

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. 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

Mike Kristoffersen — Videographer

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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

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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 and Wednesday — 9 AM to 2:30 PM
Thursday — 9 AM to 1 PM



Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does... Let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I'll probably never fully understand. We're not all going to die—but we are all going to be changed.

— 1 Corinthians 14:1 and 15:51

These words from The Message translation of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians grabbed me when I read them. I had just found this picture of the empty tomb with the light shining into the darkness over the "unmanned" burial cloths. The dove in flight, illuminated by the rays over the words "He is not here for he has risen," set my mind imagining Jesus rushing from the tomb to push Love back into the world from the depths of death and darkness. I saw Love getting out there in full force in a whole new way to give new life.

Just a few verses down in that same chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul repeats an old saying, now in light of the resurrection of Christ:

*Death swallowed by triumphant Life! Who got the last word, O Death?
O Death, who's afraid of you now?*

It looked as if Death had won, as we always think it will. Yet, here was Jesus out and about—in the garden with Mary, with two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, and then in the Upper Room, where he appeared, to his disciples huddled in fear, trying to comprehend what had just happened. Now, with Love in the room, they had a whole other kind of comprehending to do!

Through the centuries there have been many ways to understand the Resurrection, how it happened, and what it means for us. There have been countless theories from countless theologians, theorists, scientists, and philosophical ponderers detailing whether Jesus either was or was not resurrected in body as well as spirit. To our 21st century minds (and to minds from the 20th, 19th, 18th and so on, down the centuries) it is a real challenge to fathom how that could even be possible.

But here is the truth about the Resurrection and about the Christ we follow: Death does not win. It doesn't get the final word on who we are or what we can do. No matter how much darkness attempts to set up shop in the world, the power of Christ's light will ever break it. Our fear, our doubt, our hesitancy to trust may blind us to that truth, but, thankfully, the Light of Christ shines whether we are on the lookout for it or not.

Yet, when we pursue Love as if our lives depend on it—because they do—somehow, we begin to see the Light of Christ in the most unlikely places. And the more we see it, the brighter it shines, and the more it fuels our pursuit of Love. So, as we go on in this season of Easter, may we pursue Love with all we've got, and may we be changed in ways that only Love can do.

Blessings, Melinda

Calendar for March

(For more information, see page #s)

Sunday, March 3 — 10 AM

Communion

Monday, March 4 — 10 AM

On the Same Page Book Club (pg. 5)

Sunday, March 10



Tuesday, March 12 — 4:30 PM

Full Council Meeting

Saturday, March 16 — 8:30 AM

Men's Breakfast (pg. 2)

Sunday, March 24 — 10 AM

Palm Sunday!



Thursday, March 28 — 7 PM

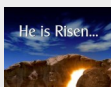


Sunday, March 31 — Happy Easter!

7 AM — Sunrise Service at Inspiration Point

8 AM — Easter Breakfast

10 AM — Easter Worship Service



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Weekly Activities

SUNDAYS

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

4:30 PM — Christian Mindfulness (through March 17)

MONDAYS — 9 AM (via Zoom)

Centering Prayer

WEDNESDAYS

10 AM — Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

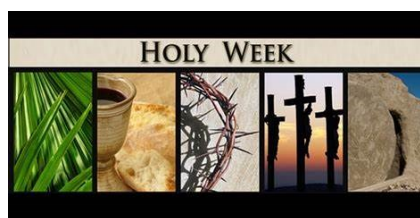
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Please email ucsjoffice@gmail.com or leave a detailed message on the church phone 970.626.5803.

Address, phone, email changes, or if you wish to be removed from the church directory.

February Administrative Committee Highlights

- January financials show a \$7,000 deficit in the budget, which is a concern. The Texas Presbyterian Foundation investment has been profitable. The congregational giving to Directed Contributions was very good.
- The sliding door to the new AV TV needed to be changed. The committee approved Rick Blackford's estimate to change the door for \$600 which would come out of the AV projects funds.
- Mike Kristoffersen will take over the responsibilities for the audio system from Fred Quist. The committee discussed the need for more information to develop a job description and to increase his salaried position per a recommendation by the Worship & Music Ministry Committee.
- The committee approved Donna Whiskeman's recommendation to compensate Ed Pecis with a gift certificate for his training services to the Safety and Security program.
- The committee discussed the need to form a committee to discuss how we can use social media, why we want to be on social media, and are we using it effectively.
- Anita Posey has resigned from her position as Administrative Assistant. The committee reviewed the process for replacement—advertising, job description, etc.
- The next FULL Council meeting will be at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, March 12, at the church. All are welcome.



Sunday, March 24 at 10 AM — Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, March 28 at 7 PM — Maundy Thursday Service

Men's Breakfast

Dr. Nicholas Neubaum will give a presentation on eye health on Saturday, March 16 at 8:30 AM. Dr Neubaum is an ophthalmology specialist and has 25 years of medical experience. He is affiliated with multiple hospitals including Delta Health Memorial and Montrose Regional Health hospitals. He is a member of the Colorado West Ophthalmology. He received his medical degree from Creighton University and Residency Ophthalmology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. His expertise is in medical and surgical care of the eye including cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetes, and other medical conditions.

He enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters pursuing outdoor adventures. He loves upland game bird hunting.

A good number of our men's breakfast group know Dr. Neubaum which will make it an interesting talk.



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 ABOVE Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$114,912	\$110,833	\$4,079	\$190,000
Expenses	\$120,765			
Net LOSS	<\$5,853>			

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, March 3



Sunday, March 31 — Happy Easter!

7 AM — Sunrise Service at Inspiration Point

8 AM — Easter Breakfast

10 AM — Easter Worship Service

Dearest UCSJ Family,

Over the past 11 years, I have developed a passion for studying, practicing and teaching mindfulness. It is with incredible joy and a boatload of humility that Mike and I are launching a website: www.authenticallymindful.com. **WOOT!!** This is the home of our **Foundational Mindfulness Course**, offered to you.

What This Course Is About

- The Foundational Mindfulness Course is a framework in which you can nonjudgmentally explore patterns within your life, build awareness of your true values, and shift thoughts and actions to align yourself within your authenticity.
- This course explores mindfulness through three modalities: meditation, journaling, and research-based education.

Our initial Foundational Mindfulness Course is being offered as a **donation-based course**. The intent is to make this accessible to anyone who wants to do this work. **Cost will not be an obstacle.**

We really value your feedback and help!

If this piques your interest and you choose to explore the website and/or course, we would love to get your feedback on any of the following:

1. What are your impressions?
2. Is anything confusing? Is anything not working as expected?
3. What do you find most helpful?
4. Do we have any typos? 🙄

If you have any feedback, feel free to get in touch with us by using the contact form on the website.

Finally, if you know anyone that may be interested in this course, please **help us spread the word!** Again, this foundational course can be accessed for free. We want to start putting this resource out there, listen to feedback, and start learning how to best expand these offerings to the community.

With love and gratitude, Katy and Mike Kristoffersen (www.authenticallymindful.com)



Tasty Morsels from “PLUM” Corner

PRESBYTERIANS — Here is a way to access information on possibilities for education and a chance to learn more about Presbyterian seminaries. Check this out by following the link below.

The Office of Theological Education is the liaison between congregations, the denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA) seminaries, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Our work is designed to nurture and support the importance of informal theological education in congregations and the vital way formal theological education—your seminaries—nourishes the life of worshipping communities.

Theological education happens in all sorts of ways in a Christian’s life, whenever we ask questions, go to Sunday school and Bible studies, express doubts, inquire with our curiosity, or go to seminary. Theological education is a path of discernment and learning to think about God, who God is, and what it means to live as a beloved creature of God in the world. [Click here](#) to learn more about your Presbyterian seminaries.

LUTHERANS — The ELCA is a church that thinks and acts locally and globally. The ELCA is a church that rolls up its sleeves and gets to work. Check this out on the web at ELCA.ORG. One billion of our neighbors—that’s one in seven people in our world today—live in poverty. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. Working through Lutheran connections in the United States and around the world, we start by listening to the needs of our neighbors and getting their ideas to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Then we partner with them to make their dreams and hopes a reality. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, and food pantries to soup kitchens, we work together to support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — ‘The consistent theme is love’: In new year, UCC National Setting builds on ‘one-staff model’ by Maic D’Agostino published on Feb 6, 2024 ([read more here](#)).

As the calendar turned to 2024, the United Church of Christ national ministry teams began working under three new sets of names, unified by a theme of “love.”

Love of Service. Love of Church. Love of Neighbor. These are the overarching designations—connected to the heart of the UCC’s [mission and vision](#)—that identify the many, diverse ministries performed by the national staff.

“The responsibilities of the units and their names are based on the mission, vision and purpose statements of the UCC,” said General Minister and President the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson. “The Purpose Statement, the UCC reason for being, is drawn from a passage in Matthew’s Gospel: ‘To love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.’”

The mission and vision statements likewise refer specifically to unity and love.

“The consistent theme is love,” Thompson said. “The church emphasizes and moves on the love of God given freely to us.”

METHODISTS — We look at a message about Lent and Ash Wednesday from our Methodist Brothers and Sisters.

At Easter, United Methodists across the world join with other Christians to celebrate the Risen Christ!

The journey to Easter begins on Ash Wednesday as we pause to reflect on this holy day of repentance. As we move through the 40 days of Lent, we may choose to praise and worship the Lord; to read the Bible more, and to pray more often, all in preparation for celebrating the most sacred of days.

When Holy Week is upon us, we contemplate Jesus’ final days on Earth, an intense time of joy, betrayal and mourning, all leading up to the most glorious day when we rejoice in Christ’s Resurrection on Easter!

Tom Chase

Ouray County Food Pantry



Thank you all for your continued support of the Ouray County Food Pantry. Each month, we focus on filling in the gaps of items the pantry can’t get from their regular supplier, Food Bank of the Rockies. **This month’s focus is on healthy snacks—nuts, beef jerky, crackers, popcorn, granola, energy bars, pretzels and other items you might like.** As always, donations of any un-opened, un-expired food, and personal care items are welcome. Please bring your donations to the church on Sundays or during the week when the church is open.

Cindi Myers, Mission & Outreach Ministry Member

Connections at UCSJ

On the Same Page Book Club — Monday, March 4, at 10 AM

Book of Lost Names by Kristen Harmel

"Life turns on the decisions we make, the single moments that transform everything." World War II, France! Meet Eva, a graduate student, with a talent for forgery. Meet Eva again, a retired librarian in Florida, who remembers after seeing an old newspaper article. Carolyn Snowbarger will be facilitating. Books are available in the gathering area.

Men's Breakfast — Saturday, March 16, at 8:30 AM

Dr. Nicholas Neubaum will give a presentation on eye health (see page two for details).

Valley Symphony Orchestra — Saturday, March 30, at 6:30 PM and Sunday, March 31, at 3 PM

Join Katy Kristoffersen, Vince Snowbarger, Anna Strong, and Judy Lokey for "Heaven and Bluegrass: Singing the Sacred" with the Valley Symphony Chorus. You may purchase tickets (\$25) at www.valleysymphony.net.

Easter Potluck Brunch — Sunday, March 31, from 8-9:30 AM

Join us for our annual Easter brunch between the sunrise service and morning worship. If you'd like to help out with food, please let us know if you can contribute an egg dish, potato casserole, fruit, or bread. You may sign up in the gathering area.

Sunday Fellowship Treats

Thanks to Gen Spangler and Shirley Didier for bringing treats for fellowship. Please sign up in the gathering area if you can help out.

Dinner Together

If you'd like to host a meal in your home or at a restaurant, please contact Carolyn Snowbarger. You can pick the date, time, and number of guests. We'll help with announcements and sign-up sheets.

Coming Soon!

Spring Community Learning begins on Wednesdays in April.

Congregational Life Ministry Team:

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

March Birthdays

- 1 – Lysa Riggs
- 2 – Kathy Calkins
- 3 – Norma Tempel
- 4 – Larry Krafft
- 4 – Pam Larson
- 6 – Janet Petersen
- 8 – Barbara Kelly
- 13 – Niki Kop
- 14 – Alice Hill
- 20 – Robert Hart
- 21 – Max Sheppard
- 21 – Charlie Carson
- 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 (ucsioffice@gmail.com or 970.626.5803) know if we're missing your birthday and/or anniversary. Thank you.

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Full Council Meeting

(Second Tuesday)

Tuesday, March 12

4:30 PM

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

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Now that winter is here, please



remember that the parking spaces on the west side of the building are primarily for those who have difficulty walking. Thank you!



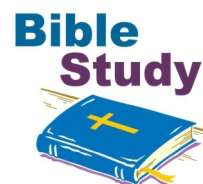
Preparing the church for the season of Lent!

Come Join Us!

For many the words "Bible Study" is enough to send someone screaming into the night. The **Woman's Study** at UCSJ has evolved into a time of learning for sure, but also a treasured time of fellowship among those who attend each week. Women have a unique path and sharing experiences, learning from each other, understanding how the Scripture can be applied to our daily lives, and praying for each other is a privilege and something we each benefit from.

We meet every Thursday morning, via Zoom, at 9:30 AM. Currently we are reading Life Lessons from The Psalms by Max Lucado. Our next study will probably focus on one of the gospels and we may look at an in-person/hybrid model.

If you have any interest please call or email: Donna Whiskeman, 970.729.0273 or donna@cimarronrealty.com. We would love to have you join us!!



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!

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