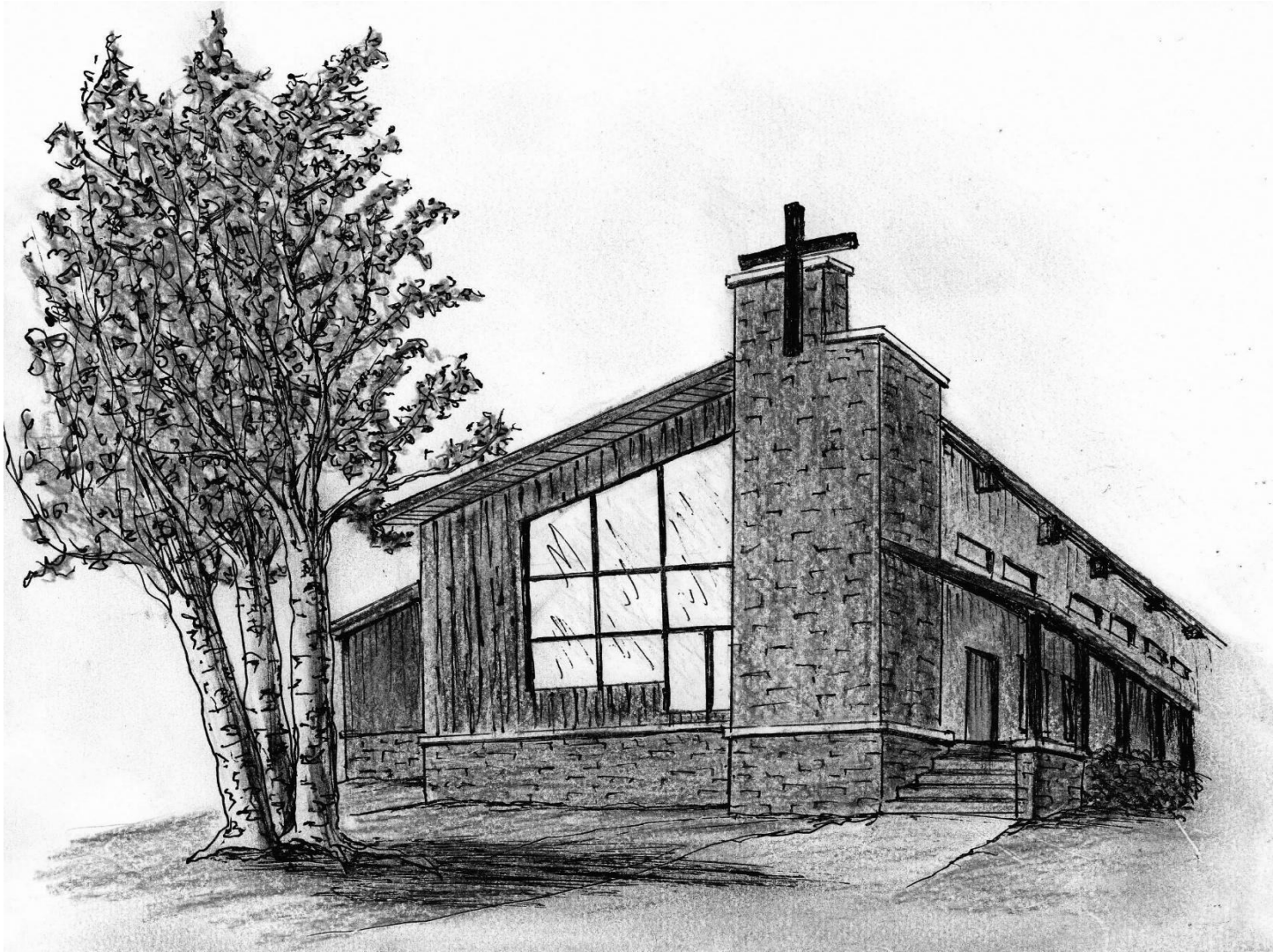




THE
United Church
OF THE *San Juans*

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year July 01, 2025 – June 30, 2026

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Pastor's Report

Just a little over three years ago now, 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.” I am happy to begin this report with these words again this year.

This has been a very full year, and I have watched as we have continued to lean 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. Sometimes we can get caught in political positions, rather than getting caught up in faith in the God who goes beyond them. 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. 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.

As I look over each sentence of this mission statement, I see members of the Care Team checking in on people in and beyond the congregation, making calls and sending notes, driving those who need a ride to appointments, taking a meal to those not in a position to cook or go out.

I see all the lunches, fellowship conversations over coffee and treats, trips and celebrations our Congregational Life Team coordinates to keep us spending time and building bonds together.

I see members and others beyond the congregation engaged in opportunities coordinated by our Education Team – gathering for Book studies and soup suppers, getting together to discuss episodes of *The Chosen* and our faith, and walking through 6 weeks of a Lenten practice.

I see our Mission Outreach team setting up lunch for the Ouray and Ridgway ISD’s teacher in-service days, coordinating a drive to collect items for Peace Jam’s trip to the Ute Reservation, and making tie blankets for veterans for Hope West Hospice.

I see us gathered for worship each Sunday, praying together, singing together, walking with the Word each week together. I see it in the sunny light of Sunday morning, in the packed sanctuary of Christmas Eve, in the quiet solemnity of Good Friday, and in the joy of Easter morning.

Especially in this past year, I have seen it in the meetings of our Long-Range planning team as we have looked long and hard at realities facing all churches, at changes in our community, and at directions God is calling us to go as we walk into the next five years.

In a world fractured by intentional divisiveness, misinformation, cancelling, and a deep unwillingness to work across political lines, it has been heartening to see us work 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. 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? We will be focusing on growing how we answer that question with real action in real time as we walk through this next year.

As we begin to make our vision tangible in on-the-ground, relevant ways, 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, that 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

Council Chairperson Report

Once again, I have had the privilege of working with each Council member as we do the work of the Holy spirit in this unique, wonderful church family. The experiences, efforts, insights and care of each council person brings new and exciting perspective to the work we do here at UCSJ.

Each Ministry Team Representative and the Administrative Committee Chairs have generously spent their time working on their specific ministries as well as working collaboratively. Please read their following reports and thank them for their time and guidance.

The Council has continued to discuss and find ways to support Pastor Melinda. We encourage her to conduct several services using others to preach as she leads the remainder of the service, thus eliminating sermon prep time. Other ideas on how to keep our full-time pastor in her part-time position.

There was a slight increase in attendance this past year. July 2024-June 2025 attendance was 3579 and July 2025-June 2026 was 3702. We have celebrated and mourned the passing of three of our flock (Ron Shannon, Margaret Fredricks & Bob Hart. There have also been a few who have transferred their membership to other congregations outside our area and a few who have move. In addition, we celebrated several baptisms. We at UCSJ have continued to strongly support one another and our mission!

The access to the Monthly financials will now be available to both the Treasurer and the Vice-Chair of Operations. A much-needed change. This next year, accounting programs specifically made for churches will be investigated and, hopefully, implemented.

Next year's budget includes monies for paying outside help with snow plowing and shoveling, facility and grounds upkeep. Any major projects that are needed will be paid, with congregational approval, from the Building reserve fund. This year several upgrades to the building and grounds has been made, including gravel added to the west handicapped parking, improved sanctuary lighting and several other projects.

After five years of working under new bylaws, a few minor changes are being proposed for next year. These include allowing Council members to be five Administrative members and up to six officers; Ministry Council Representatives to have concurrent Ministry Chairpersons; and emphasizing that proposed nominees are vetted by the Nominating Committee. Hopefully, these proposed changes will be approved at the June Annual meeting.

The Visioning process is complete and the summary will be presented at the meal after the Annual Meeting. This process has very extensive and has provided an over-arching direction to our UCSJ ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Larson, Council Chairperson

Administrative Committee Report

The purpose of the Administrative Committee is monitored day-to-day operations, approve routine financial obligations, recommend to Council changes needed in by-laws and procedures They meet in months when the full

Council does not. The primary function is oversight of the financial health of UCSJ and our investments in the Texas Presbyterian Foundation and regular administrative functions. This Committee consists of the Pastor, Melinda Veatch, Vice-chair of Finances, Vince Snowbarger, Vice-Chair of Operations, Joan Moyer, Vice-chair of Ministries, Donna Whiskeman and myself, Council Chair.

This committee along with the whole Council assessed the Pastor's performance. The review was extremely positive with the major concern again being the number of hours Pastor Veatch spends each week which is far above the contracted 25-30 hours. We continue to investigate ways to assist her in order to prevent burnout.

Later this summer a subgroup of the Administrative Committee will begin to review various accounting and member ship programs that are specifically designed for churches. Vince Snowbarger, Vice-chair of Finances, spent many hours considering how we can more easily keep track of our financial information. Gail Callahan continued to perform the treasurer responsibilities earlier this fiscal year until Sue Stern was, once again, ready to take over the job.

A sub committee of Bob McDaniels, Tim Spangler, Vince Snowbarger and myself reviewed the UCSJ Bylaws and proposed a few minor changes that were accepted by the Council and will be presented to the Congregation for approval.

Each member of the Administrative Committee works to keep day-to-day operations flowing. Pastor Melinda Veatch keeps the team spiritually grounded and teaches us to lead by example. Vince Snowbarger, Vice Chairperson of Finance, prepares monthly financial reports, prepares a budget, works closely Treasurer and manages our investments. Joan Moyer, Vice Chairperson of Operations, oversees the maintenance of the building and grounds, works with the communication team. She is at the end of her present term and will sorely missed. She has also been the recording secretary of both the Administration Committee and the full Council and, upon appointment, will continue this duty. Donna Whiskeman, Vice Chairperson of the Ministry, convenes the Ministry Representatives quarterly and encourages collaboration and communication. She is also at the end of her present term and she too will be missed. And I, as Chairperson, try to prayerfully lead and look forward to working with the new members of our team.

This Annual report includes summaries by members of the Administrative Committee, please read their reports to get an idea of this year's progress.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Larson, Administrative Committee Chair

Vice Chair 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 2025 – 2026

David Stytz assisted in snow removal, irrigation system, and maintaining a safe handicap entrance to the church.

Steve Wolff organized carpet cleaning at UCSJ (the first in many years) and ordered 56 replacement seats for the Sanctuary chairs.

Dave Young mowed empty lot, weeded, participated in fall cleanup, maintained irrigation system, unclogged gutters, shoveled snow, fixed sticky doors, replaced HVAC filters every 4 months, replaced burned out light bulbs, replaced deformed floor vent, monitored AED machine and replaced electrode pads, replaced dimmer switch for Sanctuary sconces, installed replacement seats to the Sanctuary chairs, and had four new keys made for the church.

Joan Moyer purchased a cork board for the kiosk at the front of the church and Dave Young installed it. She coordinated with Tiger Electric and had track lighting installed for the choir. A five light floor lamp was purchased for use in the library and for book studies. Coordinated pest control 2 times/year by Golden Eagle Pest Control. Assisted with the installation of two new dishwashers. Purchased new LED bulbs for Sanctuary sconces and chandeliers which were installed by Dave Young. Purchased 2 new fire extinguishers which were installed by Dave Young (one on Sanctuary east wall and one in hall by library). Scheduled meeting with Jake Coulter regarding handicap parking drainage. Completed a storage analysis and submitted results to the UCSJ Council. Participated in fall cleanup and completed spring cleanup and weeding. Had one extra file cabinet key made.

Denominations: Tom Chase

Thank you to Kim Lundgren for sharing the obligation of writing monthly articles for the PLUM corner. This past year I have fulfilled our obligation to contact our four Denominations. This includes sending our benevolence commitment and annual report to each Denomination. During the year I have edited and passed correspondence from our denominations to the ministries that may find the information helpful. The congregation was blessed to have our Methodist District Superintendent fill our pulpit one. Sunday. We look forward to visits from our Presbyterian and Lutheran brothers and sisters.

Communications Team

Joan Moyer, Carolyn Snowbarger, Barb Eliason, and Dennis Eliason reviewed, edited, and updated the participants for the NewLink, Newsletter, Active and Inactive membership list, the Directory, and the UCSJ membership list.

The Communication Task Force Committee provided updates to the NewsLink. Shirley Didier, Administrative Assistant continues to compile the weekly bulletin, inserts, the NewsLink, and maintains the Constant Contact list. Barb Eliason continues to compile, edit and distribute the monthly Newsletter and maintains the UCSJ website.

The Communication Team (Joan Moyer, Carolyn Snowbarger, Rev. Veatch, Kate Kellogg, Katy Kristoffersen, and Mike Kristoffersen) established a policy to effectively keep our members actively engaged in the life of the congregation and the community. The Team Process is as follows: Carolyn finalizes a calendar of weekly events and special events for each month; Joan schedules the events for the weekly ads, the monthly poster, and the free calendar; Katy Kristoffersen designs the weekly ads and the poster; Kate Kellogg submits the weekly ads and events for the free calendar. This process has worked well throughout the year.

Last year through Ted Schrodels donation we submitted an ad in the Summer Guide and will do it again this year. A QR Code was established and is noted in the Summer Guide, the UCSJ website, and the weekly ads.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Moyer, Vice Chair of Operations

Vice Chair of Finance Report

At the end of April our contributions totaled \$180,213 while our expenses totaled \$169,993. Our budgeted total contributions for 2025-2026 is \$211,000. At the end of April, we are \$10,000 above our budgeted amount for the first twelve months. We base our proposed budget on the first ten months of the current church year.

Our 2026-2027 proposed budget tries to balance two competing factors. First, we must recognize that many of our congregation are living on fixed incomes that have a limited cost-of-living increase every year. The other major factor is that our congregation is aging and no longer capable or willing to volunteer for various tasks needed to keep our aging facility and grounds properly maintained. We all face inflationary factors, as well.

The proposed budget is \$220,000 for both contributions and expenses. This is an increase in proposed contributions of \$9,000 over last year’s budget. The major expense changes include:

- Pastoral & Staff + \$7,297
- Administration + \$1,739
- Building & Maintenance
 - o Landscaping + \$2,550
 - o Maintenance + \$2,500
- Communications - \$2,050
- Denominations Relations + \$ 900
- Worship and Music + \$1,040

As of April 30th, UCSJ has the following funds in reserve.

- Checking Account \$ 32,298
- Money Market Savings \$ 99,252
- General Fund Reserves \$152,263
- Building Fund Reserves \$ 17,683

If there is a surplus in contributions at the end of June, the funds will roll over to the checking account or allocated to reserve funds specified by Council. If there is a deficit this year end, funds will be taken from the General Fund reserves.

The Endowment fund is held at Texas Presbyterian Fund and has a current balance of \$14,010. Thank you to the Endowment Committee which includes Steve Wolff (Committee Chair), Jenny Cheek, Clayton Beaudry, and Vince Snowbarger (ex-officio).

I would like to extend further thanks to everyone who served in financial roles this past year. Our Treasurer, Sue Stern, has returned to her duties, and we are grateful to both her and Gail Callahan for stepping in to help with these responsibilities. I also want to thank our Financial Secretary, Linda Ingo, and her team of offering counters for helping maintain our contribution records. Her team includes Tom Chase, Charlie Carson, Dave Young, Terry Thomas, Sandy Storey, Gail Callahan, Junella Hildreth, Linda Ingo, Liz Kuehling and Fred Quist.

Respectfully submitted,

Vince Snowbarger, Vice Chair of Finance

Vice Chair of Ministries Report

This has been an exceptional year for our ministries. The Care Team has crafted an efficient process for helping those in the congregation who need a meal, a ride, a friendly call, a prayer shawl or an encouraging card. Mission and Outreach has put together many hands-on possibilities, in addition to financial support, to help those locally and internationally who can use our help. The Worship and Music team has worked very hard making sure each Sunday's service is very special. Visiting Pastors have filled in when Pastor Melinda has been gone. Congregational Life has implemented a full calendar of events to foster the essential function of bringing people together doing a variety of things. Sunday treats after service are given a great deal of attention and are viewed as a critical connection for many. Education continues to offer, through films and books and studies, ways for folks to explore their faith. Growing the Membership is an on going project and we are still searching for the appropriate vehicle to attract more members, stay in touch with those we have not seen in a while and acknowledge and follow up with those who are first time visitors.

All the ministry chairs and their respective committees continue to work hard at making sure they are doing all they can to insure the needs of our members and those of the community at large are being met. Finding volunteers to help is an ongoing challenge that we feel can only be met by that ever important "personal ask".

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Whiskeman, Vice Chair of Ministries

Care Ministry Report

Our care team consists of Angela Todd, Bob McDaniel, Jere Beaudry, Junella Hildreth, Kay Sibold, LaVonne Glanville and Shirley Didier. We assist with needs and concerns via phone calls, cards, flowers, food, visits and transportation to appointments. Of course, there are other people in our congregation who assist with these needs as well.

Typically the care team ministry is done on a one to one basis. We meet as a group bi-monthly to help with organization and to share ideas. Pastor Melinda often meets with us.

Our card ministry to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries has changed during the year to one of emailing electronic cards, unless an individual has requested that traditional cards be mailed instead. This past year Kristi Henson and Alicia Shepherd have served in this ministry.

Our church family has three high school seniors and one eighth grader graduating this spring. We plan to reach out to recognize them.

Jenny Cheek has seen to it that hand knitted prayer shawls are available to be taken to those who are homebound.

Care team monies have been used to purchase booklets (care notes) related to grief and loss, Lent, mental wellness, healthcare and spirit care. These booklets are displayed in the greeting area for people to take.

In November Donna Whiskeman organized a group of women from the congregation and care team who assembled meals that were frozen and have been delivered to those needing some food assistance and encouragement. The group named this effort Food for Friends.

When there is a death, members of the team work together with others under the broader ministry umbrella to assist with food, flower arrangements, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Goertz, Care Team Coordinator

Congregational Life Ministry Report

Connecting with our church family and community is the heartbeat of our Congregational Life Ministry. Over the past year, we've tried to create meaningful connections through shared experiences, fellowship, food, and highcountry adventures.

Our dedicated ministry team—Jenny Cheek, Sue Conrad, Charlotte Duckett, Junella Hildreth, Marge Quist, Lish Sheppard, Elise Shirey, Gen Spangler, and Angela Todd—has stepped up repeatedly to brainstorm, organize, and anchor these critical fellowship efforts.

Food and hospitality remain central to how we cultivate community at UCSJ.

- Sunday Fellowship Time: Gathering immediately following worship continues to be the heartbeat of our regular opportunities for connection. Our faithful coffee-makers, David Stytz and Dave Young, showed up week after week to keep the post-worship crowd fueled. We celebrated birthday and anniversary milestones with cakes by Dee James.
- New Kitchen Asset: We replaced our two aging dishwashers with high-efficiency models.
- Lupper Gatherings: This fall, we coordinated four “Luppers”; hosted by the Calkins, Beaudrys, Snowbargers, and David Stytz and Alice Goertz.
- We provided several congregational meals including our brunches for Epiphany and Easter, lunch following our annual meeting, and an indoor picnic.
- Our monthly gals' gatherings continue to offer opportunities for deeper storytelling and sisterhood.

Our regional excursions have bridged the gap between our history and the rugged landscapes we inhabit. We ventured up Owl Creek Pass, over to Creede and its Repertoire Theater, Utah's Sego Canyon, Brown's Park, and Disappointment Valley. We always find gold on our fall colors trek.

Working across ministry teams allowed us to create vibrant public events that filled our church with both members and local community neighbors:

- Sunday Sundae Concerts: Combining beautiful music with ice cream socials, these collaborative events have been immensely popular. This past year featured the San Juan Choral Festival, the jazz/indie/rock Kristoffersen Family Concert (with Elliot wowing the crowd on drums), a Children and Family Concert co-hosted with the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild (featuring Max Levinson and the Ulysses Quartet).

- “Double Grit” Western Weekend: Celebrating local film history, we hosted a Friday afternoon screening of the 1969 film *True Grit*. The next morning, local historian Ed Bovy spoke at our Saturday Breakfast Forum on “Movie Making in SW Colorado” followed by a walking tour of actual film locations in downtown Ridgway.
- Educational Forums: Jointly sponsored with our education ministry we hosted a pizza luncheon featuring our own resident meteorologist, Dr. Tim Spangler, who demystified the local science of cloud-seeding in Colorado. Prof. Jeff Snowbarger sharing tall tales of early prospector Donald Brown.
- Cookie Time: Working with our worship and music ministry, we provided treats for Katy’s Choir Camp performance, the Youth Choir’s Christmas Concert on Noel Night, and Christmas Harps and Hammers.

Let us keep connecting, exploring, and growing together in the seasons ahead!

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Snowbarger, Council Representative for Congregational Life Committee

Education Ministry Report

Mid 2025-April 2026: A full Slate of Educational activities held at UCSJ- In chronological order

Humans Anonymous Sessions – The first meeting was held on Sunday afternoon July 13, 2025 facilitated by Angela Dodd. Each meeting averaged approx. 8-12 participants. Four sessions were successfully completed.

A few examples of Community Gatherings-

A Pizza Community Educational gathering on Wednesday July 30, 2025 facilitated by Tim Spangler on Cloud Seeding was held.

A community gathering was held on Oct 16, 2026 by Allyssa Crandell an Award-winning photographer featuring a power point of her wildlife experiences.

Men’s and Ladies Bible Studies, Meditation Sessions either via zoom or in-person along with Centering prayer zoom sessions were held regularly each month.

The Fall 2025 Community Soup Supper

The two-month process of books being cultivated, nominated, voted on and ordered to begin the 6 weeks of gatherings on Wednesday evenings starting Sept 24, 2025. The books studied were The Rhineland Mystics: An Anthology and The Tears of Things.

The Chosen - September 2025 -Planning began by Donna Wiskeman, Melinda Veatch and Elise Shirey showing the first season of The Chosen – Each Thursday morning in January/February 2026.

The Full-time Book Swap was brought back with shelving placed outside the church entrance and then brought into the library when the winter months arrived -books are continuously donated to various organizations after they have been made available for 4-6 weeks.

Coordination of the “On the Same Page” Events with books and facilitators:

September 15, 2025 – **Peace Like a River** facilitated by Pam Richardson

November 10, 2025- **The God in the Woods** facilitated by Mary Ann Guillenger

January 19, 2026 -**Reason for Hope** facilitated by Kate Kellog

March 2, 2026 -**Theo of Golden** facilitated by Carolyn Snowbarger

May 3, 2026 -**Our Lady of the Lost and Found** facilitated by Lisa Young

In the Future planned event- July 13, 2026-**The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry** facilitated by Donna Wiskeman.

Planning began Jan 7, 2026 –meeting weekly for The Lenten Mindset written by and facilitated by Rev Melinda Veatch. UCSJ personalized Labeled notebooks were ordered to go with this 8 week Wednesday afternoon learning experience. Three different (Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian) Lent publications ordered and were made available in the church Narthex.

The Chosen – The First Season showing facilitated each week by Rev. Melinda Veatch -Thursday mornings Jan 8-Feb 26, 2026 became a reality with breakfast pastries and coffee being served. See print ad designed by Donna Wiskeman attached announcing the event in the [Plhttps://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=45fc2a5283&attid=0.1.1&permmsgid=msgf:1864463657363284132&th=19dfe7d169c3a0a4&view=att&zw&disp=safe&inc=local_newspaper](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=45fc2a5283&attid=0.1.1&permmsgid=msgf:1864463657363284132&th=19dfe7d169c3a0a4&view=att&zw&disp=safe&inc=local_newspaper).

Starting on Feb 25, 2026 -March 25, 2026 the Lenten Mindset kicked off and was successfully completed. Refreshments were provided each Thursday afternoon at 4 pm where Rev Melinda Veatch led us on the following curriculum she designed and curated- along with a meditation sand table, 2 craft table for assembling Lent thoughts. Week 1-Setting the Path, Week 2-Moving from Expectation to Living Expectantly, Week 3- Moving from Anxiety to Acceptance Week 4-Moving from Journeying to Joy.

The Wellness Palooza March 15, 2026 – a table was set up with the UCSJ banner and manned by Angela Todd, Elise Shirey and Bruce Shirey. Meditation materials and a sand sensory table and crafts were made available for the participants. Posters and materials were brought back to be reviewed by Church Council.

The Spring 2026 Community Soup Book Study Nominating book committee was held on Feb 12, 2026 -in attendance – Mick Graff, Carolyn Snowbarger, Melinda Veatch, Elise Shirey and Pam Richardson. The process began on nominating and voting and ordering for purchase the two books that were selected to review.

On April 8-May 13 2026 at 4:30 the Spring 2026 Community Soup Book Study began meeting each Wednesday afternoon for 6 weeks. The two books being reviewed are, **The Third Day Living the Resurrection** and **Anam Cara.**

Respectfully submitted,
Elise Shirey, Education Ministry Coordinator

Membership Ministry Report

Pastor Melinda & Charlotte reviewed the list of members & non-members to see if there were individuals that might be interested in learning more about UCSJ. A luncheon plan was decided upon at Joan Moyer's to invite individuals to join us for an informal gathering of visiting, sharing & lunch after church. This was in the fall.

Todd Schrader filled in for Charlotte for the winter months seeing that there we had greeters each Sunday.

A brief discussion was had on updating the photos in the church directory.

We will be looking at updating the visitor bags.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Duckett, Council Membership Representative.

Mission and Outreach (M&O) Ministry

Committee members: Lisa Young (chair), Charlotte Duckett, Kate Kellogg, Cindi Myers, Lucy Scholpp, Claudia Wolff, Donna Whiskeman, Melinda Veatch, Bruce Shirey (joined in October 2025), Betsy Lattaner (joined in October 2025), Gini Barker (joined in November 2026), Randy Kee (joined in January 2026)

Monthly Projects

Projects were planned quarterly and changes made to the M&O bulletin board to reflect the upcoming M&O projects. The themes represented on the bulletin board were 'What is Mission & Outreach', 'Autumn Light', 'Impacting Local Needs', and 'Caring/Sharing/Doing'. The UCSJ congregation was made aware of current projects via announcements in the bulletin, NewsLink, UCSJ Newsletter, and during the Sunday morning announcements. As needed, sign-up sheets were placed on the back table to encourage participation.

July – Ouray County Food Pantry (Cindi Myers is the champion) Cindi has highlighted snacks, easy to fix meal items, drink mixes, and summer foods. M&O partnered with Congregational Life on this project, and the 12 attendees at the Gal's Lunch donated a large container of food items.

August – Peace Jam (Kate Kellogg is the champion) Kate received a list of needed items from Sveri May. Donations for the Utes and Navajos were overwhelmingly positive and included shoes and winter boots for adults and kids, blankets, sheets, kitchen items, clothing, non-perishable food, household items, telescope, and reusable grocery bags. Kate and Geoff delivered 4 car loads full to Sveri. The Peace Jam teens sorted the items and delivered donations to Towaoc, CO on 18 October.

September – Emergency response and rescue blankets (Charlotte Duckett and Donna Whiskeman are cochampions). Blanket making took place at UCSJ on 10 September. A very engaging electronic invitation went out to all the local women in the church. It was attended by 10 ladies, and all 23 blankets were completed. Charlotte Duckett, Jenny Cheek, and Donna Whiskeman delivered the blankets to the Ridgway and Ouray law enforcement offices.

October – Ouray County Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day Held on October 14.

Volunteers (14) brought food items for tacos, beef or chicken or veggie. Donna made a chocolate cake for dessert.

Paper goods and candy were purchased. Donna, Kate, Bruce, and Elise completed the setup at the Ridgway Elementary School. There was enough food for two days! The teachers and staff were very appreciative of the taco meal and several mentioned how thoughtful it was. School POC is Alisha Perkovich at

resoffice@ridgway.k12.co.us

November – Ouray County Food Pantry (Cindi Myers is the champion) Donations for ground meat and holiday items were our primary project. Two large donations of ground meat (over 30 lbs) and multiple holiday items were delivered to the Ouray County Food Pantry on 4 December

November - Operation Christmas Child boxes (Donna Whiskeman is the champion) were available beginning on 3 October for people to pick up. Filled boxes were due to the church on 17 November to be taken to Ridgway Community Church for delivery to Samaritan's Purse for distribution.

November – Food for Friends A collaboration effort with the Care Team and Congregational Life Team to provide a supplemental food service for UCSJ members. A trial run of 16 meals was created to see how well this would be received and utilized. Simple meals were assembled in zip lock bags and kept frozen. An "Assembly Line" put the meals together on November 14th at 1:00 at church. Volunteers were Cindi Myers, Lucy Scholpp, Carolyn Snowbarger, Donna Whiskeman, Alice Goertz, Gere Beaudry. When the need arose, the meals were given to the individual along with directions on how to prepare them.

December – Angel Tree Christmas gift project. (Donna Whiskeman is the champion) Gift tags were made available for purchase of gifts for families on Dec 6. There was only one week for purchases to be made, which is not enough time for a variety of people to participate. Donna purchases some gifts to be sure all the items were filled. Next year we need to alert our point of contact that 3-4 weeks is needed for us to participate.

January – HopeWest Veteran's blankets (Lisa Young was the champion) 12 blankets were picked up from HopeWest in Montrose to be made for Veterans that are in hospice care. 10 were completed by various individuals and returned in January for delivery to HopeWest.

February – Valentine's teacher appreciation (Lisa Young was the champion) Valentine's notes were purchased for church attendees to write a note of gratitude to a teacher. The notes along with candy were given to Ridgway Elementary, Ridgway Secondary, and Ouray School to be put in the teacher's boxes to show our appreciation for their service.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) – FMSC is an international Christian non-profit that assembles nutritious meals for children in need around the world. Church members were made aware of the opportunity to participate in a FMSC food packing event in Montrose on 6 and 7 February. Event details and how to sign up were posted on the back table. Lucy and Charlie Schlopp participated in the event.

March – Ouray County Food Pantry (Cindi Myers is the champion) Cindi will coordinate with Bev to see if meat or something else is needed for the March emphasis. Special mission outreach project – Lisa and David Young went on a trip in March in support of missionaries overseas as part of the International Mission Board. Various individuals donated four containers of items that the families cannot purchase where they live to fill "goodie bags", and materials in support of children's activities during the week.

April – our focus was on communication and preparation for the May for local community outreach projects. The quarterly project theme is "Caring-Sharing-Doing" to encourage participation in these two community collaboration projects. We did not get as much active participation as we had hoped with either of these activities.

May – Food Pantry Landscaping Clean-up Day (Donna Whiskeman is the champion) Cleaning up the landscaping in front of the Ouray County Food Pantry building, 602 N. Cora St., on May 2 from 9:30-12:00. It involved weeding, raking, and mulching. UCSJ helped provide lunch by donating the side dishes, dessert, and condiments for hamburgers and hot dogs. This event was advertised on the new OurayRidgwayEvents website (<https://events.ourayridgwayevents.com/>) to invite the community to participate. Four members actively participated on the clean-up day, along with members from St. Daniels Catholic Church, St. John's Episcopal Church and community Food Pantry volunteers. The result was very much appreciated by Bev.

May – Ridgway Senior Graduation Breakfast (Lisa Young is the champion) UCSJ is supporting a community effort to honor and celebrate the 20 Ridgway graduating seniors by providing them with breakfast on May 22nd, the day of graduation, at Hartwell Park. Attendees were asked to donate specific items or volunteer to help set up.

Bruce and Elise Shirey are helping set up the morning of the event.

May – Shepherd’s Hand (Lucy Scholpp is the champion) Church attendees were asked to make donations for specific requested items in support of Shepherd’s Hand. Meriam indicated they only need cake mixes and frosting currently.

June - Food Pantry (Cindi Myers is the champion) Church attendees will be requested to bring shelf-stable food for summer snacks for kids and items to fix easy summer meals.

M&O meetings

Meetings were held quarterly as follows to allocate funds and plan projects for the upcoming quarter.

3 September 2025, with monetary donations made to Teresa Frank for \$500 to cover monthly living expenses since she cannot work after being diagnosed with a severe autoimmune disease; and to Haven House for \$1500 to purchase educational supplies and cribs for the new childcare center.

3 December 2025, with monetary donations made to UMCOR (Methodist) for \$1300 for disaster assistance and to Shepherd’s Hand for Lighthouse, the overnight shelter in Montrose, for \$1200.

3 March 2026, with monetary donations of \$500 each to Mercy Chefs, Haven House for their summer youth program, and HopeWest.

10 June 2026, the agenda will include designation of remaining annual funds, planning activities for July, August, and September, and obtaining M&O committee volunteers to highlight the four denominational disaster relief organizations on the Sundays in July, explaining the individual organizations, their mission work, and how to support them.

Budget

A budget of \$8,000 was approved for M&O. Monetary donations equaled \$6,000 through May. A small amount was used throughout the year for supplies in support of projects. The remaining annual funds will be designated at the June quarterly meeting.

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MISSION & OUTREACH MINISTRY (from Sue)

Check 07/28/2025 8135 Community Foundation - Texas Hill Country Mission-relief and rebuilding after floods 500.00

Check 09/09/2025 8158 Teresa Frank* 500.00

Check 09/09/2025 8159 Haven House New childcare center, educational items, cribs 1,500.00

Check 12/06/2025 8204 Shepherd's Hand Mission Giving - December 2025 1,200.00

Check 12/06/2025 on-line UMCOR Mission & Outreach: December 2025 1,300.00

Check 03/10/2026 8245 Haven House in support of summer youth program 500.00

Check 03/10/2026 8246 Hope West Hospice Mission & Outreach: 2026 500.00

Check 03/10/2026 8247 Mercy Chefs Mission 2026 500.00

Total Missions and Community Outreach 6,500.00

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Young, Chair, Mission & Outreach

Worship and Music Ministry Report

The committee meets monthly on the first Monday of each month via Zoom. Some activities from the past year:

- The committee continued to expand their recruitment of volunteers, now having a list of 40 who are regularly recruited.
- An annual schedule and plan document was developed and is being refined as we go through a church year.
- The seder meal, as a part of Maundy Thursday services, has evolved and went very well in April 2025.
- The Chair continues to refine a list of substitute pastors available for fill in for the Pastor. The list has both shrunk and expanded and now sits at 7.
- Guidelines for visiting pastors and communion were developed and then improved
- The committee was particularly pleased with how well the Christmas services went, especially the youth choir.
- Wine was added to the communion and generally was well received.
- New candles, less prone to spilling, were purchased for the altar
- Gen Spangler put two larger poinsettias in front of the Sanctuary and we all liked the look
- Generally, we felt that taking down the Christmas decorations on Epiphany Sunday was preferable to doing it on a Saturday
- While this is not rigid, everyone liked not doing a Christmas concert this past year – it was easier on the choir and director.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Spangler, Worship and Music Committee Chair

Nominating Committee Status Report

2025-2026

Nominees for the Church Council (Two Year Terms)

Ministry Council Representatives

- Care: Alice Goertz (2-year term)
- Worship & Music: Betsy Lattanner (2-year term); Joan Moyer (Ministry Chair)
- Education: Elise Shirey (2-year term)
- Congregational Life: Terry Thomas (1-year term); Gen Spangler (Ministry Chair)

Administrative Committee

- Vice-chair for Operations: Tim Spangler
- Vice-chair for Ministries: Carolyn Snowbarger

Respectfully Submitted

2025-2026 Nominating committee:

- Tom Chase
- Larry Harley
- Ken Sloan
- Alice Goertz (Council Representative)
- Carolyn Snowbarger (Council Representative)

Safety Committee

The safety committee met for a “tune up” with Ed Pecis, a retired police officer from northern California and expert on church safety issues.

We continue to struggle with balancing safety while maintaining a welcoming place, especially on Sundays. The doors are locked at 10:15 and we recognize that there have been times when someone not necessarily familiar with the church has been unable to enter after that time because no one who could act saw the individual. There is no perfect answer.

We covered the importance of calling 911 immediately, having someone meet the responder, describe the situation and be sure they have access. The biggest question we have to answer is “What would you do?” and keeping in mind that we do not think like the criminal. Ed reminded us of the importance of distraction and having a plan.

The greeters once again need to be reminded about the importance of assessing a newcomer and being alert to anything that seems “off” and letting a member of the safety team know. Safety team members have a red heart on their nametag. The medical team also has a special nametag.

This is an ongoing process and one we hope we will never have to implement.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Whiskeman, Chair

Fiscal Year Budget for 2026-2027

	Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	Actual for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	Budget Change
General Income	211,000	227,199	220,000	9,000
Expenses				
Pastor & Staff	126,208	129,415	133,539	7,331
Administration Ministry	19,846	19,193	21,551	1,705
Building and Maintenance Ministry	17,601	13,121	18,150	549
Care Ministry	700	452	725	25
Communication Ministry	8,585	6,815	6,535	-2,050
Congregational Life Ministry	3,500	3,356	3,000	-500
Denomination Relations Ministry	21,100	22,720	22,000	900
Education	1,500	1,170	1,500	0
Member Development Ministry	300	59	300	0
Mission and Outreach Ministry	8,100	8,100	8,100	0
Worship and Music Ministry	3,560	3,448	4,600	1,040
Reserve Account	0	19,350	0	0
Total Operating Expenses	211,000	227,198	220,000	9,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		

Proposed UCSJ Bylaw Amendments

Blue – Bylaw Change explanations

Red – Proposed Changes

~~Strikethrough~~ – Deleted Bylaw language

Changes to Article IV.B & IV.I.1 are in recognition of our current volunteer capacity. These administrative changes allow for greater flexibility in council composition, ensuring that leadership remains functional and representative of our active membership.

Article IV.B: Council Members. The members of the Council shall consist of the Senior Pastor and **up to 10** lay members. The lay members elected by the Congregation are the Congregational officers and **up to six (6)** ministry representatives.

Article IV.I.1: The Ministry Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor of UCSJ, the Vice Chairperson of Ministry, and **up to six (6)** ministry representatives.

The change to the quorum requirement is to reflect the changes in the previous articles.

Article IV.G: Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business for the Council shall be ~~six (6)~~ **fifty percent (50%)** of the lay members of the Council. The Pastor does not count toward a quorum.

The following two changes provide clearer guidelines for appointments to Ministry Chair positions. Ministry Council Representatives are elected by the Congregation and are officially UCSJ members. These Representatives may request a Ministry Chair to assist them. The Ministry Chair is appointed by Council and does not have to be an official member of UCSJ.

Article IV.J.2.b: May be a Council Member but are not required to be. **Ministry Chairs who are not Council members shall be appointed by Council for terms concurrent with the term for the Ministry's Council Representative.**

Article V.D: Vacancies in Non-Elected Positions. ~~After a Ministry Chair has attempted to fill a non-elected position within their Ministry, said Chair may request that the Council assign the task to the Nominating Committee which shall provide at least one eligible nominee, but not limited to one, for each non-elective position to be filled.~~ **The Nominating Committee may also assist in finding candidates for non-elected positions.**

Nominations at Congregational Meetings. Floor nominations at Congregational meetings are being eliminated because the two-week email voting period before the meeting does not provide equal voting time for all candidates. Members may still nominate themselves or others through the Nominating Committee process outlined in Article V.C.

Article VIII.F: Delete in its entirety because it is already covered in Article V.C.