



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

May 2026

THE APPLE PRESS

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For years I have been amazed at how many ways God has opened doors for me to share with people His love and His hope. These opportunities are all around us and we just really need to keep our eyes and hearts open for them. Well, in a very extreme example of this, the other day I went to sign up for a month long membership to the Fruita recreation center. When I went to talk with the young people behind the desk, God opened up an opportunity to talk with the them for a bit... and well, one of the young ladies is graduating from Fruita Monument High School this year, and she happens to be in charge of organizing their Baccalaureate service. She asked me right there if I would be willing to speak to their graduating class for their service. I told them I would be honored... well, I thought I would share my soon to be presented speech with you.. and it is somewhat timely because of the season... here you go, and know that I love you all, Dan

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS

Fruita Monument High School – Class of 2026

Dr. Dan Baker, Sr. Pastor

Appleton Christian Church

A Warm Welcome & Gratitude

Good evening, graduates, families, friends, teachers, and administrators. It is truly an honor and a privilege to stand before you tonight. My name is **Dr. Dan Baker**, and I serve as the Senior Pastor at Appleton Christian Church. My wife and I have called this community home for the past eleven years, and in that time, I've come to love Fruita and all that it represents.

I've enjoyed becoming a "Wildcat"—cheering at games, attending concerts, watching plays and musicals, and celebrating the incredible talent represented in this school. This is a special community, and tonight is a special moment. Graduates, this evening is about you. You've worked hard. You've grown. And now you stand on the threshold of what's next.

Reflection on the Journey

The last time I spoke at a baccalaureate service... was in May of 1979. My own. And I'll be honest with you—I made a memorable mistake. I decided to read *The Road Not Taken*... but because of my drama background, I thought it would be a great idea to read it in an "English dialect." It was... not my finest moment. But the message of that poem has stayed with me all these years—the idea that life is made up of choices, of roads we take.

Now, as I stand here at 65 years old, I can look back on many roads. Some were wise. Some... not so much. I married my senior prom date—we've now been married 43 years. We've been blessed with three children, two wonderful daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.

I spent over twenty years in business, and now more than twenty-five years in ministry. We've lived in five states—including two tours in New Jersey, which I'm still recovering from. Through every road—every success, every failure, every unexpected turn—there has been one constant: A very big, very faithful God.

Faith, Identity, and Purpose

Graduates, tonight you are stepping into a world that will ask you one question over and over again: "Who are you?"

Cont. p. 2

The world will try to answer that question for you—based on your success, your career, your accomplishments, or your failures. But Scripture gives a different answer.

In **Psalm 139:13–14**, we read:

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”

You are not an accident. You are not random. You are not replaceable. You are uniquely created by God. And because of that—you have purpose. Not just a career. Not just a paycheck. But a purpose.

Walking the Right Road

Now let me come back to those “roads” in life. Over the years, I’ve discovered something important: It’s not just about choosing a path... It’s about choosing **Who you walk with on that path.**

There were seasons in my life when I walked with God... and there were seasons when I tried to walk without Him. And I can tell you without hesitation: Walking with God is the better road. Not always the easier road...but always the better one.

The Bible gives us a powerful promise in **Proverbs 3:5–6**:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Graduates, you will have moments when you don’t know what to do. What major to choose. What job to take. Who to trust. What direction to go.

But God has not left you without guidance. His Word gives you a clear picture of how to live—no matter what you do.

Encouragement for the Future

So here’s what I want you to understand tonight:

Following God’s will is not just about finding one perfect job or one perfect decision. It’s about becoming the kind of person who walks with Him daily. It’s about living with integrity. Loving people well. Making wise choices. And trusting Him with your future.

Jesus said in **John 14:6**:

“I am the way and the truth and the life...” Not just a way.

The way.

And when you follow Him, you are never walking alone.

A Call to Action

Graduates, you have been given gifts, talents, and opportunities that are uniquely yours. Use them well. Use them to serve others. Use them to make a difference. Use them to reflect the goodness of God in a world that desperately needs it.

You don’t have to be the loudest voice. You don’t have to be the most successful person in the room. But you can be someone who walks faithfully with God—and that will impact more lives than you realize.

Closing Blessing & Prayer

Graduates, as you leave this place and step into the next chapter of your lives, my prayer for you is simple: That you would walk the right road...and more importantly...That you would walk it with God. Let’s pray.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for these graduates.

For their hard work, their perseverance, and the journey that has brought them to this moment.

Lord, as they step into the future, we ask for Your guidance, Your protection, and Your wisdom.

Help them to trust You, to seek You, and to walk with You in every season of life.

Remind them that they are created by You, loved by You, and called for a purpose.

And may they live lives that honor You and bless others.

We ask all of this in Jesus' name,

Amen.



MAY 2026

- 1- Celebrate Recovery meets, 6:30 PM
- 2- Men's Group, "His Project," 8:00 AM, breakfast/workday
- 2- Camp Christian Workday, meet at church at 7:00 AM
- 5- Men's, Women's, & Youth Bible Study, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
- 7- Clothed in His Love, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- 8- Celebrate Recovery meets, 6:30 PM
- 9- Meal Prep, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, sign up by May 3
- 12- Men's, Women's, & Youth Bible Study, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
- 15- Celebrate Recovery meets, 6:30 PM
- 16- Clothed in His Love, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- 19- Men's, Women's, & Youth Bible Study, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
- 22- Celebrate Recovery meets, 6:30 PM
- 25- Memorial Day
- 26- Men's, Women's, & Youth Bible Study, 6:30 PM, meal 6:00 PM
- 29- Celebrate Recovery meets, 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**

NO TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY OR MEALS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS OF JUNE OR JULY

Office hours are: 9:00 AM—3:00 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>

To Our Appleton Family,

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for the prayers, messages, and support you've shown my family and me during this recent time of illness. We have truly felt cared for and lifted up, and it has meant more to us than I can really put into words.

I'm so grateful to be part of this church. It's a blessing to belong to a group of people who genuinely love and support one another the way you do.

Thank you for walking with us through this—we love and appreciate you all so much.

With Gratitude,

Alan

THANK YOU

**Next Meal Prep May 9
(sign up by May 3)**

- 1) Pot Roast Stew
- 2) Coconut Lime Chicken
- 3) Hawaiian Meatballs
- 4) Fiesta Chicken
- 5) Cilantro Lime Pork Tacos
- 6) Sweet Basil Citrus Garlic Chicken



Cost for a set of 6 meals:

2 servings of 6 meals - \$40

4 servings of 6 meals - \$80

6 servings of 6 meals - \$120

Contact Heidi, 970-250-0588 for questions.

Celebrate Recovery



A Note on Celebrate Recovery

As the initial excitement of the new year begins to fade, many people find that their resolutions start to slip away. Research suggests that a significant majority of individuals abandon their goals by early February, often feeling discouraged when the initial momentum stalls.

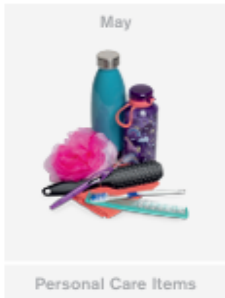
Celebrate Recovery offers a different approach by providing a consistent fellowship of believers dedicated to personal growth and spiritual strengthening. While we certainly support those navigating any kind of addiction, two-thirds of our participants attend to find help with everyday struggles like anxiety, codependency, anger, work stressors, depression, food and the weight of perfectionism.

The heart of this ministry is based on the Beatitudes delivered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, which connect us to God's nature, our redemption, and the transformative work that the Holy Spirit has on us.

In Grand Junction, there are opportunities to connect five days a week, with Appleton Christian hosting an open share session every Friday night from 6:30 to 7:30. There is no requirement to commit to a group long term, as our doors are open to anyone, even those who simply had a difficult week and need a safe place to talk. Whether you are facing a temporary setback or a lifelong habit, this community is designed for any adult looking to find freedom and peace.

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." - James 5:16

Operation Christmas Child



For the month of May we will be collecting **Hygiene items**: combs, brushes, washcloths, toothbrushes, etc.

(As always, anything you would like to donate is always appreciated).

Missions that ACC supports

The Pregnancy Center

Memduh & Suna Uysal
(Internet Evangelism to Turkish speaking people)

Assisting Christian Individuals, Int. - Nancy Hagerman

Mesa County Jail Ministry - bibles

Camp Christian

WCCCM
(Western Colorado Christian Campus Ministries)

Christ Chapel

Wycliffe - Jennifer Harper

One for Israel

Operation Christmas Child

Hello Appleton Family!

We are officially in Camp Mode over here in the Kids and Youth Ministries! Here are the highlights-- hope you can participate in some of these!

Camp Fundraiser, ROOTED TOUR- April 18th:

This event was so much fun and went swimmingly! Thank you so much for joining us that day, and thank you especially to those who donated to support our students this summer! We've officially raised \$2,561, which is INCREDIBLE! This means we are ABOVE what we need to cover everyone we're expecting to take to camp this summer, including the counselors! If we end up needing any more donations to cover more campers, I'll keep you posted! But THANK YOU again for supporting our students!

Camp Work Day, May 2nd:

Join us the first Saturday this month to help prep Camp Christian for the season! Meet at the church at 7am to carpool/caravan up to camp, where they'll provide us with a light breakfast and lunch. Bring gloves, sunscreen, water, and friends. You'll be back home mid-afternoon. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU'RE COMING, so I can update the camp with our headcount in advance. Thanks!

Camp Registration Deadline- June 1st:

If your child wants to come to camp this summer, you MUST REGISTER THEM BY JUNE 1ST!
No excuses!!

Camp Christian Season, "Rooted in Christ, Est. in Faith":

HS Camp (Incoming 9th-12th): June 8-11

MS Camp (Incoming 6th-8th): June 15-18

JR Camp (Incoming 3rd-5th): June 22-25

ROOTED IN CHRIST
EST. IN FAITH Camp Christian 2026 Season

"So walk in Christ, rooted in Him and established in the faith." Colossians 2:6

WORK DAY: MAY 2ND
HS CAMP (9TH-12TH): JUNE 8-11
MS CAMP (6TH-8TH): JUNE 15-18
JR CAMP (3RD-5TH): JUNE 22-25

All Kids & Youth Camps \$180 for registration, T-shirt, & snack cards.
Discounts available for early registration!

Contact Heather DeBolt for more info.

LINK TO REGISTER

CAMPCHRISTIANCOLORADO.ORG

CAMP CHRISTIAN EST. 1992

Prayer Requests:

Please continue to pray that our students' hearts and minds may be prepared to receive God's message for them this year. Ask for doors to open so more students who need it can come, and for leaders to be called to be there and say what God wants them to say. Please also continue to pray for Levi and Carman Willis, Conn Smith, Aimery Gonzales, and Burk and I as we all work together to plan the programming for high school camp this year. We need endurance, clarity, direction, and protection from the enemy's attacks as we continue to finalize plans.

Thanks, everyone! Happy almost summer!

Heather DeBolt



Clothed in His Love Ministry at ACC

Workshops in May:

CUTTING Workshop, Thursday, May 7, 6 to 8pm

SEWING/CUTTING Workshop, Saturday, May 16th – 9am to 3pm

Bring a lunch if you wish to stay all day

All our activities are held in the Worship Center. We would love for you to join us.

We have expanded the ministry beyond the **Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes**, for which we sew jumpers, skirts, pants and shorts for children, size 2 to 14. We are sewing bibs, fleece hats, and newborn to size 1 outfits for **The Pregnancy Center of Grand Junction!**

Please contact Connie ahead of time to let us know that you are planning on attending either or both workshops. **We will teach you to do the cutting** if you'd like to participate but have never done this kind of work before.

We are also offering **beginning sewing lessons** for those interested in learning how to sew while working on simple items for the ministry. Contact Connie or Elizabeth to discuss this.

Come join us, we'd love to have you, and please pray for God's purpose and will for this ministry.

It is all to His GLORY!!!

Connie Fudge (fudgeconnie@gmail.com) – (208) 755-2873

Elizabeth Kovarovics (ermcbroom@gmail.com) – (970) 361-6778

Donna Jean Ganss (donnaganss@yahoo.com) – (970) 640-8396

Special Request:

You may or may not be aware of the fact that to every jumper, pair of pants, and skirt we sew for **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** and the **Grand Junction Pregnancy Center**, we pair a t-shirt or onesie with them.

These t-shirts and onesies come from the many generous donations of the items themselves or money we receive from all of you.

We are always in need of these items or money to buy them (and to buy fabric). We are constantly taking over outfits to the **Pregnancy Center** and we want to be prepared for the **November Shoebox** stuffing

Here is our 'forever' wishlist for this ongoing ministry:

***Onesies** (for NB thru 1 year) – **Solid colors**; no characters or logos; all colors; boys & girls.

***Children's t-shirts** (2 year to 14 year) – **Solid colors**; no characters or logos; all colors; crew-neck, no V-neck, please; boys & girls.

***Money** – This will be used for onesies, t-shirts, and fabric for future outfits.

If you'd like to donate monetarily to the ministry, please give the money to ACC (cash or check), with a memo that it is for "CiHL".

You may give the t-shirts and onesies to **Connie Fudge, Elizabeth Kovarovics, or Donna Jean Ganss** OR drop them in the church office and **Jeanne** will get them to us. Thank you for your generous hearts. God blesses us continually through your willingness to give.

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>26</p> <p>Service 8:00AM</p> <p>Service, 10:30 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm ARK- Camp Teaching Meetin 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Staff meeting 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>May 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Praise team rehearsal 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group 	<p>SAT</p> <p>2</p> <p>ACCKY- Camp Christian Work Day, 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Men's group, "His Project"
<p>3</p> <p>Service 8:00AM</p> <p>Service, 10:30 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm ARK- Camp Teaching Meetin 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Staff meeting 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm The Armory Group, Admin 6pm Clothed in His Love 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prep day for meal prep 4:30pm Praise team rehearsal 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group 	<p>9</p> <p>Meal Prep, Worship Center, ARK</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Service 8:00AM</p> <p>Service, 10:30 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm ARK- Camp Teaching Meetin 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elder's Meeting, 4:30 PM 9:30am Staff meeting 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 	<p>13</p> <p>Building in use, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Praise team rehearsal 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Clothed in His Love
<p>17</p> <p>Service 8:00AM</p> <p>Service, 10:30 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm ARK- Camp Teaching Meetin 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Staff meeting 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Beading group, 7:00 -9:00 PI 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOK, 6:00 -8:00 Worship Center, sel 5:30pm The Armory Group, Admin 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Praise team rehearsal 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group 	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Service 8:00AM</p> <p>Service, 10:30 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm ARK- Camp Teaching Meetin 	<p>25</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Staff meeting 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Fellowship meal, 6 PM 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Praise team rehearsal 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group 	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Service 8:00AM</p> <p>Service, 10:30 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm ARK- Camp Teaching Meetin 	<p>Jun 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Staff meeting 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm NO Fellowship meal, 6 PM 6:30pm NO Men's Bible Study 6:30pm NO Women's Bible Study 6:30pm NO Youth Group 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm The Armory Group, Admin 6pm Clothed in His Love 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Praise team rehearsal 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery Group 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Men's group, "His Project"

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

Contact Us:

Senior Minister Dan Baker
pastordan@appletonchristian.org

Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson
pastoralan@appletonchristian.org

Music Minister -Levi Willis
willis.levi.t@gmail.com

Kids & Youth Director
heatherndebolt@gmail.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/](mailto: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 970-216-7659

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

Communion & Offering **Meditation**

First Service

May 2026

- 3-Bob Labig
- 10-Alan Dyson
- 17-Levi Willis
- 24-John Wilson
- 31-Alan Dyson

June 2026

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

Second Service

May 2026

- 3-Bob Labig
- 10-Alan Dyson
- 17-Jenny Nichols
- 24-John Wilson
- 31-Alan Dyson

June 2026

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

SUNDAY GREETERS

First Service

May 2026

- 3-Keith Kump
- 10-Judy Devine
- 17-Linda/Dick Mann
- 24-Connie/Tom Fudge
- 31-Agnes Ekos

June 2026

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

Second Service

May 2026

- 3-Helen Caldwell
- 10-Connie Martinez
- 17-Lisa O'Connor
- 24-Joanne Reitz
- 31-Karen Ranville

June 2026

- 7-Kathy/Kelly Messamer
- 14-Robin Dague
- 21-Jenny Nichols
- 28-Helen Caldwell

MAY 2026

PRAYER FAMILIES & SCHOOLS

- 3- Roxy Frazier
Tom & Connie Fudge
Dos Rios Elementary
- 10- Rick Galvin
Donna Jean Ganss
Dual Immersion Academy
- 17- Aimery Gonzales
Norma Jean Griffin
Fruitvale Elementary
- 24- Jason Hagerman
Steve & Nancy Hagerman
Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary
- 31- Bob & Jacque Harper
Joel & Sandra Hart
Loma Elementary



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.

Connect with us:

970-242-7380

Senior Minister Dan Baker
pastordan@appletonchristian.org

Senior Associate Minister Alan Dyson
pastoralan@appletonchristian.org

Music Minister
willis.levi.t@gmail.com

Kids and Youth Director
heatherndebolt@gmail.com

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



Click here for [Calendar](#)



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

MAY 2026

*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.