



Our Mission: To
grow fully devoted
followers of Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:19-20

December 2025

THE APPLE PRESS

Christmas Is the Easiest Time to Invite Someone to Church

People who rarely attend church—or who may not yet believe—are often more open to visiting a church event during the Christmas season. Hearts are softer. Curiosity is higher. Schedules are full of traditions, and many are looking for something meaningful. Jesus reminds us of our mission when He says, “*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few*” (Matthew 9:37, ESV). And Paul echoes the urgency when he writes, “*How will they believe in Him of whom they have never heard?*” (Romans 10:14, ESV). We have been called to shine the light of Christ into our relationships, our neighborhoods, and our community.

Your invitation might be the open door someone has been waiting for. So we encourage you: **pray, invite, and bring** a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member who needs to experience the hope of Jesus. A simple conversation—“Would you join me for a Christmas Eve service, a Cantata, or dinner and a Christmas radio show at my church?”—could make an eternal difference.

You Were There – A Christmas Invitation Worth Sharing

The Christmas season gives us a unique opportunity to revisit the wonder, beauty, and hope of Christ’s birth—and to share that hope with others. This year, Appleton Christian Church is delighted to present “*You Were There – Radio Show*” dinner theatre on **Sunday, December 21st at 5:00 PM**.

This warm and engaging production features members of our own congregation lending their voices to the characters of the Christmas story in a tender, creative radio-drama style. It’s a family-friendly evening that blends the nostalgia of old-time radio with the timeless truth of Scripture. Dinner will be served, fellowship will be sweet, and the message of Christ will be clear.

But this event is more than a seasonal gathering—it’s an opportunity for outreach.

But it all leads up to THIS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE!

We know the Christmas season is full, and not everyone can be at every event. If you are unable to come to the dinner theatre, you still have a perfect opportunity to invite someone to worship with us on **Christmas Eve, December 24th at 6:00 PM**, right here at Appleton Christian Church. Our Christmas Eve service is always a beautiful celebration of Christ’s birth, filled with Scripture, carols, and the joy of Emmanuel—God with us.

Let’s Share the Good News Together

Jesus said, “*You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others*” (Matthew 5:14–16, ESV). This year, let’s shine that light brightly. Invite boldly. Welcome warmly. And trust that God will use your invitations to draw people closer to Himself. We look forward to sharing this special season with you—and with the guests you prayerfully bring.



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Foster Children. I was recently asked by CASA of Mesa County to write an op-ed for a publication to present the need for more CASA volunteers. As I wrote it, I thought it would be good to share this with my church family as well, so here is what I sent... I love you all.

Answering the Call: Why Our Community Needs More CASA Volunteers

By Pastor Dr. Dan Baker

After nearly twenty-five years in ministry—and another twenty-four before that in business—I've learned that every career, no matter how different the setting, shares one vital purpose: people helping people. Whether it's guiding a congregation, managing a team, or mentoring a child, the heart of our work is service.

That's what led me, three and a half years ago, to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate—a CASA. It's a role that has changed my life and reminded me daily why our community needs more people willing to stand in the gap for children in crisis.

Before becoming a CASA, my wife and I spent eight years as foster parents through Project 127, an organization that helps recruit and train families to care for children in need. Those years were filled with joy and heartbreak, triumph and tears. But as time went on and we grew older, I wanted to continue making a difference without being a full-time caregiver. Becoming a CASA was the natural next step—a way to keep advocating for the children who deserve stability, safety, and someone who will simply listen.

What does a CASA do? In the simplest terms, we speak up for children in the court system. These are kids who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves in situations where their futures depend on the decisions of adults—judges, lawyers, case managers, and others. A CASA's job is to get to know the child personally, to listen, to observe, and to help the court make decisions that truly serve the child's best interests.

We build relationships—with the children, their foster families, teachers, counselors, caseworkers, and anyone else involved in their care. We ask questions others might not have time to ask: *What do you need? What's bothering you? What helps you feel safe?* And then, when it's time to stand before a magistrate, we speak for that child's voice when they can't speak for themselves.

It's not easy work. It's sometimes frustrating, always humbling, and profoundly necessary. The reward comes in knowing that a child's life might be a little more hopeful because someone cared enough to show up.

In my role as a pastor, I see the connections clearly. Ministry is about compassion, presence, and commitment—so is being a CASA. The book of James reminds us, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.” That verse lives out in the CASA mission every single day.

But you don't have to be a pastor—or have any specific background—to be a great CASA. Bookkeepers, teachers, nurses, small business owners, retirees, stay-at-home parents—people from all walks of life bring their skills and empathy to this work. If you're organized, observant, and willing to care, you have what it takes.

Yes, it requires time and flexibility. But with a little planning and heart, it's more than possible to balance CASA service with a busy career. And the impact you'll make—on a child, on a family, on a community—lasts far longer than any temporary inconvenience.

There is a great need. Too many children wait for someone to step forward, to be their advocate, their steady voice, their champion.

If you've ever wondered how you can make a real difference, this is it. Become a CASA volunteer. Your life—and the lives of the children you serve—will never be the same.



Appleton Cares Christmas



Thank you everyone who picked up gift tags for our Christmas families. The gifts must be returned with the tags attached, unwrapped, to the upper building by Sunday, Dec. 7.

Please contact Connie Fudge 208-755-287 or Karla Brown 970-209-5400 if you have any questions. *Thank you for loving on our church families!*

Wrapping party Dec. 10 @ 10:00 AM.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

WOW 306 BOXES!!! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY WAY- all of us together made a great team for Jesus! Just think 306 children will receive probably their very 1st gifts. This shoebox will contain the love of Jesus and especially the Good News of Jesus and His Salvation! This gift will hopefully impact that child's life and their family's lives. Special Thank You to my co-chairpersons: Vickie Wolf and Tammy Dick (also John Dick). Thank you again to all who participated, contributing your time, talents and treasures... In January we will begin again!!! Please be looking for OCC news that Jeanne and Norma Jean will be putting in the Newsletters and Applets. In the meantime, please pray for those helping in the warehouses and those shipping and delivering the boxes. Prayer for pastors and teachers sharing the Great News and especially for All the children and their families as they hear about Jesus. Thank you again and may our Lord bless each one of you... Love and prayer, Donna Jean.





DECEMBER 2025

- 2- Men's, women's and children's Bible studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
- 5- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM
- 6- NO MEN'S GROUP
- 7- Last day to turn in Christmas gifts, unwrapped, with tags to the office
- 9- Men's, women's and children's Bible studies, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
- 12- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM
- 13- Cookie exchange, 1:00 PM, contact Yvette Caldwell
- 14- Mission Team meeting, 12:15 PM
- 14- Cantata performance at ACC, 3:30 PM
- 14- ACCKY Youth Holiday hunt, 6:00 PM, contact Heather Debolt
- 16- NO TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY OR MEALS for the rest of the year
- 19- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM
- 21- Christmas Extravaganza, 5:00 PM, more information to come
- 24- Christmas Eve service, 6:00 PM
- 25- Baker family Christmas, 1:00 PM, potluck
- 26- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM

WEEKLY

- Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Service
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30 AM
- Youth Sunday School, 10:30 AM
- Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Family Night Bible Studies, Meal 6:00 PM
- Friday, 6:30 PM, Celebrate Recovery

JANUARY 2026

- 1- New Year's Day
- 2- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM
- 6- No Tuesday night Bible Studies
- 9- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM
- 10- Meal Prep 10:00 - 11:30 AM, sign up by January 4
- 11- Mission Team meeting, 12:00 noon
- 13- Bible Studies resume at 6:30 PM, optional meal at 6:00 PM
- 16- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM
- 20- Bible Studies at 6:30 PM, optional meal at 6:00 PM
- 23- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM
- 27- Bible Studies at 6:30 PM, optional meal at 6:00 PM
- 30- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM

Office hours are: 9:00 AM—2:00 PM, M-Th.

For more information on any event, go to our website and click on the calendar.

Then click on the event to get more information.

<http://www.appletonchristian.org/calendar>

The C4 Christmas Cantata will have performances on:

December 6, 1:00 PM, Palisade UMC

December 7, 3:30 PM, Redlands UMC

December 13, 3:30 PM, Fruita UMC

December 14, 3:30 PM, Appleton Christian

Come join us in listening to the "Morning Star" Cantata and supporting many people from ACC who are participating.



"You Were There" *Radio Show and dinner Theatre*

A Christmas Invitation Worth Sharing

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This warm and engaging production features members of our own congregation lending their voices to the characters of the Christmas story in a tender, creative radio-drama style. It's a family-friendly evening that blends the nostalgia of old-time radio with the timeless truth of Scripture.

Dinner will be served, fellowship will be sweet, and the message of Christ will be clear. Bring a dessert to share.



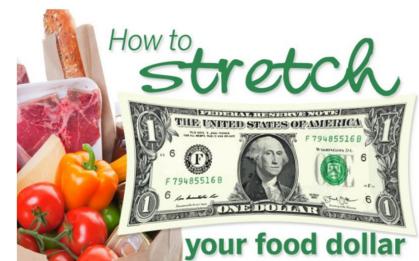
Saturday, December 13, 1:00 PM
Worship Center

Bring 3 dozens of your favorite cookies and copies of the recipes to share.

Don't forget to bring a container to take some cookies home with you.

For more information, contact Yvette @ 970-200-0977

Are you interested in learning how to stretch your food dollars? Would you like to make quick yet, affordable homemade meals? Contact Carlene Wood for more information @ 970-270-6127 or the office. It can be one on one or if there is enough interest, we can set up a class.



Celebrate Recovery



Mission: to offer a safe and supportive space where men and women can find healing and freedom from life's challenges (hurts, hangups, and habits) Friday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Contact Roxy Sanger or Dan Baker for more information or if you want to know how you can help.



Future dates upcoming Meal Preps:
 January 10, 2026
 February 14, 2026
 March 14, 2026

Tuesday evening Bible Studies for men, women, and children will meet December 2 and 9 and then will be off for the holiday season and will resume on January 13. The optional meal is at 6:00 PM, with the Bible studies at 6:30 PM.



Hello Appleton Family!

Heather DeBolt here with the last installment of our devotional series. Make sure to read the first two before getting into this! Enjoy!

Devotional #3: Love Yourself, by Burk DeBolt and Carman Willis

What does the Bible say about loving yourself? Honestly? Not much, not directly. But in the second greatest commandment, “love your neighbor as yourself,” how are we supposed to know how to love others if we don’t know how to love ourselves? We start with identity, knowing who you are in Christ. Let’s begin with some Biblical truths:

1. God loves you. He has chosen you and that was no mistake. Read *Romans 5:8. No matter what you have said or done, God chose to save you so you can be in relationship with Him. You have been made worthy of His love through Christ Jesus. Own that.*
2. God made you in His image. Read *Genesis 1:26. You reflect God’s very nature; there’s no need to question your beauty, your strength, your value, etc.*
3. God made you for a purpose. Read *Ephesians 3:10. Learning more about yourself along the way, who God made you to be, will guide you to your purpose. You may not know what good works God has called you specifically to do yet, but we’re all called to know God and help others do the same... so that’s a start! In the meantime, do that and trust God’s plan for later.*
4. You possess the Holy Spirit. When you accept Christ as your Savior and make Him your Lord, the Holy Spirit enters you. Read *1 John 4:4. We have the power of God in us because the Holy Spirit lives in and shines through us. So, we know how God loves us and why we can love ourselves for these reasons. Our identities are in Christ, if and only if, we make and own our identities in Christ.*

But still, *HOW do we love ourselves?*

1. Physical: Read *1 Corinthians 3:16. We’re called to take care of our bodies. We need quality fuel for our bodies, rest, and activity in our day-to-day—all of that is crucial for maintaining our earthly bodies. We’re on this earth until God calls us home, meaning we must take care of our bodies to keep going, healthily, as long as God asks.*

2. Mental/Emotional: Read *2 Corinthians 10:5. If we’re constantly bouncing back and forth between things we’re worried about, if we’re struggling with rumination and sin of the mind, we’re instructed to deny our flesh, our mind, and rebuke the enemy’s control in favor of focusing on the thoughts and actions God has for you. Read *Philippians 4:8.**

3. Spiritual: Most importantly, live a godly life. Read *1 Timothy 4:7-8. Our focus must be on maintaining our relationship with Christ, praying, reading our Bible, and bringing Him into our daily lives. While we’re still expected to take care of ourselves and steward the bodies, minds, and spirits God has given us, we can also trust that our Father is providing for us, making sure we will always have exactly what we need, even if what we need is less than what we want.*

*Read *Matthew 6:25-34. God tells us not to worry about ourselves and to look at other parts of creation to see how He cares for them. How much more does God love and care for us, His favorite creation? Loving yourself truly comes from humbly seeking God. The key to self-love is looking outside yourself, your doubts, and your worries to see what God says about you.**

Questions to Ponder:

- Why do you think Jesus died on the cross for you?
- Why do you think God loves you?
- How does knowing the King of the World died to save you impact how you see yourself?

Your Challenge:

What are some practical ways you can take care of yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually? Do one of each of those this week and tell someone how it goes!

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Service 8:00AM Service, 10:30 AM ● 12:15pm Deacon meeting	1 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	2 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	3 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	4 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	5 ● 5:30pm Praise team rehearsal 5:30 . ● 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group	6 ● 1pm Cantata Performance, Palisade
7 PEARL HARBOR DAY Service 8:00AM Service, 10:30 AM ● 3:30pm Cantata Performance, Reddi	8 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	9 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	10 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	11 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm Youth Group ● 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	12 ● 5:30pm Praise team rehearsal 5:30 . ● 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group	13 ● 1pm Cookie Exchange ● 3:30pm Cantata Performance, Fruit ● 6pm ACCKY Youth Holiday Hunt
14 Service 8:00AM Service, 10:30 AM ● 12pm Missions Team Meeting ● 3:30pm ACC Cantata Performance, Reddi	15 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study	16 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study	17 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study	18 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study	19 ● 5:30pm Praise team rehearsal 5:30 . ● 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group	20
21 Christmas Extravaganza - 5:00 PM Service 8:00AM Service, 10:30 AM	22 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group	23 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group	24 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm Christmas Eve Service ● 6pm Christmas Eve Day	25 ● 5:30pm Praise team rehearsal 1:00 PM ● 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group	26 ● 5:30pm Praise team rehearsal 5:30 . ● 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group	27
28 Service 8:00AM Service, 10:30 AM	29 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group	30 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group	31 ● 11:15am Staff meeting ● 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM ● 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study ● 6:30pm NO Youth Group	Jan 1 ● New Year's Day	2 ● 5:30pm Praise team rehearsal 5:30 . ● 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group	3

Go to our website and click on calendar. Then click on any event to get more information.



Contact Us:

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Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson
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Music Minister -Levi Willis
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Levi Willis 303-653-8620
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Charlotte Zangerle 970-245-6907
charjz1948@icloud.com

3
 three

ways to send Prayer Requests:

Prayer card on Sunday (check the box to be included in the weekly email distribution);

OR **email**
prayers@appletonchristian.org/
 OR **call**

Nancy @970-241-0858 or the church office @970-242-7380

For **shut-in communion**, please call 970-242-7380 during office hours or contact person listed below:



SHUT IN COMMUNION

Bob Labig

(if you would like to help with this, please contact the office or Bob)

Communion & Offering **Meditation** First Service

December 2025

7-Bob Labig
 14-Alan Dyson
 21-Levi Willis
 28-John Wilson

January 2026

4-Bob Labig
 11-Alan Dyson
 18-Levi Willis
 25-John Wilson

Second Service

December 2025

7-Bob Labig
 14-Alan Dyson
 21-Jenny Nichols
 28-John Wilson

January 2026

4-Bob Labig
 11-Alan Dyson
 18-Jenny Nichols
 25-John Wilson

SUNDAY GREETERS

First Service

December 2025

7-Keith Kump
 14-Judy Devine
 21-Linda/Dick Mann
 28-Connie/Tom Fudge

January 2026

4-Keith Kump
 11-Judy Devine
 18-Linda/Dick Mann
 25-Connie/Tom Fudge

Second Service

December 2025

7-Karen Ranville
 14-Joanne Reitz
 21-Cris Hoche
 28-Connie Martinez

January 2026

4-Donna Jean Ganss
 11-Jenny Nichols
 18-Yvette Caldwell
 25-Lisa O'Connor

DECEMBER

PRAYER FAMILIES & SCHOOLS

- 7- Kathryn Baker
 Dan & Jeanne Baker
 Redlands Middle School
- 14- Jorge & Lizzie Barajas & family
 Kumiko & Scott Barks
 West Middle School
- 21- Chris Beeman
 Carol Bishop
 Central High School
- 28- Seth Biskupski
 John & Phyllis Bolsinger
 Fruita Monument High School



APPLETON CARE MINISTRY

Occasionally we have needs that come up in the church. If you have a talent or some time that could maybe help someone out, please contact the office.

- Mechanical skills for small car repairs
- Providing meals
- Visiting (home, hospital, nursing facilities)
- Light exercise (walking)
- Calling on the phone or visit
- Grocery shopping
- Running errands
- Light chores around the house
- Driving to appointments



Our purpose is to **LOVE** on people, let them know we **CARE**, and to see if there is **ANTHING** we can do for them.

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Enter the assigned password into the app to begin synching.



You can also access the directory on your computer.

Go to: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> to create an account using the email address you have listed in the directory. You will receive a confirmation email and once you click on the link, your email address will be validated. You will then need to log in, just as an email account, every time to access the directory. You will be able to view the information, but the phone numbers and email are not hyperlinked as with the smart device app.



The Apple Press
2510 I-70 Frontage Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81505
DECEMBER 2025

Our Mission
To grow fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:19-20

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM Worship
9:30 AM Sunday School for adults
10:30 AM Classes for children

A CORE
OF TRUTH

—
WITH A
LOT OF
APPEAL



Unsubscribe: If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us with your address or email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject line. Thank you.

Connect with us:

970-242-7380
970-242-3682 fax

Senior Minister Dan Baker
pastordan@appletonchristian.org

Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson
pastoralan@appletonchristian.org

Music Minister
levi@appletonchristian.org

To sign up for Applets, Newsletter, or Directory, please send an email with Subscribe to Applets, or Newsletter, or Directory PDF in the Subject line.
office@appletonchristian.org

prayers@appletonchristian.org

To sign up to receive prayer requests, please send an email with **Subscribe in the Subject line.**

The Bible affirms the power and importance of prayer and we, as a church, are committed to pray for each other. Let us know your request and we will lift you up in prayer.

appletonexchange@appletonchristian.org.
www.appletonchristian.org

Listen to [sermons](#) online

[Click here for Calendar](#)

