

# Chimes

April 2022



## EASTER SERVICES AT ROCKLAND

Palm Sunday, April 10, at 9:00 am and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 14, the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, at 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Good Friday service April 15, at 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Easter services, April 17, at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

...and finally Bright Sunday, April 24, where we celebrate with joy and wear colorful clothes, and gather for a potluck lunch at 1:00 pm

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## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### DON'T FEEL BAD ABOUT FEELING BAD

*"For many years, my inner critic was in charge of how I reacted to emotions, barking orders at me: "Feel happy, not sad"; "Stop worrying." But I can't control what thoughts and emotions take up temporary residence in my mind. If you've ever tried to control them, my guess is that you've been as unsuccessful as I have.*

*In my experience, when a painful emotion arises, it arises, and telling myself that I shouldn't feel that way doesn't work. If sadness is there, it's there. If worry is there, it's there. Yes, becoming aware of a painful emotion can be helpful—it can loosen its grip on you. But it doesn't automatically make it subside."* - Toni Bernhard ("Turning Straw into Gold")

If you do have painful emotions, one of the best ways to cope with such is to share your feelings. That's where having a Stephen Minister relationship can be so valuable for you. This program offers a confidential, supportive, one-on-one relationship with a highly-trained Rockland individual who gets together regularly with you to keep in touch with you about how you are handling one or more life issues. Why NOT take advantage of this unbiased, neutral resource? Need a confidante, a shoulder to cry on, a sounding board, a prayer partner? Stephen Ministry is here for YOU. Just contact Annie Barnett ([abarnett@rockland.church](mailto:abarnett@rockland.church)) to get the ball rolling.

### Stormy Weather?

During both services held at Rockland on February 20th, Pastor Dennis polled the congregation attendees by asking, "Are YOU in a storm in your life?" Overall, one-third of the respondents answered "YES". And this percentage went up to 85% when the question included knowing someone who is in a storm in their life.

Are you feeling internal chaos? Are you affected by the external turmoil in our secular world? Jesus is bigger than the storms in your life! Jesus values making us strong as well as He values keeping us safe. While Satan may do some of his work by isolating people from one another, Jesus brings people together. Rockland provides a wide variety of flexible opportunities to bring people together, regardless of their age or circumstance in life.

If you are seeking deeper faith, greater wisdom, or stronger courage, do consider volunteering to become a **Stephen Minister at Rockland**. Interactive and comprehensive training is available onsite at Rockland. You will find this updated training program to be engaging and downright fun, while you learn to sharpen the tools in your communication toolbox and prepare to serve others who may be in a storm in their life.

If you are IN the midst of a storm in your life, a wonderful option for you is to reach out for comfort and support of a Stephen Minister. Contact Pastor Paul or Elaine Swope for more information.



A Beloved Ragamuffin Project

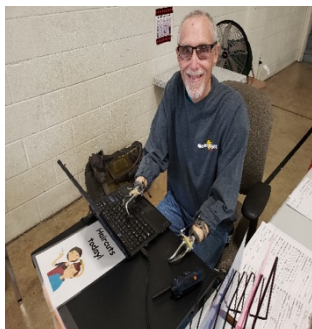
## View from the Food Bank

Mean Street Ministry's Food Bank serves the community by providing a pleasant experience for our clients as they "shop." The food bank is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Clients can shop once a week for their needs. Below left, food bank manager Andrew Cunningham gets ready for the next day's shoppers. Andrew has been Food Bank Manager for five years and states that those years have been an enlightening adventure as he's gotten to know the clientele on a personal level. Andrew feels that his experience in the food bank has helped him to see who he really is. Below right, Sarah helps clients navigate the food bank as a "Personal Shopper."



## View from Reception

Our receptionists, Heather, Eric and Mark have the important position of being the "face" of Mean Street when clients come in to use our services. They log clients in for desired services, register new clients and answer their questions regarding what we offer, as well as direct the flow of services. Heather is celebrating 2 years at Mean Street, Eric says that volunteering here has completely changed his life, and Mark chooses to spend his retirement time here!



## View from the Streets



Mean Street Ministry began 20 years ago on the streets and it is still the heart of who we are. Todd Graber has been leading street ministry for the past six years. He summarized his experience: "Before I found Mean Street I was a ship without a sail. This ministry has taught me how to serve, and in ways I would never have thought I could."



## Calling all Gardeners

This spring our clients will have a new and exciting opportunity! A community garden is opening, and our clients will be able to tend their own plot. Volunteers will be needed to teach clients, work with them, and build relationships. If this or another service opportunity excites you, please consider [volunteering](#) and [giving](#). For questions, please contact us at 303-232-2500 or [info@meanstreetministry.org](mailto:info@meanstreetministry.org)

Thank you!

**Mean Street Ministry Staff**

## Guest Ministry Team

Come be a part of the *Guest Ministry Team*!

You might be asking, "What is Guest Ministry?"

Here at Rockland our *Guest Ministry Team* are the "greeters". They are those individuals who welcome you with a big smile and warm handshake as you arrive for Worship on a Sunday morning. Greeters create a warm and welcoming environment. They make you feel like family. Greeters are on the front lines of ministry. And, they communicate the following:

- We are excited to see you
- We have prepared for you
- We want to get to know you more
- We care
- You belong...And there's so much more

We have a great group of individuals and couples who already serve as Greeters, but we want to GROW our team! Come join us on the front line as we welcome new guests and long-time friends. We have a place for you and it is good!

Contact Lori Fullmer, Kids & Connections Pastor – [LFullmer@Rockland.Church](mailto:LFullmer@Rockland.Church)

## Elders Corner

Our annual Member meeting was held on February 6, 2022. This year 125 Members either attended in person or voted online. Members were provided with an opportunity in January to submit new business topics for the agenda, but no submissions were made. Accordingly, business was restricted to those items the By-Laws require be voted on, including the election or reelection of elders and deacons, and approval of the 2022 budget.

There were three other topics on the agenda.

First, Pastor Jim gave a high-level presentation of some of our important accomplishments in 2021. The Lord blessed us last year and there were many!

Next, Elder Patrick Heck and Director of Operations Kyle Buchanan reviewed 2021 financial results, the 2022 stewardship campaign, and the proposed 2022 budget. Once again, the Lord blessed us. We received some significant gifts at the end of our year and made our giving goal for 2021. In addition, our Congregants heard our message regarding stewardship for 2022. The number of pledges increased, and the amounts approached our targeted increase of 15 percent, year over year.

Finally, Elder Peter Miterko discussed the staff and communications at Rockland. First, he thanked the staff for all their hard work in 2021. He then went on to reiterate the staff has an open-door policy and would very much like to hear from you about things that are working and not working at Rockland. He encouraged meeting attendees to visit with Pastors Jim, Paul and Lori, and to get to know Kyle.

There were two topics we intended to touch on at the meeting but which we did not get to. Both these involve communications at Rockland. First, the staff and Elders aim to have a new Directory available in the second quarter. We are trying to leverage technology in this effort. Our goal is to have copies of the directory available both on-line and in hard copy and to include pictures for folks who agree to have their pictures included. Second, we are trying to make decisions about a new bulletin on Sunday morning. More to come on both these topics.

God Bless you all,  
Your 2022 Elder Team

Tracy Adreon  
Jed Burnham  
Joyce Dunbar  
Jim Gribnitz  
Todd Graber  
Kevin Grieve  
Patrick Heck  
Peter Miterko



Tracy Adreon



Joyce Dunbar

## Caring Connectors

Rockland Community Church is a church of word and deed. Teaching, preaching, and discipleship are all primary components in the life of this church. Hand in hand with this is the ministry of deeds. This combination marks RCC as a place of solid biblical teaching, lived out through a caring outreach minded congregation. Caring Connectors is one example of a ministry which puts into action the command from Christ found in Luke 10:37. In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus illustrates his values for us to provide care, friendship, food, and safety to those in need. "Go and do likewise" commands each of us to be a minister of care.

In his book, *Ministries of Mercy*, Tim Keller asks these challenging questions:

*"Are we as Christians obeying this command personally?"*

*"Are we as a church obeying this command corporately?"*

The Care Team answers, Yes! And **Caring Connections** is the place to help you fulfill this calling as a Christian.

Caring Connectors provide care through calls, visits, and connecting resources to the people of RCC and others in the community. Caring Connectors help friends connect to a group, a serving team, or appropriate services for ongoing support.

Built on the organic networks and friendships already in place, Caring Connectors are alert to the health and life circumstances facing members of our church and community. This team is successful when every member of the congregation knows that someone cares about them, misses them if they are absent, and feels encouraged by the support of a caring church community.

It is a critical task, and yet a simple one too. The wisdom of Mother Teresa sums it up:

*"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you"*

Every member of RCC is a minister of caring. The Caring Connectors team is ready to support you in that work. **Contact** Paul Lucks, Caring & Missions Pastor (x209), or Annie Barnett, Care & Missions Associate (x203) to learn more.

## Daily Bread Ministry



The Daily Bread Ministry maintains a freezer in the church kitchen packed with prepared meals that can be brought to people who are not able to cook for themselves. Often the Care Deacon will pick up meals or ask someone to bring meals to someone.

We have many loyal cooks and bakers, and when the freezer stock gets low, we put out a call for more meals. For at least a year, we have been tracking the meals coming in and going out. In 2021:  
Meals Prepared – 100.....68 Taken      Cookies and Sweet Breads Baked - 37.....27 Taken

I maintain a list of cooks and bakers and we always are looking for more to add to the list. The list also includes who is willing to deliver meals or to bring a freshly prepared meal to someone. As a new deacon, I am looking to expand this ministry to include, not only transportation of meals, but of prayer shawls and quilts. I would like to find people who live in Evergreen to deliver to Evergreen, and those who live down the mountain to deliver there. If you would be willing to do some transporting, please contact me at: [JanBakken@Gmail.com](mailto:JanBakken@Gmail.com)

There is a spreadsheet on the freezer door to sign in meals and to sign out meals taken. There are also labels to attach to your meals. Meals for two to four are best, and cookies are very popular.

### The Saga of No Loaves, but Fishes

I check the freezer whenever I am at church. One day I found 4 beautiful, large pieces of salmon. I took them home and grilled them and made Salmon Picatta over Rice for the freezer. A few weeks later, there appeared four more fish. Those were given to some grateful church members to enjoy. Then again, in a few months, more salmon appeared. As Craig was preparing them to grill, he said, "I think these are from an Alaskan fishing trip." There was a C written in marker on the package. Previously, we had thought they were from Schwann's. So, whoever the mystery fisherman is, thank you! I have found someone who really appreciates the meals.

## Music Ministry

Rockland welcomed a new choir director and worship leader in January, David McNeil. He is the *Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies* at Colorado Christian University, where he directs three vocal groups. He and his wife, Chelsey, are the parents of four boys: Conrad, Arthur, Henry, and Oscar. They are also expecting a baby girl in June.

McNeil came to Denver in 2018 from doctoral studies in choral conducting at the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music. Prior to that, he had been at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, IN.

David stated that his entire family feels very welcome at Rockland and that it is a good fit for them. The attendance at the Children's Sermon has nearly doubled with the McNeil's in the group.



## Widow's Walk

Our Life Group is called "Widows Walk." It is a support group for those suffering grief at the loss of a loved one. Grief is often misunderstood and a neglected growth process. Religious and spiritual leaders for centuries have noticed we should look at loss as an opportunity for spiritual growth. Simply put, grief is a normal and natural response to loss.

Our group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Rockland Church, adult education room from 10– 11:30 am. Each month the focus is on a biblical theme and focus for discussion. For group support, we also meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month to share lunch together. Losing a loved one is a "new season" of change in one's life. It is a season for taking new steps, to move forward beyond loss. It reminds us that the difficulty of change is really important and accepting these changes. It is a time for taking new steps along the way, in fellowship with others, seeing blessings, and personal growth in Jesus Christ. Transitions in life are a safe harbor. A small group is an opportunity to continually grow and embrace who we are and our quality of life.

If you have any questions, you may contact Gloria Owens via email at [gloriaowens@centurylink.net](mailto:gloriaowens@centurylink.net), leave a phone number and I will call you.



**MONUMENTAL: VBS 2022**  
**JUNE 20-24**

Registration begins April 1<sup>st</sup>!  
Ages 3 (by May 1) – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates

Join the MONUMENTAL ADVENTURE CREW! Contact Lori Fullmer – [LFullmer@Rockland.Church](mailto:LFullmer@Rockland.Church)

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Last year was a banner year with 88 shawls created and 55 of them distributed. We have new members who have joined our group and added wonderful additions to our collection. If you ever need to share a Rockland prayer shawl with any one in need of prayers and comfort, they are available to you.



We thought this month we would share some of the kind words that we have received from Shawl recipients.

"I just had to let you know how much we love and appreciate our handmade prayer shawls! We each got our own shawl for different reasons. At first we wondered just how we were going to use a shawl. Well, we are now inseparable from our shawls. We literally use them every day. Each is exceptionally well made and so very cuddly. We wanted to let you know that we treasure these gifts and will do so for years to come. We believe that a prayer is in each stitch."

"Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl! It is gorgeous and I love the color. It means so much to me to wrap up in it and feel all those prayers and God's presence."

So many notes express such gratitude that it keeps us knitting and crocheting every month.

If you wish to join this devoted ministry come to Fellowship Hall on the second Monday of every month from 1:00-3:00. Blessings to everyone.



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

Editor: Shirley Johnson,  
Production Staff: Jan Bakken, Janis Graham

Contributing Writers/Photographers: Jan Bakken, Annie Barnett, Knoelle Billingsley, Taylor Billingsley, Diane Chapman, Steve Engle, Lori Fullmer, Jennifer Kelly, Liz Hawkins, Peter Miterko, Gloria Owens, Elaine Swope

Lead Pastor: Jim Gribnitz  
Kid's & Connections Pastor: Lori Fullmer  
Care and Missions Pastor: Paul Lucks

## Romania Mission

### SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

Over the past two decades, Rockland has had a huge impact in different areas in Romania. Our partnership with World Vision Romania (WVR) has allowed us to have local oversight in our current support of 45 high school students. This will most likely conclude at the end of the 2021-2022 school term due to the impending closure of the WVR Cluj office.

Thanks to the generous support from Rockland members and friends over the years, it is rewarding to report that the program “I Want to be in the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade” has served over 200 students. Approximately 120 have 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. There is hope that the remaining 45 students (now in grades 9-12) may also be maintained through their graduation.

Up until several years ago, the Romanian mission work also included fund-raising for St. Mary’s day care center, a facility for developmentally challenged adults. What started as a dream project in Cluj materialized to reality in a system unaccustomed to supporting this element of society. Rockland eventually became a component in the building of an entirely new facility, complete with classrooms, a kitchen and a chapel.

On behalf of the Romanian Taskforce, we extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been a part of the Romanian Mission through the years. Your support cannot be recognized enough. We hope that the knowledge that your financial contributions, letters and other means of encouragement have made a significant impact in an individual’s life. These young adults now have an opportunity to pay it forward in an impactful way.



## Overheard by The Church Mouse



"Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply." - Stephen R. Covey.

And what do you reply during these unbelievable days we are living in? When we look at what is going on in our world, it is difficult to make sense of it all: COVID (masks or unmasked), Ukraine war, extreme inflation, gas prices, food prices, southern borders out of control, crime increasing, threats from Russia and China, etc. etc. etc.

Are there any areas of our lives that are not touched by the general upheaval of our civilization? It appears that almost everyone is angry, upset or distressed. We watch our world deteriorating and wonder what can we do? What can we as Christians do to counter the utter chaos around us?

Well, I have been encouraged each Sunday morning as I walk into our sanctuary, with our staff greeting us, with our friends arriving to worship with us, to find some peace of mind during our worship service. We are among friends who are asking the same questions as we do. Sitting together, hearing the Word, and then going forward to take communion. There is something so satisfying to watch the congregation go forward to participate in communion. At least we have our time together on Sunday morning.

Historically, we know that we will eventually be able to deal with the disasters around us...or at least learn to live with them. As we gather and pray together, we know that God is with us even though we do not understand all those disasters around us.

As we prepare for Easter or Resurrection Sunday, let us remember that this holiday is more than Easter eggs and bunny rabbits. It is the holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead described in the New Testament having occurred on the third day after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary in 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus preceded by Lent - a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and penance.

And so we here at Rockland will celebrate Palm Sunday, April 10, at 9:00 am and 10:30 am  
Maundy Thursday, April 14, the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, at 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Good Friday service April 15, at 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  
Easter services, April 17, at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am  
...and finally Bright Sunday, April 24, where we celebrate with joy and wear

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Why is it "the church mouse"? According to the long history of Rockland Church, many years ago there was a mouse that attended services in the Historic Rockland Church. (Rockland came to be in 1880). The story tells of a Sunday morning when neighbors and friends gathered in our old church. While the visiting pastor was giving his sermon, the congregation began to laugh and giggle. The preacher couldn't understand why the folks were responding this way...until he looked down, over the pulpit and there on the railing sat a mouse listening to his sermon. Thus...it was "overheard by the church mouse".



# Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery

## Who Are We?

We are a wholly owned part of Rockland Community Church (Mother Church).

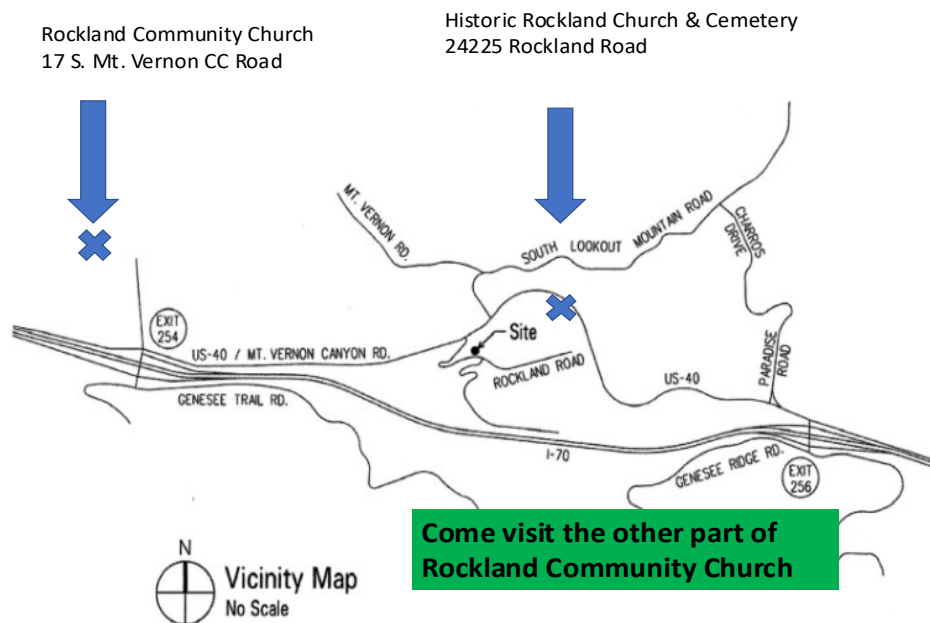
We provide burials and memorials to Rockland Community Church Members and Rockland Community.

We provide weddings, memorial services and celebrations for Rockland Members & Rockland Community in a more intimate setting (seating of about 100 Persons-inside) We act as a chapel to provide more choices to Rockland Community Church Attendees.

This is your church and it is only a mile away from our main campus. Come visit your church. Consider it a fun adventure.

We are making improvements to the building for your expanded use.

We do not receive any funds from Rockland Community Church therefore we depend on donations and fees for burial and celebrations. Checks to Historic Rockland Church. 100% deductible.





## Loaves & Fishes 2022

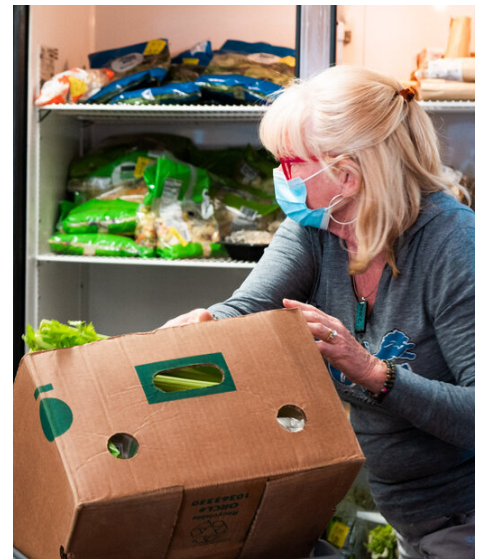
We are excited to be starting 2022 with some new programs. Loaves & Fishes is collaborating with Carlson Elementary in downtown Idaho Springs with the development of a weekend backpack initiative to provide students with food when free school lunches are not available. We look forward to expanding this program and continue our focus on community partnership.

Loaves & Fishes is also working on returning to pre-COVID standards and provide a social gathering area for our clients. Our goal is to offer an area where our clients can meet with others to develop community bonds. We hope that this will help individuals develop a sense of belonging and encourage them to support one another.

## How You Can Help

Loaves & Fishes is looking for volunteers to join our team help eliminate hunger in our community. Even if it is just donating one hour each week, it goes a long way in helping those facing food insecurity.

We are also in need of support to help fix our delivery van. delivery van is how we receive large food donations and enables us to deliver food to our community. It is, unfortunately, out of commission, and we need financial or mechanical help to get it running again.



If you are able to support either of these endeavors, please contact Taylor Billingsley at (512)-285-7697 or email [loavesandfishesco@gmail.com](mailto:loavesandfishesco@gmail.com)

We are trying to expand our reach. Let friends and family know we are a charity that you support and that we need their help. Please share our mission along with our website: <https://www.loavesandfishesco.net> Donations can also be made through PayPal on this site.

### Our Mission

Loaves & Fishes exists 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.



The Rock House has had a great winter season! Weekly we have our Bible Study on Wednesday nights. We are able to offer students a safe, alternative way to spend time after school as well as teach them about God. The youth group is currently run by Cheryl Holmberg in partnership with Knoelle Billingsley (Rock House volunteer coordinator/ media specialist) and her husband Taylor Billingsley (director of Loaves and Fishes). Everyone on the team sees how our students need guidance, protection, and a constructive outlet in their lives. Naturally, this makes it all worth it. Each student has their own story and they share it with us. Many of them are looking for a place to belong and it is here at the Clear Creek Rock House. The Rock House doors are open and ready to welcome more students in. Collectively all of the staff and volunteers, mentors and tutors whole-heartedly believe:

If you "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

Throughout the year we have made such great progress within our Bible Study. We begin by teaching basic gospel because most of our current kids haven't been raised in the church. Step by step we teach the stories of the Bible in new and fun ways. We love that they are coming here and want to learn about the Lord despite having little to no previous exposure to God and His word. We believe in reaching out to the kids like Jesus does to all of us through relationships. We are also so proud that one of our kids just got baptized and another wants to get baptized soon as well. We found that using art, games, movies, and reading the stories out of the Bible are great ways to help the kids learn and retain what we are teaching them. All of this fun we bring into their environment in addition to lessons and a reliable hot meal to begin each night that we gather, has clearly made a significant impact on their lives.

This September the Rock House hired on our new mentor coordinator, Kimsey Lillard. Kimsey has had two years of experience as a Live-In Care Coordinator in a home for 18-29 year old street kids. She also has a multifaceted background in working with all different groups of people, such as leading urban mission trips for youth and guiding backpacking/climbing trips for women and men. With her experience and hope for the mentoring program we are seeking to bring the students on a mission trip! All is going well. However, we are in need of more mentors. We have students we would like to add to the program but do not have mentors for. The Rock House directly pairs an adult and student to have the greatest success. If there is any interest in becoming a mentor, which is September through May commitment on Tuesdays, Kimsey would love to talk with you. Contact her at [mentoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org](mailto:mentoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org).

This August the Rock House also brought on our new tutor coordinator, Kandi Hedges. Kandi moved to Idaho Springs in the fall of 2020 after retiring from 17 years as an education assistant in Douglas County Schools. She opened Rock Canyon High School with her sister who was head of the science department for her entire tenure there. She enjoyed all of her 17 years there in the Special Education

Department, primarily assisting her students in understanding math concepts. With all of this great experience and proven care for her students we knew she would be a great addition to the team! If you also want to join the team of tutors to help students achieve their goals contact Kandi at [tutoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org](mailto:tutoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org).

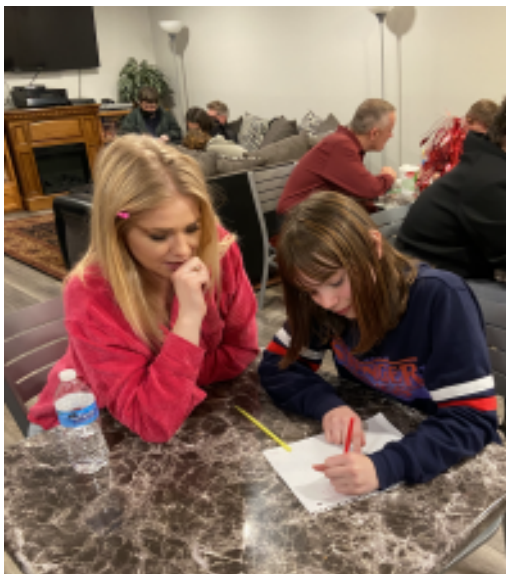
With all of this great success and potential we are so excited to transition into this year of 2022. Our team is focusing on adding more structure, more fun for the students, and more people to join us in our mission.

If you are interested in more information on how you can get involved with the Clear Creek Rock House please email Knoelle Billingsley at [volunteering@clearcreekrockhouse.org](mailto:volunteering@clearcreekrockhouse.org).

We are so grateful for your support and could not do what we do without you!

Knoelle Billingsley  
*Clear Creek Rock House Media Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator*

### Mentoring Night and Bible Study





Rockland  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Connecting all generations to Jesus*

17 S. Mt. Vernon Country Club Road  
Golden CO, 80401

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Golden, CO  
Permit No. 128

**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](http://www.Rockland.Church)