



# The Beacon

January 2023

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



Ring in the New Year is the perfect time to think about what will come for us in 2023. Have you already made plans for this year? Will you look at the New Year as just another year? Or, are you making plans to carry on the love Christ has commissioned for us? Most of us have been involved in the missions of the churches we have belonged to and still carry out the mission work today. The article below was adapted from Thom Rainer's essay "I've Done My Time". Something for all of us to think about as we look forward.

Perhaps the most unbiblical reason for no longer serving in a church are four words: "I've done my time."

1. Ministry in the local church does not have an expiration date. From Acts 2 to Revelation 3, the entirety of that large swath of Scripture is either about a local church, to a local church, or in the context of a local church.
2. Ministry should be a joy, not a period of obligatory and cumbersome work. When you hear those words from a church member, you are likely hearing from someone who has not learned the joy of serving.
3. The Bible is clear that all members are to do ministry. Read 1 Corinthians 12 again. Paul reminds us in 12:27: "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."
4. When church members say "they've done their time," others must take up the slack. It is frustrating for a committed church member to hear other church members declare they are AWOL from ministry. The Body of Christ described in 1 Corinthians 12 is a functioning body with all the members carrying out their roles. Once the members declare they are finished, the church is finished.

If you haven't been serving, please pray and seek to use the spiritual gifts God has given for you to increase your faith and servanthood for Him and for the church He has allowed us to be. If you have been serving, Thank You for the work you have done in His name.

 **We Need YOU, Sisters and Brothers!!!** 

**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



What a whirlwind 2022 was! God held our hands as we journeyed to continued life with Him and His message spoken to us through His Holy Word. Let us continue to hold tight to Him and each other as we travel the path this year. Every instruction that we need is in the Bible!

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Romans 12:1-2**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

**Philippians 4:6-7**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

**Isaiah 43:18-19**

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Have I told you lately that I love you?

Who loves us the most? **JESUS**

Blessings to you each this Year of our Lord 2023,

Pastor Dave



# LOOK WHO STOPPED BY . . . . .

The Soul Sisters Christmas Party was a fun time for all. We could all see that Santa had his favorite Elf and was way too familiar with her. Made us all a bit jealous, but we were happy that our sister Vicki was so excited!



Hmmm, who could this be?



The sisters were great sports. We played draw-a-snowman on your head (with the help of a paper plate).



The Soul Sisters hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wish everyone a blessed and happy new year!!!

(Apologies for the amateur photographer missing parts of faces.)



**In Ireland**, some single women place mistletoe under their pillows, hoping that the upcoming year will bring them a husband. One of the interesting new year traditions in the country is people banging bread against the wall to drive away evil spirits. Aside from that, it invites good spirits in before the start of the new year.

**In the Netherlands**, one of their new year traditions includes eating deep-fried dough balls or oliebollen. It is also their tradition to purge the old and welcome the new year by burning the Christmas trees in bonfires. People also watch fireworks and dive into the North Sea, lakes, or canals.

**Moving on to the United Kingdom**, their new year traditions include singing Auld Lang Syne. People in the UK and other English-speaking countries often join hands in a circle and sing this song. It was originally a poem written by Scottish poet Robert Burns.

**In Canada**, they have an unusual new year tradition known as the Polar Bear Swim. Peter Pan-tages started this event in 1920 in Vancouver when his friends jumped in the freezing waters of the English Bay. Now, it is held in other provinces like Toronto, Nova Scotia, and Manitoba. But why do they do that? Many participants say that it starts off their year right since the icy dip gives them an adrenaline rush. It clears their head .. a cleansing for the mind and soul.

**Mexico** has various peculiar new year traditions. On New Year's Eve, locals decorate their houses in different colors .. each represents their hopes for the coming year. The color red is for love, yellow is for work, and green is for money.

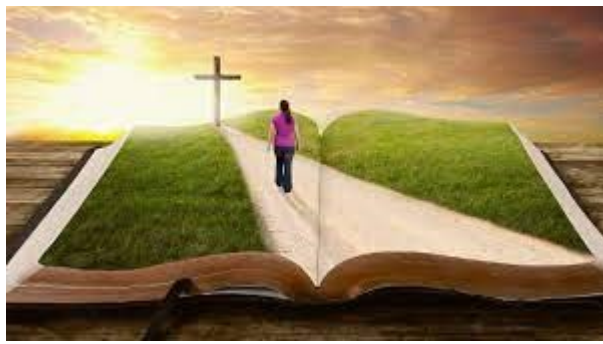
**In Turkey**, it is a tradition to open their front door and sprinkle salt on the doorstep. The locals believe that it will bring peace and prosperity to their houses or businesses in the New Year.

**In the Philippines**, circles played a huge part in the new year celebration. Filipinos wear polka dots and prepare twelve round fruits for prosperity in the upcoming year. Other new year traditions include jumping high at exactly midnight (this is for short people who want to grow taller!) and making loud noises! Eating pancit and sticky rice cakes became part of the tradition too! They believed that these practices would bring them a long life and more prosperity.

**Meanwhile in Belarus**, unmarried women play games to determine which of them will marry in the coming year as a new year tradition. One game relies on a rooster to choose from piles of corn in front of the women. Then, whoever the pile belongs to will be the first to wed.

**In Denmark**, one of their interesting new year traditions is smashing plates on their neighbor's doorstep. It determines the luck of your neighbor for the coming year. So, the more broken crockery at their door, the better the luck coming.

**In Greece**, many people traditionally hang onions from the front door of a house on New Year's Eve. This custom is a symbol of rebirth for the coming year. Then, parents wake their children the next morning by tapping them on the head with the onion.



## Pondering Our Future

What do we want to call ourselves based on what we do and who we are for God and the community? This question became our church's number one question during the last couple of months as we sought to determine a new name for our church once our disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church becomes final in June 2023.

In November, each of four focus groups examined what we stand for as a church so that we could determine a name that reflects our mission and vision descriptors. Some of the descriptors that were brought forth in the groups is that we are Christ centered and Bible based. Not only are we very involved in serving the community through missions through our Food Pantry, Commodity Distribution and Homeless Ministries, but we have a partnership with Blue Gap United Methodist Church on the Navajo reservation in Arizona.

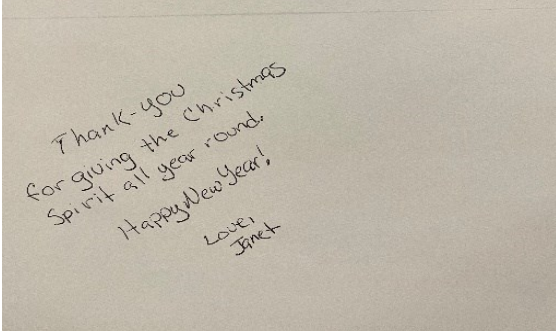
Within our church walls, we seek to find Christ through various Bible classes and worship. We provide a venue for various groups to meet throughout the week that serve individuals in a variety of ways such as the literacy center, ham radio club, geology club, and the 55+ Group. Through all of it, we seek to share Christ's Kingdom with the world through our witness, outreach, worship, and fellowship. During the process, we prayed that a name that truly reflected who we are as a church would be found.

With guidance of the Holy Spirit, it was determined that our new name would become Christ First Community Church of Cañon City, Colorado. Before the new name is effective, we need to continue closing our relationship with the United Methodist Church. The Separation Committee is working with the Trustees and the District Superintendent to ensure that paperwork is complete.

The church membership will be having a Church Conference with Chris Carr, the Trinity District Superintendent, for an official church disaffiliation vote along with a potluck dinner following church on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a very important meeting for our church as we show the conference that it is our desire to follow the Word of God rather than following the whims of the world. Once this vote is complete, the Trustees will be able to continue its negotiation with the District Superintendent and Conference Trustees.



Our outreach to the homeless community is continuing to make an impact to the unhoused in the Cañon City area. Recently, Jack and Janet gave boxes of blank greeting cards to people who are homeless. This week, one of those people returned the favor and wrote a card to Jack, Janet, and the Outreach Team. This photo shows the front and inside of the card.



The team is just as blessed as those they help. This winter has been a very cold one already, with some hardy team members delivering in subzero temperatures and extremely subzero windchills.

Well done, good and faithful servants.

## NURSERY ANGELS



Pictured l to r: Cindy Gilbert, Norma Moore, Margie Meconi, Jeanna Wardell, Falina Lamborn, Linda McIntyre, Julie Griffo, and Cathy Bowman.  
Not pictured are Diane DeLaurentis, Gladys Farr, Vicki Smith, Eileen Lakey, and Peg Blackwell.

The congregation gave their many thanks to our Nursery team on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Falina, Nursery Coordinator, and the angel volunteers who helped care for the little ones during 2022 were honored. They have selflessly given their time to show God's love to the children and how much He, and we, love them. Well done ladies!!

# EVENTS

Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

Game Night 6:00-8:00pm

Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

Movie Night 'Call of the Wild' 6:00-8:00pm (2020 Harrison Ford)

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

Soul Sisters Lunch 11:30-1:00

The 55+ Group had a wonderful Christmas party with dinner and a gift exchange at Ito Japanese Steakhouse Sushi and Thai Restaurant in Florence on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Many folks got a taste of new foods from the other side of the ocean and thoroughly enjoyed it. We will have our next regular potluck in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **January 18<sup>th</sup>** and will discuss the February 15<sup>th</sup> get-together.

We will be having a potluck lunch along with a Church Conference with District Superintendent-Chris Carr for the official disaffiliation vote following the service on **February 19<sup>th</sup>**. This is a very important meeting for all church members because we need to show the United Methodist Church that we are a Bible based, Christ-centered church that is choosing to close the doors to the United Methodist Church, while beginning a new future as Christ First Community Church of Cañon City, Colorado when we get the final disaffiliation. If you think about it, this will be a great witness to the UMC's leadership!

The Men's Group will be having their Valentine's Dinner on Saturday, **February 11<sup>th</sup>**, so save the date! Since there will be a dinner on February 11th and a potluck on February 19<sup>th</sup>, it was suggested that the 55+ Group go out to lunch in Pueblo (possibly Pizza Ranch) on Wednesday, **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. We could make a field trip out of the trip by visiting a local attraction. In the event the weather is bad, we could find a local eatery and attraction in Cañon City. We will discuss this at the January potluck.

The 55+ Group is one group that is in name only. Everyone is welcome to join us as long as they like good wholesome food and fun fellowship! We typically meet on the third Wednesday of the month at noon in the Fellowship Hall, unless of course, we come up with other plans!



The Shingles Vaccine is free!!!! Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Inflation Reduction Act eliminated all out-of-pocket costs for vaccines that the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends for adults. That includes the shingles vaccine. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist and for more information go to <https://www.cdc.gov/shingles/> or call 1-800-232-4636.



## 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> (starts Jan 2nd) | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays | 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 |





# *BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*

## **January Anniversaries**

**Marty & Vicky Szeliga**

## **January Birthdays**

**Eldon Leff**

**Marty Wheeler**

**Ruth Wagner**

**Chuck Cqmp-ton**

**Eric Feuerstein**

**Benae Burbank**

**Cheryl Emery**

**Marty Szeliga**

**Eileen Lakey**

**Jacqui Mitchell**

**Robbie Feuerstein**

**Mark Michalak**

## January 2023

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1<br>10:00am - 11:00am<br>Worship Service  | 2<br>8:00am - 10:30am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>6:00pm - 8:00pm Christian<br>Motorcyclists Association<br>6:00pm - 8:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's<br>Emmaus Reunion Group  | 3<br>5:00pm - 8:00pm<br>Ham Radio License<br>Prep & Exam - Class   | 4<br>9:00am - 11:00am<br>Sewing Circle<br>10:00am - 12:00pm<br>Separation Committee<br>4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>United Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Chancel Choir  | 5<br>9:00am - 1:00pm<br>Homeless Outreach<br>4:30pm - 6:00pm<br>Praise Band<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Women's Emmaus<br>Reunion Group  | 6<br>6:00pm -<br>9:00pm Game<br>Night - Prep &<br>Set Up   | 7   |
| 8<br>10:00am - 11:00am<br>Worship Service<br>11:30am - 1:00pm<br>Worship Committee<br>Meeting<br>6:00pm - 7:00pm<br>Men's Bible Study  | 9<br>8:00am - 3:00pm Com-<br>modities - Delivery &<br>Distribution<br>2:00pm - 3:30pm<br>Fremont County Homeless<br>Outreach Program (Street<br>Outreach)(Rescheduled<br>from 01/02/23)<br>5:00pm - 9:00pm Cañon<br>City Geology Club<br>6:00pm - 8:00pm AVDA<br>Dressage<br>6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's<br>Emmaus Reunion Group | 10<br>11:30am - 1:00pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:00pm - 8:00pm<br>Ham Radio License<br>Prep & Exam - Class   | 11<br>10:00am - 12:00pm<br>Separation Commit-<br>tee<br>4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>United Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Chancel Choir   | 12<br>9:00am - 1:00pm<br>Homeless Out-<br>reach<br>10:00am -<br>11:00am Food<br>Bank<br>4:30pm - 6:00pm<br>Praise Band<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Women's Emmaus<br>Reunion Group   | 13<br>5:30pm -<br>8:30pm Emmaus<br>Gathering<br>5:30pm -<br>9:00pm Emmaus<br>Gathering (Set-<br>up - Finish<br>Clean)  | 14<br>9:00am - 2:00pm Chile<br>("Chili") Dinner Fund-<br>raiser - Prep & Set Up   |
| 15<br>7:45am - 2:30pm Chile<br>("Chili") Dinner Fund-<br>raiser - Set Up / Clean<br>10:00am - 11:00am<br>Worship Service<br>11:30am - 1:00pm<br>Chile ("Chili") Dinner<br>Fundraiser<br>6:00pm - 7:00pm<br>Men's Bible Study | 16<br>8:00am - 10:00am Men's<br>Breakfast - BYOB<br>6:00pm - 8:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's<br>Emmaus Reunion Group  | 17<br>9:45am - 11:05am<br>Pastor's Bible Study<br>11:30am - 1:00pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>2:00pm - 6:00pm<br>Cañon Literacy Center<br>5:00pm - 8:00pm<br>Ham Radio License<br>Prep & Exam - Class | 18<br>9:00am - 11:00am<br>Sewing Circle<br>12:00pm - 1:30pm<br>55+ Pot Luck<br>1:00pm - 3:30pm<br>Trustees Meeting<br>4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>United Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Chancel Choir           | 19<br>9:00am - 1:00pm<br>Homeless Out-<br>reach<br>2:00pm - 6:00pm<br>Cañon Literacy<br>Center<br>4:30pm - 6:00pm<br>Praise Band<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Women's Emmaus<br>Reunion Group                                   | 20   | 21<br>10:00am - 4:00pm<br>Diane's Cardmaking<br>Group<br>11:00am - 1:30pm<br>Saturday Supper  |
| 22<br>10:00am - 11:00am<br>Worship Service<br>11:15am - 12:15pm<br>Executive Council<br>Meeting<br>6:00pm - 7:00pm<br>Men's Bible Study  | 23<br>6:00pm - 8:00pm AVDA<br>Dressage<br>6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's<br>Emmaus Reunion Group  | 24<br>9:45am - 11:05am<br>Pastor's Bible Study<br>11:30am - 1:00pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>2:00pm - 6:00pm<br>Cañon Literacy Center<br>5:00pm - 8:00pm<br>Ham Radio License<br>Prep & Exam - Class | 25<br>8:00am - 3:00pm<br>2nd Commodities -<br>Delivery & Distribu-<br>tion<br>10:00am - 12:00pm<br>Separation Commit-<br>tee<br>4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>United Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Chancel Choir | 26<br>9:00am - 1:00pm<br>Homeless Out-<br>reach<br>10:00am - 11:00am<br>Food Bank<br>2:00pm - 6:00pm<br>Cañon Literacy<br>Center<br>4:30pm - 6:00pm<br>Praise Band<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Women's Emmaus<br>Reunion Group | 27   | 28  |
| 29<br>10:00am - 11:00am<br>Worship Service<br>6:00pm - 7:00pm<br>Men's Bible Study   | 30<br>6:30pm - 7:30pm Men's<br>Emmaus Reunion Group  | 31<br>9:45am - 11:05am<br>Pastor's Bible Study<br>11:30am - 1:00pm<br>Staff Meeting<br>2:00pm - 6:00pm<br>Cañon Literacy Center<br>5:00pm - 8:00pm<br>Ham Radio License<br>Prep & Exam - Class | 1<br>9:00am - 11:00am<br>Sewing Circle<br>4:30pm - 5:30pm<br>United Bell Choir<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Chancel Choir   | 2<br>9:00am - 1:00pm<br>Homeless Out-<br>reach<br>2:00pm - 6:00pm<br>Cañon Literacy<br>Center<br>4:30pm - 6:00pm<br>Praise Band<br>6:30pm - 8:00pm<br>Women's Emmaus<br>Reunion Group                                    | 3<br>10:00am -<br>9:00pm Cañon<br>City Pregnancy<br>Center - Board<br>Training - Set<br>Up/Clean<br>1:00pm -<br>8:00pm Cañon<br>City Pregnancy<br>Center - Board<br>Training | 4<br>7:00am - 11:00am CMA<br>Pancake Breakfast<br>Fundraiser<br>5:00pm - 8:30pm Movie<br>Night - Prep & Clean<br>Up<br>6:00pm - 8:00pm Movie<br>Night |