

Embracing Diversity - Honoring Unity

#### June 2024

#### 295 N. Lena Street, Ridgway, Colorado

#### Volume 21, Issue 6

# 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

Formation

Shirley Didier — Administrative Assistant

Katy Kristoffersen — Director of Music

**Sue Stern** — Treasurer

**Laura Hagert** — Custodian

 ${\bf Mike\ Kristoffersen-} \ {\bf Audio-visual\ Operator}$ 

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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

Website & Newsletter Editor — Barb Eliason Newslink Editor — Administrative Assistant (ucsjoffice@gmail.com)

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External Publicity — Kate Kellogg

#### **UCSJ Office Hours**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 AM to 1 PM





Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.— Isaiah 43:19



I spent the early part of May at CREDO, a time of focused retreat that the Presbyterian Church (USA) offers to clergy serving congregations across the nation. CREDO provides a space to reflect on specific areas of our lives, our level of health in them, and ways we would like to grow into greater health as we go forward in ministry.

When I registered, I did not know it would be held at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center just outside of Little Rock, Arkansas. My mother grew up in Little Rock, and her parents were instrumental in helping start the camp. All my life Ferncliff has been part of my fabric. It was a gift to be there.

It was also a gift for another reason: How much it had changed. In the 70s and 80s, Ferncliff was in decline. Its summer camper numbers were low. Its other programs were struggling. Its leadership was stuck in how it used to be. They couldn't see where God might be leading.

A new director came in the mid-1990s. The board began identifying its mission and envisioning new ways to live it out. Ferncliff had always had a heart for healing. After the shootings at Columbine High School, Ferncliff invited students from the school to a special camp to help them deal with trauma. They were the first in a long line of young people from around the world to benefit from those camps. Ferncliff had always had a heart for helping. Soon an area of the camp became a packing and distribution area for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Ferncliff had always had a heart for lifting people up. It invited lowincome families from the Little Rock area to send their kids to summer camp at reduced rates. It became a national training site for Solar Under the Sun, an interdenominational program that installs solar panels on homes in towns and villages in Central and South America. All of that began to turn Ferncliff in a whole new direction, albeit with the mission that had always been at its heart. The old cabins in the picture up top on the left and the new camper yurts up top on the right speak volumes about how their approach to housing campers has changed. No more square cabins, now it's yurts!

This sounds like a commercial for Ferncliff, but it's not. It's just a great example of what can happen when we are open to change. This month, the Long-Range Visioning Team (LRVT) will begin the same work of discernment that Ferncliff did. They will begin again to look at our mission, the world beyond our doors, and God's call to us to express the great heart of this great church in new, relevant, and exciting ways. You will all have a chance to participate in that process, too. In worship and in special times together, we will be praying, talking, listening, and considering this church's life as it moves ahead. The LRVT will help us with the heavy lifting, as they meet regularly to pray, study, talk, listen, dream, and discern new directions as we look ahead. Together, we will be on the lookout, seeking to joyfully follow the One who leads us.

#### Calendar for June

(For more information, see page #s)

Saturday, June 1 — 11 AM
Celebration of Life for Ed Beall

Sunday, June 2 — 10 AM
Communion

Monday-Wednesday, June 3-5 Moab Outdoor Adventure (pg. 4)

Friday, June 7 — 11 AM
Celebration of Life for Vern Lankenau

 $\label{eq:monday} \mbox{Monday, June 10} - \mbox{10 AM}$  On the Same Page Book Club (pg. 4)

**Tuesday, June 11 — 4:30 PM**Full Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 12 — 5:30 PM
Fiesta Potluck Picnic at Ridgway State Park
(pg. 4)

Saturday, June 15 — 8:30 AM COED (Men's) Potluck Breakfast (pg. 4)

Sunday, June 16 — 11 AM
Annual Congregational Meeting (pg. 2)



Monday-Friday, June 17-June 21 Creativity Camp (pg. 3)

Wednesday, June 19 — Noon Gals' Lunch at Blue Corn, Montrose (pg. 4)

> Sunday, June 23 — 4 PM Sunday Sundae Concert (pg. 4)

Weekly Activities



SUNDAYS

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

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

# **May Council Highlights**

The UCSJ Council meeting in May consisted of preliminary discussion of the 2024-25 Budget, compensation policy for our Pastor, and communication task force policy. The only action items were minutes and April financials. Other concerns included reminding the congregation to lock the doors when leaving, respecting each other with quiet contemplation during the service, making sure the building maintenance team monitors the smoke alarm app and leaving the church office as you found it. The Council had a second meeting in May to finalize the proposed 2024-25 Budget for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting, June 16, 2024.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be Sunday, June 16, 2024, immediately following the Sunday worship service. All active members are allowed to vote. Two weeks notice of the meeting, the agenda, annual report, proposed budget and election slate will be sent electronically to all active members, those active members who do not have email will be U.S. mailed a paper copy. Voting can be done during the month of June either electronically or by paper. The election slate consists of Joan Moyer, Vice Chairperson of Operations (2 years); Donna Whiskeman, Vice Chairperson of Ministry (2 years); Alice Goertz, Care Representative (2 years); Tom Chase, Membership Representative (1 year); Tim Spangler, Worship & Music Representative (2 years); Vince Snowbarger, Education Representative (2 years); Joan Moyer and Tom Chase, Nominating Committee Council Reps (1 year), Charlotte Duckett, Betsy Lattanner, and Anita Posey, Nominating Committee Congregational Reps (1 year). Please plan on attending our Annual meeting.

A schedule of events and use of our church facilities is available on our church calendar at our web site "Ridgway United Church of the San Juans," (<a href="https://ucsjridgway.org/">https://ucsjridgway.org/</a>). Click on the "News & Events," tab, then click on "upcoming events" to see the calendar. Check it out, join in, and volunteer to help.

The next Full Council meeting is Tuesday, June 11, at 4:30 PM.

Blessings, Pam Larson, Chair

# A Financial Review and Forecast

As you can see in the Treasurer's statement on page 3, UCSJ is experiencing a very unusual situation with this year's contributions and expenses. Our contributions were doing quite well through March but in April we fell \$9,500 under



budget. At the same time, Council has had to deal with many unplanned maintenance items for our building and grounds that has resulted in a substantial increase in expenditures. Our building is 15 years old and requires more maintenance. A short list of projects includes: furnace and air conditioning repairs, ceiling fans replaced, drainage excavation outside pastor's door, aspen trees removed, and landscaping. This has resulted in a \$19,300 shortfall.

As Council is preparing for the upcoming Annual Meeting, it is crucial that we are able to accurately forecast what the congregation is willing to support in these times of rising costs, expanding programs, and building maintenance projects. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to support UCSJ.

Dennis Eliason, Finance Vice-chair

# **Treasurer's Report**

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me by phone 970.596.3755 or email <a href="mailto:suestern1@gmail.com">suestern1@gmail.com</a>. Thank you all for your continued support of our church and missions.

#### Month End Report — As of April 30, 2024

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income <mark>BELOW</mark> Goal	Annual Budget
Income Expenses Net <b>LOSS</b>	\$148,851 \$168,167 <b>&lt;\$19,316&gt;</b>	\$158,334	<\$9,483>	\$190,000

Sue Stern, Treasurer

# **Sunday Worship**

Sunday worship service is also videotaped and posted, following the service, on <u>Facebook</u> and our <u>website</u>, for those wishing to worship at home.

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Join us at our Lord's Table (1st Sunday) **Sunday, June 2** 

Summerline

#### Hi UCSJ!

I am so excited to offer more creative summer opportunities to the youth (ages 8-18) in our community, hosted by our fabulous church. You can check out our plans here:

#### Coming in JUNE: CREATIVITY CAMP (June 17 through June 21)

- This is a unique, project-based, supportive space for individual creative ideas.
- Camp participants will work on an individual project and a collaborative group project, as well as daily creative problem-solving activities.
- Students will share their projects in a final showcase, which is open to the community.
- Learn more here.

#### Coming in JULY: CHOIR CAMP (July 22 through July 26)

- Choir Camp is...just so fun. This is a collaborative, creative experience for all involved.
- Choristers will help arrange group pieces, sing a solo, share song ideas and build a concert!
- Students will put on a concert for an audience, followed by a reception. Open to the community!
- Learn more here.

#### **Summer Piano Lessons**

- I will offer lessons to any interested students (kids and adults) this summer.
- Lessons can focus on or include: songwriting/composition, theory, improvisation, ear-training, voice lessons, sight -reading/singing, and beginner to advanced piano training and technique.
- I will also host a free Master Class and Recital! <u>Learn more here</u>.

Thoughts? Questions? Want to volunteer? Feel free to reach out to me at <a href="mailto:ucsjmusic@gmail.com">ucsjmusic@gmail.com</a>.

### **Summer Choir Singers Announcement**

Have a song in your heart? Join the UCSJ Choir! (Vocalists and Instrumentalists Welcome!).

The UCSJ Choir is a welcoming, thriving, fun (!!), and wholehearted ensemble that is open to the community. We sing all kinds of different music, collaborate with each other and the community, and strive for musical excellence and joyful expression. Instrumentalists are always welcome to perform in a lovely space for a lovely congregation! Rehearse with us on Thursdays at 4:30 PM. Email me with any questions or thoughts you may have—I'm always interested in new ideas and new people!





#### **Connections at UCSJ**

#### **Outdoor Adventures**

Detailed information about both trips is available in the gathering area. Please contact Carolyn Snowbarger if you have questions or wish to sign up for these activities.

#### Moab, Utah — Monday-Wednesday, June 3-5

Plan your own adventure. You'll have a chance to explore Utah's amazing scenic wonders and have fun connecting with others.

#### Creede, Colorado — Tuesday-Thursday, July 30-August 1

If you love history, outdoor adventures, and great theatre productions, join us in Creede. This year's Creede Repertory Theatre productions include Baskerville (mystery, farce), Young Frankenstein (musical comedy), and *Prima's Guide to Funerals* (dramady).

#### On the Same Page Book Club — Monday, June 10, at 10 AM

Our phenomenal book is The Women by Kristen Hannah. For those of us who remember the Vietnam era, it's a fascinating look at the angst, disunity, and sorrow in our country during the late 1960s and early 1970s. For you younger folk, it's an amazing tale of a woman who volunteered to be a nurse in the Army even though her family was appalled. What a time for change to our country! Yes, it's a story about one woman who goes to war, but it's really a story about all who put their lives on the line in service to others. We have copies in the gathering area (\$10).



### Fiesta Potluck Picnic — Wednesday, June 12, at 5:30 PM, at Ridgway State Park

Come for the spectacular scenery, yummy food, and great fellowship at the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk shelter at our "neighborhood" state park. We'll provide tacos, tortillas, chips, queso, southwestern salads, salsa, drinks, and paper products. Your appetizers and desserts will make this a party! Please sign up in the gathering area. If you don't have an annual park pass or the "Keep Colorado Wild Pass" with your Colorado car tag, you'll need to pay the \$10 daily entry fee.

#### COED (Men's) Potluck Breakfast — Saturday, June 15, at 8:30 AM

Join us for our potluck breakfast (yes, it's coed). If you'd like to help with food, please bring an egg dish, potato casserole, fruit or bread. See page 5 for information about the program. Please sign up in the gathering area.

#### Gals' Lunch — Wednesday, June 19, at Noon, at Blue Corn in Montrose

Please sign up in the gathering area or let Carolyn Snowbarger know if you plan to attend.

#### Sunday Sundae Concert — Sunday, June 23, at 4 PM with Joshua Messick

National Hammered Dulcimer Champion, Joshua Messick, breathes new life into the ancient and enchanting hammered dulcimer. He is a composer, performer, and innovator influenced by World, Folk, and Classical music. Be transported as he weaves endless imagination with virtuosic performances. Joshua has played thousands of concerts throughout the United States, Japan, India, and Thailand. His versatility extends to his studio, where he records and engineers his work. He has released nine studio albums and is featured on soundtracks for films, video games, and podcasts, including "God of War Ragnarök" by Bear McCreary and "Mary and the Witch's Flower" by Studio Ponoc, the successor of Studio Ghibli.

#### Thank you!

Thanks to Gen Spangler, Elise Shirey, Charlie and Lucy Scholpp, Shirley Didier, Charlotte Duckett, and Than k Jen Parker for Sunday fellowship treats and to our coffee-maker David Stytz.





#### Save the Dates

Sundae Sunday Concerts:

"Ridgway Grit: Music from the West" — July 28

"Sounds of Summer" with Valley Symphony Chorus — September 15

Community Learning — begins September 18

Fall Colors — September 27 (Explore Colorado's aspen gold rush around Gunnison and Crested Butte).

Congregational Life Ministry Team: Jenny Cheek, Sue Conrad, Charlotte Duckett, Anne Linenberger, Lish Sheppard, Elise Shirey, Kay Sibold, Carolyn Snowbarger, Gen Spangler, and Angela Todd

#### Welcome New Members!

This month we welcomed, as official members, two people who have been sharing with us at UCSJ for a while. **Bruce and Elise Shirey** were inducted into membership on May 12th. They say they feel blessed to have found what they describe as a wonderful church and community.

Bruce and Elise have been married for 35 years and have two grown children—a son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter live in Charleston, South Carolina and a daughter in Austin, Texas.

They both are retired after working for Stellantis for over 30 years. Stellantis is now one of the major vehicle manufacturers after the merger of several others. They maintain a home in Marble Falls, Texas (just west of Austin) as well as here on Log Hill. Both enjoy being involved in the community and UCSJ. They love to hike, golf and be outdoors as much as possible. Bruce is a bit of a tinkerer and enjoys working on Jeeps (one of the Stellantis companies), as well as small engines, doing metal fabrication, and



dabbling in metal art work. Elise enjoys painting and, in the opinion of Bruce, is very good at it. They say they have felt very welcome from the day they arrived and look forward to many more years here.

# **Mission & Outreach Ministry**

Our Mission & Outreach met and have disbursed funds to the following:



- ⇒ Haven House—Safe home for homeless people, primarily children and women in Olathe (\$1,000)
- ⇒ Christopher (son of Mick and Kathy Graff) and Kathy Graff's Dental Trip to Africa in June (\$1,000)
- ⇒ Western Colorado Friends of the Himalayas (\$1,000)
- ⇒ Katy and Mike Kristoffersen's Youth Summer Camps—For scholarships to be distributed as needed for youth in our community (\$700)
- ⇒ Life Choices, Montrose—Crib mattresses, baby clothes and winter jackets, and February fundraiser needs (\$485)

Dee Moore, Chair

# COED (Men's) Breakfast — Saturday, June 15 at 8:30 AM

Our speaker will be **CJ Brafford** who was born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and is an enrolled tribal member of the Oglala Lakota Nation. Her presentation will be about her experiences over the years as a tribal member and her work at the Ute Museum. CJ Brafford moved to Montrose, Colorado, 26 years ago as the Director of the Ute Indian Museum. We are fortunate to have her as a guest speaker for she is scheduled to retire this fall. Prior to coming to Colorado, CJ worked for the Grand



Tetons National Park over seeing 8,000 pieces of the park's museum collection. She was also the museum curator for the David T Vernon Indian Arts museum. C J's education background includes the institute of American Indian Arts, Northern Arizona University, and Arizona State University. She graduated from all three schools obtaining degrees in Cultural Anthropology and Museum Studies. She authored a book *Dancing Colors*, which explores the lives of the Native American women. In 2004, C J took part, with great honor, in the opening of the National Museum of American Indians in Washington, DC and was selected Miss Congeniality in 1983 in the Miss Indian America Pageant.

Over the years, C J has been associated with various organizations as a board chair or board member. Some of the organizations are as follows: The American Association for State and Local History, American Indian Museum Association, Colorado most endangered Places (grant reviewer), Native Voices Foundation, Montrose Tourism, Black Canyon National Park, Colorado Aspen Film Festival, Colorado Land Trust, and local Clubs. She was also the recipient of the Spirit Award for Colorado Woman's Day in 2022. Please sign up in the gathering area.

# Summertime 2024 at The United Church of the San Juans



# **Weekly Activities**

**Sundays, at 10 AM** — Worship Service

Mondays, at 9 AM — Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

Thursdays, at 9:30 AM — Women 's Bible Study (via Zoom)

Thursdays, at 4:30 PM — Choir Practice

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

#### **JUNE**

Saturday, June 1, at 11 AM — Ed Beall Celebration of Life

Monday-Wednesday, June 3-5 — Moab, Utah

Friday, June 7, at 11 AM — Vern Lankenau Celebration of Life

Monday, June 10, at 10 AM — On the Same Page Book Club (*The Women* by Kristen Hannah)

Tuesday, June 11, at 4:30 PM — UCSJ Council

Wednesday, June 12, at 5:30 PM — Annual Picnic at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk at Ridgway State Park

Saturday, June 15, at 8:30 AM — COED (Men's) Potluck Breakfast

Sunday, June 16, at 11 AM — Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday-Friday, June 17-21 — Creativity Camp

Wednesday, June 19, at Noon — Gals' Lunch at Blue Corn in Montrose

Sunday, June 23, at 4 PM — Sunday Sundae Concert (Joshua Messick, dulcimer performer, composer, teacher)

#### **JULY**

Wednesday, July 10, at 12 PM — Ouray County Weather and Salad Potluck (Tim Spangler, meteorologist)

Monday, July 15, at 10 AM — On the Same Page Book Club (We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter)

Saturday, July 20 – 8:30 AM COED (Men's) Potluck Breakfast

Monday-Friday, July 22-26 — Choir Camp

Thursday, July 25, at Noon — Gals' Lunch at Trattoria di Sophia in Montrose

Sunday, July 28, at 4 PM — Sunday Sundae Concert (*Ridgway Grit: Music from the West*)

Tuesday-Thursday, July 30-August 1 — Creede

#### **AUGUST**

Monday, August 12, at 10 AM — Where the West Begins with Glen Ely

Saturday, August 17, at 8:30 AM — Men's Breakfast

Saturday, August 17 — Silverton Brass Band Festival

Sunday, August 18, at 4 PM — Sunday Sundae Concert (Piano Recital with Katy's students)

Wednesday, August 21, at 5 PM — Ladies' Happy Hour at Jenny Cheek's home

Monday, August 26, at 10 AM — On the Same Page Book Club (Go as a River: A Novel by Shelley Read)

#### **COMING THIS FALL!**

Sunday, September 15, at 4 PM — Sunday Sundae Concert (*Sounds of Summer* with Valley Symphony Chorus)

Wednesday, September 18, at 4:30 — Community Learning and Soup Supper

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

Friday, September 27 — Fall Colors Tour



# **Caring for One Another...**

The love and sympathy of the UCSJ family is with **Ed Beall's family**, on his death on April 28. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 1, at 11 AM. A Celebration of Life will be held for **Vern Lankenau** on June 7, at 11 AM.

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 <a href="mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com">ucsjoffice@gmail.com</a>. You can also contact Pastor Melinda or a member of



the Care Team. The Care Team list is posted in the gathering area.

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

# Tasty Morsels from "PLUM" Corner

There is lots of PLUM news to read and learning opportunities as we move into a western Colorado summer. I hope you enjoy being outdoors with family and friends.

Kim Lundgren

PRESBYTERIANS — Registration is now open for the Evangelism Conference 2024: A Lifestyle that Exudes Justice. October 3-5, 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky. This is an in-person and virtual event. Evangelism is the proclamation and manifestation of good news. CLICK here for more information.

**LUTHERANS** — On April 27, The Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni was elected to a six-year term as Bishop of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod. <u>CLICK here for Synod Assembly 2024 details</u>.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — UCC has extensive webinar outreach programing. The latest discusses the ecumenical work that's helping millions who are displaced by conflict and natural disasters. In 2023, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that 110 million people were displaced worldwide due to violence, conflict and natural disasters. CLICK here for more information.

METHODISTS — Historic assembly sets United Methodists on new path. For the first time in its 240-year history, the denomination now known as The United Methodist Church has no category of people it officially excludes from some part of its ministry. CLICK here for more information.

## **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 - Charlie & Lucy Scholpp

29 - Steve & Claudia Wolff

Please let the church office (ucsjoffice@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.

# **Full Council Meeting**

(Second Tuesday)

Tuesday, June 11 4:30 PM

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

# So Many Ways to Help Out! We Need YOU!

Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Worship Assistants, Communion Assistants, Treats, Coffee Prep and Clean Up, Flowers



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



**Thank you** for your generous support! Your gifts enable our ministries and maintenance of our building to continue. To contribute online just click the donate button below or you can mail your offerings to the church office 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 newsletters (in color), calendar, etc.

We are affiliated with:

~ Presbyterian Church (USA)

~ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

~ United Church of Christ

~ United Methodist Church

# **Connect with UCSJ!**



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