

A WARM UCSJ WELCOME TO REV. SARA WIRTH

The Rev. Sara Wirth serves as the Minister for Transitions and Healthy Ministries for the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In this role, she accompanies congregations and leaders through times of pastoral transition and supports congregations as they seek to grow in health, vitality, and faithfulness to God’s call.

Before joining the Rocky Mountain Synod staff in 2025, Pastor Sara served for 23 years as a parish pastor in Montana and Colorado. She is also an International Coaching Federation credentialed coach and has extensive experience in leadership development and interim ministry training.

Pastor Sara lives in Erie, Colorado, with her husband, Jody. They are the parents of young adult twins, Ben and Annika. She enjoys opportunities to visit congregations throughout the Rocky Mountain Synod, hear their stories, and learn about the many different ways God is at work in communities across the region.

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

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

www.ucsjridgway.org 970-626-5802 P.O. Box 295, 295 N. Lena St, Ridgway CO 81432 Facebook/UCSJ Ridgway

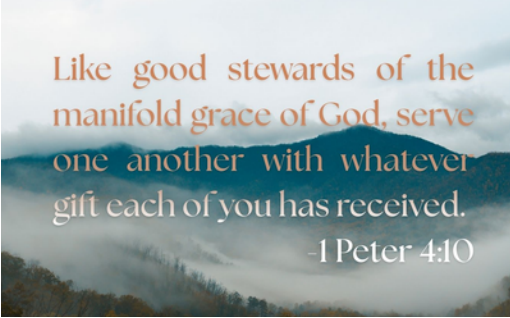
MUSIC

Katy Kristoffersen, Director
ucsjmusic@gmail.com

OFFICE

Shirley Didier, Admin. Assistant
ucsjoffice@gmail.com

THE
United Church
OF THE San Juans



TWENTY-THIRD
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Pastor Melinda Veatch

Ron and Dee James

Tim Spangler

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On the road to Emmaus, the risen Christ came alongside his disciples.

People: Christ comes alongside us still.

Leader: He opened the Scriptures and revealed God’s faithfulness.

People: We gather to hear God’s story and to be shaped by God’s Word.

Leader: He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

People: We gather around Christ’s table, where we are nourished by grace.

Leader: Their hearts were set ablaze, and they returned with joy to the community of believers.

People: We are part of Christ’s Church—joined with congregations throughout the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Let us worship God together!

OPENING PRAYER

Tim Spangler

God our Creator, your Son Jesus prayed that his followers might be one. Unite your Church so that, strengthened by your Word, nourished at your table, and sent together in your mission, we may carry to the world the message of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOMING SONG*

Gather Us In
(Marty Haugen)

Congregation

Hymn No. 649

All Verses

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8

Gini Barker

I appeal to you therefore, siblings, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM	<div> <div> One Bread, One Body (John Foley) </div> <div> Refrain One bread, one body, one Lord of all. One cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the Earth We are one body in this one Lord. </div> <div> Gentile or Jew Servant or free Woman or man No more. </div> <div> Many the gifts, many the works One in the Lord Of all. </div> </div>	UCSJ Choir	SERMON	Pastor Sara Wirth
SCRIPTURE READING	<div> <div>Luke 24:13-33</div> <div> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. </div> </div>	Pastor Sara Wirth	<div> <div>RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS</div> <div> Thank you for your continued support of the church and our mission. </div> </div>	Pastor Melinda Veatch
			<div> <div>PRAYER OF DEDICATION</div> <div> 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. </div> </div>	
			<div> <div>GATHERING AT THE LORD’S TABLE</div> <div> <div> Invitation to the Table </div> <div> Prayer of Thanksgiving Leader: The Lord be with you. Leader: Lift up your hearts. Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. </div> <div> People: And also with you. People: We lift them up to the Lord. People: It is right to give our thanks and praise. </div> </div> </div>	Pastor Sara Wirth and Pastor Melinda Veatch
			<div> <div>Communion of the People</div> <div> Prayer after Communion 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. </div> </div>	
			<div> <div>PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE</div> <div> CLOSING SONG* Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (Richard Gillard) </div> </div>	Tim Spangler and Pastor Melinda Veatch
			<div> <div>HYMN NO. 391</div> <div> All Verses </div> </div>	Congregation
			<div> <div>CLOSING PRAYER</div> <div> Holy God, we give you thanks for this time to gather with you and with one another. We thank you for the ways you show yourself in your Son, Jesus Christ, and we thank you for the life we share in the Holy Spirit. As we go from this place, keep renewing us in your Spirit, that the lives we live would demonstrate Christ’s love. Amen. </div> </div>	Tim Spangler
			<div> <div>POSTLUDE</div> <div> </div> </div>	Ron and Dee James
			<div> <div>CHARGE AND BLESSING</div> <div> </div> </div>	Pastor Sara Wirth