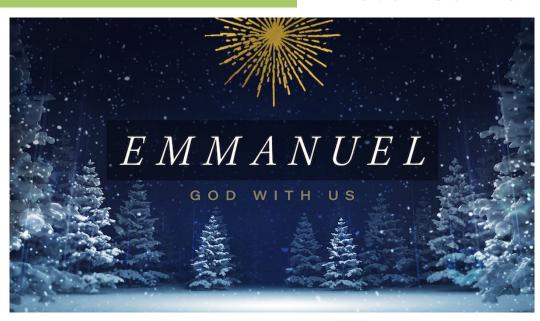


Connecting all generations to Jesus

## Chimes

December 2022



## Why and What is Advent

Until recently I've always wondered, "What is Advent and why do we call it that?" The answer partly lies in the word which describes the season itself. Advent is our Anglicized version of the Latin word Adventus. Adventus is the Latin word for the Greek word Parousia. Both words mean *Arrival* or *Coming*. The double meaning in this idea of *Coming* is both that Christ *was* coming into the world with his incarnation and that he *is* coming back one day. Historically, the church has spent two weeks reflecting on both seminal and biblical doctrines, but now Advent has become an extended practice for reflection.

Here is a meditation worth reflecting on: Knowing that God Himself came into the world to live like us, and to die for us. How **was** and **is** His Advent shaping your view of the holiday season?

I'd like to challenge each one of you to consider this Advent as a holy time to reflect on why Christ came and what it means that he will come again. Do you realize that Jesus came for you? To show you your need for a savior? To show you the love of the Father? To give you a past hope that forever extends into eternity? Take this time to contemplate how Christ came and will come so that he can forever be *Emmanuel*, namely, God with us.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas, Robby Kleber

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## Christmas and New Year's Day Services at Rockland

Christmas falls on Sunday this year, so there will be no Sunday service. Christmas Eve services: 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM, and 8:00 PM. On January 1st there will be one worship service at 10 AM.

## Women's Ministry Welcomes You to Advent by Candlelight

A time of preparation for the advent season, with music, readings, fellowship, and cookies. Bring your friends for a delightful Spirit-filled evening!

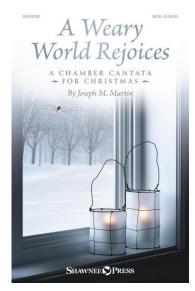
Tuesday Evening, December 6, 6:30 PM Rockland Community Church Fellowship Hall For more information please contact: Tammy Roth <a href="mailto:coroth@comcast.net">Coroth@comcast.net</a>



## **The Four Sundays in Advent**

November 27 The Candle of Hope
December 4 The Candle of Peace
December 11 The Candle of Joy
December 18 The Candle of Love

#### **Christmas Cantata** December 11<sup>th</sup> at both services



The children will be singing in the cantata. If you cannot make it to the services, enjoy it online.

## A Night of Worship

December 18, 6-8 PM



#### **Student Ministries**

#### Rockland's Recent Youth Activities

Several members of the Church have asked me to write a brief summary of some of the activities we have been doing and give you all an update on the state of the youth program. Since my official first day at Rockland on July 18th, I have been so enthralled with planning and being involved with the youth here, and I am so excited about what we've been doing and what will be happening.

One of the plans that I have been trying to implement is a monthly activity that the youth can participate in and continue to make friends and grow in Christ. My first big event was a very successful Bar-B-Que on August 7th, where we had burgers, hotdogs, drinks, and a wonderful lesson. Since then, we have decided to have a monthly event called *First Sunday* where we have a similar Bar-B-Que and invite the youth to have a fun time here and invite their friends.

In September, our event was called *Walk for Pizza* where the youth came and had a very healthy hike on the Genesee Mountain Trail, returning to Guido's Pizza for a meal. October's event was at the Chatfield Corn Maze and November's was a Day of Fun at the church.

I always look forward to Sundays because I not only get to be an active member in the services, but I then get to teach the Middle School Bible Study (MSBS) during the second service. I continue to Youth Group later in the evening. The MSBS youth have been having a fun time with the lessons and always look forward to pummeling me with balls and toys. Youth Group has been so much fun, and both youth and volunteers are really enjoying their small group times together after my lessons. If you read this and want to help with the youth group, all you need do is reach out to me by email or phone.

I have been so blessed since coming to Rockland because this wonderful church has a great group of youth and students whom I get to mentor. I pray that I can continue to work hard for each of you, and I look forward to writing the next update. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the youth group.



## Stephen Ministry

**GOT THE BLUES??** 

Here are some facts on the blues:

Feeling blue is NOT a normal part of aging. Surprisingly, over 58% of older adults think it is. Late-life depression affects millions of people, but only 10% of these ever ask for help.



People often do not talk about how sad, lonely, or scared they are. Before you say "I'm fine", ask yourself if you feel lonely, sad, restless, irritable, or very tired and slowed down.

Individuals often do not ask for help from family, friends, or clergy. Having the blues can then turn into a chronic, sad feeling that weighs you down from enjoying all the blessings that life has to offer.

Finding help when you are feeling blue, for whatever reason, is very easy. Rockland is a Stephen Ministry church, which means you can access a highly trained, caring, and compassionate individual for a supportive, one-on-one relationship. The confidential interactions that you have with your Stephen Minister can buoy up your spirits.

Doesn't Jesus want you to have a life that is worth living to the fullest, in His name? A Stephen Minister relationship can make a meaningful difference in how you cope with a wide range of life issues: grief, chronic pain or illness, divorce, unemployment, family stresses and yes, even feeling blue for no particular reason.

Contact Pastor Paul or Annie Bremerman to refer you to a Stephen Minister. WE CARE.

#### On Busyness:

"Busy is a decision. We do the things we want to do, period. If we say we are too busy, it is just shorthand for the thing being "not important enough" or "not a priority." Busy is not a badge. You don't find the time to make things, you **make** the time to do things." *Source: In the Company of Women*, by Debbie Millman.

### Widows Walk

Widows Walk now meets on the second Tuesday of the month. We meet from 10 am - 11:30 in the Adult Education Classroom on the lower level. Widows who have lost their loved ones are invited to journey with others and honor your journey. Our time together is setting our intention to heal. Yes, it is a commitment but also fellowship with others. Each month there is a scripture focus and discussion. If you have any questions, you can contact me at <a href="mailto:Gloriaowens@centurylink.net">Gloriaowens@centurylink.net</a>. Leave your phone number and I will call you.



## Tanzania Action Committee Report

Four members of the Tanzania Action Committee went to Arusha, Tanzania this past August to visit our ministry partners who work alongside us to support our efforts there. The team had the opportunity to visit three secondary and three post-secondary schools and meet 48 girls who are sponsored by faithful members of Rockland's congregation. They also had the opportunity to visit two rural communities and churches in Maasai land, Moita, and Lendikinya. With the help of our brother and partner Patrick Ngala Olemong'i, 125 eye tests were given and 73 pairs of reading glasses were given out. In addition, 300 Bibles were distributed, and 11 baby goats were shared with families. The team was also able to visit the Ilboru church and primary school founded by our brother Pastor Abel, as well as tour the Ilboru Orphanage, the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, and meet with the Selian Hospice team, all of which are supported by Rockland's Tanzania Ministry.

Mission trips to Arusha are essential to our ministry efforts in Tanzania. The partnerships we have with the people on the ground there are greatly strengthened by meeting in person, and members of the committee as well as members of the congregation at large get to participate in the ongoing projects and missions that we have there. We are planning another trip for July of 2023 that will be open to any member of the congregation who would be interested in witnessing and participating in the important work we support in Tanzania. There is also a short safari experience at the end of the trip for those who are interested.

October was the ministry month for Tanzania at Rockland, and the dollar bills collected in the offering plates will support our ministry. Additionally, we had two fundraising Sundays in October where we were able to share with the congregation about the recent mission trip and start an interest list for the upcoming one in 2023. Money was raised to purchase animals (goats and donkeys) to support the Maasai families that have been chosen to receive these life-changing resources that the villagers so depend on. We were also able to engage sponsors for seven new girls who will be able to receive a secondary and post-secondary education not otherwise possible. We are grateful to God and to Rockland Church for the continued support of this important ministry.

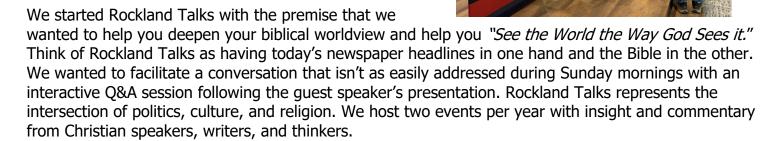


More excellent photos can be seen on the Rockland website: <u>Rockland.Church/Tanzania</u> The slideshow is at the bottom of the page. **Worth your time!** 

### **Rockland Talks**

#### **Engaging the Culture through a Biblical Lens**

The Disciple Ministry hosted another successful Rockland Talks, the third in our series, featuring Philip Yancy, speaking on the topic of *Engaging the Culture through a Biblical Lens*. We had approximately 160 people attend from inside and outside Rockland.



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

- 1. Go out and make disciples of Jesus Christ
- 2. Help equip the saints and mature you as Christians to advance and defend the faith with your families, in your communities, and in the public square

Philip Yancy gave prepared comments for about 45 minutes followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. His talk anchored on four key themes made more relevant given the context of our divided country:

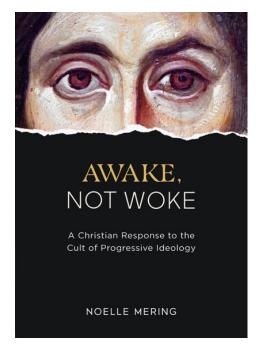
- 1. Don't confuse any nation with the Kingdom of God
- 2. A Church should resemble an urgent care center more than a country club
- 3. Christians fight with the weapons of grace
- 4. We can learn to communicate with those who see the world differently

The real-world application of the above guidance was further elaborated upon by Yancy and he encouraged us as individuals and Church leaders to:

- 1. Place your relationships and your Christian faith above tribal politics and be a light in a world of darkness. There should be a clear line of demarcation as to how Christians live and behave versus the rest of the world. It is better to have the Church and State separate because, historically, when the Church joins the State, it is usually the State that wins to the detriment of the citizens and the Church. Instead, the Church is to be the conscience of the State.
- 2. Go out into your local communities and serve others that are not like yourself and who are not part of your Church. You are to serve others not because they are Christian but because you are a Christian.
- 3. Love our enemies, real and perceived, just as Jesus loves us. That is, by definition, a grassroots bottoms-up effort.

4. When engaging in conversation with others that hold a diametrically different opinion than you, seek clarity and understanding not agreement. Instead of trying to convert or "win the argument" simply focus on intensive and intentional listening and hearing their story.

Our next Rockland Talks is scheduled for Wednesday evening, May 31, 2023, featuring Noelle Mering. Noelle is a Fellow at the Washington DC-based think tank, the Ethics and Public Policy Center. She is the author of the book, *Awake Not Woke: A Christian Response to the Cult of Progressive Ideology.* She is the founder and editor of the website Theology of the Home and coauthor of the book *Theology of the Home.* She writes on culture, politics, and religion and has published for National Review, The Federalist, The American Mind, and Catholic World Report. Noelle has an MA in philosophy and is the wife and mother of six children in Southern California.



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

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Director of Operations: Kyle Buchanan

Pastoral Resident in Student Ministry: Robby Kleber

Care and Missions Pastor: Paul Lucks

Care and Discipleship Associate: Annie Bremerman Kids' and Family Ministry Coordinator: Kesha Robitaille





In the immortal words of Dean Martin, "Baby, it's cold outside." As the temperatures continue to drop during these winter months, Mean Street Ministry's clients must rely on the generosity of others to help them survive the freezing outdoor temperatures.

Mary was able to receive a sleeping bag last year as she transitioned out of an abusive relationship and was forced to sleep on the streets.

So, in this season of giving, prayerfully consider donating your old or unused **men's coats**, **blankets**, and **sleeping bags** to help those facing a difficult winter ahead.

Please contact Mean Street Ministry at 303-232-2500 or info@meanstreetministry.org for more information.

#### Thank you, Rockland!

#### Christmas on Colfax

Get your Santa hats on and your caroling voices ready, Rockland! It's Mean Street Ministry's annual Christmas on Colfax on December 12 and 13. Join us as we spread Christmas cheer, hot cocoa, and gifts to families on the east and west sides of Colfax. We need your help to show God's love to these families during this most wonderful time of the year! We will be meeting at 750 Potomac Street in Aurora at 6 PM on Monday evening and at 1380 Ammons Street in Lakewood at 6 PM on Tuesday evening. Please join us for this fun and meaningful discipleship opportunity! Call (303) 232-2500 for additional information.



## Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery

## A Christmas Concert and Celebration for All



Traditional, Classical & Baroque Music at Historic Rockland Church

Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 4 PM

A completely new program of old instrumental recorders, electronic harpsicord, and vocal music, plus a sing-along of Christmas Favorites.

Fundraiser for the Historic Rockland Church!

Save the Date: Friday, January 27, 2023

We are putting the "FUN" back into fundraiser! Historic Rockland is halfway through construction of our INDOOR restroom, complete with running water! This is going to revolutionize our ability to make Historic Rockland a thriving part of our community.

Best of all, this is going to be an extremely fun evening, sure to ward off the late January post-holiday blues. The evening is going to involve copious amounts of laughter and food. More details coming soon.

To see a transcript of Sid Platt's Memorial Day talk on *The Oldest Churches in Colorado*: Rockland.Church/All-Church

#### Rockland Romania Mission

#### A Fifteen-Year Success Story

As reported last Spring, Rockland has had a huge impact in different areas in Romania. In the early 2000s, the Romanian mission work involved fundraising for St. Mary's daycare center, a facility for developmentally challenged adults. What started as a dream project in Cluj materialized into reality in a system unaccustomed to supporting this element of society. Rockland ultimately assisted with the construction of an entirely new facility, complete with classrooms, a kitchen, and a chapel.

The most lasting mission work was in partnership with World Vision Romania (WVR), sponsoring students in their pursuit of a high school degree. Thanks to the generous support from Rockland members and friends over the years, the program "I Want to be in the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade" has served over 200 students. Approximately 140 have since graduated from high school, with the majority advancing to the university level. Others have gone on to trade schools or taken well-paying jobs they otherwise would not have been able to obtain.

With the impending closure of the WVR office in Cluj, the Romanian Task Force had to make the difficult decision to discontinue the sponsorship program as it has been structured. To commemorate and celebrate the successes seen over the years, Rockland hosted visitors from Romania this past September. The contingent from Cluj included Vali Sabau (Office Manager of WVR), Cristina Constantinescu (former WVR program coordinator), and former students Alis Baran and Bianca Cosma. Our visitors participated in the Worship Services on September 18 and had the opportunity to enjoy touring outlying areas such as Grand Lake and Colorado Springs. Bob and Kitty Ehret were instrumental in Rockland's participation from the outset and have remained dedicated leaders throughout the program. Additionally, Lynne Feldkamp served as Co-Chair of RTF and was actively involved in hosting this recent visit.

Following the Romanians' visit to Colorado, the Ehrets traveled to Cluj to further the transition. On October 8th they were hosted by Vali and Cristina at Livada Cultural Center, a rural village in Cluj County. A breakfast gathering was attended by 20 current and graduated students from the scholarship program over the past 15 vears. The students thanked Rockland for its heartfelt generosity and the positive impact it has had on themselves and their families. Bob reports that "hugs and tears prevailed!" Please check the Rockland website for a short video of thanks. On



behalf of the Romanian Taskforce, we again extend our appreciation to everyone who has been a part of the Romanian Mission through the years. We hope the knowledge that your financial contributions, letters and other means of encouragement have made a significant impact half a world away.

## Overheard by The Church Mouse



#### CHIMES - OVERHEARD BY THE CHURCH MOUSE

So, I thought I would be clever and look at the world's celebration of Christmas throughout history. Well, a week later and hours investigating, I came away with the idea that I could probably write a whole book on the history of Christmas celebrations from the beginning of our Lord's birth until today. But Christmas is coming soon, and I switched from looking at the big picture to looking back on my own life to a memorable event.

We were living in Castle Rock. Two days before Christmas it had been snowing heavily. My brother Mike, sister-in-law Linda, and their 3-year-old Mick were visiting our parents. It snowed all night and on Christmas Eve we were literally "snowed in." The highway north to Denver was closed. Dad's employees at his grocery store were unable to get across town and yet, it was Christmas Eve and Dad knew that as soon as possible he would have customers buying their Christmas provisions.

We lived up on a hill and had our skis so we (my husband Kent, daughters Pamela, Andrea, and Valorie) skied down until we reached my parents who lived just a couple of blocks from Dad's grocery store. We all got together and began plowing our feet through the heavy snow. Watching after each other we finally made it to the grocery store.

Dad gave us assignments including our young daughters who would work in the produce department. There were no employees but miraculously we began to get customers traveling in on their snowmobiles or skies. For several hours we handled everything and had a somewhat brisk business. Then slowly the employees began to show up.

That night we all celebrated how we had handled the situation. However, we still had a problem. It was Christmas Eve, and we still did not have an open highway up north for my brother and his family to drive home to Greeley.

Little Mick was not having a good Christmas Eve. So, we went together and came up with a stocking filled with goodies for Christmas morning and we called a friend who stepped into our drama beautifully. He called Mick and told him that he was Santa Claus and that he had left gifts for Mick at his home so they wouldn't have to haul them all that way. He assured Mick that there were many packages and as soon as he got home, he could open them but, in the meantime, Mick should just be happy with all the family around him.

We all gathered together that night and read the Christmas story from the book of Luke. We talked about Baby Jesus and how special our Christmas Eve was.

After that, three-year-old Mick seemed to thrive on our celebration of Christmas and had a good time on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. They finally were able to head home later in the day when the highway had been plowed.



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Prayer Shawl Ministry Team 2022

Jan Bakken, Jan Buenning, Meg Greeley, Sue Harvey-Dunn, Liz Hawkins, Maggie Jones, Carol Lance, Patti Mackey, Wenda Messer, Dale Morse, Nancy Pranaitis, Lois Rice, Sue Sells, Kym Shaffner, Amy



Sidoroff, Lori Stup, and Mary Tilson are our devoted knitters and crocheters. These women come from Golden, Littleton, and Evergreen to share their talents each month creating beautiful shawls.

At this time of year when our hearts are full of love, gratitude, and thankfulness, let us all be thankful for these women who share their talents through their hands. We are so blessed in the Rockland community to have this Prayer Shawl team who creates shawls and prays for you.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team meets on the second Monday of each month from 1:00-3:00 in Fellowship Hall. Join us in the New Year! We are happy to teach anyone who wants to learn to knit or crochet or simply come be a part of a very caring community.

1 John 3:10 17-18 NIV If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

## **Greeting Ministry**

Rockland Community Church is known as a welcoming church, and this is in large part due to the wonderful people who serve as greeters each Sunday morning. Greeters are often the first friendly faces that members and visitors see when they come to worship the Lord each week. Serving on the Greeting Team is also a great way to meet people if you are new to the church.

We are always looking for people to serve on the Greeting Team. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Joyce Dunbar (elder, nfjmdunbar@comcast.net) or Kelly Selva (fellowship deacon, kellyaselva@gmail.com). We will be happy to get you on the Team!





BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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April Snook
Janice Shirlaw
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Like many, Loaves & Fishes is faced with surging gas prices and food costs. We are seeing client needs greater than ever, sending all ages to our door. At Loaves & Fishes, they are greeted with a friendly smile, nutritious food, and a strong sense of community! As it is not an easy task to ensure that people do not go hungry, we continue to rely on our community to help us. An outstanding example of this support is Val Rae Jacobsen, who provides in-home care to those who are unable to come to our food pantry. Her extraordinary effort extends the reach of Loaves & Fishes, supporting our mission and making a difference. Please read Val Rae's inspirational story.

#### In-Home Caregiver Extends the Reach of Loaves & Fishes

I am an in-home caregiver for several homebound mountain residents in Clear Creek County. Before the pandemic, I knew these individuals through an in-home care agency that hired me to be the nutritional specialist to work with clients, their families, and their caregivers. Some have specialneedsdiets and all are over the age of 75. One client is 98 years young!

I have become certified as a palliative care provider: going into homes with food, and supplies and providing personal care and companionship. Many times, we are the only link to the outside world.

Two of my clients are on a very fixed budget. I am not always able to shop for all their needs with the money provided, especially with the price of groceries (and everything) going up and up! When I discovered Loaves & Fishes, I was so relieved to find that the quality of the food met my standards as a nutritionist and I was able to secure needed supplies for organic, whole foods diets which are critical to healthy aging, and to provide for my clients with special-needs diets.

Loaves & Fishes not only saves time and money for my clients. They also provide a healthy takeout lunch! This is so important for the days that I am away shopping. I cannot also be present to provide a homemade meal and yet, I am able to secure supplies for the week and get to their home in time to serve the homemade healthy lunch provided by Loaves & Fishes, including a much-appreciated homemade dessert.

My 98-year-old client is feeling so spry these days, that she enjoys coming along to meet the volunteers and staff that provide such wonderful things for me to fix and for her to enjoy. The staff and volunteers are always so happy to greet her and answer her questions. She feels so honored and loves expressing her appreciation in person in a safe environment. Nutrition is an important component of her success, allowing her to stay in her beloved home with her cat.

The couple that I care for are also extremely grateful for the food, soap, and paper goods. They are especially excited by the produce. Although they are no longer able to tend the garden plots they have worked for several decades, they still love fresh organic produce!

All my clients expressed awe! They are uplifted, knowing that there is a community of people who care about them and others like them.

Personally, I want you to know, my "supply stop" at Loaves & Fishes makes my job easy and fun! I was really struggling to provide what I know to be critical to the health and wellbeing of my clients. Thank you for the much-needed relief. We can do this, together!

Val Rae Jacobson, August 2022

We know not all of us have the skills or availability to help like Val Rae, but you can help by being a valuable supporter of Loaves & Fishes. A financial contribution to support our food pantry, regardless of the size of the donation, will make a difference in our community by supporting our mission to feed mouths and souls, and providing other assistance to those in need. With your support, we are confident that we can continue to serve the Clear Creek community. Donations can be made via our website (<a href="https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/">https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/</a>) or Colorado Gives (search for Loaves & Fishes not 'and'!)

Please also spread the word that Loaves & Fishes is currently looking for a new Director to lead our food pantry. The Director manages and directs the day-to-day activities of the organization, interacts with food pantry clients, volunteers, and community partners. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/">https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/</a> and click on Job Opportunities. If you or anyone you know may be interested in this position, please have them contact Tim Leake, Board President at <a href="mailto:trleake66@msn.com">trleake66@msn.com</a>, or Rhiannon Sullivan at <a href="mailto:roksullivan@gmail.com">roksullivan@gmail.com</a>.

Your continued support lets us pursue our mission to bring glory to God by providing food and other assistance to those in need. All services are to be offered without discrimination as an expression of Christian love and generosity.

Blessings to you & yours,

#### Tim Leake Board President









Evergreen Christian Outreach recently relocated all services, including the ReSale store, to the old Safeway building on Meadow Drive and 74. We are committed to providing services with compassion and dignity to all people as they navigate life's challenges. We offer comprehensive wraparound services, a cold-weather shelter, and a food pantry, which offers nutritious and varied foods at no cost.

The last few months have brought many more people to our doors and we are striving to meet their needs with the help of our community partners and individual donors. As the weather cools and the holidays approach, the needs of the community will rise. If you would like to help, please consider donating to EChO this holiday season. We are so grateful for the generous support we have received from Rockland and its members.

#### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Canned meat and fish
Hearty canned soups
Canned beans
Pasta sauce
Healthy snacks
Laundry and dish soap
Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Coffee and Tea
Sugar

#### **HOLIDAY NEEDS**

Mashed potatoes
Stuffing
Marshmallows
Canned yams,
Canned vegetables,
Cranberry sauce
Gravy

#### **WARM CLOTHING**

Coats
Hats
Gloves
Socks
Etc.



EChO Lumberjacks gather each month at our woodlot to split, sort and prep the firewood for our clients to ensure they are able to heat their homes during the fall and winter weather. The Lumberjacks are a solid group of committed volunteers who show up in more ways than one to help EChO year-round. We love having them on board and they sure are a great team!

The food pantry accepts donations on Mondays from 10-6, and Tuesdays - Thursdays from 10-4. Our **ReSale** shop accepts donations of clothing and household goods Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10-2.

For more information:

<u>Info@EvergreenChristianOutreach.org</u> 303-670-1796



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#### 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

#### **Current resident or:**



# Welcome Home.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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