



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

September 2026

THE APPLE PRESS

READY FOR THE HARVEST

Seven Steps to Prepare for Opportunities to Share Your Faith

My dear brothers and sisters, several of you have asked me to write out the seven steps I mentioned in last week's sermon - some practical ways we can prepare ourselves to recognize and respond when God gives us an opportunity to share our faith. I am glad you asked, because these steps are not meant to be a formula or a sales technique. They are simply habits that can help us see people the way Jesus sees them and be ready when He opens a door.

In Matthew 9, Jesus looked at the crowds and saw people who were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He told His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few," and instructed them to ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His field (Matthew 9:36-38). After speaking with the Samaritan woman, He gave them a similar challenge: "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest!" (John 4:35).

That is where evangelism begins: we ask God to open our eyes. We learn to see the neighbor, the coworker, the waitress, the family member, and the stranger not simply as people passing through our day, but as people created in God's image, loved by God, and in need of the hope found in Jesus Christ. And once we begin praying for the harvest, we should not be surprised when God begins turning us into workers in that harvest.

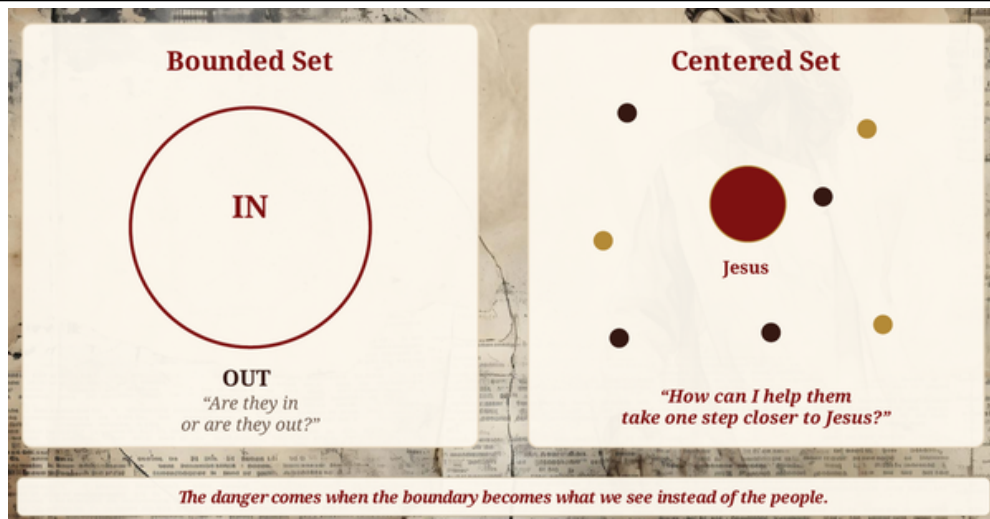
"Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest!" - John 4:35

1. Ask God to Increase Your Love for People Who Do Not Yet Know Christ

Before we learn what to say, we need God to shape the way we see. Sharing our faith begins with love. Ask God to give you genuine compassion for people who are far from Him - not annoyance, fear, superiority, or an "us versus them" attitude. In the sermon, I used the illustration of "bounded sets" and "centered sets." A bounded-set picture makes us immediately notice who is inside the circle and who is outside. Scripture certainly teaches a real difference between being lost and saved, believing and unbelieving. The problem comes when the boundary becomes all we see, and the people disappear behind the label.

A centered-set picture puts Jesus in the center. People may be close to Him or far away; some may even be moving in the wrong direction. But it leads us to ask a different question: "How can I help this person take one step closer to Jesus?" The center is not us. The center is not even our church. The center is Jesus.

Cont. p. 2



A helpful picture from Sunday: the point is not to erase biblical boundaries, but to keep our eyes on people and on Jesus.

2. Pray Consistently for Specific People

Develop a prayer list - and I do not mean our normal list of illnesses, surgeries, and Aunt Susie's arthritis. Make a list of people in your actual sphere of influence who do not know Jesus, or who have drifted far from Him.

Write down three to five names. Pray for them regularly. Ask God to soften hearts, to reveal Christ, to heal wounds and misconceptions, and to create natural opportunities for conversation. Just as importantly, pray that God will change you: give you patience, courage, wisdom, and love. Paul asked believers to pray that God would open a door for the message and help him speak clearly (Colossians 4:2-4). We can pray the same way.

Prayer is not merely preparation for evangelism; prayer is one of the ways God prepares the evangelist.

3. Build Bridges of Friendship - With No Strings Attached

People are not projects. They are not targets, statistics, or spiritual trophies. Jesus spent time with people. He ate with tax collectors and sinners, listened to questions, entered homes, attended meals, and gave people His attention (Mark 2:15-17). Be genuinely interested in the lives of people around you. Spend time with them. Listen more than you speak. Learn their story. Remember what matters to them. Be willing to be their friend even if they never respond to Christ the way you hope. Genuine friendship does not hide our desire for them to know Jesus; it simply refuses to make our love conditional on their response.

4. Do Not Just Share Your Faith - Show It

There are two important parts to this. First, be authentic. Do not pretend that Christians have everything together. If we present ourselves as flawless, unbelievers are likely to conclude either that we are hypocrites or that Christianity is only for people who already have their lives in order. Neither conclusion communicates the gospel of grace.

Second, serve people in simple, practical ways. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Help a neighbor. Encourage a coworker. Show patience when others are angry. Apologize when you are wrong. Be generous. Be dependable. A life that has been touched by Christ should make the message about Christ more believable.

Our good works do not replace the gospel, but they can make people curious about the hope that produces them (see 1 Peter 3:15).

5. Be Ready to Tell Others Your Story

You do not have to be a theologian to tell someone what Jesus has done in your life. In Acts 26, Paul simply tells his story: what his life was like, how he encountered Christ, and how that encounter changed the direction of his life. We can do the same.

A simple testimony has three movements: What was my life like before I trusted Christ? How did I come to faith in Him? What difference is Jesus making in me now? Be honest. Do not embellish. And be brief - usually three minutes or less. The goal is not to tell every detail of your life; the goal is to make Jesus the hero of your story.

6. Be Prepared to Explain the Good News Clearly

Sooner or later, a conversation may move from your story to the question, “So what does Christianity actually teach?” We should be ready to answer without reducing the gospel to a canned formula.

One simple way to remember the heart of the message is DO versus DONE. Religion, as people often imagine it, begins with what we must DO to earn God’s favor. The gospel begins with what God has already DONE for us through Jesus Christ.

We have all sinned and cannot rescue ourselves (Romans 3:23). God loved us and sent His Son. Jesus died for our sins and rose again. Salvation is a gift of grace, not a wage we earn (Ephesians 2:8-9). The proper response to that grace is to trust Christ, turn to Him in repentance, confess Him as Lord, be baptized into Christ, and begin a life of obedient discipleship (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; Romans 10:9). We are not inviting people merely to become more religious. We are inviting them to be reconciled to God through Jesus.

The heart of the gospel: not what we can do to earn salvation, but what God has done for us in Christ.

7. Take Some Risks for the Sake of the Gospel

I used a humorous illustration in the sermon: if you want to learn how to dodge a charging rhino, eventually you have to go somewhere rhinos might charge. I am not recommending anyone test that literally! The point is that we cannot experience the adventure of sharing our faith if we always arrange our lives so that no meaningful spiritual conversation can ever happen.

Put yourself in places where God can use you. Invite a neighbor for coffee. Eat lunch with the coworker everyone else avoids. Ask someone how you can pray for them. Invite a friend to worship. Offer to study one of the Gospels with someone who has questions. When the moment comes, take the risk of saying, “Can I tell you what Jesus has meant in my life?”

It may feel awkward. It will probably stretch your faith. But that is often where we discover that God was already at work long before we arrived.

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” - Colossians 4:5

Open Your Eyes

The harvest field is not only on the other side of the world. It is across the fence, across the desk, around the family table, in the restaurant, at the ball field, in the waiting room, and everywhere God places us.

We are not responsible for converting anyone. Only God can give spiritual life and growth (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). But we are responsible to love, pray, build relationships, live faithfully, speak clearly, and be willing when He gives us an opportunity.

So begin simply this week. Write down three names. Pray for them every day. Ask God to help you see them as He sees them. Then pray one more prayer: “Lord, when You open the door, help me recognize it - and give me the courage to walk through it.”

Jesus still says, “Open your eyes and look at the fields.” May God make us a church full of people who see the harvest - and are willing to enter it.

I love you all, Dan



This is the next in a short series on why our prayers sometimes seem unanswered. Last time we looked at James and the problems of doubting faith and selfish motives. Today we turn to 1 Peter 3:7, where the apostle writes, “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Peter is speaking directly to husbands. He has already addressed wives in the verses just before this, and now he turns to the men with a clear command: live with your wife in an understanding way and show her honor. The reason he gives is striking. She is a fellow heir of the grace of life—equal with you in Christ—and if you fail to treat her that way, your prayers may be hindered. The word means blocked or cut off. God takes the treatment of a man’s wife so seriously that it can affect his access in prayer.

This is not about ranking one person above another. The phrase “weaker vessel” simply acknowledges the physical differences God designed. The emphasis is on understanding and honor. A husband who is harsh, dismissive, unloving, or self-centered toward his wife is living in a way that contradicts the gospel he claims to believe. That inconsistency creates a barrier. God will not let a man mistreat his wife and then pretend everything is fine in the prayer closet.

While Peter’s words are aimed first at husbands, the principle reaches further. God cares deeply about how we treat the people closest to us. Marriage is the closest human relationship most of us will ever have, but the same truth applies more broadly. How we treat those nearest to us—spouse, children, parents, brothers and sisters in Christ—reveals what we really believe about the gospel. Our relationship with God and our relationships with others are not separate compartments. They are connected. That is true for all of us.

Husbands, take this to heart. Listen with real understanding. Speak with honor. Live as if your wife is a fellow heir of grace. If the honest picture is not good, the first step is not more intense prayer for other things. The first step is repentance and a change in how you treat her. For the rest of us, the call is the same: examine how you are treating the people closest to you. God listens to that more closely than we often realize.

This week, choose one concrete way to show understanding and honor to someone near you. Do it because they matter to God—and because your prayers matter.

Your Servant in Christ,
Alan Dyson



SEPTEMBER 2026

- 1- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 3- Clothed in His Love, 6:00 PM -8:00 PM
- 4- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM, Everyone is invited
- 7- LABOR DAY
- 8- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 11- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 12- Meal prep, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, sign up by September 6
- 15- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 18- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 19- [Lucy Clemmer Memorial service, 10:30 AM, ACC](#)
- 22- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 25- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 26- Clothed in His Love, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM
- 27- Mission Team meeting, 12:15 PM
- 29- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 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

OCTOBER 2026

- 1- Clothed in His Love, 6:00 PM -8:00 PM
- 2- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 3- Men's Group, "His Project," Breakfast and Bible Study, 8:00 AM
- 6- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 9- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 10- Meal prep, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, sign up by October 4
- 13- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 16- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 17- Clothed in His Love, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM
- 20- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 23- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited
- 24- [Wanda Archer Memorial service, 11:30 AM \(outside\), ACC](#)
- 27- Tuesday night meal and Bible Studies. Meal at 6:00 PM, Bible Studies/youth at 6:30 PM
- 30- Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited.

Office hours are: 9:00AM—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>

Next Meal Prep
September 12
(sign up by September 6)

Contact Heidi, 970-250-0588
for questions.

- 1) Chicken and Dumplings
- 2) Catalina Chicken
- 3) Apricot Orange Pork
- 4) Chicken Burrito Bowls
- 5) Beef Burgundy Tips
- 6) Chipotle Raspberry Pork Chops

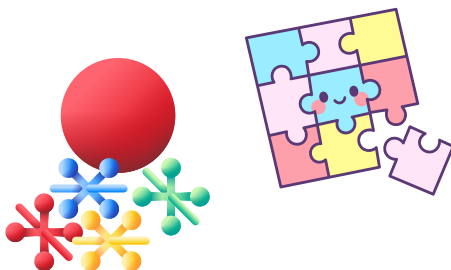


Cost for a set of 6 meals:

- 2 servings of 6 meals - \$40
- 4 servings of 6 meals - \$80
- 6 servings of 6 meals - \$120

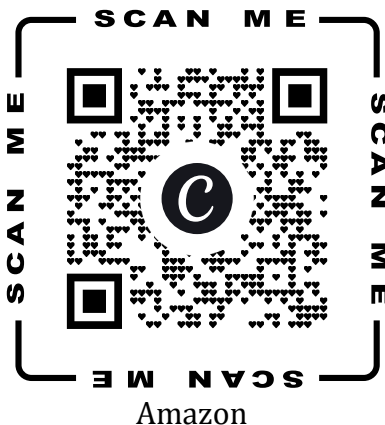
Operation Christmas Child

For the month of September, we will be collecting games: puzzles, etch-a-sketch, cards, jacks, etc.



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

Want an easy way to purchase for the OCC Christmas Boxes? Scan the QR Code to go to our Amazon or Walmart Registry.



You can choose to have the items shipped directly to the church.

Miss a sermon?

Want to rewatch a sermon?



Catch all our sermons on our YouTube channel.

Celebrate Recovery



A Note on Celebrate Recovery

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

Clothed in His Love

Ministry at ALC

Workshops in September:

CUTTING Workshop

Thursday, September 3rd • 6 - 8 pm

and

SEWING/CUTTING Workshop

Saturday, September 26th • 9am to 3pm

Bring a lunch if you wish to stay All day

We sew for the Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes - jumpers, skirts, pants, and shorts for children, size 2-14 AND for the Pregnancy Center of Grand Junction- bibs, fleece hats for newborn to size 1

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.

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

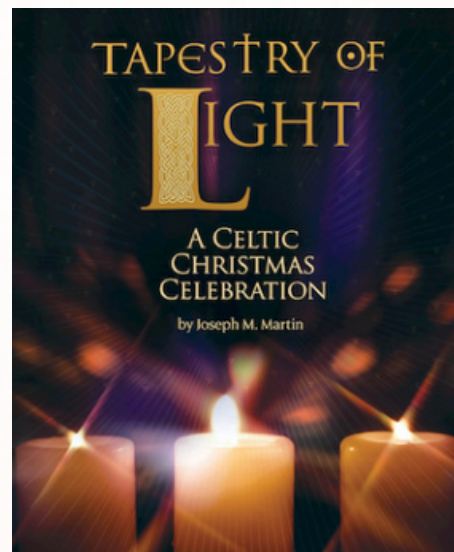
Elizabeth Kovarovics (ermcbroom@gmail.com) (970) 361-6778

Donna Jean Ganss (donnaganss@yahoo.com) (970) 640-9396

If you are interested in being in our Christmas Cantata, don't hesitate to contact Levi.

Practices begin this weekend, August 29, from 6:00-7:30 PM, at Fruita United Methodist.

You can join up until October 3rd.



Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

A ministry of Samaritan's Purse • "The Greatest Gift"

Thank you to all who have been contributing to this Shoebox Ministry all year. You are amazing and so generous. Last year we sent 304 boxes!!! We hope to send more this year.

PACKING PARTY

November 7, 2026

ONLINE BOX

\$30.00

SHIPPING + MINISTRY

\$10.00 per box

THE GREATEST JOURNEY

\$6.00 per child

School supplies still needed

- Scissors • Glue sticks • Pens • Large erasers • Pencil sharpeners • Colors (crayons) • Markers • Colored pencils • Journals • Calculators • Rulers • Coloring books

There are several ways to be involved: All are important:

1. Buy items to fill the shoeboxes

- We do have an Amazon and Walmart website.

2. Cut and sew clothes

- Make clothes for the children and youth.

3. Pack at the packing party

- November 7, 2026
- All ages are welcome. Children pack the boxes with an adult.

4. Pack a plastic shoebox

- Plastic shoeboxes are available for you to pack yourself or with your family.

5. Pack a box online

- Pack a box for \$30.00. This includes the shipping fee and ministry expenses of \$10.00 per box.

6. Help with shipping and ministry expenses

- Donate \$10.00 per box and designate OCC.

7. Donate funds for needed items

- Please designate on your check or envelope that it is for OCC.

8. Beyond the Shoeboxes

- Before the kids get a shoebox, they are told about Jesus and the Good News of Salvation.
- In their shoebox, they receive a booklet called "The Greatest Gift."
- Children and youth who want to know more about Jesus can go to a special 12-week class called "The Greatest Journey."
- There they receive the New Testament and study booklet called "The Greatest Journey."
- The cost for each child is \$6.00. To donate, designate "The Greatest Journey."

9. Pray at the warehouse

- People are also needed at the warehouse in Denver to pray, pray, and pray.

Find out more:

www.samaritanspurse.org/operationchristmas-child

Or ask Tammy Dick, Vickie Wolfe,
or Donna Jean Ganss (970) 640-8396

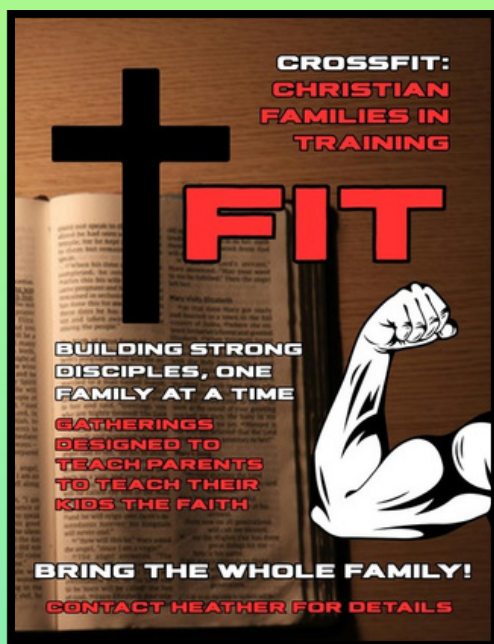
Thank you again so very much. Remember to Pray. Pray. Pray. God Bless You All.

Psalm 96:3 Declare this glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the Peoples



Hello Appleton Family!

I have a few updates for you with Kids & Youth! We're in full swing again now that school's back in session, and we're starting to see families show up more consistently again after the summer. It fills me with so much joy to see the return of our family! We have some really neat things going on this season, and it'll look a little different than before. We're focusing more on discipleship and developing families in more personal, deeper ways than before. Here's what we've got going on:



For Our Parents:

Recently, we've seen our parents wanting to learn how to teach their kids about the Bible at home. This is amazing! To do this, we're gearing up to host our first **CrossFIT (Christian Families in Training)** event! This will be an event for the whole family to attend.

The goal: to walk parents through a hands-on training, guiding them in conversations about life and the Bible with their kids.

How it'll work: As a large group of multiple families, I'll be walking us through a passage of scripture as we would in youth group, providing background info on the passage and where to find more. We'll read it all together, then ask for questions from our students and discuss it. After that, we'll break out into our family units so the parents can lead the next scripture discussion with their kids, with leaders walking around to provide support.

When: TBD! We want to build hype in advance.

For Our Kids:

Our kiddos are getting adopted!! For a while now, we've had the desire to connect our older generations with our kids in **pseudo-grandparent relationships**. Over the years, these relationships have happened on a small scale in our church, but now, we're hoping to intentionally activate more of those relationships! Coming up, we'll be hosting events, joining each kid in our ministry with a grandparent-figure, and having them play games, do crafts, and get to know each other in a no-pressure, communal environment. Throughout September, we'll be connecting "grandparents" with parents and kids, and then we'll set up the event when it all clicks together!



For Our Youth:

Instead of hosting bigger events for youth this fall, we're prioritizing **one-on-one discipleship!** Our youth leaders are pairing up with students to spend time with them, leading them to walk in the faith every day. We've been establishing this idea for a while now, getting students interested in this more intentional ministry, and it's amazing to see the

fruits of it starting to form! Please pray for these relationships with me:

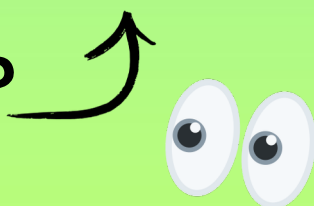
(1) that the leaders would be the right people for our students to learn from and that they'd be open and honest about sharing their lives with their student, and (2) that each student would be ready and open to learn from their discipler, intrigued to know more about Christ.

**WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:**

Along with the prayer you've already been giving us (THANK YOU), could you please pray about joining us in these endeavors? Here's what we need:

1. **Pour into parents** as they learn about Christ and teach their kids
2. **Become an adopted "grandparent"** to one of our elementary kids
3. **Disciple a youth student:** We still have a few left that need someone!
4. **Serve Kids on Tuesday nights:** 6:30pm-8pm, working with up to four elementary kids. Use pre-made, easy activities that go along with Sunday's lesson, and spend time with kids, playing, watching SuperBook, etc. This allows all of our kids and youth to engage in Scripture at age-appropriate levels, the little ones able to play more, and the youth able to focus on the discussion more easily without the distraction. We need you!

**THIS COULD
BE YOU!**

**WRAP UP:**

As God continues to grow our ministry (WHICH IS SO COOL-- HALLELUJAH!!), we really need more hands on deck to keep the ball rolling. Please be prayerful and ask God if the person we need could be you.

Thank you so much for all the support you give our kids and youth ministry. Let's keep it going!

Heather DeBolt
Kids and Youth Director

First Service Volunteers

Second Service Volunteers

11

Greeters

Communion Offering

Sep 2026	
6	Judy Devine
13	Jim Rogers
20	Dick/Linda Mann
27	Connie/Tom Fudge

Sep 2026	
6	Bob Labig
13	DeBolt
20	Willis
27	John Wilson

Greeters

Communion Offering

Sep 2026	
6	Karen Ranville
13	Messamers
20	Robin Dague
27	Jenny Nichols

Sep 2026	
6	Bob Labig
13	DeBolt
20	Jenny Nichols
27	John Wilson

SEPTEMBER 2026 PRAYER FAMILIES

Please keep these families in your prayers this month.

6	Chip/Sharon Palmer Grady Lee Palmer
13	Steve/Pat Parsons Brently/Sarah Perrigo & Family
20	Elaine Powers Josh/Jessica Pritchett
27	Don Pullman Jean Radebaugh



Prayer Requests:

Prayer card on Sunday OR email
prayers@appletonchristian.org/
OR call

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

SHUT-IN COMMUNION

For shut-in communion,
please call 970-242-7380 during
office hours.

First Service Volunteers

Second Service Volunteers

Greeters

Communion Offering

Oct 2026	
4	Keith Kump
11	Judy Devine
18	Dick/Linda Mann
25	Connie/Tom Fudge

Oct 2026	
4	Bob Labig
11	DeBolt
18	Willis
25	John Wilson

Greeters

Communion Offering

Oct 2026	
4	Helen Caldwell
11	Ed/Cindy Weber
18	Lisa O'Connor
25	Yvette Caldwell

Oct 2026	
4	Bob Labig
11	DeBolt
18	Jenny Nichols
25	John Wilson

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 addresses 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

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.

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

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

prayers@appletonchristian.org

appletonexchange@appletonchristian.org

www.appletonchristian.org



SEPTEMBER 2026

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.