

THE
United Church
OF THE **San Juans**



FOURTEENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST
AUGUST 30, 2026

(It's Change for Change Sunday)

MEDITATION

Don't assume you have to be extraordinary to be used by God. You don't have to have exceptional gifts, talents, abilities, or connections. God specializes in using ordinary people whose limitations and weaknesses make them ideal showcases for God's greatness and glory.

– Nancy Leigh DeMoss

When the church becomes an institution, people are nothing more than volunteers to be recruited. When the church is a movement, our stewardship becomes the unleashing of God-given gifts, talents, and passions.

– Erwin McManus

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, "I used everything you gave me."

– Erma Bombeck

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Melinda Veatch

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from the 2025 National Youth Service of the Church of the Brethren)

Bob McDaniel

Leader: We are all part of one body in Christ – each of us different – but all of us belonging to one another.

People: God has given each of us gifts, all different, but also all important.

Leader: We are here to use our gifts for God's glory, to build each other up, and to love like he does.

People: Whatever gifts God has given us, we will be ready to use them with open hearts for his glory. Let us worship together and bring all that we are before our God!

OPENING PRAYER

Bob McDaniel

Loving God, you have called us together as your people. Transform us with your love. Transform our hearts that we may love generously. Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace. Transform our hands, that we may serve others. Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of Christ, gathered to worship and sent out to serve. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG*

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us
(Janie Alford, words; Hal H. Hopson, music)

Congregation

Hymn No. 329

All Verses

*Indicates we stand - if it is comfortable

SCRIPTURE READING**Romans 12:3-8**

Shirley Didier

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM**All Are Welcome**
(Marty Haugen)

UCSJ Choir

*Let us build a house
where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.*

*Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ
shall end divisions.*

Refrain

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house
where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.*

*Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus. **Refrain***

*Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.*

*Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ
the feast that frees us. **Refrain***

*Let us build a house
where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.*

*Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger. **Refrain***

*Let us build a house
where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed
as words within the Word.*

*Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim
from floor to rafter. **Refrain***

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Fully Present

Pastor Melinda Veatch

RESPONSIVE SONG

O God in Whom All Life Begins

Congregation

(Carl P. Daw, Jr., words; English melody)

Hymn No. 388

All Verses

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

Bob McDaniel 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*

Come Build a Church

Congregation

(Ken Medema)

Hymn No. 543

All Verses

CLOSING PRAYER

Bob McDaniel

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Katy Kristoffersen

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Pastor Melinda Veatch

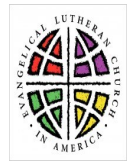
OUR MISSION

- 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



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