

Great is God's Faithfulness!

Join us at 11:30 on August 25th for a picnic celebrating 150 years!

Compete to win first place in an apple pie contest. Enjoy classic outdoor games and crafts. Grab a photo in the photo booth. Visit the Historic Rockland Church for a tour and scavenger hunt! Don't miss this opportunity to gather with the church as we celebrate God's faithfulness!

Attendees with last name A-P are invited to bring sides. Attendees with last name Q-Z are invited to bring salads. The main dish and dessert will be provided.

Rockland Community Church has a rich history of God's great faithfulness. At our picnic this year, we will celebrate His faithfulness in blessing our church for 150 years. Please bring the whole family and join us for fun and fellowship as we mark this special anniversary.

Music Ministry

The Rockland Choir commences fall rehearsals on Wednesday, August 21, at 7:00 PM in the Choir Room. If you love praising God with your voice, making music with others, or just want to learn to sing better and enjoy fellowship with a wonderful group of people, then choir is for you! The Rockland Choir is open to new singers of all voice parts and experience levels. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00 PM-8:30 PM through September.

Starting in October, the Festival Choir will rehearse for the Cantata (December 15) from 7:00 PM-8:00 PM, followed by rehearsal for regular Sunday morning anthems 8:00 PM-9:00 PM. Many members have described the Rockland Choir as being akin to a small group. We share each other's burdens in prayer, share times of fellowship, and, of course, grow together in musicianship as we prepare to serve Christ and the congregation each week in music. Contact David McNeil with questions: 224.374.7036; DMcNeil@CCU.edu.

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Bright Sunday

On Sunday, April 7, Rockland continued to celebrate the joy of the resurrection with our annual Bright Sunday potluck. It was an afternoon of laughter, fellowship, and good food. The kids were entertained by a balloon artist and a face painter. What a joyful celebration!



Children's Ministry

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine 120 kids screaming "THANKS GOD" whenever they hear biblical truths about their friendship with God. This was the incredible reality each day at Scuba VBS.

If you chose to spend your week with us as a volunteer, THANK YOU! If you had your child or grandchildren join us, THANK YOU! If you donated something from our wish list or grab-a-fish tags, THANK YOU! This week was a huge blessing in seeing the gifted servants within our church. From Bob Jacobson spending his free time making signs, cutting out foam animals, and putting together crafts; Elizabeth Coon using her 3D printer to make a special cutter for our pool noodle coral and a sand dollar cookie press; Mike and Dianne Whitman, Lisa Rohrbough and Nikki Gribnitz showing up each day to fill a different role; our amazing student volunteers using their gifts and shining in all of their areas of service just to name a few, thank you doesn't do justice, but we know it was all worth it to bring the truth of God to these kids each day!

Our kids learned about God being a friend who is real, a friend who loves, a friend whom we can trust, a friend forever, and a friend for everyone. Thanks God! Diving deeper into friendship with God is not just something our kids need to do. We can all dive deeper into our own friendships with our Lord.



God loves us and wants a friendship with each of us. A real, loving, trustworthy, forever friendship with EVERYONE! Our elementary kids spent the week finding verses in the book of John. Each child went home with their very own copy of the Gospel of John. We are encouraging our kids to spend time each day reading through verses in their own Bibles. As a church and as adults, we can join! Take some time to pray over our kids and their relationships with God during your time reading through John. Spend some time praying over your own friendship with God. What a gift!

We can't wait to see how God used SCUBA to help our campers and those serving to grow in their friendship with Him.

Don't want to miss out on next year's VBS? Save the date: June 23-27, 2025, when we will be on an Alaskan journey to trust Jesus in a wild world!



Discipleship Ministry



Have You Considered Joining a Life Group? It is One of the Best Ways to Get Connected at Rockland

In a Life Group, you can hear one another's faith stories, get to know God's Word better, and learn how to apply it to your life. Life Groups have the capacity to help you love, accept, and forgive others as Christ loves you.

- Life Groups help you connect with others and provide opportunities for you to learn about their concerns and needs.
- Life Groups help you to learn to live out your faith by putting into practice what you have learned in your lifetime.
- Life Groups provide a safe place for shy people to feel more comfortable speaking up and building confidence in their ability to ask questions, to pray, and to inquire about others.
- Life Groups help provide opportunities for group members to share the tears and trials of life, to learn hospitality, and to help us walk with Christ more faithfully.
- Life Groups help fight against the propensity towards selfishness by encouraging one another to be regularly involved in the lives of others.

Life Groups and learning how to disciple others are not just "another thing." They are Rockland's main channel for discipleship and in accomplishing the vision to make disciples who make disciples.

Remember, a true friend is someone who encourages and inspires you to look more like Jesus. Why not be that friend? When your common bond is helping others become more like Jesus, it sets the foundation for the best friendships in the world.

If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Paul at plucks@rockland.church



Freedom in Christ 10-Week Life-Changing Discipleship Course Begins Sun., September 15 at 10:30 AM in the Conf. Room

The ***Freedom In Christ 10-week Course*** is designed to help every Christian become a fruitful disciple and make their life count. It has been an effective resource for Christians of all backgrounds, from those who have been believers

for many years to those who are brand-new followers of Jesus. Over 350,000 people have gone through the curriculum in English, and it has been translated into over 25 languages.

Some of the areas covered in the course include:

- What is a disciple?
- How do I know if I'm ready to make a disciple?
- Who and how should I invite into a disciple-making relationship?
- What topics should I cover when I disciple someone?
- How do I know when a person is ready to disciple someone else?
- How we became brand-new people from the inside out when we became Christians.
- How nothing we do can make God love us any more or any less.

Course participants will learn to:

- Take hold of the truth of exactly what happened when they became Christians.
- Resolve personal and spiritual issues that may be holding them back.
- Make following Jesus a way of life.

If you are interested in taking the class, register online www.rockland.church/10weekdiscipleshipclass or email Paul at plucks@rockland.church.



If God is Good and Loving, Why Does Evil Exist?

The Disciple Ministry hosted another Rockland Talks, the sixth in our series, featuring Dr. Greg Jesson, PhD, who provided a Christian apologetics perspective on the topic of evil: Does pain and suffering prove that God does not love us? We had an enlightening evening with diverse attendance from inside and outside Rockland.

Dr. Greg Jesson has his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Iowa (Stanford undergraduate) and was most recently professor of philosophy and director of the Center of Ethics and Public Life at Luther College. He has taught at eight colleges and Denver Seminary and lectured extensively across America and Europe. Greg gave prepared comments for about 45 minutes, followed by an extended Q&A.

Often, the number one obstacle to faith is the existence of evil in our world. How can the supposed goodness of God be reconciled with the undeniable wretchedness of so much of life? We produced a YouTube video recap of this Rockland Talks and will make sure you are notified when it is ready for viewing.

Greg opened with the insightful statement that "Life squeezes the 'why' out of you and crushes any illusions of grandeur." He then proceeded to systematically discuss evil: the problem, types, approaches, common misconceptions, and purpose. He made sure we never underestimate the ability of the human heart to do evil and the pride of humanity. With man only, there is no hope, and only God provides hope through redemption. He concluded with ten points of a loving God. Here are four of the ten points:

1. God would not be acting in love if the world and human life were completely futile and frustrating in which progress toward the good is impossible.
2. God would not be acting in love if He instantly changed our evil dispositions, incorrect beliefs, and prejudices to the right and true, thus removing our free will.
3. God would not be acting in love if He created an environment where we could not logically see the tragedy of our ways, thus the necessity of natural and moral evils.
4. God would not be acting in love if He did not provide the means by which we could be transformed (redemption). This is the meaning and purpose of the life of Jesus.

We started Rockland Talks with the premise that we wanted to help Christians deepen their Biblical worldview and help us all *"See the World the Way God Sees it."* Rockland Talks represents the intersection of politics, culture, and faith. As Christians, we recognize that everything from ideology to culture to values is based on one's view of God. The proverbial "fork in the road" where Americans parted ways can be fundamentally and finally traced back to one's view of God. What a society thinks about God matters, as does its corresponding culture of ideas. That is your worldview. Given this context, we host two events annually to bring insight and commentary from Christian speakers, writers, and thinkers.

Rockland Talks is part of our Discipleship Ministry and fits within our overall purpose to:

1. Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matt 28).
2. Help equip and mature the saints (Eph 4:12), to advance and defend the faith with your families, in your communities, and in the public square.

Our next Rockland Talks is scheduled for Thursday evening, **October 17, 2024**, featuring educator, pastor, and author Dr. Donald W Sweeting, PhD, who will cover the topic: *What is Really Going On in Our Schools and College Campuses? What Has Changed? How Did It Happen? What Can We Do About It?*

Stephen Ministers

The After People

Sometimes people ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?"

Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers who provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times in life, providing hope and healing in the midst of their pain.

STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE THERE...

- **after** the phone call in the middle of the night that changes life forever.
- **after** the baby comes home, demanding more of her than she ever imagined possible.
- **after** the funeral, when everyone has left and his emotions held at bay come crashing in.
- **after** the email announcing a new round of layoffs suddenly appears in her inbox.
- **after** the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing else we can do."
- **after** the youngest child pulls out of the hug and heads into the dorm—followed by a long drive back to an empty house.
- **after** the retirement community director says, "Welcome to your new home."
- **after** the divorce papers are served and she wonders if she'll ever trust anyone again.
- **after** the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and his loved one is led away.
- **after** the fire, when rebuilding a home feels impossible.
- **after** family and friends have heard his story one too many times, but he still needs to talk it out

Rockland's Stephen Ministers are ready to come alongside you, providing distinctively Christian care for the "afters" in your life. Contact Pastor Paul at plucks@rockland.church to receive the ministry of someone from our team.



Rockland Testimonial

Rita Starkey

I am Rita Starkey, and I have been a Believer my whole life, but my walk with the Lord began when I was 23-years old. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for almost 38 years. My husband, Bill, and I have two grown children, Rebecca and Trip, and four grandchildren. I am a Colorado native, and my husband is a Texan, but we will not hold that against him. Sorry! We both graduated from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, and after graduation, we stayed in Dallas to begin our careers and raise our family. We lived there for about twenty-five years before moving back to Colorado.



I am thankful for growing up in a Christian home, and I will forever be grateful to my parents for teaching me the discipline of going to church, honoring God, and loving others well. However, my whole life, I just felt like I was going through the motions, checking the right boxes, and doing the right work. It was not until a friend invited me to a non-denominational Christian church in college that my heart began to open and yearn for more. I had never experienced clapping in church and worship music. I never heard Jesus' name being talked about so prominently. I never knew I could go straight to God with my sins or openly and freely talk to God. I never knew He could be my friend.

I was baptized, fully immersed and of my own free will, when I was 23. I was like a sponge, wanting to soak up every bit of God's Word. I felt like I was years behind and had so much catching up to do. Bill was baptized a few years before me, and so began our Christian life. Soon after, Rebecca was born, and then 14 months later, Trip. We were determined to raise them in a Christian home.

In the beginning, we were on top of it and fully dedicated, but then life started to take over. Our careers were going strong, and Bill took the leap to start his own company. We put every penny we had into his venture, and God blessed us abundantly. We still attended church and were 'doing' all the right things, but looking back now, our hearts were not fully devoted to God.

When Bill was 27 and three weeks after our son was born, he had a grand mal seizure in the middle of the night. Turns out he had a brain tumor. Praise God it was benign, but he would forever have epilepsy. He was seizure free until 2005, and once again, I was awakened by Bill having another grand mal seizure. Thankfully, he did not have a tumor, but he continued to have seizures. We did not know at the time, but the Lord was getting our attention. All the money, power, and things meant nothing if my husband was not healthy. In 2011, Bill made the decision to sell the company, and together, we decided not to pursue money and things but to turn fully back to God. It's funny what stress can do to your body. During this time, I started having panic attacks, so together we were a mess.

Soon after, we sold the company and moved back to Colorado, and my panic attacks slowly started to go away. Bill will always have epilepsy, but I am grateful to say he has not had one seizure since we left Dallas behind. Praise God! We have spent the last fifteen years fully devoted to our family and to the Lord. My personal walk with the Lord is something I look forward to daily. I am not perfect, and that is why I need a Savior. But learning more about God's character and His attributes is something I look forward to. Building my personal relationship with the Lord is something I desire more than ever.

I teach women's Bible studies through my ministry, www.ThePickledPear.org and have a cookie ministry where I send Blessing Boxes to people who are suffering, having a difficult family situation, or recovering from an illness. I am also an ambassador and sherpa for The Freedom Challenge. I love the Lord with all my heart, and my greatest desire is for others to know Him too. Have a blessed day! *Rita Starkey*

Genesee Community Bible Study

Our local Community Bible Study group has a new name, Genesee CBS, but is still "Transforming lives through the Word of God."



CBS is a beautiful picture of God's intention of living in community through Him while studying His Word. CBS goes verse by verse and focuses on five essentials of personal Bible study: (1) at-home study questions; (2) in-depth teaching with cultural and historical references/background and clarifications for confusing or controversial points; (3) small-group discussions and review at-home-study answers; (4) a commentary for each lesson written by scholars trained in theology; and (5) a caring community.

For the upcoming 2024-2025 year, Genesee CBS will be studying *The Gospel of Matthew*. Genesee CBS meets in person at Rockland on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:40 AM, including a hybrid group (in-person and online) for our travelers and snowbirds. We are also providing online-only options (Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings) and other in-person core groups at Bergen Park (Thursday evenings) and Conifer Community Church (Wednesday mornings).

Our NextGen Ministry is dedicated to helping raise up the next generation through excellent teaching with age-appropriate lessons for babies through high school, including memorizing scripture, learning to pray for each other and their families, singing praise songs, doing Bible-based crafts, and playing with the heart of a child of God. Elementary-aged kids through high school study the same books of the Bible as the adults.

No matter where you are in your familiarity with the Bible, CBS will deepen your knowledge and love for this life-changing book. You will be surprised at the insights and applications God has in store for you.

Classes begin September 12 at Rockland. For more information or to register, go to <https://genesee.cbsclass.org/>.

Greeting Ministry

Rockland Community Church has a reputation as a friendly, welcoming place to worship. Much of this is due to the wonderful group of people who greet members and visitors to our church each Sunday morning.

Newcomers frequently comment that it is the warm and friendly greeters who welcome them into worship that make them want to return. We are looking for some new, friendly people to add to our team of greeters. All that is required is a warm smile and a heart to serve others in this important ministry. Greeters generally come to the service about twenty minutes before it begins and stay about ten minutes into the service to make sure they catch the latecomers. We like to have at least four people greet each Sunday. Guidelines for greeting are provided and support the first time or two at the door if needed. It is as simple as that!

If you are interested in becoming a part of the greeting team at Rockland, please contact fellowship deacons Kelly Selva (kellyaselva@gmail.com) or Cheryl Hadsell (Cbjorkhadsell@gmail.com) for more information about getting on the greeting schedule. Thank you!



Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery

Happy Birthday, Rockland! This year, the church will celebrate 150 years since it was established in 1874. Historic Rockland will be participating, along with the main church and Ralston Elementary School. A historical play will be presented during the Fall Festival, along with a scavenger hunt in the cemetery.

A large crowd gathered on Memorial Day, 2024, to honor our veterans. Steve Engle welcomed 135 people to the sanctuary, where they sat shoulder to shoulder in the old wooden pews while another thirty-three stood outside. We then rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance led by CT Westgard of the U.S. Navy and sang our National Anthem. A candle glowed in each of the windows as Betty Palcsak led us in prayer.



The featured speakers were both longtime pastors here at Rockland. Reverend Ken Williams shared the significance of Memorial Day, while Reverend Ed Lange reminisced on special times here at the historic church.

Historian Sid Platt shared a *Moment in History*, telling how Rockland was born in 1874 in the same building as Rockland School #13, now Ralston Elementary School. The Rockland choir sang "America the Beautiful," and then Tony Pranaitis led two vocal ensembles honoring each of our veterans and asked them to stand for their branch of service in the medley. Faith Lutheran Bell Choir chimed in with "Let There Be Peace on Earth." To conclude the service, Patrick Heck played Taps, which rang out from the top of the Rockland cemetery.

Two projects are planned for Historic Rockland as time and money allow.

Project #1: Railings for two stairways and two large steps. It became obvious on Memorial Day that our steps and walkways had some safety concerns. We will have new metal railings by fall.

Project #2: Windows on the Chapel cannot be opened. This project is needed to address ventilation and fire safety concerns. These projects will be expensive, so we have applied for a Colorado Historical Fund Grant. If awarded, it will pay $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost, and we need to supply the remainder. The 145-year-old windows will be removed and transported to Denver to be milled. This process will preserve their historical value. The hardware and glass will be restored to its 1879 appearance. We have retained a grant writer from History Colorado, and all concerned have toured and reviewed the church and grounds.

These are exciting times. Nine burials are currently underway at Historic Rockland Cemetery, and two weddings were performed this year. Little did our forefathers know how important their little chapel would become in 2024 as we celebrate 150 years, our sesquicentennial birthday!

Rockland's Beginnings

The Beginning

Rockland's beginnings can be traced back to 1874 when a community Sunday school was held regularly in a one-room schoolhouse located near what is now I-70 and the Genesee

Park exit. By the late 1870s, ranchers on Lookout Mountain became convinced that it was time to form a more permanent church for the community. Henry Wilson Chiles donated land to the United Brethren Church at 24225 Rockland Road in Golden, Colorado. The Historic Rockland Church was dedicated on January 18, 1880. The original charter states that the building was meant to serve all faiths and to be open and welcoming to everyone. The 25- x 35-foot structure was built from locally milled pine, with large windows, kerosene lamps for light at night, and two wood stoves to heat the building. For much of its history, the little church building served the needs of the isolated community without a permanent minister.



The Early Days

In the early days, founding members and traveling preachers would serve as ministers in their spare time without pay. There was also some involvement from United Brethren Reverend St. Clair Ross. In those days, a preacher would travel for hours on horseback for a single meeting. It was sometimes challenging to maintain regular services. The people who lived on the mountain were farmers and ranchers. In the summer, they were busy tending to crops, and in the winter, roads were often impassable. The difficult way of life, lack of good roads, lack of a regular minister, and doctrinal controversies caused the church to endure some hardship.

Rebirth

After World War II, people moved to the area. Community members expressed interest in meeting together while attending a funeral in the historic building, and pastors in the Denver Association of Congregational Churches took turns preaching until arrangements for a regular pastor could be made. The community came together to repaint the building. Cy Eberhart accepted a call to serve as Rockland's minister in March of 1952

In February of 1953, Rockland organized itself into a church with ten deacons and thirty-seven members and, in October, was accepted into the membership of the Denver Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers. By 1955, the membership had grown to 96 members. In 1957, Congregationalists joined the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ.

The Church began looking forward to the possibility of building a new church building. Reverend Eberhart credits Harry Lee with the vision to build a church on Rockland's current site. George Underhill came to minister from 1956 to 1957. During this time, a parsonage was built on land donated by Harry and Elsa (Ralston) Lee.

In August 1958, it was decided that the church should purchase the site next to the existing parsonage, the current home of Rockland Community Church. They broke ground on our current campus on Mother's Day in 1959. Membership at this time was 164 members. Construction continued through 1960 with the help of many members who selected and hauled native stones.

In 1957 Lyle Schossow agreed to pastor Rockland "with more prayer than common sense" and preached his first sermon as full-time minister on March 1, 1958, and continued to pastor the church for 25 years.

God's Faithfulness can be seen in the many decades of ministry since those humble beginnings. So many lives touched and all for the glory of God.

Dane Daniels

"I Knew I Was In The Right Place"

When my husband, Kent and I moved to Evergreen, we had lived in many places through the years. After some time, I decided that I wanted to find a church, and there were many in the area. I started my search at Rockland and sat on Sunday morning listening to Rev. Ken Williams. Afterward, I had many people come to introduce themselves, and one of them had a sign on her shoulder asking, "I'm going. Are you?" I naturally asked where, and when she answered, I knew I was in the right place. She described the upcoming gathering of the women at Glen Eyrie Castle in Colorado Springs. I had so many memories of the castle from when I was with my Girl Scout troop, and we "found" the castle. From then on, and for several years, Glen Eyrie was important. This women's retreat was the start of many blessings from God by attending Rockland.



After attending this event, we became interested in all that Rockland was doing. Rockland hosted many trips led by Rev. Ken Williams. The first big event for us was a trip in 1997 to Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. In 2000, Rockland sponsored a trip that we enjoyed to the Passion Play at Oberammergau, then on to Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary. In 2003, we joined the Rockland mission trip to St. Petersburg, Russia. After that, there were many other Rockland mission trips.

At about the same time, Sid Platt and I co-authored the history of *Rockland 1880-2000*. Our book was a delightful look into our church's past. It certainly shed a light on the older historic Rockland, down the hill from us. Seeing that building conjures up all sorts of stories of how difficult it was to establish a church "up here in the mountains."

During the following years up here, I was delighted and blessed that I was able to serve on so many committees, to serve as Lead Elder for five years, to head up Chimes for all those twenty-plus years, and to serve in the Stephen Ministry.

Rockland has grown as a light for Jesus in the community as many of our members support and serve on ministries at Mean Street, in Tanzania, in the Netherlands, at Clear Creek Rock House, at Life's Options, and the Denver Rescue Mission.

Through the years, I have witnessed God's faithfulness to Rockland and share with the congregation in saying, "Glory to God!"

Shirley Johnson

"With God Always Guiding Us"

When my wife, Joann, and I joined Rockland nearly 40 years ago, I was asked to join the Trustees, which is now equivalent to the Operations Team. It was a smaller church at that time, and the Trustees were much more hands-on than today. Meg Greely was the church financial secretary and provided the financial input, but if the plumbing leaked or the furnace quit, we got the call. I remember looking at the non-functioning furnace with Sue O'Dell on a Saturday afternoon and working to get a plumber to come out.



The Lord blessed Rockland through the new pastor, Ken Williams, and the church grew. Soon, the time came when we needed to build a larger Fellowship Hall. The expansion was financed with Church Bonds. The popularity of Rockland as a wedding venue also helped pay off the bonds. Due to the view from the sanctuary, over 250 weddings were performed a year. Church members provided the total financing of the Fellowship Hall. I believe the Lord's guidance led us to involve the congregation, increasing their commitment to the church.

After serving on the Trustees, I joined the Outreach Committee. There was a need to develop clear criteria for which groups to support. Eventually, the committee reached a policy of strictly supporting Christian ministries. This has made a significant difference, and many members have participated personally. Following my service on the Outreach Committee, I joined the Deacons. One of our primary responsibilities was organizing Communion. At this point, Communion was passed in trays. The Deacons oversaw the change to the congregation coming forward to receive Communion.

Rockland continued to be blessed with dramatic growth and outgrew the sanctuary, resulting in the creation of a third service. Finding this schedule difficult to maintain, fundraising began for an expansion of the sanctuary. It was again easy to see God's hand in the generous giving of the congregation.

When Ken Williams decided to retire, he asked Linda Smith and myself to go on the Board of Elders to be part of the transition. It is never easy for an organization, even a Christian organization, to transition from the leadership of the person who essentially built it over a period of 35 years to a new chapter that would include a new leader. Under the leadership of Dick Parks, we hired a professional search firm and organized a search committee consisting of Elders, Staff, and members of the congregation. The committee began its search in May 2015, and by November, it had called Jim Gribnitz to be Rockland's new pastor. I cannot imagine a search going any more smoothly or being any more successful.

Bringing Pastor Gribnitz to Rockland was a critical and essential step in the transition. Still, it was just a step with many more to follow that carried real risk if the congregation was unwilling to go along with the changes. We were told that research shows that when a church transitions away from a long-term pastor, it typically loses 15% of the congregation. We did lose members, but nothing close to 15%, and today, we have more members than we did at the beginning. Ken Williams made the transition much easier by being incredibly gracious and supportive. He and Kathy moved out of the parsonage into a rental house until their new home was finished. This allowed Jim and Nikki to move in so their children could start school and not have to change schools later. He served as a wonderful mentor to Jim, providing support and context while he learned about Rockland.

Assistant Pastor Ed Lange was also a key part of the transition. He worked closely with Jim after Ken's retirement, introducing him to church members and assisting in numerous other ways. Ed was always there, providing an important bridge from the old to the new. Only God could have guided Rockland during this time by creating a caring and accepting congregation, a supportive staff, and a capable new Lead Pastor who unapologetically preaches the Gospel. After eight-plus years, I believe it is safe to declare it a success. Rockland is a special place with members who sincerely love Christ and care about each other and the Kingdom. I am truly blessed to have been part of it for so long.

Jed Burnham

Great is God's Faithfulness in the Tanzania Ministry

God has given us the commandment to love one another, no matter how near or far. Rockland's response to our partners in Arusha, Tanzania, in East Africa, has been to recognize, listen, and to respond to their expressed needs. Each step forward has been a walk of faith. Each engaged moment says, "He is present". Each look backward is a blessing and glorifies God.

Over the 20+ years of this partnership, God has been faithful in making Himself known in so many ways. None is more important than in the relationships and unity formed between our churches and individuals. Through God's invitation, many have now traveled to Arusha to work and worship side-by-side. Being physically present, when possible, has represented our love and compassion towards our faraway brothers and sisters in Christ.



Rockland's current ministry in Tanzania blossomed in early 2000 from relationships formed years earlier with Dr. Mark Jacobson and a young Pastor, now Bishop Abel Godson. Rockland members were among those who supported Dr. Jacobson's efforts to build a hospital to serve the poor, as well as Pastor Abel's vision of strengthening individuals and families through educational opportunities for girls.

The HIV-AIDS epidemic left many orphans in its wake. The need for medical facilities, staff, and educational support for children in families impacted by the epidemic was huge. In a step of faith, Rockland formed a mission team and went to Arusha to stand with our partners to complete a church and to convert an existing building into a Children's Center to help the church care for its orphans. When the team returned, the impact of their experience led them to dedicate themselves to continuing the ministry.

Pastor Abel often repeated, "We will do all that we can for ourselves and let you help us with what we cannot do ourselves." This theme of listening to our partners and helping them with what they are unable to do themselves continues to drive this ministry.

When the need for assistance in supporting education for marginalized girls was expressed, Rockland listened. God put it on the hearts of many to sponsor a girl through secondary school. Many of these students have been able to continue into a vocation or profession, pulling themselves out of poverty and becoming an asset to their family and community. Many of these sponsorship relationships have opened mutual evangelism opportunities as students and sponsors encourage and pray for each other through written communication. Knowing someone loves them and cares about their future has given them the confidence to succeed.

The gift of dairy animals has provided food and income for the impoverished. Often, these are women or widows with children. Recently, providing donkeys to carry water from distant water sources is changing the lives of women and children in the rural villages.

Bibles have been distributed to churches, to children, to the sponsored students, and to their teachers. Through the evangelism of eyeglass clinics, the recipients receive prayer as well as a Bible of their own. These Bibles, sometimes the only book in the house, are now in homes in Arusha City and the outer villages.

Nancy Clement

Rockland Church Advantages

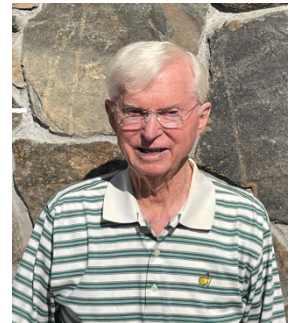
Are you ALL *IN* for Jesus?

If you are not ALL *IN* or don't know, Rockland Church is the place to get there, especially because of the preaching and the member growth focus of the staff!

When Christians are ALL *IN*, we recognize that we have fallen short of God's standard and His plan for our lives. We are sorry for it and not proud of it, and we realize we need Jesus and His forgiveness. Therefore, we commit our life to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, letting Him guide our lives, not ourselves. Many of us have made that claim at some time, but it has not changed our lives. So, what is the problem? First, we must be sure we do not have a problem with non-belief. Then, we must work on our ego because we will not let go of some favorite sins or places. Next, we must not feel embarrassed or ashamed to let others know that we are Christians so we can witness to them because then we MUST represent Jesus as a Christian, ALWAYS.

Being ALL *IN* means we must live The Christian Life every day. We must simply decide to be on His Team only and let Jesus be the center of our lives.

PREPARATION & MAINTAINANCE



- Regularly attending our Sunday church services, we hear Pastor Jim's fantastic, well-prepared, timely, informative, life-challenging sermons that help us grow spiritually and motivate us to move along His path.
- Reading our Bible for an hour or so every morning, along with side-by-side commentaries which help our understanding.

GET INVOLVED

- Attend a Bible Study. Pastor Jim's Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning, while Ladies Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning.
- Get involved in serving by Greeting, Reading Scripture, Serving Communion, Ushering, Taking the Offering, Serving on our Safety Team, etc.

I have been baptized three times. The first was as a nine-year-old boy who did not know why I was doing it. The second was my deliberate decision to be baptized with our whole family. The third time was because the First Baptist Church required everyone to be baptized in THEIR CHURCH. I believe those of us who were baptized when we were children should be baptized again, by immersion, when we can make our own decisions. After all, we do want to purposely follow the example of our Lord Jesus.

When I was young my parents took me to church every Sunday, so I have always had a need for attending church and for The Gospel. However, in my teen and college years, I drifted away and developed a selfish attitude and a bad temper. My bad attributes alienated my young wife and cost me my first marriage. Thankfully, although irregular and casual, I maintained a relationship with the church. God did not give up on me. Remember the Lost Sheep the Good Shepard rescued.

My employer transferred me to Denver for a BIG change of total environment. I met my beautiful wife, Jean. God was now impressing on me NOT to continue being a jerk and to return to Him so the second marriage could work. I prayed, "I know you are right, God, but I need some help, please." We were married, began attending The First Baptist Church in Evergreen, and then finally found Rockland 20 years ago as our Christian Life began to grow. First, with Pastor Ken Williams, and then, when our Pastor, Jim Gribnitz, was led to be here, we really began to grow together. Now we have been married for 59 years, Praise God!!! Jean and I are settled in, enjoying His leadership, and still growing in Him. *We are ALL IN!* **God is our LIFE.**

Sandy Sanderson

Overheard by The Church Mouse



The Church Mouse Skips Out

"What!" squeaked the church mouse, "Someone has stolen my pew! I always sit in the back pew in the middle on the right side. There is no pole to obstruct my view." "Hmppf! I will just go take a hike instead of worship," he thought.

The mouse ventured out into the beautiful lily gardens, then made his way up to the street and over I-70. He had never traveled this far from Rockland. "What have I missed by living in the dark broom closet?" he wondered.

The lonely mouse scurried up the hill and turned right. There inside a tall fence, a wobbly newborn buffalo calf nudged his mother for milk as she licked his furry coat. "Hey, Buffy, will you be my friend?" the lonely church mouse called.

Farther up the mountain, a sign read: GENESEE MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD. Up six steps, he crawled onto the wide path. Soon, he found himself in a wonderland of wildflowers. The last tall golden banners nodded in the breeze while tiny bluebells rang a 'good day' to him. "Will you be my friend?" he called back to them.

The church mouse chose the trail to the right where delicate pink wild roses appeared hidden among the lupine, ancient relatives of those stunning orange blossoms at Rockland. A tiny lizard darted past. "Will you be my friend?" the mouse inquired.

Dozens of pinecones filled a dry gulch where green ponderosa sprouts were taking root. A bicycle whizzed past just as he ducked behind massive granite boulders. A trio of elk grazed nearby on tall grass. "Will you be my friend?" the small rodent asked.

At last, the church mouse reached the summit of Genesee Mountain. There, a red, white, and blue flag waved against the blue sky on a tall silver pole. A bronze sign reminded him of those who gave their lives for his freedom. "I am free too," he thought.

"Shall I stay here on the mountaintop or return to my mouse hole at Rockland?" He pondered his choice to be out in nature among his animal friends or safe and snug at Rockland among his human friends. Then the wind began to blow, and raindrops fell upon his furry face, plop...plop...plop. "My mouse hole was dry and warm. I must run back before the storm." Down, down, down the trail he raced, past the elk, past the buffalo, past the wildflowers, over the busy highway zooming with cars and trucks, into the lily garden, and through the open doors. The church mouse returned to Rockland just in time for the final hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

"My hike was a great adventure," the church mouse mused, "but here I have a friend in Jesus." He scurried to an empty spot on the left side in the middle. He bent his furry head around the pole to view his many Rockland friends. His little mouse heart grew a size larger that Sunday as he bowed his head for the benediction and sighed with satisfaction.

Our goal is to inform, inspire, and connect the people to our community of Rockland Church.

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Worship & Communications Director: Dane Daniels

Kids' and Student Ministry Coordinator: Allison Weber



A Beloved Ragamuffin Project

Sharon began volunteering at Mean Street Ministry (MSM) in December of 2020. Her church life group volunteered one Tuesday evening with the MSM Street Outreach, and she began volunteering regularly in the Café.

One day, she was with Betty Fry, the mother of Executive Director James Fry, and they were watching a man sitting on a bench in the Café. Betty told her to go over to the man and tell him that they were praying for him and that they care about him. So, Sharon, who had never seen this man before and did not know him, did exactly what Betty asked. At the end of the day, the man came over to her and said, "I just need you to know that changed my life."



Sharon says, "I just fell in love with this place. God uses people to change other people's lives, and it's beyond a blessing." Today, she is a regular volunteer, two times a week, helping with the reception desk and manning the showers. She says it is such a blessing to hear people say, "I feel like a new person!" after they get a shower. "Mainly, volunteering at MSM has taught me that life isn't all about me. People need help," Sharon shares.

MSM has volunteer opportunities to prepare food for the Café, to serve in the Café, to assist clients shop in the Food Bank and to share the love of the Lord with clients who visit MSM. For more information or to find out how to volunteer, please contact Diane Chapman at (303) 232-2500.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Celebrations!

On May 7, the Care Team sponsored a Staff Appreciation lunch attended by all the staff, including our newest staff member. Presenting shawls to people isn't always about sad times, or cancer, stress, or surgery. Shawls celebrate people who share our faith and help lead us through life's challenges. Twelve shawls were presented and warmly received. Another



celebratory gift of shawls is when people are baptized. White shawls are presented to those baptized as a gift of love and a celebration of their accepting Jesus as their savior. Shawls come in all sizes, just like our recipients. If you know of anyone needing comfort who might like a shawl, please contact Chris Elmgreen.

AND, if you would like to participate in this wonderful ministry, join us on the second Monday and the fourth Tuesday of each month. Contact Liz Hawkins at EPHawk123@gmail.com.

Ephesians 2:10: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

A brief recap of our last quarter in our programs:

- Our tutors had an amazing year assisting students in having a successful academic school year.
- Equine therapy students had high remarks of their love for the program at Grace Mountain Ranch and how it impacted their confidence and ownership of self-respect.
- Our youth group enjoyed attending local church youth group activities. How satisfying it is to see their love for doing the right thing by seeking fellowship with other youth who love the Lord!
- We were blessed to have had a well-attended mentoring program this year. Strong relationships were established. This could not have been possible without the faithfulness of our mentor coordinators, Deborah and Darren.
- We had many fun adventures and experiences during the last school year in our programs. We witnessed personal growth and made many meaningful and lasting relationships. A big thank you to all of our wonderful volunteer mentors and kitchen help for giving their time throughout the season.

We were excited to celebrate the mentees who graduated from the 6th grade, along with two of our graduating high school seniors who each received awards from the Clear Creek County Mayors and Commissioners Scholarship program as outstanding students and great role models to their peers. We wish our senior graduates well in their future endeavors.



We are moving quickly through the summer here in the mountains with our Summer Fun Wednesdays at the Rock House. We meet weekly for Summer Fun Wednesdays to offer a safe, wholesome environment to enjoy a variety of fun activities and sit to share a meal together. We've roasted hot dogs, gone fishing, and participated in the annual Independence Day parade. We are not too quick to rush our summer fun, but we look forward to more adventures, even as we consider the new school year to begin in mid-August.



If you are interested in volunteering or knowing more about any of our programs, feel free to contact Director Cheryl Holmberg at director@clearcreekrockhouse.org.



Ruth Baker
Clear Creek Rock House Media Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator

Wing Crawl 2024

Who has the best wings in Idaho Springs?

First, I want to thank everyone who attended the 2024 Wing Crawl. We sold out of tickets fifteen minutes before the event began, and we raised \$6,246.00 for *Loaves & Fishes*.

All the restaurants stepped up their game this year, showing different wings. No two wings were alike, and they were all delicious. The ballots were counted, and the winner was...Tommyknocker Brewery!

Thank you to all the restaurants for making this Wing Crawl a big success:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Tommyknocker | Clear Creek |
| Cidery | Beau Jos |
| Vintage Moose | Mtn Prime |
| Banana Leaf | Pick Axe Pizza |
| Smokin Yard's BBQ | |

Increase in Numbers

As I am sure you have heard, times are hard right now. Going into the summer, we knew to expect an increase, but we were not prepared for this. In April, we served 368 families. In May, that jumped to 668 families. Of these, 23% were new to the food pantry.

I am grateful to God that we are here for our community, and I know He will help us through this influx. It is wild to think of how much can change in a month. *Loaves & Fishes* needs to stand firm and trust God as we move forward. I know we will overcome as long as He is a part of *Loaves & Fishes*.

Supply Chain

Our primary source of food is the Food Bank of the Rockies. We order from them once a month to restock. Over the last few months, they have not had items crucial to a food pantry, like peanut butter, tuna, and meals in a can (ravioli, spaghetti, chili, etc.). I went to a conference that the Food Bank of the Rockies was hosting and discovered that it was a supply issue. They would order something that would take three months or longer to deliver, affecting food pantries across Colorado and Wyoming.

Call for Help

With the increase in numbers and supply issues, we could use more help than ever.

Food Help: Donation drop off is Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 AM - 3 PM.



Our top five greatest needs:

1. Peanut Butter
2. Milk
3. Eggs
4. Casseroles: Please use disposable pans. Feel free to pick up some at Loaves & Fishes if you need some.
5. Toilet Paper

Volunteer Help: Days available:

- Tuesdays: 10 AM - 12 PM; Sorting through donations or 1 PM - 3 PM; Sort through produce
- Third Wednesday of the Month: 9:30 AM - 11 PM; Big delivery from the Food Bank of the Rockies
- Fridays: 10 AM - 2 PM; restock shelves and serve the shoppers or 2 PM - 5 PM serve the shoppers

Financial Help:

Online- <https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/food-box>

Mail- PO Box 967, Idaho Springs, CO 80452

Contact Loaves & Fishes-

Phone- (303)567-4450

Email- loavesandfishesco@gmail.com

Website- <https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/contact-us>

**We Need
Peanut Butter**



Permitting

A new skill I did not know I needed: Pulling a permit. We are in the process of building a walk-in refrigerator, and as a free-standing building with electrics, it needs to be permitted. My journey started in November of 2023, with submitting the specifications for the walk-in and the property map showing where it will go. However, we encountered some challenges along the way, mainly when we needed to send information we did not have yet: the building specs, electrical work, and blueprints. Upon receiving the additional information they required, I found myself in a loop of resubmitting the previously sent data.

After talking with someone and finally getting a good idea of what they wanted, I did the following:

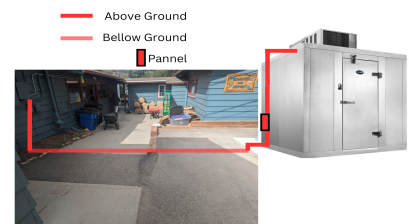
- Scanned 13 pages of the compressor manual.
- Downloaded the entirety of the operational manual, which included the approvals for different climates.
- Photoshopped a map of the electrical lining. I only knew what I was doing because I had spoken with four electricians about this one project.
- Clarified what our property lines are and where the walk-in was going to be. I asked the board of directors to approve an electrician's estimate, and then I signed the estimate with a note of the board's approval date.
- After all of that, as of June 21, our permit has been approved!

Philippians 4:9

*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—
put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Thank You

LQF Rachel Tosselyn
Executive Director





Connecting all generations to Jesus

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Current resident or:

DATED MATERIALS – PLEASE RUSH

*Connecting all generations to Jesus
As we stand for the Truth of the Gospel,
Show God's grace to all people,
And raise up the next generation to do the same.*



Welcome Home.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:00am & 10:30am
www.Rockland.Church