



Embracing Diversity - Honoring Unity

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

Shirley Didier — Administrative Assistant

Katy Kristoffersen — Director of Music

Sue Stern — Treasurer

Laura Hagert — Custodian

Mike Kristoffersen — Audio-visual Operator

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UCSJ Council

Rev. Melinda Veatch

Tom Chase

Dennis Eliason

Alice Goertz

Pam Larson (Chair)

Dee Moore

Joan Moyer

Carolyn Snowbarger

Vince Snowbarger

Timothy Spangler

Donna Whiskeman

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Website & Newsletter Editor — Barb Eliason

Newslink Editor — Administrative Assistant

ucsjoffice@gmail.com

External Publicity — Kate Kellogg

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UCSJ Office Hours

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
9 AM to 1 PM**



In Jesus Christ you are also being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

— Ephesians 2:22

Recently in worship, we spent a little time reviewing our UCSJ Mission Statement. As you know, it was written when the church was formed back in 2003. Our Mission Statement expresses a standard for our life as a church. It helps us keep in mind who we are and what we are about:

- We are a loving and compassionate church family that *respects the dignity* and integrity of each individual.
- We find our joy and meaning through faith in God and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- We seek to promote Christian unity and to encourage understanding and cooperation with those from different traditions.
- We seek to foster deeper relationships with God and each other through worship, fellowship, growth and service.

At the church picnic on June 12th at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk—hosted by our amazing Congregational Fellowship Team (Carolyn Snowbarger, Charlotte Duckett, Anne Linenberger, Elise Shirey, Kay Sibold, and Donna Whiskeman)—we had three topics for table conversation: 1) Where were you living before you joined or began coming to UCSJ? 2) What was your occupation before you became involved in the church? 3) What other churches have you been a part of, and what made them “home” for you? The goal was two-fold: to get a sense of our varied individual experiences and to foster deeper relationships as we had time in fellowship with one another.

The answers varied widely. Just on the first topic, among 31 people, it was clear that we had lived in a LOT of different places: Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Professionally, we were doctors, nurses, real estate agents, teachers, architects, attorneys, grocers, administrators, folks who had worked for a state, salesclerks, and small business owners. And in terms of church affiliation, we had been part of Presbyterian, Lutheran, charismatic, Methodist, Mormon, Catholic, non-denominational, Mennonite, Episcopal, Baptist, and Nazarene churches, to name just a few.

As diverse as our experiences have been, it was clear that we also have much in common as we find our joy and meaning through faith in God and Jesus Christ and as we seek with intention to understand and cooperate with one another as members and participants in this church. As the Long-Range Visioning Team picks up the reins after taking a hiatus to allow me to get my feet back on the ground after my mother’s death, we will be further exploring this mission statement and the ways we are living it out 21 years later, both within and beyond the walls of this church. And thanks to the picnickers who so actively participated in conversation. You were demonstrating just how much of a guide our Mission Statement is as you engaged and shared with one another.

Blessings, Melinda

Calendar for July

(For more information, see page #s)

Thursday, July 4



Sunday, July 7 — 10 AM

Communion

Wednesday, July 10

Noon — Confused by Our Weather Forecasts? (pg. 4)

2 PM — Administrative Committee (pg. 2)

Monday, July 15 — 10 AM

On the Same Page Book Club (pg. 4)

Saturday, July 20 — 8:30 AM

COED (Men's) Potluck Breakfast (pg. 3 & 4)

Monday-Friday, July 22-26 — 9 AM to Noon

Choir Camp (pg. 4 & 5)

Thursday, July 25— Noon

Gals' Lunch at The Million Roadhouse (pg. 4)

Sunday, July 28 — 4 PM

Sunday Sundae Concert (pg. 4)

Tuesday-Thursday, July 30–August 1

Creede (pg. 4)

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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

4 PM — Choir Practice

THURSDAYS

Women's Bible Study (Resumes in September)

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.

June Council Highlights

Thanks to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting in June. The tellers, Angela Todd, Max Sheppard, and Robert McDaniel, determined that there was a quorum; they also counted the ballots and found positive results for both the 2024-25 budget and the building fund proposal as well as affirmative votes for all nominated candidates. Your newly elected Council members are Tom Chase (Membership), Alice Goertz (Care), Joan Moyer (Operations), Vince Snowbarger (Education), Tim Spangler (Worship & Music), and Donna Whiskeman (Ministry). There seems to be some confusion on the method of voting—your Council will discuss the process and determine if there is a better method for determining quorum and voting for next year's Annual meeting.

The Administrative Committee of the UCSJ Council will meet on Wednesday, July 10, at 2 PM in the sanctuary. Please join us.

Thanks to **Angela Todd, Kathy Graff, and Charles Scholpp** for their service on Council. You each have done an excellent job; the Council and Congregation are blessed from your gift of service.

Thanks to the Tellers for the Annual Meeting: **Angela Todd, Max Sheppard, Robert McDaniel, and Shirley Didier**. Your advice and direction were much appreciated.

Blessings, Pam Larson, Chair

Summertime at United Church of the San Juans

Weekly Activities

Sundays, at 10 AM — Worship Service

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

Wednesdays, at 4 PM — Choir Practice

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



JULY

See page four!

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 PM— Community Learning and Soup Supper begins
- Saturday, September 21, 8:30 AM — Men's Breakfast
- Friday, September 27 — Fall Color Tour



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 May 31, 2024

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income BELOW Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$166,311	\$174,167	<\$7,856>	\$190,000
Expenses	\$184,482			
Net LOSS	<\$18,171>			

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, July 7



Tasty Morsels from "PLUM" Corner

PRESBYTERIANS — The general assembly for the Presbyterian Church USA will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 29 thru July 6. If this is of interest to you, please use [this link to access the information](#).

LUTHERANS — Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA held its annual synod assembly in Loveland, Colorado.

Arline and I were in attendance representing UCSJ at the meeting. The election of a new bishop was the main topic of the assembly and we were privileged to represent you and take part in selecting a new bishop. We also had the opportunity to thank Bishop Jim Gonia for his service and thank him for his support of our UCSJ congregation. Bishop Jim has spoken about us for many years and was proud to visit and be a part of our worship service during his time as Bishop.

Our New Bishop for the next six years will be Dr. Rev. Meghan Johnson Aelabouni. Arline and I think she will be a valuable asset for the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Rocky Mountain Synod has established a ministry in the Denver jail. New Beginnings is an ecumenical ministry located in the Women's Prison and is served by a full time Lutheran Pastor. It is designed to provide opportunity for women to change their life style and experience Christian fellowship. I have a [link for you to check out this ministry](#).

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — The church has action alerts listed for their members. First, word is to the House where a new farm bill is being considered. The UCC is opposed to cutting the food stamp program. Second, the UCC also urges the Senate to reject initiative curbing Free Speech and advocacy for Palestine rights. Third, tell congress to protect affordable internet for millions of people. The details may be found at the [following link](#); scroll down to *Action Alerts*.

METHODISTS — Opinions: The United Methodist Church bends to a secular world.

"O never give me over to my own heart's desires, nor let me follow my own imaginations!" — John Wesley

There are many reasons for the modern church to lose its prophetic voice, politics being just one of them. As in ancient times, trying to embrace what the rest of the world is doing has diminished the power of the church to address what used to be called "sinful behavior." To continue this article [check out this link](#).

Tom Chase

COED (Men's) Breakfast — Saturday, July 20, at 8:30 AM

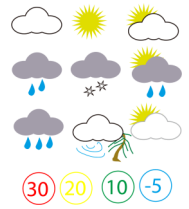
Konnie Fries of Ridgway will give a presentation on her life experiences when her life literally hit bottom and she battled her way back to normal. She gave this talk to the Montrose Rotary Club which was highly recommended. At the present time she is having a bout with covid so information on her talk will follow her recovery.



Connections at UCSJ

Confused by Our Weather Forecasts? Come and Learn Why We're Unique — Wednesday, July 10, at Noon

UCSJ's own mountain meteorologist Tim Spangler will present "The Meteorology of Ouray County: Desert to Alpine Meadows in Only 25 Miles." We'll serve BBQ beef and salad for lunch. Please sign up in the gathering area.



On the Same Page Book Club — Monday, July 15, at 10 AM

We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter

In the spring of 1939 three generations of the Kurc family are celebrating the Jewish Seder. They talk of babies, romances, art, and aspirations. Their world is quickly overturned as Poland is invaded. This is based on a true story of one family's struggles to survive World War II as terror spread throughout Europe. Yes, as the title suggests: they all survive. We have copies in the gathering area (\$10).

COED Potluck Breakfast — Saturday, July 20, at 8:30 AM

Join us for our second potluck breakfast of the summer. If you'd like to help with food, please bring an egg dish, potato casserole, fruit or bread. See page three for information about the program.

Choir Camp — July 22-26, 9 AM to Noon

See Katy Kristoffersen for details about this choir camp for kids and teens. Their showcase will be July 26, and all are invited to this performance.

Gals' lunch — Thursday, July 25, at Noon, at The Million Roadhouse

Have you been to the "newish" The Million Roadhouse in Ridgway? It's located on 550 just south of our traffic light next to Mountain Lodge at 373 Palomino Trail. Come for great food, a lovely setting, and fabulous company. Please sign up in the gathering area.

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

Our second Sunday Sundae concert features our UCSJ musicians with a little help from our friends. We'll have great western music, poetry, and a few wild stories. Of course, we'll have ice cream after the concert.

Creede — 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). Please contact Carolyn Snowbarger if you have questions. You can sign up in the gathering area.

Thank you!

Thanks to **Gen Spangler, Charlotte Duckett, Anne Linenberger, and Donna Whiskeman** for Sunday fellowship treats and to our coffee-maker **David Stytz**. Thanks also to all of you who attended, brought great food, and helped set up and clean up at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk several weeks ago.



Thank You!

Save the Dates

- Sunday Sundae Concert "Sounds of Summer" with Valley Symphony Chorus—September 15
- Community Learning—begins September 18
- Fall Color Tour (explore Colorado's aspen gold rush)—September 27

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*

choir practice



Choir Practice
Wednesdays at 4 PM (for the summer)
Come join us!



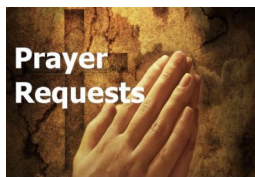
Caring for One Another . . .

The love and sympathy of the UCSJ family is with **Mary Mardock’s family**, on her death on May 31, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held on June 20.

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 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.)



CHOIR CAMP (Monday, July 22 through Friday, July 26, 9 AM to Noon)

- Choir Camp (kids and teens) 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, on Friday, July 26, followed by a reception. Open to the community!
- [Learn more here.](#)



Sunday, July 28, at 4 PM — Sunday Sundaes Concert “Ridgway Grit: Music from the West”



WE NEED YOU!!

We are going to put on a western/country-themed concert with music, poetry, and stories. Anyone who loves this music and wants to sing, who might have a good cowboy story or poem up their sleeve, or who might just want to be an excellent audience member. All are *always* welcome!

REHEARSAL TIMES

All rehearsals are at the United Church of the San Juans. Please note that not all rehearsals are on the same day/time, due to summer schedules.

- Wednesday, June 19, from 4:30-6 PM
- Monday*, June 24, from 4:30-6 PM (this rehearsal is not set in stone—I will confirm this with you all asap)
- Wednesday, July 3, from 4:30-6PM
- (Week of July 8—**NO** REHEARSAL)
- Wednesday, July 17, from 4:30-6 PM
- Wednesday, July 24, from 4:30-6 PM
- DRESS REHEARSAL: Saturday, July 27, from 3-5 PM

I would love to have cowboy poetry and short stories between some of the music. These can be read/shared by non-singers—especially locals with some connection to the world of ranching, history, etc. If you know someone who would be a good fit for this, please let me know!

Contact: *Katy Kristoffersen, UCSJ Music Director*
(ucsjmusic@gmail.com)

July Birthdays

- 1 – Susan Hart
- 1 – Lloyd Hannah
- 1 – Don Scholl
- 4 – Mick Graff
- 5 – Linda Ingo
- 8 – Gen Spangler
- 8 – Ann Larivee
- 8 – Jen Parker
- 10 – Ken Linenberger
- 13 – Bill Hirshman
- 13 – Kentee Pasek
- 14 – Sheryl Radovich
- 15 – Margot Kristoffersen
- 18 – Cindi Myers
- 18 – Ken Stofferahn
- 19 – Sue Stern
- 21 – Rick Gregory
- 21 – Teya Dow
- 23 – Karen Day
- 24 – Kris Boettger
- 25 – Gary Calkins
- 25 – Cristy Cole
- 27 – Robbie Ondak
- 28 – Bridget Hannah
- 29 – Steve Wolff
- 31 – Shelley Becker
- 31 – Tim Pasek

July Anniversaries

- 5 – Burt & Sue Stern
- 14 – Harry & Anna Strong
- 19 – Charlie & Josey Scoville
- 22 – Rick & Stephanie Gregory
- 27 – Kelvin & Becky Kent
- 27 – Don & Carolyn Stiltner
- 29 – Dennis & Barbara Eliason

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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Administrative Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 10

2 PM

(Regular monthly date and time to be determined)

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



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.

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*



PO Box 295 — Ridgway, CO 81432