

## The United Church of Idaho Springs, Colorado

The United Church of Idaho Springs, in affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA)/  
And the United Methodist Church, is a Christian family of faith that celebrates God's presence.

It is our mission to love and serve others with open hearts and minds.

We invite all persons to join us.

February 20, 2024

### CHURCH PROFILE

The United Church of Idaho Springs, Colorado  
1410 Colorado Boulevard  
PO Box 3070  
Idaho Springs, Colorado 80452

Date Organized:	First Presbyterian Church, Idaho Springs	1870
	United Methodist Church, Idaho Springs	1868
	The United Church of Idaho Springs	1969

Telephone: 303-567-2057 (church office)

Position: Part-time Pastor

The United Church of Idaho Springs is a congregation called to serve the community of Idaho Springs, and nearby areas of Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties in Colorado. We're regrouping because our membership has fluctuated over the years as the community and society have changed and we have gone through changes in pastoral leadership. We believe it is time for the members of this community of faith to assume greater responsibility for leadership in the church and community. We are looking for a part-time pastor to join us in this ministry.

The church congregation will:

- 1) Manage church buildings and finances
- 2) Link people to counseling and other services.
- 3) Visit and support hospitalized or shut-in members along with the pastor.
- 4) Learn how to become church leaders from our new pastor.
- 5) Assume responsibility for the overall direction and functioning of this community of faith.

We seek a pastor who will:

- 1) Preach the word and administer the Sacraments including,
  - a. Prepare material for the weekly bulletin
  - b. Plan with the Worship Committee
  - c. Share worship leadership with members
- 2) Conduct / Participate in special worship, such as officiating at weddings, funerals and helping with other special services.
- 3) Provide pastoral care in coordination with the Council and refer people to counseling and special services as needed.
- 4) Attend and advise Council.
- 5) Educate Council and members about church leadership roles, responsibilities and teach them skills to fulfill their roles.
- 6) Participate in church outreach programs and other activities.

We are disappointed that we do not have the resources to pay a full-time pastor, but we have seen these positive changes:

- 1) Before Covid, our attendance had improved to an average of 30 attendees on Sunday.
- 2) Now, people are returning to in person services slowly with an average of 20 in person, and 3 Zoom participants.
- 3) A positive feeling and contagious energy are evident when we gather.
- 4) Before Covid, we were increasing our worship music leadership and had been able to contract for a part-time choir director. We hope this will happen again.

We are excited and we are looking for someone to share in our excitement. We invite you to live in a small mountain town where the pace of life is slower, natural wonders are closer, and city amenities are a short drive away. We're committed to each other and place a high value on building and sustaining relationships. We're committed to serving our community. We know we have a lot to learn and a way to go but just need the right leadership. We labor with a committee structure that has more committees than we have people to populate them. We know God loves us, and believe God is calling us to continue and extend the ministry of this historic congregation. We have attached a detailed description of the congregation.

The United Church of Idaho Springs is in the center of Idaho Springs, an historic mining town about 30 miles west of Denver. The United Methodist Church was established September 3, 1868, and the First Presbyterian Church was established March 6, 1870, by the Reverend Sheldon Jackson. The union of the two congregations was approved in 1969.

Weekly worship services are held at 10 am in the sanctuary of The United Church building, which dates to 1871. The facilities have been updated and expanded over the years. The Sanctuary is small (pews hold 100 persons comfortably) with an opening to a side alcove that holds another 30 people. The facility is equipped with a piano, a small organ and a sound system. The building is used for regular and special worship service, and adult Bible study. It also provided meeting space for many community groups: Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts, PEO, and private music lessons.

The United Center, a decommissioned Methodist Church building at the east end of the same block, is used for secular gatherings, special services, a performance center, and the local radio station. Financial support for maintenance and operation of this building comes from rental fees; it is managed by The United Center Board, a 501(c)3 corporation.

In addition to a pastor, the United Church employs a part-time janitor. Volunteer positions include a church secretary, a financial secretary, and a part-time treasurer.

There are three other active churches in Idaho Springs: Catholic, Lutheran, and Baptist. The Catholic priest is the only full-time clergy in the area. Like many churches, we have experienced a decline in attendance and offerings in recent years. Active membership has declined from a high of 168 members in 2007 to 32 members in 2024. Average Sunday attendance prior to Covid was about 30 people. The congregation ranges in age from a few young children to mature adults; most worshipers fall in the 55+ age group.

Because this is a federated union of two church denominations, the governance is a bit different from a typical Presbyterian Church. The United Church governing body is comprised of a seven member Council with two or three members elected each year for a two year term. This body is chaired by a member elected from the Council membership; the pastor is advisor to the Council. The Council meets monthly on a Sunday after services.

The church budget for 2024 is \$49,702.00 and was approved at the Annual Meeting in February.

## Job Description – Part-time Pastor

The United Church of Idaho Springs (Presbyterian USA / United Methodist) is seeking a part-time pastor. This pastor is invited by the Church Council to preach the Word, administer the sacraments and fulfill pastoral duties, as required.

Duties of the part-time Pastor will include; drafting and coordinating the preparation of the Sunday, and Special Worship service bulletins, providing pastoral care, when needed, and serving as advisor to the Church Council at its regular or called meetings. The Pastor will hold regular office hours.

The Pastor will be available to assist with hospital and congregational care. They will direct those seeking counseling to the appropriate resources, assisted by the congregation. The Pastor will participate in church outreach programs. They will coordinate and participate in Adult bible study.

The Pastor will review incoming inquiries and church correspondence and take appropriate action. Council members will assist if needed in coordinating the responses. The Pastor will also provide guidance and advice on church issues.

The Pastor will perform such other duties as agreed upon between the Council and the Pastor.

The members of this congregation will perform the following tasks:

- 1) Management of church buildings and finances.
- 2) Assist with referral information for counseling and other services.
- 3) Assist with routine visits to support hospitalized or shut-in members of the congregation.
- 4) Commitment to the future of the church in the community.

Terms of compensation and work schedule will be finalized during negotiations; to include salary, paid vacation, paid training, and mileage reimbursement. We are looking at about 20 hours per week for about \$26,000 a year but will finalize terms later.

Please contact the chairperson of the Pastor Search Committee with any questions. To apply please mail or email your letter of interest and resume to the contact below.

Contact: Vivian Simpson, Chair  
PO Box 1912  
Idaho Springs, CO 80452  
303-567-9629

Email: [kennvivsimpson@msn.com](mailto:kennvivsimpson@msn.com)