

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

Anita Posey — Administrative Assistant

Katy Kristoffersen — Director of Music

Sue Stern — Treasurer

Laura Hagert — Custodian

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Newsletter Editor — Barb Eliason

Newslink Editor — Administrative Assistant

(ucsjoffice@gmail.com)

External Publicity — Kate Kellogg

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

UCSJ Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday

9 AM — 2:30 PM

Thursday

9 AM — 1 PM



The first Wednesday Learning Soup Supper kicked off on the evening of September 13th with a group studying Kate Bowler's *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* at 4:30 and David Bentley Hart's *That All Shall Be Saved* at 7:00.

Both books really spark a connection. They get us thinking, and they get us connecting with God and with one another. The book discussion around the tables was amazing. It was thoughtful. It was heartfelt. It was real.

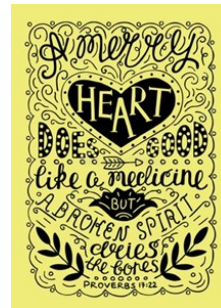
There is always soul nourishing when people share their experience of faith, and when we listen to one another and honor those thoughts and experiences. I was certainly NOURISHED, and I am so grateful for such openness to the different perspectives and insights.

Plus, it was body nourishing! The homemade soups supplied by Kate Kellogg and Bruce Shirey and the homemade bread, baked and brought by Lisa Young were YUMMMeee! I left full in body, mind, and spirit—a gift after the anxiety of news headlines and the frustrations of slow-moving projects I had experienced earlier in the day.

We sometimes wonder whether gathering is really worth it when the comforts of home beckon after a long day. I could have left the church before it started, and I had every excuse to, since I was at the end of my church-related hours for the day. But I'm so glad I did not. To spend that kind of time with others was just what I needed to keep me remembering that God is alive and well and at work among us as we share our hearts and our lives.

Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart does good, like a medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones." A community made merry by the honest sharing of faith is always good medicine. When life gets real, as it does for all of us, it is those gatherings where we share how life has gotten real, where we've been broken, and how we've healed that is the good medicine that keeps us walking that path of love. And walking the path of love with the Lord of Love is what church is all about, so if you haven't yet, come get some good medicine on Wednesday evenings. I guarantee it will bring healing to whatever happens to be ailing you—or make merrier the heart you come with.

Blessings, Melinda



**Roll up Your Sleeves
and Come Join the Fun
at the UCSJ
Volunteer Clean-up Day**

**Saturday, October 14
9 AM to Noon**

We'll be raking leaves, washing windows, cleaning the lot, among other things, and having FUN while we're working together. Snacks provided!

Calendar for October

(For more information, see page #5)

Sunday, October 1 — 10 AM

Guest Preacher Howard Davidson
Communion

Sunday, October 8 — 10 AM

Guest Preacher Rev. George Miller

Tuesday, October 10 — 4:30 PM

Administrative Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 12 — 6 PM

Football with Friends at Snowbarger's home (pg. 4)

Saturday, October 14 — 9 AM

Volunteer Clean-up Day (pg. 1)

Tuesday, October 17 — 10 AM

On the Same Page Book Club (pg. 4)

Friday, October 20 — Noon

Gals' Lunch at Lazy Dog, Ridgway (pg. 4)

Saturday, October 21 — 8:30 AM

Men's Breakfast (pg. 3 & 4)

Monday, October 23 — 8 AM

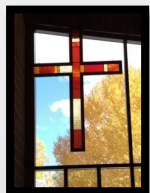
4WD Day-trip (pg. 4)

Sunday, October 29 — 10 AM

Change for Change (pg. 3)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Weekly Activities



SUNDAYS

10 AM — Worship Service

(Communion is served the first
Sunday of each month)

After Worship — Book of Romans
Bible Study, through October 29

MONDAYS — 9 AM (via Zoom)

Centering Prayer

WEDNESDAYS

4:30 PM and 7 PM Book Studies; Soup at 6 PM

Community Learning, through November 1 (pg. 4)

THURSDAYS

10 AM (via Zoom) — Women's Bible Study

4:30 PM — Choir Practice

SATURDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Men's Bible Study

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

September 12 Council Highlights

- The Audiovisual Capital Campaign has to date yielded \$30,925. AV Experts are finalizing the proposal and colors for acoustical paneling will be chosen to closely match the walls.
- Aspen Tree Service will remove the diseased aspen trees and trim the other trees on the church property.
- Pastor Melinda will be on vacation in early October. She and Glen planned this before she became our pastor.
- An Insurance Policy Review Committee was appointed to determine if the policy adequately covers replacement cost for the church and furnishings.
- A church "clean-up work day" is set for Saturday, October 14.
- A Memorial Reception Team has been formed to provide reception assistance at funerals.
- **The next Administrative Committee Meeting is Tuesday, October 10, at 4:30 PM**

Ouray County Food Pantry

The October focus for food pantry donations is **cleaning supplies: laundry detergent, dish soap, bathroom cleaner, etc.** Bring your unopened donations to the church on Sunday or drop them off during the week. Your donations of any items make a difference to people in our community. Thank you.



Cindi Myers, Mission & Outreach Ministry Member

Would You Like to Help?

It seems that things come in bunches and our recent experience with two funerals back-to-back last month made it clear that we need to have folks ready to step in and help where needed. We are in the process of forming a Memorial Reception Team that will be responsible for planning (with the input from the family) and executing the reception following a memorial service. The receptions can be as simple as cookies and lemonade to a full meal and all stops in between.

We have identified the following tasks:

- Meet with the Family
- Table Setting
- Flowers/Table Decorations
- Food Preparation (Many times the family will provide the food)
- Serving
- Clean Up



If you have a heart for helping families during this tender time, please let me know. It is a meaningful ministry and such a help to the family and all who come to honor them and their loved one.

Donna Whiskeman

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 August 31, 2023

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income Above Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 37,207	\$ 31,667	\$ 5,540	\$190,000
Expenses	\$ 31,332			
Net GAIN	\$ 5,875			

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

Equipper Model

We are blessed with Pastor Melinda! We have now been in ministry together for the past seven months, and she has given us far more than we asked, not only in time but in care and ministry.

You will remember that before we began our pastor search, we worked to craft the position description. As we did that, we drew heavily from the description of the part-time "Equipping Pastor," detailed in the book *Part-Time is Plenty* by Jeffrey MacDonald. In this book, the author explains the "Equipping Pastor" as one who "builds up the laypeople's capacity for effective ministry, endowing them to do more for their church and their communities. Church function is no longer vested principally in one ordained individual." This is the position to which Pastor Melinda and we are called.

We are in ministry together, side-by-side with Pastor Melinda. She is here to support, teach and guide us on our spiritual journey and we are here to support and engage in ministry together with her, as well. Prayerfully consider how you can and we can all together continue to minister to one another, our community and to grow in to this mutual-equipping model.

Pam Larson, Council Chair

Called to *Serve*

Men's Breakfast — Saturday, October 21 at 8:30 AM

Rick Trujillo will give a presentation on his record-breaking event running and climbing Colorado's fourteeners, at the men's breakfast on Saturday, October 21. He has only given this presentation to family members. Rick was also responsible, 50 years ago, for forming the Imogene Pass Run.

Rick graduated from Ouray High School in 1966 and then went on to Colorado University, Boulder, where he graduated with a BA in geology. While at CU he was a member of the cross-country and track teams, making All-American in the fall of his sophomore year. He competed in competitive running all through the 1970s into the late 1990s, mostly domestically but also abroad. As a geologist he worked internationally exploring for minerals in the Andes of Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, the pampas of Uruguay and the Sierra Madre Occidental and Sur of Mexico. As a field geologist he gained his ability to run and climb in high elevation environments. This should be a very interesting talk.

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, October 1



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you for your generous support. To contribute online just click the link below or you can send your offerings to the church office at P.O. Box 295, Ridgway, CO 81432.

[Click Here to Donate Today](#)



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Change for Change

Sunday, October 29

Remember to bring your spare change! Bills also work, they just don't make as much noise.



Connections at UCSJ

Community Learning — Wednesday Evenings Through November 1

There is still time to join us! Our 4:30 PM group will be discussing *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. At 7 PM the book will be *That All Shall Be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation* by David Bentley Hart. Soup supper will be at 6 PM. Contact Mick Graff if you would like to participate.

Football with Friends — Thursday, October 12, at 6 PM

The Kansas City Chiefs will play the Denver Broncos for the Thursday night televised game. Vince, Carolyn, and Matt Snowbarger invite you to come on over (783 Meadows Circle, Ridgway) and enjoy the game at their house. They will serve carnitas and fixins', nacho cheese dip and chips, soft drinks and wine. Wear your team's colors (NFL or college). Please bring other football snacks or "adult" beverages to share. Please sign up in the gathering area.

On the Same Page Book Club (*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt) — Tuesday, October 17, at 10 AM

This novel explores the unlikely friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's connection with a giant Pacific octopus. We'll meet at the home of Lisa Young, 945 Riversage Drive in Ridgway, who will be facilitating. Books are available in the gathering area (\$10).

Gals' Lunch — Friday, October 20, at Noon

Let's gather at Lazy Dog in Ridgway. Yes, we'll laugh, share experiences, and catch up! Please sign up in the gathering area.

Men's Breakfast — Saturday, October 21, at 8:30 AM

Rick Trujillo will give a presentation on his record-breaking event running and climbing Colorado's fourteeners (*see page three for more details*).

4WD Day-trip — Monday, October 23 — Meet at Church at 8 AM

Ken Sloan is planning a day-trip to see the petroglyphs and canyons in the "west end." Watch Newslink for more details.

Dinner Together

Our congregational life ministry team has launched small gatherings in homes. It's such a great way to connect with others in our church family. If you'd like to host a meal, please contact Carolyn Snowbarger. You can pick the date, time, and how many guests you'd like to have. We'll help with announcements, communications, and sign-up sheets. **Thanks to Jenny Cheek & Larry Harley, and Angela & Alan Todd for hosting our September dinners.**



Thank you to our fellowship treat-bringers this past month: **Marge Quist, Kathy Graff, Jenny Cheek, Elise & Bruce Shirey, and Angela Todd.** Our coffee team keep us going, too: **David Stytz, Dave Young, and Charlie & Lucy Scholpp.** We had great participation and support for our last Sunday Sundae concert with the Valley Symphony Chorus: **Katy and Mike Kristoffersen, Judy Lokey, Dave & Sue Conrad, Anna Strong, Anne Linenberger, Marge & Fred Quist, Angela Todd, Denny & Barb Eliason, Joan Moyer, and Bob & Pam Larson.**

Congregational Life Ministry Team

If you have questions, please check with anyone from our committee: *Jenny Cheek, Sue Conrad, Charlotte Duckett, Anne Linenberger, Marge Quist, Lish Sheppard, Elise Shirey, Kay Sibold, Carolyn Snowbarger, and Gen Spangler.*

Calling all Knitters and Crocheters

For many years now, **Jenny Cheek** has faithfully knitted beautiful Prayer Shawls for folks in the congregation who are ill. I still have and treasure the shawl she made for Pete. It occurred to us that there may be others who enjoy knitting or crocheting and it would be a wonderful fellowship opportunity to get together once or twice a month to make some shawls. They can also be made at home, but it is much more fun to get together! We could have a group in Ridgway and another in Montrose!

If you would be interested in doing this, please let Kay Sibold know? Kay's email is kaysibold@mac.com and her phone is 720.232.1250.



Donna Whiskeman, Ministry Chair

What a Fabulous Sunday Sundaes Concert on September 17!

THANK YOU to the Valley Symphony Chorus, singing under the direction of Katy Kristoffersen, and their other musicians. And of course the ice cream sundaes afterward were wonderful.



Tasty Morsels from "PLUM" Corner

It's officially fall... a time of reflection and gratitude of the past year for me, and maybe some of you. Here are links to articles about leadership in our PLUM denominations and just one way (there are many) to express gratitude for the many blessings in our lives.

Kim Lundgren

PRESBYTERIANS — Offerings are now being accepted for the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. Received in the fall each year, it is a tangible way women (and everyone) can express gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants from this fund range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Full information is [here](#).

LUTHERANS — The focus of the 2024 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly will be the election of a new bishop. The discernment process begins this fall at conference gatherings and the rostered leaders' Theological Conference. The process will conclude at the Assembly, April 25-27, 2024. For full information on the process [click here](#).

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson will be installed as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ on Friday, October 20 at 5 PM (ET) in Lakewood, Ohio. Thompson was nominated for the position by the UCC Board at its March meeting, and she was elected at General Synod 34 on July 3. Thompson took office August 1. To register for the live stream of Thompson's installation on October 20 [click here](#).

METHODISTS — On September 3, the Council of Bishops President Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton calls on United Methodists to focus on love because the church's greatest success depends upon mutual love and meaningful relationships throughout the world. [Click here](#) for links to the full sermon and photos.

October Birthdays

- 3 – Brenda Engdahl
- 4 – Priscilla Fry
- 5 – Colin Gordon
- 5 – Dave Young
- 9 – Ed Ingo
- 10 – Lilly Gordon
- 10 – Lisa Young
- 12 – Ron Shannon
- 14 – Lynne Evans
- 14 – Junella Hildreth
- 16 – LaVonne Glanville
- 17 – Becky Kent
- 21 – Jack Sibold
- 24 – Melinda Veatch
- 26 – Floyd Day
- 26 – Katy Kristoffersen
- 26 – Kay Sibold

October Anniversaries

- 4 – Sprague Mayger & Priscila Fry
- 18 – Duane & Karen Compton

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Administrative Committee Meeting

(2nd Tuesday)

Tuesday, October 10

4:30 PM

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Men's Breakfast Group

(3rd Saturday)

Saturday, October 21

8:30 AM

So Many Ways to Help Out! We Need YOU!

*Ushers, Greeters,
Readers, Worship Assistants,
Communion Assistants,
Treats, Coffee Prep, Flowers*



Sign-up sheets are on the table in the gathering area...please add your name!

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!



Find us on
Facebook

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