

THE  
**United Church**  
OF THE **San Juans**



**EIGHTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**  
**JULY 19, 2026**

**MEDITATION**

Our errors and our controversies, in the sphere of mortality, arise sometimes from looking on humans as if they could be altogether bad, or altogether good.

– *Luc de Clapiers*

As you get older, you find that often the wheat, disentangling itself from the chaff, comes out to meet you.

– *Gwendolyn Brooks*

We can grow good wheat and make good bread only if we understand that we do not live by bread alone.

– *Wendell Berry*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**PRELUDE**

**“The Humble Heart”**

Naathan Howe, soloist

*(Selected verses from a Shaker hymn from the George De Witt hymnal, New Lebanon PA, 1822)*

*Of all the fowls that beat the air I've chose one little dove,  
I've made her spotless white & fair, The object of my love.  
Of all the trees among the wood I've chose one little vine,  
The meek and low are nigh to me, The humble heart is mine.*

*Tall cedars fall before the wind, The tempest breaks the oak,  
While slender vines will bow and bend And rise beneath the stroke.  
I've chosen me one pleasant grove And set my lovely vine,  
Here in my vineyard I will rove, The humble heart is mine.*

*Of all the kinds that range at large I've chose one little flock.  
And those I make my lovely charge, Before them I will walk.  
The lovely object of my love, Around my heart shall twine  
My flock, my vineyard & my dove, The humble heart is mine.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(written by Rev. Beth Merrill Neel, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland, OR)* Vince Snowbarger

Leader: A love that never ceases,

**People: A creativity that designed the universe,**

Leader: A hope that cannot be quenched,

**People: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:**

Leader: These are the things that are of God,

**People: So let us worship our Creator, our Redeemer, the Breath within our lungs.**

Holy God, you know us inside and out, through and through. You search us out and lay your hand upon us. You see the wheat in us and the tares, and your grace patiently works in our lives to grow the healthy in us, to heal the unhealthy, and to bring us into maturity. Help us to see the wheat in others, and to reach out to those who are wrapped up in the weeds that you may continue to grow the good in us and in the world. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG\*

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Congregation

*(John Samuel Bewley Monsell, words; Johann Steurlein, music)*

Hymn No. 724

All Verses

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-21

Gini Barker

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Bloom

UCSJ Choir

*(Nathan Howe)*

*In scorching sun or glist'ning rain,  
Days of need, days of plenty,  
Reaching upward, I remain, I remain.*

*Yet I may bloom,  
Yet I may bloom,  
I may bloom from any kind of ground.*

*In railroad tracks and sidewalk cracks,  
Places loved or forgotten,  
Find a space and make it home, make it home.*

*Yet I may bloom,  
Yet I may bloom,  
I may bloom from any kind of ground.*

*Firm on the mountain when the storms blow,  
Calm at the river, strong in the snow,  
The world is our garden;  
Together we grow.*

*Yet I may bloom,  
Yet I may bloom,  
I may bloom from any kind of ground.*

**SCRIPTURE READING****Matthew 13:24-30**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

"An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

"No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON****The Way in the Field**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

**RESPONSIVE SONG****Blest Are They**

Congregation

**Hymn No. 666****Verses 1 and 2, then Refrain****Verses 3 and 4, then Refrain****Verse 5, then Refrain****RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Pastor Melinda Veatch

*Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION****DOXOLOGY\***

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Vince Snowbarger and Pastor Melinda Veatch

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG\*****God's Love Made Visible!**

Congregation

*(Iola and Dave Brubeck)***Hymn No. 226****Both Verses**

## CLOSING PRAYER

Vince Snowbarger

Lord of the harvest, your Word finds a home in our heart, calls us into community, and invites us to generous service of the human family. Bless us with your courage and spirit as we go out from worship today. As we walk from worship back into the world, may we walk with you. Develop in us a spirit that is bread in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

**One Seed**  
(Nathan Howe)

Nathan Howe, soloist

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

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### OUR MISSION

- 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.

### WE ARE AFFILIATED WITH

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA ~ THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



**Rev. Melinda A. Veatch**     [ucsjpastor@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjpastor@gmail.com)

Church Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - 9 am to 1 pm.

[www.ucsjridgway.org](http://www.ucsjridgway.org) . 970-626-5803 . P.O. Box 295 . 295 N. Lena Street . Ridgway CO 81432 . Facebook/UCSJ Ridgway

### MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director  
[ucsjmusic@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjmusic@gmail.com)

### OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant  
[ucsjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ucsjoffice@gmail.com)