

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



(Drawing courtesy of Dick Engdahl)



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

— Hebrews 12:1-2a

I don't think any of us would be here without that "great cloud of witnesses." We so need each other to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us." I would not have received the gift of being part of a family of faith without all the others who were part of my home church.

In my mind, my own family had to show up for me, but none of the rest of the people at church did. Yet, throughout my life, many of them were there every week. Some I grew up with in Sunday school and youth group. Others I saw singing in the choir, reading scripture and leading in worship. Some set up coffee and treats for fellowship time. Some organized mission projects and got us all involved in them. Some led Bible studies or arranged for special church events. They all taught me, with mostly their actions, the gift of being part of Christ's Body.

But I learned about far more than just doing from them. I learned who Christ calls us all to be from how they participated and interacted with each other. It wasn't that they never disagreed, but it was how they handled each other in the midst of those disagreements that taught me the power of love. They didn't cancel or cut each other off. Over time they worked through whatever came up. They weren't all best friends—yet even those with clashing personalities showed up at funerals, setting up the sanctuary or the reception or the lunch. They sat together at Bible studies and worked together on mission projects. As they kept showing up over the years, I watched some of their rough edges gradually smooth and disagreements shift to an acceptance of different perspectives and a sense that we are all in this life together.

Because Allhallowstide opens the month of November—that's the days of Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day—it becomes an opportunity to remember and give thanks for those we've known in that great cloud of witnesses who have shown us how to live Christ's way.

As you make your way from Allhallowstide to Thanksgiving, I invite you take a moment each day to remember and give thanks for those whose faith has shaped your life. In doing so, you will see God's incredible grace made plain in the great treasure of faith we have in each other.

Blessings, Melinda



Happy Thanksgiving!
Thursday, November 28

Calendar for November

(For more information, see page #s)

Sunday, November 3 — Daylight Saving Time Ends

10 AM — Communion

11 AM — Pumpkin Spice Fellowship

Monday, November 4 — 10 AM

On the Same Page Book Club (pg. 4)

Sunday, November 10 — 5 PM

Remember When (pg. 5)

Monday, November 11

VETERANS DAY

Wednesday, November 13

Noon — Gals' Lunch (pg. 5)

2 PM — Full Council Meeting (pg. 2)

Sunday, November 24 — 11 AM

Pie Sunday

Thursday, November 28



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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 (pg. 4)

WEDNESDAYS

Book Studies at 4:30 PM, Soup Supper at 6 PM

Community Learning (September 18 through November 13) (pg. 4)

THURSDAYS

9 AM (via Zoom) — Women's Bible Study (pg. 4)

4:30 PM — Choir Practice

SATURDAYS — 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Men's Bible Study (pg. 4)

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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.

Thank you!

October Council Highlights

The Administrative committee of the UCSJ Council met on October 9. Along with approval of the previous minutes, was the acceptance of the September financials. September financials resulted in a positive balance and gives hope that this will continue. Thanks for giving to our UCSJ family. The Admin is working on updating the Facilities policy and use forms. The ROCC Annual Meeting was approved for December 7, 2024, with a request to comply with the new Facilities Checklist.

The sidewalk edging project will be contracted out since this project is more complicated than first thought. The monies will come from the generous donation to the building maintenance fund.

There will be a Ministries meeting, Wednesday, October 16, to make plans for the fall season and holidays.

A note will be placed in the bulletin insert asking that "political information" not be brought into the church. This is in line with our mission statement of accepting and honoring our diversity.

The Communication Task Force is working on three areas: 1) intra-office communication and review; 2) Council communication and 3) communication to the broader community.

The next UCSJ Council meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13, at 2 PM at the church. If any of you would like to join us, please do. If you have questions/concerns/comments about our church life, please contact any Council member. Thank you for letting us serve you.

Blessings, Pam Larson, Council Chair

City Market Community Rewards

Thank you to the 17 households who helped UCSJ receive \$195.64 last quarter!



It's easy to help UCSJ receive donations using your City Market/Kroger card. You just need a digital account, so if you already have one just click [here](#) and scroll down to the "Link your shopper's card" to get started and search for United Church of the San Juans, select, and save. If you don't have a digital account, you will need to create one. Any transactions moving forward will be applied to the program at no added cost to you.

Thank You!

As Katy mentioned during worship last month, the teachers and faculty at Ridgway Elementary School were mourning the loss of their beloved principal to cancer.



Knowing they were hurting, on September 20th, the Woman's Bible Study group took orange juice, fresh fruit, and yummy muffins to the teacher's lounge along with a note from UCSJ hoping these goodies would brighten their day. From all reports, it did!

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 September 30, 2024

	YTD Actual	Year-to-Date Goal	Income ABOVE Goal	Annual Budget
Income	\$56,474	\$50,000	\$6,474	\$200,000
Expenses	\$48,553			
Net GAIN	\$ 7,921			

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, November 3



Tasty Morsels from "PLUM" Corner

Hurricanes have brought devastation to the southeastern part of our country. Death and destruction at almost an unbelievable rate have left people with devastating losses. Our four denominations have sent out a plea for support to help all those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. If you can, please select one of the disaster relief organizations and give what you can.

PRESBYTERIANS — Mission to North America (MNA) Disaster response is looking for donations and volunteers to help with relief efforts in the effective states. [Click here for more information.](#)

LUTHERANS — Lutheran Disaster Response. [Click here for more information.](#)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — [Here is your link to support Hurricane disaster thru the UCC.](#) One great hour of sharing will handle UCC donations to hurricane relief. The UCC is also calling for all it's members to Vote with Love. The get out and vote slogan is "Our Faith Our Vote."

METHODISTS — UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery is the organization in the Methodist denomination that will handle donations for hurricane relief. [Click here for information.](#)

The relief from Hurricane Helene and Milton is the main topics in all of our denominations. Other things for your consideration is camp registration for someone in the family. This is the time of the year to get those registrations in. Need help let me know or go to the website for the camp. Finding camps can be done by visiting each denominations home page.

Looking for something different in gifts for Christmas this year? Our denominations have gift catalogs that will help you pick a gift and at the same time help a family build for the future. I have placed The Good Gifts catalog in the box in the library marked Lutheran. Looking for other catalogs to place in the other denominations boxes. You can find information about gifting at each Denominations home page.

Tom Chase



UCSJ Family and Friends Directory

Address, phone, email changes, or if you wish to be removed from the directory. Please email ucsjoffice@gmail.com or leave a detailed message on the church phone 970.626.5803.

Education at UCSJ

Community Learning — Book Studies and Soup Suppers

Our Wednesday night Community Learning sessions continue through November 13. Even if you have not yet attended, you are welcome to join any of the groups. We are studying the following books:

The Gnostic Gospels Collection by Elaine Pagels

Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus by Thomas Cahill

Reading Genesis by Marilynne Robinson

Each book study meets at 4:30 PM. Soup suppers are at 6 PM.



On the Same Page Book Club

Monday, November 4, at 10 AM — *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods

On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookshop is waiting to be found. For too long, Opaline, Martha and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives. But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder... where nothing is as it seems.

Books are available in the gathering area (\$10).

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study, meets on ZOOM, 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.

Women's Bible Study, meets on ZOOM, Thursday mornings at 9 AM. *The book of, James: Practical and Authentic Living* by Charles Swindoll, is the focus this year. We would love to have you join us! Contact Donna Whiskeman.

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

Vince Snowbarger, Council Representative for Education

Ouray County Food Pantry

At this time of year when we're all especially aware of the bounty we've been given, we're sharing that bounty with our neighbors who utilize the Ouray County Food Pantry. This month's donation focus is on food to contribute to special holiday meals.

From cranberry sauce to stuffing mix to gravy to pie filling, think of the things that go into your special holiday meals and purchase an extra package or two to contribute to the food pantry.

Bring your donations to church Sunday morning or anytime the building is open. All donations of food and personal hygiene items are welcome. Items must be unexpired and unopened. Thank you.



Cindi Myers, Mission & Outreach Ministry Member

Mission & Outreach



The Mission & Outreach Committee gave \$1,000 to Niki Kop, one of our members, who has to go to California for surgery. Members from the congregation have also helped through GoFundMe and directly to Niki as she had to raise all the money before this necessary surgery that affects breathing.

Thanks to all who have helped Niki.

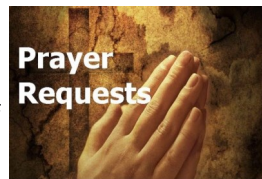
Our Committee also gave \$500 to United Methodist US Relief Fund for Hurricane Helene and \$500 to Mercy Chefs. Mercy Chefs is a faith based organization located in Virginia that provides chef prepared meals. They have mobile kitchens that go to disaster areas and provide meals for first responders and people who need a healthy hot meal. They are also involved in war-torn areas such as Ukraine.

The Mission & Outreach Committee appreciates the generosity of our church family in supporting needs locally and around the globe. We take seriously our responsibility of disbursing these funds where needed.

Dee Moore, Chair

Caring for One Another . . .

We lift prayers for Sue and the family of **Burt Stern** on his death this past month in an automobile accident just north of Ridgway, and we hold Sue in prayer as she is in critical condition and hospitalized at St. Mary’s in Grand Junction.



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.)

Connections at UCSJ

Remember When — Sunday, November 10, at 5 PM, hosted by Lisa and David Young

What were your favorite foods, activities, and shows growing up? These potlucks will give us a chance to go back, remember, and share. Our host will plan a potluck meal, and you may wish to bring a favorite dish from years ago. Would you like to host a small group gathering at your home? Contact Carolyn Snowbarger for details.

Men’s Breakfast

Great programs are being planned for 2025. Due to the holidays, we won’t have breakfasts in November or December.

Gals’ Lunches

Wednesday, October 23, at Noon

Have you been to Shelter Distilling in Montrose? Tacos, salads, burgers, wraps and more! It’s located at 947 Mayfly Drive.

Wednesday, November 13, at Noon

Another new restaurant for us to check out! Endless Pastabilites is located at 1544 Oxbow Dr. in Montrose. This is the same building where Black Canyon Dental is located. Their menu includes pastas, soups, salads, and sandwiches. Please sign up in the gathering area or contact Carolyn Snowbarger.



Celebrations!

Join us during fellowship on Sunday, October 27, to celebrate our **October birthdays**. If you have a milestone birthday or anniversary coming up, please contact Carolyn Snowbarger.

Thank you!

Thanks to our many volunteers who brought food and helped serve treats this past month: **Gen Spangler, Sue Conrad, Lish Sheppard, Charlotte Duckett, and Angela Todd.** David Stytz is our Coffee King!



Save the Date!

Pumpkin Spice Fellowship—Sunday, November 3
Pie Sunday—November 24

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

November Birthdays

- 6 – David Young
- 7 – Diana Schreiber
- 9 – Margaret Fredericks
- 9 – Alicia Sheppard
- 18 – Reed Kramer
- 18 – Pam Stofferahn
- 18 – Brian Wood
- 21 – Bob Larson
- 26 – Michael Moore
- 28 – Dennis Eliason
- 29 – Larry Harley
- 29 – Ian Snapp

November Anniversaries

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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Full Council Meeting

**Wednesday, November 13
2 PM**

Administrative Committee meets monthly.

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



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NO Men’s Breakfast during the months of November and December!

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Now that winter is approaching, please remember that



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


So Many Ways to Help Out! We Need YOU!

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



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

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