

AAR-SBL
Rocky Mountains – Great Plains Region

Regional Meeting
March 27-28, 2020

University of Colorado Colorado Springs



University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

General Information

Welcome to the 2020 Rocky Mountain–Great Plains regional meeting of the AAR-SBL. Founded in 1965, the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs is home to more than 12,000 students, more than 800 experienced faculty members and more than 800 devoted staff members. On our awe-inspiring campus, we focus on providing an academically excellent environment at a value to students across the United States, and more than 80 nations. The experience our students gain at UCCS provides an incredible service to our community of Colorado Springs and the greater southern Colorado region as a whole, with UCCS contributing about \$600 million each year in economic impact in El Paso County alone. For more information about UCCS, see <https://www.uccs.edu/ir/data/quick-facts>.

Sincerely,
The Program Committee and Regional Officers

Ronald Simkins (Creighton University), President
Jeffrey Scholes (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), Vice President and Program Chair
Lincoln Blumell (Brigham Young University)
Zachary Smith (Creighton University), AAR Coordinator
Thomas Wayment (Brigham Young University), SBL Coordinator
Meghan Johnston Aelabouni (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), Student Director

Sponsors

We are very grateful for the support for this regional meeting provided by the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion. We would also like to thank the Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life at UCCS for its additional support.

Accommodations

A discounted rate (\$104.00 per room, per night) for conference attendees is available at Hyatt Place Colorado Springs/Garden of the Gods (503 West Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado) with a full breakfast. When booking reservations please use the following link: [AAR/SBL Hyatt Discount](#). A shared shuttle service to and from the conference venue will also be available during the morning and afternoon hours. Other lodging options farther away from the campus are also available.

Session Locations

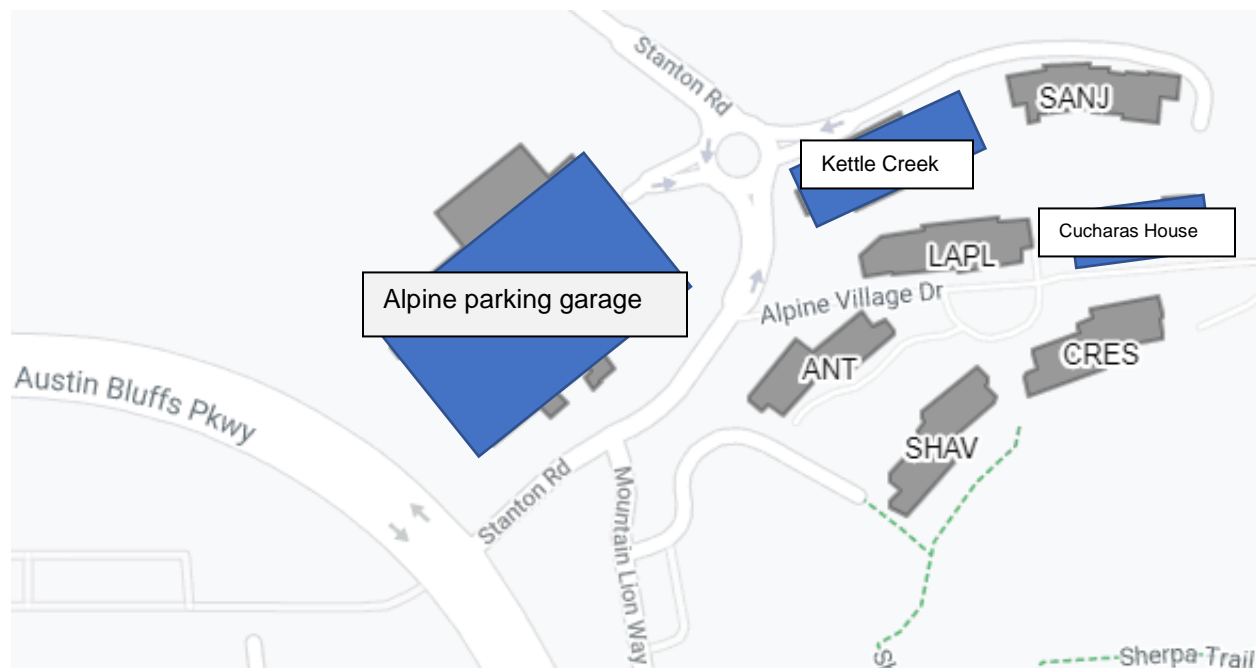
Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will be held in the Cucharas House (CH) and the Kettle Creek (KC) (see map below).

Registration

Go to <http://www.cvent.com/d/cnq0ts> to register for the regional meeting.

Parking

Parking is available for visitors in the Alpine parking garage just West of Kettle Creek and the Cucharas House.



Luncheons and Breaks

Lunch will be provided for the Senior Regional Scholar lecture and the SBL Plenary Session held on Friday and Saturday starting at 12:15pm. A vegetarian option will be provided. If you have other dietary restrictions or requests, please contact the Program Chair, Jeff Scholes (jscholes@uccs.edu) for accommodations. Coffee and water will be provided throughout the conference. Light refreshments will be served during the breaks each morning and Friday afternoon.

Student Sessions

The conference will feature two sessions of interest to students:

- ❖ Contributing to Scholarship as a Graduate Student: A Graduate Student Colloquium with SBL Plenary Speaker Jennifer Eyl (Tufts University). This session will be held in Cucharas House room 101, Friday evening, 5:30–6:30pm. Food will be served.
- ❖ A session featuring undergraduate scholarship will be held Saturday morning, 10:15am–12:00pm in Cucharas House room 104.

American Academy of Religion Plenary Session

Saturday, March 28th, 1:00–1:45pm
Kettle Creek

Randall Balmer

Dartmouth College

“Donald Trump and the Death of Evangelicalism”

The support of 81 percent of white evangelicals for Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election marks the culmination of the alliance between the Religious Right and the Republican Party. Although many people believe the alliance was inevitable, it actually represents a radical departure from the social reform agenda of nineteenth and early twentieth century evangelicals.



A prize-winning historian and Emmy Award nominee, Randall Balmer holds the John Phillips Chair in Religion at Dartmouth, the oldest endowed professorship at Dartmouth College. He earned the Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1985 and taught as Professor of American Religious History at Columbia University for twenty-seven years before coming to Dartmouth in 2012. He has been a visiting professor at Princeton, Yale, Northwestern, and Emory universities and in the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He was a visiting professor at Yale Divinity School from 2004 to 2008.

Society of Biblical Literature Plenary Session

Saturday, March 28th, 1:00–1:45pm

Kettle Creek

Jennifer Eyl

Tufts University

“Paul, *Pistis*, and the Allegiance of Gentiles”

Paul’s emphasis on *pistis*/fidelity is striking when compared to the virtues promoted by philosophical and religious groups of his era. He uses *pistis* and its cognates more than 160 times in the undisputed letters, despite the widespread popularity of several other kinds of virtues (moderation, excellence, humility, self-control, justice, love, etc). This talk explores why *pistis* figures so prominently in Paul’s letters. I focus on four functions of *pistis*-language in the apostle’s efforts to turn gentile followers away from their ancestral religious customs and toward exclusive fidelity to his message and deity.



Jennifer Eyl is an assistant professor of Religion at Tufts University, with affiliation in Classics, Middle Eastern Studies, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She has a BA in Classics from the University of Georgia, a Master’s in Classics from San Francisco State University, and a PhD in Early Christianity from Brown University. She is interested in issues pertaining to ancient Christian origins, theory of religion, and metacriticism of the study of ancient Christianity. Her recent book, *Signs, Wonders, and Gifts: Divination in the Letters of Paul* was published by Oxford University Press in 2019. She also co-edited of *Christian Tourist Attractions, Mythmaking, and Identity Formation* (Bloomsbury, 2018). Her next book project examines Paul’s rhetoric of fidelity as a technology for group formation.

Senior Regional Scholar Lecture

Friday, March 27th, 1:00-1:45

Kettle Creek

Mark K. George

Iliff School of Theology

“Technology’s Subjects, Now and Then”

Forty years after IBM introduced the personal computer, digital technologies have become pervasive, tracking people’s every movement, even that of their heartbeats. One reason for this is the growing awareness by companies, coders, and users of the affordances of digital technology, that is, those possibilities created in the relationship between technology and people. These affordances create certain types of subjects, which for digital technologies might be called “data subjects,” whose behaviors can be predicted with a high degree of accuracy in order to influence their purchasing decisions. But using technology to shape individuals’ behavior is not new. The biblical book of Deuteronomy uses the affordances of writing and scrolls, the new technology of its time, to create its own subjects: Israel. In this presentation, I examine how certain affordances of writing made possible new ways of governing people and use these insights as a framework to begin analyzing how digital technologies create subjects.



Mark K. George is Professor of Bible and Ancient Systems of Thought at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. He also serves as assistant director of the University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology Joint Ph.D. Program in the Study of Religion. His current book project focuses on how Deuteronomy makes Israel its subject in order to govern it. He has been active in the Rocky Mountain-Great Plains region for many years, including serving as SBL Regional Coordinator from 2009–14. He considers this region to be one of the best in the AAR & SBL because of its collegiality and combined meetings.

For those interested, on Thursday evening, March 26th, a combined guest speaker/music performance focused on apocalypticism will be held at the Ent Center (5225 N Nevada Ave.) at 7:30 pm. The event is free and a map is [here](#).

Academic Program

2020 AAR/SBL Rocky Mountain–Great Plains Regional Meeting

All conference sessions will be held in the Cucharas House (CH) and Plenary sessions in Kettle Creek (KC).

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH
7:30am–4:00pm

Registration
Cucharas House (CH) Foyer

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH
Session 1, 8:15–10:00am

1A Early Christian Church
CH 101

CHAIR:
Lincoln H. Blumell (Brigham Young University)

PRESENTERS:
Sylv Oliver Richards (University of North Carolina, Asheville), “Mother, Where Art Thou?: Representations of Motherhood in Early Christian Roman Iconography”

Lincoln H. Blumell (Brigham Young University), Christian Paideia in the Lectures of Didymus the Blind

Andrew J. Pottenger (University of Manchester), “‘Sufficient Orthodoxy’: Constantine’s Adherence to the Council of Nicaea as Ecclesiastical Law, A.D. 325-337”

Rob Heaton (University of Denver), What’s Criteria Got To Do With It? Athanasius, The Declaration of an Episcopal Canon, and the Curious Case of the Shepherd of Hermas

1B PANEL: Embodiment in South Asian Religious Traditions
CH 107

PRESENTERS:
James Batten (University of Colorado, Boulder)
Kim Ploeg (University of Colorado, Boulder)
Loriliai Biernacki (University of Colorado, Boulder)
Erika Brown (University of Colorado, Boulder)
Vincent Vansaghi (University of Colorado, Boulder)

1C Marginalized Communities
CH 104

CHAIR:

Amy Balogh (Regis University)

PRESENTERS:

Taylor Muma (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), "Martinican Cultural and Religious Identity Narratives as Expressed in Poetry and Postcolonial Theory"

Jeannette Gabriel (University of Nebraska at Omaha), "Bringing New Americans to the Heartland: The Impact of Post-War Jewish Refugee Resettlement on Small Jewish Communities"

Shoshana McClarence (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), "The First Brick Thrown: Materialism through the Stonewall Riots"

Patrick D. Bowen (Independent Scholar), "Remanufacturing Religion: On the Early Years of Farrakhan's Nation of Islam"

1D Hebrew Bible
CH 103

CHAIR:

Pamela Reaves (Colorado College)

PRESENTERS:

Jacob Beebe (University of Kansas), "Words of the Luminaries: Allusions to Lev. 26:40-45 in 4Q504"

Avram R. Shannon (Brigham Young University), "Judah shall not vex Ephraim: The Josephite Tribes in Genesis Rabbah"

Samuel L. Boyd (University of Colorado Boulder), "The Tower of Babel: The Rise of a Nationalistic Narrative"

10:00–10:15am

Break

Session 2, 10:15am–12:00pm

2A Ancient Cultures CH 103

CHAIR:

ERIK HANSON (UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS)

PRESENTERS:

Hannah Griffin (University of Colorado at Boulder), “(Dis)Order in the Court: Sanctioned Dishonesty in the Hall of Two Maats”

Camilla Raymond (University of Denver), “Where is “Home” Again?: Mobility and Assimilation of Ioudaioi in the Greco-Egyptian Period”

Brad Crowell (Drake University), “Tribal Kingdoms, ‘Architectural Bias,’ and the Edomite Kinglist”

2B Selfhood—East and West CH 101

CHAIR:

Colin Lewis (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Ted Vial (Iliff School of Theology), “Rahel Varnhagen and the Politics of Selfhood”

Sara Lindblom (University of Colorado, Boulder), “Moved to Emptiness: Experiential Madhyamaka as a Way of Reading”

Christian U. Becker (Colorado State University) and Jack Hamblin (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), “Conceptualizing Selfhood for Sustainability: A Buddhist Virtue Ethics Perspective”

Ivan Mayerhofer (University of Colorado, Boulder), “A Metta Conflict: Projecting Loving Kindness or Restricting Behavior in the Metta Sutta?”

**2C PANEL: Colorado College Faculty Research
CH 107**

CHAIR:

Tracy Coleman (Colorado College)

PRESENTERS:

Pamela Mullins Reaves (Colorado College), "Early Christian Reflections on Jerusalem and Its Temple: Space and Religious Identity"

David Gardiner (Colorado College), "Writing on the Rhetoric of 9th Century Japanese Buddhist Texts"

Tracy Coleman (Colorado College), "Good Questions Never End: Philology, Gender, and the Long Research Trajectory in the Study of Hindu Bhakti"

Yogesh Chandrani (Colorado College), "Religion, Violence and the Politics of Urban Renewal in Ahmedabad, India"

Christopher Hunt (Colorado College), "Queerness as a Religious 'Orientation?'"
Black Religion, Erotic Exchange, and the Human Quest for Meaning"

**2D Panel: Storytelling, Medium, and Religious Authority in the Digital Age
CH 104**

CHAIR AND RESPONDENT:

Lynn Schofield Clark (University of Denver)

PRESENTERS:

Seth M. Walker (University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology), "'It's True...All of It': Religious Narratives, Canonicity, and a Galaxy Far, Far Away"

Heidi Ippolito (University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology), "Religion in Retrograde: The Intersection of Astrology, Digital Materiality, and Social Media Millennial Spirituality"

Padraic Fitzgerald (University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology), "Under the Sign of the Hammer: Constructing Norse Pagan Subjectivity in the Digital Age"

12:15 – 1:45 pm

Lunch and Senior Regional Scholar Lecture

Kettle Creek

Mark George (Illiff School of Theology), "Technology's Subjects, Now and Then"

Session 3, 2:00–3:45pm

3A Panel: “Apocalypticism and Popular Culture” CH 107

CHAIR and Moderator:

Lorenzo DiTommaso (Concordia University Montréal) and Colin McAllister (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Eli Mason (Concordia University Montréal), “This Will Reveal a Great Secret of Time”: Liminality and Apocalypse in ‘Welcome to Night Vale’”

Shannon Ritchey (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), “All the Nightmares Came Today: David Bowie and the Postmodern Apocalypse”

Julia Gerhard (Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA), “Dmitry Glukhovsky’s Metro 2033 as a Post-Utopia”

Regula Meyer Evitt (Colorado College), “Dante’s Fra Alberigo, Infernal Cannibalism, and the Medieval Technologies of the Zombie Apocalypse.”

3B Pedagogy and the Body CH 101

CHAIR:

Ted Vial (Iliff School of Theology)

PRESENTERS:

Sandra Lee Dixon (University of Denver), “Teaching on the Wide-Open Conceptual Landscape of Lived Religion”

Liz English (University of Denver), “Comparative Religious Studies: Embracing Discomfort Beyond the ‘Post-’”

Adam Loch (University of Denver), “A Scholar’s Response-ability: Disciplinary Practices and The Thinking Body”

Patrick J. D’Silva (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), “Altered Carbon, Instant Karma? Analyzing Depictions of the Body/Soul Dichotomy in Contemporary Science-Fiction”

**3C New Testament
CH 104**

CHAIR:
Christopher Hunt (Colorado College)

PRESENTERS:
Sherri Brown (Creighton University), "Come and See: Invitations and Imperatives to Discipleship in the Gospel of John"

Dan Clanton (Doane University), "'Snatching Away' in the Iliad and in Paul"

Ryan F. Smith (St. Mary's University), "Lectio difficile nimis: A Reading Too Difficult: 'The Reception History of the Pre-Mortem Spear Thrust of Matthew 27:49b and its Implications for the Principle lectio difficilior potior in New Testament Textual Criticism'"

**3D Hebrew Bible
CH 103**

CHAIR:
Sam Boyd (University of Colorado, Boulder)

PRESENTERS:
David Pettit (Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver), "That Which Has Been Created Here No One Has Created Before: Comparing TH 1-42 and the Elohist Psalter as Poetic Collections"

Kristin Kissell (Loyola Marymount University), "Lamenting Golden Bones: Reimagining the Book of Lamentations Through the Eyes of Embodiment, Feminine Imagery, and Radical Powerlessness"

Michael T.R. Krueger (Reformed Theological Seminary), "Woe to Us for We Have Sinned: Lamentations as Prophetic Lament"

3:45–4:00pm

Break

4:00–5:15pm

**AAR Plenary Session
Kettle Creek**

Randall Balmer (Dartmouth University), "Donald Trump and the Death of Evangelicalism"

5:30–6:30pm

Colloquium: Making Good Decisions about Publishing as a Graduate Student in the Digital Age

CH 101

CHAIR: Karen DeVries (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTER: Jennifer Eyl (Tufts University)

(Food will be served)

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

7:00–7:50am

Business Meeting

Kettle Creek

All are welcome to attend. Light breakfast will be served.

7:30am–12:00pm

Registration

CH Foyer

Session 5, 8:15–10:00am

4A New Testament: Comparative Studies

CH 101

CHAIR:

Colin McAllister (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

David C. Harris (University of South Africa), “Reconsidering Holy War: Elements of the Exodus in 1QM and John’s Apocalypse”

Travis Myers (University of Colorado, Boulder), “Figuring the Disfigured: a Comparative Analysis of the Stories of Disfigured Individuals in the ‘Symbol of Complete Virtue’ (德充符) Chapter of Zhuangzi with Healing Stories in the Gospel of Mark”

**4B Hebrew Bible
CH 103**

CHAIR:

Mark George (Iliff School of Theology)

PRESENTERS:

Jaime Myers (New York University), "Eli's Wicked Sons and the Composition of 1 Samuel 1-4"

Theodore Motzkin (University of Cambridge), "Could God Accept a Human Sacrifice?: Perspectives on Mesha's Offering in II Kings 3"

Aaron T. Lockhart (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), "Moses, Man of Sorrows: A View of Moses Through the Lens of Clinical Depression"

**4C Religion, Borders and Politics
CH 105**

CHAIR:

Jennifer Kling (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Wendy Felese (Regis University), "Ourselves Alone: Falls Road and The Shankill in the Wake of Brexit"

Rebecca David Hensley (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), "Border Stories: Texas Faith Communities Responding to a Global Crisis on a Local Level"

Rudolph P. Reyes II (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), "Decentering Mestizaje/Proliferating Metaphors"

Tim Ballard (University of Montana), "Race and The Uneasy Conscience of Evangelical Christians: The Racial Dimensions of Debates about the Social Gospel, 1945-1965"

**4D Sectarian Theology
CH 104**

CHAIR:

Erik Hanson (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Jeremy Fricke (Independent Scholar), "I Have to Defend my People: Imagined Communities and the Evolutionary Psychology of Religion in Racist Odinism"

Renee Cyr (University of Kansas), “Radical Forgiveness: How the Amish Interpretation of the Bible Justifies their Way of Life and their Approach to Unconditional Forgiveness”

Laura Arcila Villa (Colorado State University), “The Place of Christ in Anne Conway’s Metaphysics and Theology”

Joel N. Brown (United States Air Force Academy), “Whom Did the Lord Consult? How Molinism Abandons the Doctrine of God’s Omniscience”

4E Ecology and Religion CH 107

Chair:
TBD

Presenters:
Karen deVries (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), “A Thoroughly Secular Gaia?: Theorists of Religion and the Postsecular Confront the Climate Crisis”

Amy L. Balogh (Regis University), “From Lebanon to the Amazon: Religious Responses to Deforestation in Eco-Psychological & Comparative Perspective”

Jon England (Arizona State University), “Rain from Heaven: A Mormon Creation of an Environmental Narrative”

Session 6, 10:15am–12:00pm

5A New Testament CH 101

CHAIR:
Karen DeVries (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:
Kerry Hull (Brigham Young University), “A Critical Analysis of the New Testament Translation into Ch’orti’ Mayan”

Eric Douglass (Randolph-Macon College), “Experiencing Emotions and Supplying Emotions in the Gospel Narratives”

Robert Douglass (Independent Scholar), “Insights from Greco-Roman Parables for the Discussion of Synoptic Parables”

**5B Political Theology
CH 103**

Chair:

Paul Harvey (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

Presenters:

Nicolae Roddy (Creighton University), "Orthodox Christianity and the Rise of American Neo-Fascism"

Michael Laminack (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), "The Anatomy of a No: Karl Barth's Theology as Affective Anti-Fascism"

Wesley Scott Bidy (Richmont Graduate University), "Karl Rahner's Trinitarian Axiom—'Good God, Y'all! What Is It Good for?' Addressing a Recent Critique"

Jennifer Kling (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs), "Harming Others, Wronging God: Natural Law and Human Rights"

**5C Undergraduate Student Papers
CH 104**

CHAIR:

Jeffrey Scholes (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Tyler Joshua Harris (Brigham Young University), "Away from the Altar: A Socio-Historical Analysis of Kohanim in Non-Sacrificial Roles and Contexts in the Second Temple Period"

Jacob Barrett (Nebraska Wesleyan University), "The Case for World Religions without the World Religions Paradigm"

Kyle Cox (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), "Faith as the Most Prestigious State of Epistemology"

Austin Rhodes (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), "Karl Barth's Efficacy Over and Against Liberation Theology"

Eilis Leptien (Creighton University), "A Queer God: God in Solidarity with the LGBTQ+ Community"

Sam Calderwood (Washburn University), "Jesus Barabbas: A Marginal Character"

5D Panel: “Neoliberal Networking and the Making of Cultural Communities through Mediatized Platforms”
CH 107

Chair and Respondent:
Dheepa Sundaram (University of Denver)

Participants:
David “Puck” Mahaffey (University of Denver), “Shifting with the Moon: Boneghazi and the Continual Rise and Fall of Secret Facebook Groups for Niche Spirituality”

Will Salzer (University of Denver), “Satire in Adult Animation and the Making of Salable Religion”

Zach Chrisman (University of Denver), “Prayer/Product Duality: Megachurch Worship Music as Neoliberal Apparatus”

12:15 – 1:30 pm

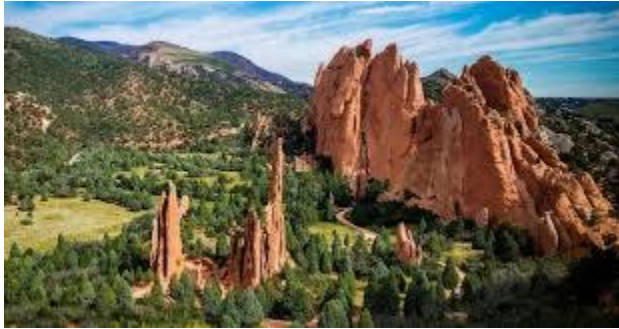
Lunch and SBL Plenary Session
Kettle Creek

Jennifer Eyl (Tufts University), “Paul, *Pistis*, and the Allegiance of Gentiles”

Things to do and see in Colorado Springs

Outdoor activities:

- Garden of the Gods



- America the Beautiful Park
- Pulpit Rock
- Red Rock Canyon
- Helen Hunt Falls



- Seven Bridges
- Pikes Peak via the Cog Railway



Indoor activities:

- Pioneer Museum
- Penrose Heritage Museum
- Focus on the Family



- Compassion International
- United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)



- Bear Creek Nature Center
- Air and Space Museum and Peterson Air Force Base
- Broadmoor Hotel

