

# The Beacon

February 2023

*Let your light shine before others . . . Matthew 5:16*

## Growing Back the Church

Adapted from an article by Jim Denison



Cultural commentator Jake Meador wrote, “A new moment in church history is beginning as is a new moment in American history.” He wrote that “the Baby Boomers, who have provided for financial and volunteer resources since the 60s, are retiring and dying. The provisions for the Church started many years before the 60s and farther back than that. This generation won’t replace them because they lack the wealth and don’t give what they have to the same degree as their current and past family members. Also, in the last 25 years, 40 million souls, predominantly younger people, have left the American church. If this trend continues, churches will disappear, seminaries will collapse, and non-profit businesses will disappear.”

Churches in past generations had their share of problems. However, the members and attendees of those houses of worship were faithful in their attendance, participation, and invitation to others to attend the services and serve for the Lord.

Nowadays, the cultures of money and entertainment have expanded to Sundays, and many have invested in those areas with dedicated regularity. Hence the sharp drop-off of the number of worshipers attending to God and His church for us.

Meador says we can engage the crucial issues of our day and connect with more people to invite and be with them in the church by **“speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15)**.

We’re to “Make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in you” (**1 Peter 3:15**). We are called to bring His light to the darkness (**Matthew 5:14–16**), driving out evil (**Mark 1:39**), and loving others as Christ loves us.

Two brothers lived in a small rural town. They vandalized, robbed, and beat on people. One day, a brother died. The other brother went to the preacher in town and asked him, “For my brother’s funeral, can you do me one favor?”

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**The First United Methodist Church of Cañon City, Colorado**

Dave Blackwell, Pastor

Join us for worship on Sunday mornings @ 10:00am - Sunday School @ 8:45am

801 Main Street      Cañon City, CO 81212      719-275-0681

## Growing Back the Church continued from page 1

Adapted from an article by Jim Denison

"Sure. And what might that be?"

"I'll pay you \$10,000 if you call my brother a saint."

The preacher agreed, and word broke like wildfire that the preacher would be calling the worst person in town "a saint." On the day of the funeral, people crammed into the building to hear what the preacher had to say.

Once everyone had arrived, the preacher started his speech. "We are gathered here today to mourn the most wicked, the most hateful, and maybe the worst person I have ever met in my life. But, compared to his brother that is sitting in front of me, he was a saint."

Blessings brothers and sisters,  
Pastor Dave



*The Men's Group is hosting the FUMC Valentine's Dinner  
on Saturday, February 11th in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Hors d'ouevres will be served at 4:30pm with Dinner at 5:00pm.  
Live Entertainment will begin at 5:30pm.*

*The cost is \$20.00 per couple and single ladies are free.  
Contact Mike Dingler or Paul Carreras if you have any questions.*

*RSVP to Marilyn in the church office.*



# YIPPEE KI-YAY



The Men's Chili Fundraiser was a great success with a delicious variety of chilis to choose from. Many thanks to the guys for donning an apron and providing a tasty lunch for all. Thank you chili wranglers!!!



We had a special visitor after the lunch who heard that there was a lot of chili goin' on





## **Ash Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Service at 5:00pm**

You can also stop by the office from 9-4 to be blessed with ashes . . .

**Ash Wednesday** is a holy day of prayer and fasting in many Western Christian denominations. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, and observed in many Christian countries. Christians participate in confession and absolution and a time of ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms to be used on Ash Wednesday.

As Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, many Christians begin by marking a Lenten calendar, praying a Lenten daily devotional, and making a Lenten sacrifice that they will not partake of until the arrival of Eastertide. For many Christians, that doesn't mean abstaining from food completely. Instead, observers of the holy day should limit themselves to one whole meal plus two smaller meals that, when added up, don't equal a meal they would eat on a normal day.

Many Christians attend special church services at which churchgoers receive ash on their foreheads. Ash Wednesday derives its name from this practice, which is accompanied by the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The first Ash Wednesday ceremonies were likely held sometime in 11th century CE. It's never mentioned in the Bible, but there is a verse in the Book of Daniel that links fasting to ashes, and some scholars believe this is the origin of the Lenten practice.

Ash Wednesday didn't gain mainstream popularity with Christians in the U.S. until the 1970's. On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, many churches pass out palm fronds like those used to welcome Jesus Christ to Jerusalem days before his crucifixion. Some churches save those palms to burn them and make the ashes that are applied to peoples' foreheads roughly eleven months later.

# THANK YOU NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Our amazing nursery volunteers were honored in January. They shine the light of Christ to our little ones and let them know they are well loved children of God.

Thank you ladies for all that you do for the ones Christ so loved!!!



Cindy Gilbert, Norma Moore, Margie Maconi, Jeanna Wardell, Falina Lamborn (Nursery Coor.),  
Linda McIntyre, Julie Griff, and Cathy Bowman.

Not pictured are Diane DeLaurentis, Gladys Farr, Eileen Lakey, Vicky Smith, Peg Blackwell.



## GROUP STUDIES & GATHERINGS

<b>Mixed Bible Study</b>	Sunday	8:45-9:45am	Chapel
<b>Men's Study</b>	Sunday	6:00-7:00pm	Fellowship Hall
<b>Women's Study</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	6:00- 8:00pm	The Chapel
<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	8:00-9:00am	Various Locations
<b>Men's Emmaus Group</b>	Monday	6:30-8:00pm	Study
<b>Pastor's Study</b>	Tuesday	10:00-11:00am	Fellowship Hall
<b>Women's Emmaus Group</b>	Thursday	6:30-8:00pm	Chapel
<b>Women's Emmaus Group</b>	Friday	8:30-9:30am	Various Locations

# GAME NIGHT CHALLENGES . . .

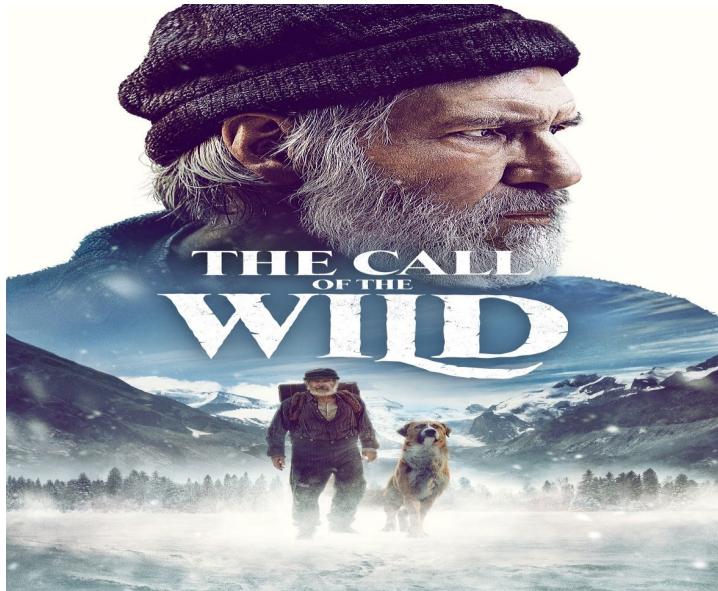


A rousing game of 'FLYING UNO CARDS' was a total blast. We can see that Vicki is not sure if the aerial rectangles will intersect with her face or not. Finn is pointing out that all three of them are in jail. Obviously, Jeff is enjoying the rest, Bambi wants out NOW, and Finn had already developed a plan of escape. Bring a game, cards, or other fun games and . . .

**Join us for our next Game Night on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

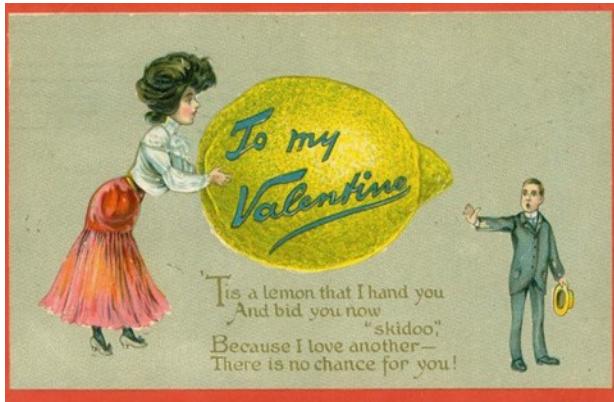
## Movie Night

**2020 Harrison Ford**



**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:00pm Fellowship Hall  
Bring a snack, drink & friends!!**

# VALENTINES AND VINEGAR



Although Valentine's Day can be traced to ancient Rome, it's the Victorians who originally put a romantic spin on the holiday. Valentine's Day became so popular that postal carriers received special meal allowances to keep themselves running during the frenzy leading up to February 14th. Of the millions of cards sent, some estimate that nearly half were of the vinegar variety.

What are now known as 'vinegar' valentines by 21st century dealers and collectors seem to have their origin in the 1830's and 1840's. This coincides with the growth of valentines as a popular form of communication, assisted by the development of a range of wider phenomena such as cheap printing and fancy paper production, technologies for the mass circulation of pictorial imagery, and the development of advanced postal systems. Vinegar Valentines ranged from sassy to cruel.

Before they were dubbed vinegar valentines, these sassy cards were known as mocking or comic valentines. Their tone ranged from a gentle jab to downright aggressiveness. There was an insulting card for just about every person someone might dislike — from annoying salespeople and landlords to overbearing employers and adversaries of all kinds. Cards could be sent to liars and cheats and flirts and alcoholics, while some cards mocked specific professions. Their grotesque drawings caricatured common stereotypes and insulted a recipient's physical attributes, lack of a marriage partner, or character traits.

Suffragettes became targets as the women's suffrage movement gained momentum. The cards often pointed out moral failings. Perhaps it was hoped in some cases that they would prompt a change in behavior, but in many cases their aim was simply to chide or even to wound. Two early valentine-makers pioneered the manufacture and distribution of cards in Britain and the United States — Jonathan King of London and Esther Howland also known as New England's first career woman.

By the mid-19th century, both Britain and the United States had large-scale valentine production systems in place. Insulting valentines expanded upon traditional valentines and offered manufacturers an additional source of revenue. Vinegar cards could be cheaply made by printing them on a single paper, and then folding and sealing them with a bit of wax.

While the U.S. tradition of exchanging valentines didn't ramp up until after the Civil War, across the pond the valentine craze began in earnest around the same time as postal reform. Britain's Uniform Penny Post, which allowed anyone in England to send something in the mail for just one penny, went into effect on January 10, 1840. One year later, the public sent nearly a half million valentines.

In 1871, London's post office processed 1.2 million cards. The number might have been higher, but postmasters sometimes confiscated vinegar valentines, deeming them too vulgar for delivery.

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## Valentines and Vinegar continued from page 7

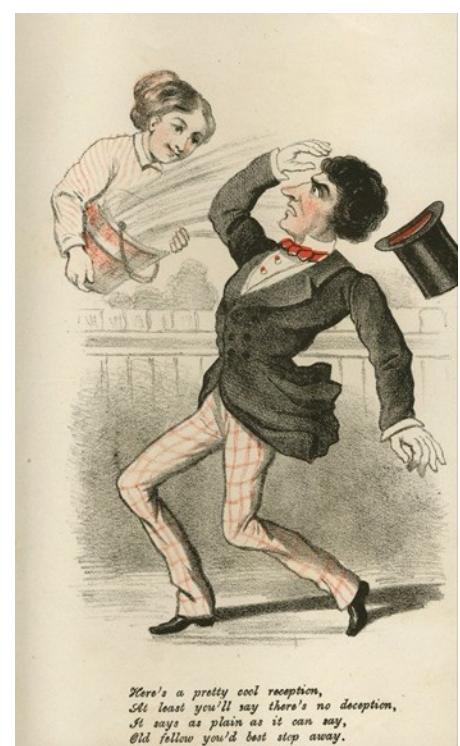
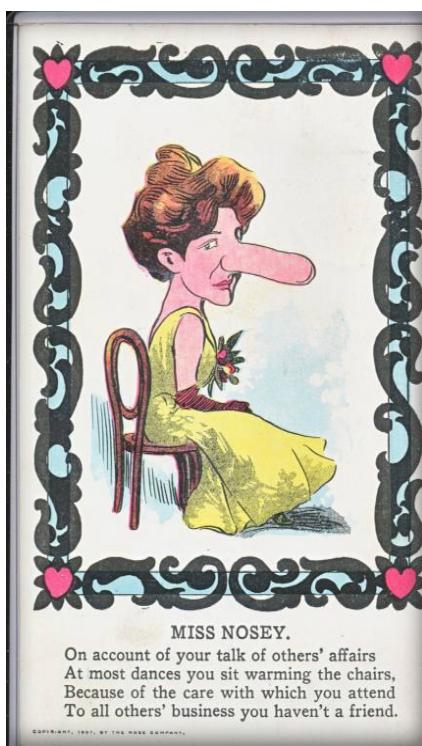
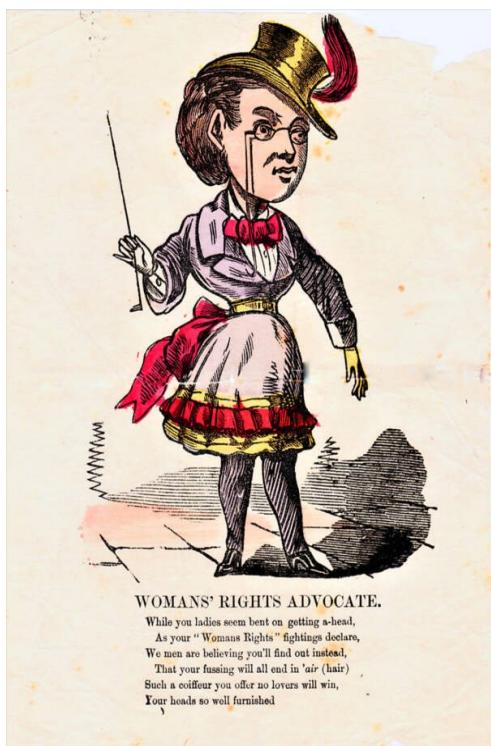
workers were not the only ones rattled by the nastiness of vinegar cards. There are contemporary accounts from memoirs and newspapers that show that fist fights, court cases, suicide, and attempted murder resulted. The *Pall Mall Gazette* of London published a story in 1885 about a husband who shot his estranged wife after she sent him a vinegar valentine.

Few vinegar valentine cards were preserved. Less is known about insulting valentines than sentimental ones, in part because very few survived. There are autobiographical accounts that show recipients tore them up and burned them from shame. Most surviving examples are unsent cards found in the collections of printers and stationers.

Because they were mailed anonymously, most senders of vinegar valentines faced few repercussions. Adding insult to injury, senders didn't even foot the cost of postage. Not only did vinegar valentines contain downright slanderous statements, but they were also sent C.O.D. (cash on delivery) and cost the recipient one penny to read.

As a result of some of the extreme reactions and regular letters of complaint in the press, the cards began to fall out of favor. Some blamed the card manufacturers for crass profit-seeking, and others blamed the tastes of the newly literate public who could afford these cheap items.

Whether commercialization or class was the cause of their spread, impassioned pleas to clean up the holiday became more widespread in the later-19th century.



**BE SURE TO GIVE SWEET AND KIND VALENTINES.  
NO VINEGAR ALLOWED . . .**

**Sunday, February 19**

**Final & Official**

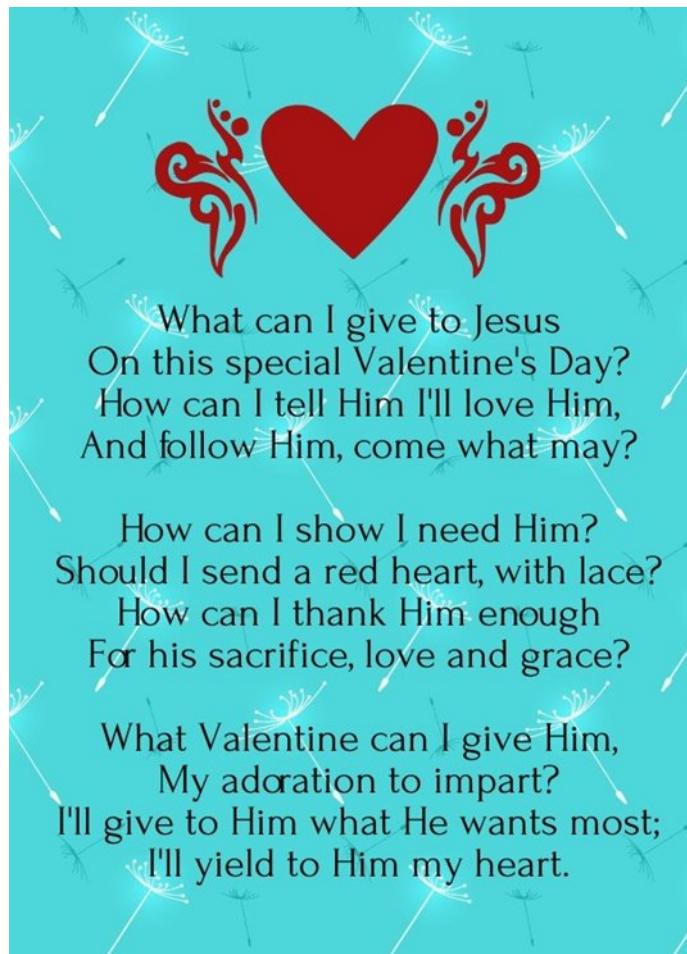
**DISAFFILIATION VOTE \***

**FOLLOWING SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY**

**\* In Person Members Only**

**Potluck – Following Vote**

**Everyone Welcome!!!**



# **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

## **February Anniversaries**

**Chris and Veronica Lampe**

## **February Birthdays**

**Chris Larson**

**Rebecca Carver**

**Bernie Topash**

**Judy Jose**

**Milo Cress**

**Lynette Anderson**

**Paul Carreras**

**Jean Harrow**

**Reese Hosley**

**Kathy Curnutte**

**Karen Bachman**

**Victoria Dingler**

# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:45am - 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 6:00pm - 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	30 6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's Emmaus Reunion Group	31 9:45am - 11:05am Pastor's Bible Study 11:30am - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 5:00pm - 8:00pm Ham Radio License Prep & Exam - Class	1 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 4:30pm - 5:30pm United Bell Choir 5:00pm - 9:00pm Royal Gorge Amateur Radio Club 6:30pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir	2 9:00am - 1:00pm Homeless Outreach 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 4:30pm - 6:00pm Praise Band 6:30pm - 8:00pm Women's Emmaus Reunion Group	3 10:00am - 9:00pm Cañon City Pregnancy Center - Board Training - Set Up/Clean 1:00pm - 8:00pm Cañon City Preg- nancy Center - Board Training	4 7:00am - 11:00am CMA Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 5:00pm - 8:30pm Movie Night - Prep & Clean Up 6:00pm - 8:00pm Movie Night
5 8:45am - 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 6:00pm - 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	6 8:00am - 10:30am Men's Breakfast 11:00am - 12:00pm Missions Team Meeting 2:00pm - 3:30pm Fremont County Homeless Outreach Program 6:00pm - 8:00pm Christian Motor- cyclists Association 6:00pm - 8:00pm Women's Bible Study-XCLD This Week Only 6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's Emmaus Reunion Group	7 9:45am - 11:05am Pastor's Bible Study 11:30am - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 5:00pm - 8:00pm Ham Radio License Prep & Exam - Class	8 10:00am - 12:00pm Separation Committee 4:30pm - 5:30pm United Bell Choir 6:30pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir	9 9:00am - 1:00pm Homeless Outreach 10:00am - 11:00am Food Bank 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 4:30pm - 6:00pm Praise Band 6:30pm - 8:00pm Women's Emmaus Reunion Group	10 7:08am - 3:00pm Valentine's Dinner - - Prep & Set Up 5:00pm - 8:30pm Emmaus Gather- ing (Set-up - Fin- ish Clean) 5:30pm - 9:00pm Emmaus Gather- ing (Set-up - Fin- ish Clean)	11 8:00am- 9:00pm Valentine's Dinner - - Prep/Set Up / Clean 5:30pm-8:00pm Val- entine's Dinner Hon- oring the Ladies
12 8:45am - 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 11:30am - 1:00pm Worship Committee Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	13 8:00am - 3:00pm Commodities - Delivery & Distri- bution 11:30am - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon City Geology Club 6:00pm - 8:00pm AVDA Dressage 6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's Emmaus Reunion Group	14 9:45am - 11:05am Pastor's Bible Study 11:30am - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 5:00pm - 8:00pm Ham Radio License Prep & Exam - Class	15 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 12:00pm - 1:30pm 55+ Pot Luck 1:30pm - 3:00pm Trustees Meeting 4:30pm - 5:30pm United Bell Choir 6:30pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir	16 9:00am - 1:00pm Homeless Outreach 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 4:30pm - 6:00pm Praise Band 6:30pm - 8:00pm Women's Emmaus Reunion Group	17	18 11:00am1:30pm Saturday Supper
19 8:45am - 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 11:15am - 2:00pm Disaffiliation Meeting with C. Carr / Potluck 6:00pm - 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	20 6:00pm - 8:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's Emmaus Reunion Group	21 9:45am - 11:05am Pastor's Bible Study 11:30am - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 5:00pm - 8:00pm Ham Radio License Prep & Exam - Class	22 8:00am - 3:00pm 2nd Commodities - Delivery & Distribution 10:00am - 12:00pm Separation Committee 4:30pm - 5:30pm United Bell Choir 6:30pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir	23 9:00am - 1:00pm Homeless Outreach 10:00am - 11:00am Food Bank 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 4:30pm - 6:00pm Praise Band 6:30pm - 8:00pm Women's Emmaus Reunion Group	24	25 9:00am - 2:00pm Soul Sisters Lunch- eon - Prep & Set Up/ Clean Up 11:00am-1:00pm Soul Sisters Lunch- eon
26 8:45am - 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Service 11:15am - 12:15pm Executive Council Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	27 6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's Emmaus Reunion Group	28 9:45am - 11:05am Pastor's Bible Study 11:30am - 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm - 6:00pm Ca- ñon Literacy Center 5:00pm - 8:00pm Ham Radio License Prep & Exam - Class	1 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 4:30pm - 5:30pm United Bell Choir 5:00pm - 9:00pm Royal Gorge Amateur Radio Club 6:30pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir	2 9:00am - 1:00pm Homeless Outreach 2:00pm - 6:00pm Cañon Literacy Center 4:30pm - 6:00pm Praise Band 6:30pm - 8:00pm Women's Emmaus Reunion Group	3 6:00pm - 9:00pm Game Night - Prep & Set Up	4