



THE  
*United Church*  
OF THE *San Juans*

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year July 01, 2023— June 30, 2024

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

<b><u>REPORT</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE #</u></b>
<b>Pastor's Report -----</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Council Chairperson -----</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Administrative Committee -----</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson of Operations -----</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Building &amp; Maintenance -----</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Denominations -----</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Communications -----</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson of Finance -----</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson of Ministry -----</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Care Ministry -----</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Congregational Life Ministry -----</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Education Ministry -----</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Membership Development &amp; Retention Ministry -----</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Missions and Outreach Ministry -----</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Worship and Music Ministry -----</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Nominating Committee -----</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Safety Team -----</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Proposed Budget -----</b>	<b>15</b>

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Last year, just a little over three months as your new pastor, I wrote this to open my first annual report: “As a newcomer to the United Church of the San Juans, I have been so impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of this congregation. Post-pandemic, UCSJ’S commitment to its life and participation in its ministry is strong and brings a vitality that speaks of deep faith in God, a desire to walk together in the Way of Christ, and a willingness to engage with the work of the Holy Spirit within and beyond the walls of this church.” If I had not already written these words, I would write them new today.

This has been a very full year, and I have watched as we have leaned into what it means to be church together. Our mission statement is a great guide, and we see it every Sunday:

- 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.

These words are on the wall above the sign-up sheets. They are in our weekly worship bulletin. They also show up monthly in our newsletter, and they are on our website.

These are great words to walk by, but they also present a tall order. It is not always easy to respect the dignity and integrity of people who see the world differently than you do. Sometimes we can get caught in political viewpoints, rather than getting caught up in faith in the God who goes beyond all human perspectives. Yet to find our joy and meaning through faith is to look beyond the politics of this world to the One who came to save it.

Sometimes encouraging understanding and cooperation means stretching to reach beyond our own frameworks of perception to gain a new way of seeing together. That can be challenging, especially when we are sure our way is the most right. Yet, we have set these as our ground rules as we “seek to foster deeper relationships with God and each other through worship, fellowship, growth, and service.” And I have seen each of you put these elements of our mission statement into practice as I have walked through this past year.

In a world fractured by intentional divisiveness, misinformation, cancelling, doxxing, and a deep unwillingness to work across political lines, it has done my heart good to see us working to make each point in that mission statement an on-the-ground reality. I am grateful for the ways you seek to honor it as we walk together as church in this time. It makes a real difference in this community.

Yet, tending to our mission, putting it into practice takes intentional effort. It is not something that just happens. It gets woven into everything we do, from our casual conversation at fellowship time, to how we think and talk together at book studies and soup suppers, to how we welcome and make a place for those in the larger community through music and creativity camps, monthly Men’s/Coed Breakfasts, weekly Tai Chi, Gals Gatherings, Bible studies, worship and the many other activities this church is now involved in. How do we continue to foster the respect for one another and others in the community that it takes to keep making our mission statement more than just words? That will be the question each of us gets to answer as we walk through this next year.

As we explore this question, we will also be looking ahead. Our Long-Range Visioning Team – along with participation from all of you – will be focusing on our mission statement, learning more about this community, and discerning together where God is calling this congregation into ministry over the next 3-5 years. And as we vision, my hope is that we will begin to see that God’s vision for us goes far beyond

this moment in time. I hope we come to fully believe that as we follow God into that future, we will find new joy and meaning as we seek to continue to foster deeper relationships with God and each other, and in doing that build unity, understanding and a cooperation that testifies to the power and blessing of a life lived together in the Spirit as the Body of Christ.

I am so grateful to be a part of this congregation, and I look forward to all God will do in, among, and through us as we walk into this next year together.

Blessings,  
**Melinda Veatch**, UCSJ Pastor

## **Council Chairperson Report**

I have enjoyed working with the Council members this past year. The insights, efforts and care represented in each council person inspires me to continually listen and find ways to bring us together in the work of the Holy Spirit in this place, UCSJ.

The Ministry Team has stepped up their efforts and have begun having quarterly meetings in order to listen to one another and provide help where needed. The Administrative Committee has continually kept the business operations moving forward. Please read their following reports and thank them for guiding us in our spiritual journey.

We at UCSJ have had a steady, even a slight increase, in attendance this past year. July 2022-June 2023 attendance was 3,755 and July 2023-June 2024 was 3,842. We have celebrated the addition of three new members, and we have mourned the passing of four of our flock. There have also been three members removed or transferred their membership to other congregations. We have remained a strong congregation in a world where many churches are declining.

The maintenance and upkeep of our facility has been brought to focus this past year with drainage problems, air conditioning and plumbing repairs. The Council is asking the congregation to allow expenditure from the Building Reserve Fund to oil the exterior, which it desperately needs, and replace the Pastor office door so it is up to code and leak-free.

This is the third year with our bylaw changes and there are a few aspects of those changes which I believe your Council will review and perhaps bring to you for revision next June. Such as how we develop the concepts of co-chairpersons, review the number of ministry representatives and continue to expand opportunities for congregational members to participate in the life and work of this church.

I am looking forward to the Visioning process. What an exciting venture, which I believe will help us begin the next phase of what a Christian church should and will look like in the coming years. Change seems to be the norm in life and can be both exciting and overwhelming. I am excited to see where we go next. Thanks for including me and my family in the journey.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Pam Larson**, Council Chairperson

## **Administrative Committee Report**

The Administrative Committee monitored day-to-day operations in months when the full Council did not meet. The primary function was oversight of the financial health of UCSJ and our investments in the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

This group, along with Council member, Tim Spangler, researched our Church Mutual insurance policy. (See the Worship & Music Ministry report for actions resulting from this research.)

The Committee reviewed and approved outside group usage of our building.

Several policies and job descriptions were drafted, reviewed and presented to the full Council, including Council Term Policy, updating the Safety & Security Policy, Technical Support Consultant job description and updating the Administrative Assistant job description.

The team reviewed our Pastor's contract, performed her annual review, which was exemplary, and presented a new contract for full Council's approval.

Each member of the Administrative Committee has spent many hours working behind the scenes for us. Pastor Melinda Veatch keeps this team spiritually grounded and teaches us to lead by example. Dennis Eliason, Vice Chairperson of Finance, prepares monthly financial reports, gathers and prepares a budget, works closely with Sue Stern, our outstanding Treasurer and manages our investments. Joan Moyer, Vice Chairperson of Operations, oversees the maintenance of the building and grounds, works with the communication team and is the secretary of both the Administration Committee and the full Council. Donna Whiskeman, Vice Chairperson of the Ministry, convenes the Ministry Representatives quarterly and encourages collaboration and communication. And I, as Chairperson, try to keep up.

This Annual report includes summaries by members of the Administrative Committee, please read their reports to get a picture of the accomplishments that have happened in this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Pam Larson**, Administrative Committee Chairperson

## **Vice Chairperson of Operations Report**

The Vice Chair of Operations provides leadership and support to the Operations of UCSJ as designated in the Governance Structure to the following Teams: Building and Maintenance, Denominations, and Communications.

### **BUILDING and MAINTENANCE 2023-2024 - Michael Moore**

My logged time for the period 01JUL23 through date of this report, 08MAY 24 is approximately 90 hours.

**Routine:** Building/grounds maintenance & repair tasks have been carried out as required and/or requested. David Young and David Stytz generously assisted with snow removal, irrigation system work, holiday ornamentation, and much more. Their time was not logged. In the fall of

2023, the diseased Aspen trees in front of the building were removed and Wilson Landscape serviced all the planters.

**Non-routine maintenance & repair:**

- 18JUL23: The sanctuary air conditioning system went down due to a failed “start capacitor”. Repairs and system health checks performed by One-Hour Service Co.
- 27JUL23: West Plumbing Co. performed the annual Water System Backflow prevention test.
- 09SEP23: Semi-permanent solutions were applied to the water ingress problem at the (exterior) door to the Pastor’s office. The door no longer leaks when water pools up on the sidewalk.
- 18SEP23: Coordinated and oversaw a camera inspection of plugged gutter drain line by Rooter-Man of Montrose. The root cause is tree roots and mud obstructing/collapsing the below-grade gutter drainage into the west landscape bed.
- 20SEP23: While installing a replacement dimmer for sanctuary sconce lighting, I discovered the grounding wire for that circuit was energized (“hot” with 120 volts). After several hours of unsuccessful diagnosis, I consulted a licensed Electrician. On 26SEP23 the Electrician (Tiger Electric Co.) was able to make a functional repair, but suspects mis-wired circuitry in the building electrical system – expensive to find and correct.
- 03OCT23: Coordinated and oversaw excavation of the plugged drain line and installation of new drain system underneath the west landscape bed. According to the contractor (Anglers Excavation of Montrose) the original drain was: 1) Not constructed with the appropriate pipe; 2) pipe not placed at the correct down-slope angle; 3) had no gravel bed below it to promote effective drainage.
- 26OCT23: Applied two coats of stain to exterior wood siding on the stub-wall above the Pastor’s office roof. The wood is in poor condition; likely it has never been re-stained.
- 05MAR24: Replaced batteries (120 total) in all motorized shades on the sanctuary south wall. The Remote battery was also replaced.

**Projects:**

- 09AUG23: Coordinated and oversaw installation of new ceiling fans in the sanctuary.
- 27FEB24: At Tim Spangler’s direction, installed five (5) fire/smoke alarms at appropriate locations throughout the building. Following that, Church Mutual’s “monitoring sensors” were installed adjacent to the fire/smoke alarms.
- 11APR24: At Vince Snowbarger’s direction, I inspected all sanctuary chairs for cracking in the seat reinforcement panel. Chairs with maroon fabric are in good condition. Chairs with “salmon-colored” fabric were found as follows:
  - a. 42 with no visible damage – normal seating comfort.
  - b. 23 with minor cracks in the panel – normal comfort at present (ID’d with one red dot).
  - c. 31 with moderate to severe cracks – degraded comfort (ID’d with two red dots).

**DENOMINATIONS – Tom Chase:**

United Church of the San Juans fulfilled obligations to our denominational partners by sending our benevolence in August of 2023. Our participation with denominations is a witness to them that we are better together when we do God’s work with our Hand’s and Resources. We may not

participate in all the things that are available to us, but it is good to know God's work is continued with our support.

Thanks to Kim Lundgren for being a part of this ministry. Kim faithfully writes for the PLUM corner and that is a great help to me. If there is interest in being a part of this ministry, I would welcome your participation. Contact me and I will let you know what is needed.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

#### **Barb Eliason – Monthly Newsletter and UCSJ Website**

I have faithfully compiled, edited, and distributed (via email and U.S. mail) the monthly UCSJ newsletter. I appreciate the input from the UCSJ staff, the Council, and all others who make the newsletter a great sharing of past and present events.

I continue to update and maintain the church website (<https://ucsjridgway.org/>) with current events. The website includes a calendar of upcoming events and past five sermons. Thank you to Mike Kristoffersen for his expert technical services with videotaping and posting the sermons on Facebook.

#### **Kate Kellogg - Publicity and Advertising**

UCSJ continues to run a weekly ad in the Ouray County Plaindealer. Early this year, Kate Jones, ad director for the paper, notified the church of a 5 percent increase in the cost of display ads. UCSJ's rate increase was slightly less due to the church's long relationship with the Plaindealer. However, a decision was made to cut costs by running the ad in grey tones instead of color. Color ads were placed in the Plaindealer for two 2023 Summer Sundae concerts and for the June San Juan Choral Festival. The church also ran a color ad last June for Katy's summer camps for kids. The Church ran an ad in late November for some of its Christmas choral events – Anita has assisted greatly with these ads.

#### **Anita Posey – Weekly Worship Bulletins, Newslink and UCSJ Facebook Page**

I continue to compile the bulletin and inserts as well as the weekly Newslink e-mail. I enjoy working with Katy and Pastor Melinda on the themes for each week. I also appreciate the input from the UCSJ Council teams that provide the upcoming events information. I enjoy using my photos and finding new graphics for the bulletins each week.

Anita was instrumental in getting our new copy machine up and running with the assistance of Fred Quist.

In April, Anita resigned her position as Administrative Assistant to pursue a full-time position with Citizen's Bank. We so appreciate her work with UCSJ and wish her well in her new career. We welcomed Shirley Didier to her position as UCSJ's new Administrative Assistant. Thank you to Shirley for her expertise and support for UCSJ.

*I am so appreciative of my "Team" – they have faithfully served in their work at UCSJ and I am ever grateful to each of them and know that they are a blessing to this church.*

**Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Moyer, Vice Chair of Operations**

### Vice Chairperson of Finance

Going into the budgeting process, our projections showed that we were significantly under budget for contributions and over budget for expenses. Thankfully we received several large contributions which brought the contributions to \$2,055 over budget. The increase in administrative costs and several unplanned building and landscaping projects drove our expenses over budget. The result was a \$5,600 shortfall for the year which will be covered by our reserves.

The approved budget for the coming year is \$200,000 for both contributions and expenses. The major changes include:

- Pastoral & Staff + \$6,165
- Administration + \$2,765
- Building & Maintenance + \$2,000
- Care Ministry + \$500
- Communications + \$600
- Denominations Relations + \$1,000
- Mission & Outreach - \$2,000
- Reserves - \$1,200

As of May 31, UCSJ has the following funds in reserve.

- Checking Account \$9,600
- General Fund Reserves \$177,000
- Building Fund Reserves \$ 24,400

There are two projects that the Council feel strongly that should be completed. If the budget is approved, these projects will be funded out of the building reserves.

- Staining all exterior wood \$5,000
- Pastor's outside door \$2,100

With these changes, Council recommends that this budget be approved.

The Endowment Committee includes Steve Wolff (Committee Chair), Jenny Cheek, Clayton Beaudry, and Dennis Eliason (ex-officio). They have written several articles this year encouraging greater congregational support of the fund without success of additional contributions. The Endowment fund is held at Texas Presbyterian Fund and has a current balance of \$14,563.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dennis Eliason**, Vice Chairperson of Finance



## **Vice Chairperson of Ministry Report**

In 2023 the various ministries have worked very hard to fulfill their designated functions. Education, under Angela Todd, kept all the weekly studies going, led a study on Romans herself and brought, along with Katy Kristoffersen, the very popular Mindfulness series. Lucy and Charlie Scholpp organized the greeters and made sure that visitors felt welcome at UCSJ. Kathy Graff, assisted by Kay Sibold and her team of “shepherds”, took care for the needs of the congregation during tough times. Carolyn Snowbarger, in charge of Congregational Life, provided a robust calendar of activities to foster connections within the congregation. Tim Spangler has masterfully handled the worship team and made sure all aspects of worship were covered. Dee Moore and her Mission team provided financial assistance to those in need locally and beyond.

The biggest challenges being faced already in 2024 are garnering enough people to help and improving communication. Another hope is to increase our community outreach. This will be an important part of the visioning process that will re-start in June of this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Donna Whiskeman**, Vice Chairperson of Ministry

## **Care Ministry Report**

Because the church membership is fairly large the need to have a team effort involved in this ministry has been felt. The number of people involved in the Care Team, as it is known, is 10. They are Gini Barker, Jere Beaudry, LaVonne & Paul Glanville, Junella Hildreth, Betsey Lattanner, Angela Todd, Kay Sibold, and Don Swartz. (Don was asked to lead a group of men who have recently become widowed or who have recently been divorced.) And, I oversee what they do and help when it is needed. The congregation is divided among this group of people who have in been touch with their “flock” either by phone or a note. With the exception of Don, who has a small group, they each have about 10 to 15 in their group.

We also have people who have specialized tasks within the Care Team. They have volunteered to do specific tasks in our realm like fix food when needed, drive people to doctor’s appointments or to the hospital, do hospital visits, make prayer shawls, send birthday and sympathy cards, do visits, and take communion (Kathy and Bob). Members who do specialized ministry are Carol Kling, Lucy and Charlie Scholpp, Sandy Sloan, Sue Conrad, Lisa Young, Gini Barker, Bob Larson, Kathy Graff.

Much of our ministry work is done quietly and one-on-one, so people are often not aware of the scope of our work. Ours is a ministry of relationship, and we have pondered ideas to promote awareness and effectiveness of our work in the congregation. Church members and friends are encouraged to contact their Care Group leader with their joys and needs. This is how we support and encourage one another. If there is a death, or other situation needing detailed involvement, it is expected that the whole Care Ministry Team will contribute.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Kathy Graff**, Care Representative

## Congregational Life Ministry Report

Connecting with our church family and community is the heart of our congregational life ministry. Our efforts throughout the year have been imagined and supported by our ministry team: Jenny Cheek, Sue Conrad, Charlotte Duckett, Anne Linenberger, Lish Sheppard, Elise Shirey, Kay Sibold, Gen Spangler, and Angela Todd. Thank you for your creativity, brainstorming, organizing, and stepping up repeatedly over the past year.

We have worked with other ministry teams to collaborate on many unique events over the last year: Sunday Sundaes concerts, choir and creativity camps for kids, community learning, two Christmas concerts, the Seder meal, Easter potluck brunch, and our first Super Bowl Party. Thanks to Katy Kristoffersen, Mick Graff, Angela Todd, Tim Spangler, Fred Quist, Donna Whiskeman, Dee Moore, and Pastor Melinda for supporting our “team” efforts.

We have explored, celebrated, and eaten together throughout the year. There have been outdoor adventures to Moab, Silverton, and Creede. Monthly men’s breakfasts gave opportunities to hear from local and regional experts while enjoying a meal together. The gals even joined you for several programs last summer. Our monthly gals’ lunches in Montrose and Ridgway have let us try some new restaurants and go back to favorites. Jenny Cheek’s ladies’ happy hour is always a summer highlight, too. Angela Todd, Lisa Young, and Clayton and Jere Beaudry have invited us to share meals in their homes.

Sunday fellowship following worship has provided opportunities to celebrate milestone birthdays (Mary Mardock and Jean Bosworth), welcome special guests (Bishop Gonia) and new members, Bruce and Elise Shirey. Pie Sunday before Thanksgiving was a hit along with left-over potluck holiday treats between Christmas and New Years. Our faithful coffee-makers David Stytz and Charlie Scholpp showed up every week to get ready for the post-worship crowd. Thanks also to our many treat-bringers throughout the year.

It was great to work closely with our education ministry on several projects including Wednesday evening community learning and On the Same Page Book Club. UCSJ’s book club read *The Women* and *Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah, *Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Hamel, *Cheap Land: Colorado* by Ted Conover, *Dictionary of Lost Words* by Philippa Williams, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, *Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict, *Foster* by Claire Keegan, and *Murder on the Montague* by Glen Sample Ely.

Let us keep connecting this summer and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carolyn Snowbarger**, Congregational Life Representative

## Education Ministry Report

This year, the discipleship ministry expanded from focusing on book-related activities such as book groups and Bible studies to offering more opportunities in other aspects of discipleship, such as mindfulness.

### **Bible Study**

The weekly men's and women's Bible studies continued throughout the year. Special thanks to Donna Whiskeman for leading the women's group and to Bob Larson for doing the same for the men's group.

We also offered a study session after worship on Sundays in September and October that explored Paul's letter to the Romans. We used a book called *Reading Romans Backwards: A Gospel of Peace in the Midst of Empire* by Scot McKnight and an associated guide called *Teaching Romans Backwards* by Becky Castle Miller to guide this study.

### **Community Learning Soup Suppers**

The Soup Supper and Book Study Sessions ran in the autumn, winter, and spring.

The autumn group met weekly from September 13 to November 1 and read *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine* by Max Lucado, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler, and *That All Shall Be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation* by David Bentley.

Two books were selected for the winter Community Learning session: *Natural Grace* by Matthew Fox and Rupert Sheldrake and *The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels* by Thomas Cahill. These groups met weekly starting January 10 and ending February 28.

The book selection committee chose three books for the spring community learning session: *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World* by John Mark Comer, *Rereading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally* by Marcus Borg, and *Grounded: Finding God in the World – A Spiritual Revolution* by Diana Butler Bass. Discussion groups and soup suppers started April 3 and ended on May 22.

### **Mindfulness**

Every Monday throughout the year, Kathy Graff hosted a Centering Prayer session via Zoom.

In 2024, Katy Kristoffersen offered two new courses on mindfulness. The first class, "Introduction to Mindfulness", ran on Sundays from January 7 through February 11. The second class, "Christian Mindfulness", ran on Sundays in Lent starting on February 18 and ending on March 17. Course attendance averaged 20 to 25 people per session with 33 people signed up for the course email list.

### **Incomplete Projects**

An idea was proposed to the Ministry Council to host some sort of special event connected to the ongoing situation in Israel and Palestine. Possibilities included an informational presentation on the history of the conflict (hopefully presented by a credentialed, neutral, outside party, such as a college professor), a prayer meeting, or an update on what our four denominations are doing to respond to the situation. Due to difficulties in identifying an appropriate speaker or speakers and concerns about security and divisiveness, no event was held.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Angela Todd**, Education Representative

## Membership Development and Retention Ministry Report

During this church year Lucy and I worked with Rev Melinda and former Membership chair Alice Goertz to accomplish the following:

- Become more familiar with members and friends of the church and identify people who might need contacting and followup.
- Identifying updates and edits that needed to be made to the directory.
- Creating a set of “Guidelines for Greeters”.
- Providing Greeters for all Sundays and certain special events.
- Developing a system for using email to supplement the sign-in sheets to schedule greeters.
- Updating the visitor sign-in sheets to be less “intimidating” and allow simple “check offs” of reasons for visiting.
- Changing the awkward process of identifying visitors and getting their names and info to the minister just before the service begins. The minister now invites visitors to introduce themselves.
- Identifying visitors for pastor followup as well as followup by the membership team.
- Helping to welcome and induct two new members - Bruce and Elise Shirey.

Respectfully submitted,

**Charlie Scholpp**, Council Membership Representative

## Missions and Outreach Report

The Mission and Outreach Committee is charged with the coordination and facilitation of UCSJ’s involvement, both financially and otherwise, in local and non-local organizations. Distribution of funds have generally been made in the Spring and Fall. Our budget for 2023 - 2024 was \$10,000.

For many years we have been supporting Ouray County Food Bank which we continue to do with monthly needs listed in the church bulletin. There is a box in the foyer where items are dropped off and Cindi Meyers takes the donations to the Food Bank.

In the fall of 2023, we donated to several new (for our congregation) organizations in our nearby communities. Delta Prison Ministry gives Christmas gifts for children of inmates and goodie bags given to all staff and inmates. We gave \$1,000 towards this program.

Another new group for us was Peace Jam, a local group that encourages Ridgway school students in volunteerism and community involvement through projects such as food drives for Indian reservations in Arizona and New Mexico. Several of our committee members helped to wrap Christmas gifts that were also taken to the reservations. We gave \$600 to Peace Jam.

In addition to the above, we also gave \$1,000 to Shepherd’s Hand in Montrose that provides food and shelter for needy families and homeless people. We gave \$1,000 to Western Slope Friends of the Himalayas for the fall earthquake in Nepal.

Christmas 2023 we selected five different projects from the Presbyterian Gift Catalog for total of \$1,400. These included \$250 for 2 emergency life packs; \$250 for a community irrigation water

pump; \$500 for their health program for mothers and newborns; \$300 for educating 12 children; and \$100 for their 'Where Needed Most' Program.

Our committee met in April for our spring fund distributions. We selected the following organizations/groups: Life Choices in Montrose \$485 for baby needs including crib mattresses, winter jackets and clothing; \$1,000 for Friends of the Himalayas; \$1,000 for Haven House in Olathe who provides housing and food for families, mainly women and children; \$1,000 towards African June dental trip Mick and Kathy Graff's son and daughter-in-law organize and \$700 for Katy and Mike Kristoffersen's summer music camp scholarships. The balance of \$815 will be distributed before the end of our fiscal year June 2024.

Our committee thanks our generous congregation for continuing to value and support mission giving through our annual budget. We take seriously the responsibility of how these funds are disbursed. The Committee includes Barb Eliason, Charlotte Duckett, Kate Kellogg, Cindi Meyers, Lucy Scholpp, Claudia Wolff, and myself.

Thanks to all!

Respectfully submitted,

**Dee Moore**, Missions and Outreach Committee Representative

## **Worship and Music Ministry Report**

The Worship and Music Committee spent the previous year in transition with a new Chair, a new Council President, and a new Pastor. Some major activities for the year include:

- Creating an email list to improve and facilitate the recruitment of volunteers: the Chair now feels that recruiting volunteers has improved significantly.
- Creating a pool of supply pastors that are available when Pastor Melinda is absent: the Chair contacted about 25 potential candidates and now has a list of 11 who have indicated their interest and availability, and worked with Council to approve payment of mileage so we can recruit a spectrum of pastors, including from the front range.
- Worked with Council to fund a significant improvement in the audio and visual equipment for the sanctuary. We are very grateful to all that contributed both funding and their talents to make this happen.
- Installing a new smoke alarm system from Church Mutual.
- Evaluating the physical condition of all the chairs in the Sanctuary and finding that over 50 are defective. This is a work in progress, and we need to order one chair replacement seat to see if the color matches.
- Acquisition of a hand bells, and a new Christmas tree.
- Created guidelines and instructions for serving communion.
- We lamented the loss of Fred Quist but are grateful to now have Mike Kristoferson to oversee both the video recording and the audio support during the service.
- Accepted the donation of a transport wheelchair from Gen Spangler, and the donation of a full size wheelchair from Joan Moyer for the use of disabled service attendees.

- Supported Pastor Melinda and others in trying new ideas for Maundy Thursday and integration of a Seder Meal into our UCSJ services.
- A year of training for the new chair with thanks to Pam, Melinda and Katy for their patience.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tim Spangler**, Worship and Music Ministry Representative

## **Nominating Committee Report**

**2023-2024**

### **Nominees for the Church Council (Two-Year Terms)**

Joan Moyer, Vice Chairperson of Operations

Donna Whiskeman, Vice Chairperson of Ministry

Alice Goertz, Care Representative

Tim Spangler, Worship & Music Representative

Vince Snowbarger, Education Representative

### **Nominees for the Church Council (One-Year Term)**

Tom Chase, Membership Representative

### **Nominees for the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee (One-Year Term)**

Joan Moyer, Council Representative

Tom Chase, Council Representative

Charlotte Duckett, Congregational Representative

Betsy Lattanner, congregational Representative

Anita Posey, Congregational Representative

Respectfully Submitted,

2023-2024 Nominating Committee: **Tom Chase, Donna Whiskeman, Alice Goertz, Cindi Myers, Joan Moyer, Pastor Melinda Veatch**, ex officio

## **Safety Team Report**

**2023-2024**

2023 saw an increasing need to have a plan of action for UCSJ to combat the possibility of any number of potential threats. Specifically, fire, medical emergencies, cyber threats, bomb or other suspicious packages and eminent physical threats were identified as most likely to occur. Months of research by the Safety team led to an understanding what we should do. Ed Pecis, a retired policeman from California, graciously devoted many hours to training the team in how to handle various situations.

Currently there are two teams. The medical team consists of Joan Moyer, Angela Todd and Kristi Snapp. The incident team is comprised of Steve and Claudia Wolff, David Stytz, Dave Young, Shirley Didier, Vince Snowbarger and Donna Whiskeman.

The teams are trained twice a year in best practices.

Respectfully submitted,

**Donna Whiskeman**, Lead Safety Team

**Approved Budget  
FISCAL YEAR 2024 -  
2025**

	Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	Actuals for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	Budget Change
<b>General Income</b>	190,000	192,055	200,000	10,000
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Pastor &amp; Staff</b>	114,170	115,085	120,335	6,165
<b>Administration Ministry</b>	15,510	19,819	18,245	2,735
<b>Building and Maintenance Ministry</b>	13,650	18,687	15,650	2,000
<b>Care Ministry</b>	200	597	700	500
<b>Communication Ministry</b>	5,400	5,696	6,000	600
<b>Congregational Life Ministry</b>	3,000	2,056	3,300	300
<b>Denomination Relations Ministry</b>	19,000	19,206	20,000	1,000
<b>Discipleship Ministry</b>	1,300	1,551	1,200	-100
<b>Member Development Ministry</b>	350	0	350	0
<b>Mission and Outreach Ministry</b>	10,000	9,185	8,000	-2,000
<b>Worship and Music Ministry</b>	3,820	2,171	3,820	0
<b>Reserve Account</b>	3,600	3,600	2,400	-1,200
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	190,000	197,653	200,000	10,000
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		(5,598)		