



Embracing Diversity - Honoring Unity

Worship Sundays at 10 AM

Mailing Address:

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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



This month marks the start of fall—where has the summer gone? It seems just last week we were celebrating the 4th of July, and now we are right in front of Labor Day. And that has me thinking about how time marches on—and calls us to keep pace.

When you receive this newsletter, more than a week will have passed between your reading and the day I wrote this article. By the time you read this, the Long Range Visioning Group may already have met on Sunday, August 25th after church to take a deep look at the mission statement that has been the rock-solid foundation of this church since its beginning. Talk about time marching on—that was 21+ years ago.

Earlier in the summer I had visited with one of the people who helped put the mission statement together. He said, “I’ve read that the Long Range Visioning Group will be exploring the mission statement. You aren’t planning to write a new one for the church, are you?”

That idea had not occurred to me at all. Most churches have no clear mission statement to start with that guides their ministry. This church, on the other hand, has one that is included in the worship order every Sunday. We see it all the time. In fact, the sentences below will be very familiar to you:

- 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 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.

This is a great mission statement! But mission statements are only words if we are not living them. How we are living them out now, and how we will live them as we continue time’s march is the focus of the group as we vision for the next phases in the life of this congregation.

They’ll be answering questions like these—I would love to hear your responses to them, as well:

- 1) Describe what it means to you to be a loving and compassionate church family. What is involved in that? How are we being that right now? What would it look like to expand on that?
- 2) What does it look like to you to respect the dignity and integrity of each individual? How are we doing that now? In what ways might we not be doing that?
- 3) With all the diversity of opinions, faith and life experience, world perspectives what are the challenges as we seek to promote unity and encourage understanding and cooperation?

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Calendar for September

(For more information, see page #s)

Sunday, September 1 — 10 AM

Communion

Monday, September 2



Saturday, September 7 — 1 PM

High Tea at Stone House, Montrose (pg. 4)

Wednesday, September 11 — 2 PM

Administrative Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 15 — 4 PM

Sunday Sundaes—Valley Symphony Chorus (pg. 4)

Saturday, September 21 — 8:30 AM

Men's Breakfast (pg. 2)

Friday, September 27

Fall Colors Tour (pg. 4)

Monday, September 30 — 10 AM

On the Same Page Book Club (pg. 3)

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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

Book studies at 4:30 or 7 PM, soup supper at 6 PM
Community Learning (begins September 18) (pg. 3)

THURSDAYS

9:30 AM (via Zoom) — Women's Bible Study
(resumes September 12)

4 PM — Choir Practice (moves from Wednesday to Thursday beginning in September)

SATURDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Men's Bible Study

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Thank you for your generous support. To contribute online, [click here](#) or mail your offerings to the church office at PO Box 295, Ridgway, CO 81432.



Continued from page 1

- 4) How are we currently fostering deeper relationships with God and each other through worship, fellowship, growth, and service? What are our growing edges in doing that?

These are some of the ways we will be exploring our mission statement as we look ahead. I hope you will be part of the discussion!

Blessings, Melinda

July Council Highlights

Your new UCSJ Council met on August 14. **Dennis Eliason** presented the July financials. After a final surge in late June to meet last year's budgeted income, July income has fallen off so we are behind in giving for the month of July. Hopefully this will turn around soon.

Alice Goertz, Care Ministry Chair, reported that her team has been communicating, reorganizing, and meeting present needs.

Joan Moyer, Vice Chair Operations, reported that a gas/CO2 meter has been installed in the kitchen; sidewalk edging has been purchased and will be installed soon; and **Dave Young** installed a lock on the AV closet.

Donna Whiskeman, Vice Chair Ministry, reminded the Council of a ministry team meeting Wednesday, August 21, at 2 PM.

Tim Spangler, Worship & Music Chair, reported the need for a faster computer for our new AV system, he will get estimates and present the information to the Administrative Committee for approval, the expense will be covered by the AV line item.

Carolyn Snowbarger's motion to accept the Google Calendar as UCSJ's official calendar passed (see "What's Up" on page 4).

The old copier will be placed in the Ridgway/Ouray Marketplace for "free." If you know of anyone who could use a working copier, please contact Pam Larson, Council Chair.

A Council retreat will be held in the sanctuary Sunday, September 22 after church.

Council meetings for 2024-25 will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 PM in the sanctuary. Full Council will meet in November, January, March, May, and June. Administrative Committee will meet the remaining months.

The next meeting will be for the Administrative Committee on September 11, at 2 PM. Please let us know your concerns/questions and join us if you can.

Blessings and thanks for allowing us to serve you, our UCSJ Family

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, September 21, at 8:30 AM.** The tentative speaker will be the CEO of Montrose Regional Health who will be talking about the new medical center in Montrose. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletin and the weekly newlink.



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 July 31, 2024

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income BELOW Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$10,563	\$16,667	<\$6,104>	\$200,000
Expenses	\$13,904			
Net LOSS	<\$3,341>			

Sue Stern, Treasurer

Remember: If you plan to make a stock or cash donation from a brokerage account, PLEASE notify me or have your broker send a contribution letter to UCSJ. These transactions rarely include the name of the account holder making it difficult to determine who sent the donation. Thank you!

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, September 1



Education at UCSJ

September marks the beginning of our fall offerings.

Community Learning — Book Studies and Soup Suppers



Our Wednesday night Community Learning sessions begin **September 18**. In August, we began selecting the book offerings for the fall. Voting is ongoing and final selections will be announced early in September. You will have an opportunity to select a book and a time (4:30 or 7 PM) for your study. Soup suppers will be at 6 PM.

On the Same Page Book Club

Go As the River by Shelley Read — Monday, August 30, at 10 AM

Have you ever wondered what lies beneath Blue Mesa Reservoir? Homes, ranches, towns, and farms were “washed away” with the construction of the dam along the Gunnison River. This book has been inspired by true events set in Iola. It features a young woman facing loss of all that she has known. Yet she begins to see her life as a river—gathering and flowing, finding a way forward. We have copies in the gathering area (\$10).

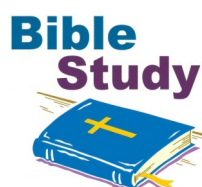


What I Know Now: Letters to My Younger Self by Ellen Sprague — Monday, September 30, at 10 AM

Maybe you'll find “just one thing” that will resonate with you and your life today. The editor has compiled wisdom, insights, and life-lessons from 41 famous women who write letters to their younger selves. These pages are filled with hope and perspective, and books are available in the gathering area (\$10). Elise Shirey will facilitate our discussion.

Ongoing WEEKLY Events

Centering Prayer meets, on ZOOM, every Monday morning at 9 AM. Contact Kathy Graff if you are interested in taking part.



Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study meets, on Zoom, on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM. It has been on hiatus for the summer but will resume on **September 12**. Contact Donna Whiskeman for more information.

Men's Bible Study meets, on ZOOM, on Saturday mornings at 8:30 AM. Contact Bob Larson if you are interested in joining for a fun and meaningful look into God's Word.

Vince Snowbarger, Council Representative for Education

What's Up?

UCSJ has many events, activities, and programs happening every week. Our council has adopted an “official” online calendar for keeping track of everything. We'll try to keep you updated on ucsjridgway.org and through our monthly newsletter and weekly Friday news (Newslink). If you have questions about what's on the schedule or to add an event, please contact Carolyn Snowbarger.

Connections at UCSJ

High Tea — Stone House, Saturday, September 7, at 1 PM

Let's get classy! Elevate your Saturday with High Tea at the Stone House in Montrose. We'll have imported teas accompanied by exquisite cakes, pastries, scones, and sandwiches. The cost is \$25 per person or \$35 with champagne. Please sign up in the gathering area.

Valley Symphony and Chorus — September Performances



The Valley Symphony kicks off their 53rd season with *Celebrate! The Sounds of Summer*, and UCSJ is well-represented with Katy & company. **Sue Conrad** will perform with the symphony orchestra on **Sunday, September 8, at 5 PM, at Montrose Riverbottom Park**. The Valley Symphony Chorus is conducted by our own **Katy Kristoffersen** and features many of our UCSJ singers: **Vince Snowbarger, Anna Strong, Judy Lokey, Tim Spangler, and Dave and Sue Conrad**. Chorus concerts will be at the **Montrose United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 14, at 7 PM, and at UCSJ on Sunday, September 15, at 4 PM**. This will be our final **Sunday Sundaes** event of the summer.

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

See page 2 for details.

Happy Birthday, Bob McDaniel!

Our Bob McDaniel turns 92 on September 20, and we need to celebrate. **Join us for fellowship time after worship on Sunday, September 22.**



Fall Colors Tour — Friday, September 27

We'll go leaf peeping and explore our aspen gold rush. Ken Sloan will find our best colors, and will share details a few days before the event. We'll be on highways and gravel roads that don't require 4WD.



Thank you!

Thanks to **Kay Sibold, Carol Kling, Gen Spangler, Charlie and Lucy Scholpp, Sue Conrad, Elise Shirey, Angela Todd, LaVonne Glanville, and Burt and Sue Stern** for providing Sunday fellowship treats. Kudos to our coffee-makers **David Stytz and Dave Young**.

Save the Date!

Applelicious Sunday — October 20

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*

Ouray County Food Pantry

Our **September focus** for giving to the Ouray County Food Pantry is **cleaning supplies and toiletries**. These are important items that everyone needs but may be harder to afford. **Laundry and dish detergent, all-purpose and glass cleaners, paper towels, toilet paper, and personal hygiene items**. All are welcome. And of course, all donations of non-perishable food are also welcome. Items must be unopened and unexpired. Thank you.



Cindi Myers, Mission & Outreach Ministry Member

New Community Volunteer Opportunity with the Ouray County Sheriff's Department

The Ouray County Sheriff's Department recognizes the need to provide spiritual support to our citizens and law enforcement officers from time to time. With that in mind, the department is creating a volunteer Sheriff's Chaplain program. We are seeking interested clergy and congregants from local churches to participate as trained volunteer chaplains.



The volunteer chaplains will:

- Participate in scheduled chaplain meetings
- Often accompany deputies on ride-a-longs during their shift
- Provide spiritual support in situations to both law enforcement personnel and those whose situation law enforcement has been called on to address
- From time-to-time respond to deaths and complete death notifications
- Visit at the hospital and attend funerals if requested

A brief overview of preparation for this volunteer program includes:

- An interview with the Sheriff and coordinator
- A background check to assess eligibility
- Participation in a training program to equip volunteer chaplains

Training and uniform shirt will be provided through the Sheriff's Office. Once a team of volunteer chaplains has been assembled, we will create a participation roster that works to accommodate the volunteers' schedules.

If you are interested and would like more information, please call Ed Pecis, Chaplain Coordinator at 530.604.4155.

Tasty Morsels from "PLUM" Corner

It has been a busy summer for me, and probably you too. As we move into Fall, I enter a reflective time and give thanks for all that I have. May you thoughtfully read the PLUM information below.

Kim Lundgren



PRESBYTERIANS — Columbia Theological Seminary has named Maci Sepp, Director of Vocational Outreach in the office of Enrollment Management and Vocational Outreach. [CLICK here for more information.](#)

LUTHERANS — Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. [CLICK here to learn more.](#)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — The UCC and Disciples of Christ address the crisis in the Middle East and have been active in a variety of ways. [CLICK here for more information.](#)

METHODISTS — The end of summer brings new opportunities to grow in our faith, reignite our passion for serving others, and opportunities to invite new friends and neighbors to visit us at UCSJ. [CLICK here for a short UMC video and more.](#)

September Birthdays

- 7 – Tim Spangler
- 9 – Dorothy Halasz
- 9 – Carolyn Snowbarger
- 13 – Cliona Pasek
- 14 – Patty Ratliff
- 16 – Vince Snowbarger
- 20 – Robert McDaniel
- 20 – Randal Fischer
- 24 – Jenny Cheek
- 27 – Judy Hazen
- 29 – Fred Quist

September Anniversaries

- 2 – Jim & Alice Hill
- 5 – Jim & Susan Wing
- 9 – Jack & Kay Sibold
- 15 – Wendy Kidd & Shelly Spalding
- 16 – Carl Krieg & Margaret Knipfer
- 23 – Paul & LaVonne Glanville
- 30 – Randal & Deborah Fischer

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, September 11
2 PM**

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

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UCSJ Family and Friends Directory

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.





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*



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