up close on the beach. Looking out to the horizon earlier today, I caught the sprays of a pod of whales breaching on the surface of the sea. I watched them smack their tails on the water as they dove back down into the deep. They're wintering in these waters off the Big Island. What a gift to see them!

Walking through the hotel lobby just a bit ago, we caught the monthly pop-up market of local vendors selling Kona coffee, soaps, jewelry, clothing, carved wood figures and bowls, essential oils, and more. Talking with them at their different tables gave us a better picture of community and life on this island. We would have missed both of those things if we had sat in our room opining the weather—or been away from the hotel on the excursion we had planned for today.

We all carry expectations about how things should unfold. I envisioned something very different for our time away than we are currently experiencing. But there is no forecast or circumstance that doesn't change at some point. Often the plans we make to fulfill those expectations don't allow for enough time to get to know a place or a person. We set our "to-do" and off we go. In that, we miss the gifts that are right there for us to receive.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and the gifts you bring. Which is why my first order of business when I return will be taking time with you. That is why I am launching "**Your Ouray County.**" I know that some of you live beyond its bounds, but all of you have favorite places within it. I want to learn what you love about it most and why. I hope you will take time to meet me at your favorite coffee spot; your favorite hiking trail; your favorite breakfast, lunch, or dinner spot; your favorite shop; or show me your favorite views from your favorite viewing places. Maybe your favorite place is your own backyard. Whatever the case, I'll be organizing times to meet and looking forward to learning about you and your favorite places as we begin walking in ministry together. See you soon!

Blessings, Melinda

Calendar for March

(For more information, see page #s)

Friday, March 3 — 11:30 AM

Gal's Lunch (pg. 5)

Sunday, March 5 — 10 AM

Communion

Sunday, March 12

Daylight Saving Begins!



Monday, March 13 — 9 AM

Administrative Committee Meeting

Saturday, March 18 — 8:30 AM

Men's Breakfast Group (pg. 2)

Sunday, March 19 — 10 AM

Pastor Melinda's Installation (pg. 3)

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Weekly Activities



SUNDAYS — 10 AM

Worship Service (Communion is Served the First Sunday of Each Month)

MONDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Centering Prayer

TUESDAYS — 7 PM (via Zoom)

Lent Bible Study

(February 28 through April 4) (pg. 5)

WEDNESDAYS

5 PM — Choir Practice

6 PM Soup and 7 PM Book Study —

Community Learning (Ends March 22)

THURSDAYS — 10:30 AM (via Zoom)

Women's Bible Study

SATURDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Men's Bible Study

February Administrative Committee Highlights

Administrative Committee met on February 13 for its monthly meeting to review the current financial status (reported elsewhere in this Newsletter). Dennis Eliason reported that he has had some discussions with several givers about year-end giving opportunities. Income for January fell short of budget, but expenses were lower than budgeted as well. With year-end giving in place, we are still in the black. Some monies had to be transferred from savings to cover some of our year-end expenses.

The Plaindealer has provided the church with a complimentary copy of the e-version of the paper. The committee felt that access should be limited to the church office and the Pastor.

As reported last month, the locks have been rekeyed. Building and Maintenance Committee in conjunction with the Safety and Security sub-committee has approved a new list of key holders. This implements a recommendation made by the County Sheriff and Emergency Manager last summer. The matter will be referred to council once a proposed policy on Building Security is fully developed.

The recent congregational vote for our new pastor provided a good opportunity to review our membership. Dennis Eliason provided insights into the activity of our members. Dennis will meet with Pastor Melinda once she has an opportunity to settle into her new role.

Finally, word was received that Dale Laidlaw has resigned from her role on council. A special council meeting will be held on February 27 at 9 AM to discuss how council will handle the vacancy. Pastor Melinda will also speak to council about her approach to leadership and governance.

The next Administrative Committee meeting is Monday, March 13, at 9 AM. The next regular Full Council meeting is on April 10, at 9 AM.

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

Terry Hawkins will give a presentation on the "Western Slope 4 Wheelers Club" in Montrose, Colorado. He will present some of their activities and favorite

four-wheel drives. Some of you may be interested in joining their club.

After what seems to be a long cold winter it is time to think about getting out to do some four wheeling. Spring will be here before you know it!



Ouray County Food Pantry

This month's focus for Food Pantry donations is on breakfast. While all donations of unexpired, unopened food are welcome, this month we're looking at anything you think would make a good breakfast—hot and cold cereal, granola bars, biscuit mix, peanut butter, canned fruit, coffee, tea, hot cocoa—anything goes. Thank you for your continued support of the Ouray County Food Pantry.

Cindi Myers, Mission & Outreach Ministry Member



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 January 31, 2023

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income BELOW Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 115,773	\$ 116,667	<\$ 894>	\$200,000
Expenses	\$ 102,247			
Net INCOME	\$ 13,526			

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

Tasty Morsels from “PLUM” Corner Lenten Resources

PRESBYTERIANS — Outlook Book Review editor Amy Pagliarella suggests four resources for Lent 2023. [Click here](#) for details.

LUTHERANS — Prayer Ventures

[Monthly click here](#)

[Daily devotion emails click here](#)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — [Daily Devotions, you can sign up here.](#)

METHODISTS — [Book suggestions are available here](#)

Kim Lundren



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.



Hearing Devices

We all need help sometimes.... If you would like a hearing device, please ask an usher! They will be happy to assist you.

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Communion

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



Men's Breakfast

(3rd Saturday)
Saturday, March 18
8:30 AM

Worship & Music Ministry Team News

Thank You to all who have stepped up and helped with services. What a joy it has been getting to know others better!

Pastor Melinda's vision is for the congregation to participate in the Sunday services by leading the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer, serve communion, and pass the mic for Joys and Concerns. She wants us to join together for worship, so the Worship Committee will be calling on you to help and if you have not participated and would like to please let us know.

Pastor Melinda's Installation will be Sunday, March 19. Plans include special assistance from representatives of our four denominations as well as lay leaders. Communion will be served as well as a fun luncheon afterwards. Plan to attend this special event.

Ash Wednesday service on February 22, at 5 PM will be led by Deacon Bob Larson with the imposition of ashes.

Plans for Holy Week have been discussed and a Maundy Thursday, April 6 worship is being planned.

Worship & Music Team Members: Fred Quist, Lisa Young, Junella Hildreth, Tim Spangler, Clayton Beaudry, Alice Goertz, and Pam Larson

Remembering Past UCSJ Adventures!



Creede Trip 2018



Jostled Group at End of Moab Trip



Offroad Trip Crew October 2021



Ute Trail 2016



Wildflower Trip 2021



Young Lady 4-Wheelers 2017

Thanks to Max Sheppard for submitting the photos!

Caring for One Another . . .

We pray for the people in Syria and Turkey. The disaster, with a combined death toll in Turkey and neighboring Syria exceeding 41,000, has ravaged cities in both countries, leaving many survivors homeless in near-freezing winter temperatures.

Click below to donate to your preferred denomination:

pcusa.org elca.org ucc.org umc.org



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. You may also contact a member of the Care Team. The Care Team list is posted in the gathering area.

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

Education

Are You Seeking to Add Something Special During Lent?

A third Bible study option is being offered starting Tuesday, February 28. This group will be open to all interested parties and will be led by Angela Ledgerwood via Zoom. Meetings will be held from **7 to 8 PM every Tuesday in Lent**. For more information contact Carolyn Snowbarger.

Gal's Lunch — Friday, March 3, at 11:30 AM, at Eatery 66 in Ridgway

Join us for good time—we promise! Sign up in the gathering area or contact Carolyn Snowbarger.

On the Same Page (UCSJ Book Club) — Tuesday, April 11, at 10 AM

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

"From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *All the Light We Cannot See*, comes a humane and uplifting book for adults that's infused with the magic of childhood reading experiences" (The New York Times Book Review).

This historical fiction novel is a triumph of imagination and compassion, a soaring story about children on the cusp of adulthood in worlds in peril, who find resilience, hope—and a book. In *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Doerr has created a magnificent tapestry of times and places that reflects our vast interconnectedness—with other species, with each other, with those who lived before us, and with those who will be here after we're gone. (Amazon)

Books are available in the gathering area (\$10).

Community Learning — Spring Session Begins April 12

If you have a book to suggest, please send it to Mick Graff or Carolyn Snowbarger by **Wednesday, March 1**. Our current soup suppers and discussions end on March 22.



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

Terry Hawkins will be the presenter (see page 2 for more details).

Education Ministry Team:

Allyson Cotham, Art Dodd, Mick Graff, Kristi Snapp, Carolyn Snowbarger, Donna Whiskeman, and Lisa Young

March Birthdays

- 1 – Lysa Riggs
- 2 – Kathy Calkins
- 3 – Norma Tempel
- 4 – Larry Kraft
- 4 – Pam Larson
- 6 – Janet Petersen
- 8 – Barbara Kelly
- 13 – Niki Dow
- 14 – Alice Hill
- 20 – Robert Hart
- 21 – Charlie Carson
- 21 – Max Sheppard
- 27 – Kim Lundgren
- 27 – Burt Stern
- 28 – Dick Engdahl
- 30 – Gini Barker

March Anniversaries

- 1 – Bill & Sue Hirshman
- 23 – Ken & Anne Linenberger
- 25 – Vince & Carolyn Snowbarger

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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Address, Phone, Email Changes, or if you wish to be Removed from the Church Directory.

Prayer Requests/Announcements

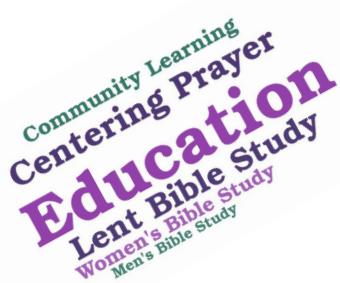
for the Sunday bulletin (deadline is Wednesday at noon).

Please email ucsjoffice@gmail.com or leave a detailed message on the church phone 970.626.5803.

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Thank you to all of you who have been busy shoveling the sidewalks, etc. around the church. You have done a terrific job and it has been a busy one so far this winter.



WEEKLY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Centering Prayer (via Zoom) — Mondays at 8:30 AM

Lent Bible Study (via Zoom) — Tuesdays at 7 PM

(February 28 through April 4)

Community Learning (in-person) — Wednesdays at 6 PM for Soup
and 7 PM Book Study (Ends March 22)

Women's Bible Studies (via Zoom) — Thursdays at 10:30 AM

Men's Bible Studies (via Zoom) — Saturdays at 8:30 AM

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!

www.facebook.com/ucsjridgway



We are affiliated with:

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



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