

Exaltation Prayer

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*

Isaiah 2:11 *Lord, give us the eyes to see the arrogant be humbled and human pride brought low. We seek you alone Lord the day you will be exalted.*

Psalms 34:3 *Glorify the Lord as we exalt his name together.*

Psalms 108:5 *Be exalted O God, above the heavens! let your glory be over all the Earth.*

Proverbs 11:11 *Through the blessing of the upright a city will be exalted.*

Isaiah 25:1 *Lord you are our God, we exalt you and praise your holy name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things.*

Hebrews 5:5 *Christ you did not take upon yourself to be a high priest, but God told you, you are my Son, today I have become your Father.*

James 4:10 *Humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up.*

Matthew 23:12 *For those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humbled themselves will be exalted.*

Luke 16:15 *God knows your heart.*

Acts 2:23 *Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out his love.*

Philippians 2:9 *God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name above every name.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 *Stand firm and always thank God, He chose us to be firstfruits to be saved through the work of the spirit and through belief in the truth.*

Prayer: Father, help us to humble ourselves under your mighty hand. Erase all forms of pride from our hearts and help us to handle it well when you honor us as promised in your Word.

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May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father who loved us, and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope. We ask you to encourage our hearts to be strengthened in every good deed and word. God, you receive nothing but only give. We thank you. We need you and thank you for the foundation of all perfection and goodness, your power and your love are beyond anything we could ever imagine.

Father, help us to humble ourselves under your mighty hand. Erase all forms of pride from our hearts and help us to handle it well when you honor us as promised in your Word.

In the fullness of time, you sent your son in perfect wisdom. Your Son Jesus is beyond anything the prophets ever dreamed, ascended into heaven and we give you thanks and praise. You will put an end to death. The only reason for tears in heaven will be for the joy as we worship at your feet. We will exalt your name and give you the glory, honor, and power.

We seek you in prayer and adoration giving praise to worship your holy name and your supernatural powers. We lift high the cross, proclaiming forgiveness and redemption in you alone. You have blessed us in Jesus' precious blood. He is our King of kings, Lord of lords, and the great 'I AM.' We worship you in humility. Thank you for being in our lives. Thank you for the grace you have given us. We thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for our salvation and for giving us faith and strength. Amen *Gloria Owens*

Elders' Corner

The Rockland Elders are pleased to announce that Gary Severson has been appointed to the Elder Board to fill a vacancy left with the departure of Peter Miterko. For forty-six years, he has been a born-again follower of Jesus Christ, and for those same forty-six years, he has been married to Berta. As Gary says, "Forty-six years is not a coincidental number because it was Berta who introduced me to Jesus. We have built our marriage on the bedrock of His love and grace." Gary and Berta have been members of Rockland for eight years and lead a weekly in-home Bible study. It is the solid Bible teaching, preaching, and outreach of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at Rockland that attracted Gary and Berta to Rockland.

Gary is originally from Iowa but has lived in Colorado for fifty-four years. He retired from his career in 2021 after working in the discipline of group problem solving in controversial issues from public school desegregation, industrial facilities siting and permitting, and natural resources management. He is the former executive director of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments and served as a senior consultant to the United States Forest Service until his retirement.

Together, Gary and Berta have five children and five grandchildren. They have lived in the mountains of Colorado for their entire married life and reside in Evergreen.

Gary is humbled to be asked to join the Elder Board and seek God's guidance in serving Rockland. He has graciously agreed to cover the Operations ministry team, providing oversight to budget, stewardship, facilities management and maintenance, and human resources.

Patrick Heck-Lead Elder

Tracy Adreon

Joyce Dunbar

Todd Graber

Jim Gribnitz

Kevin Grieve



Gary Severson



During Vacation Bible School the kids learned how they can be part of God's kingdom through salvation in his Son and also, how they will be equipped with the armor of God to become Keepers of the Kingdom and stand strong in today's battle for truth.

- We are engaged in an epic battle for the hearts and minds of our youth. Every day, they're bombarded with lies about who they are, who their Creator is, and where their salvation comes from. Thankfully, God has given his children armor to wear in this battle between truth and lies, light and darkness, and good and evil.
- We welcomed 111 children and 65 volunteers to our campus.
- The children learned the words and dance motions to 12 new songs. These songs reinforced the Bible's point for the day.
- After the opening ceremony each day, the children went to 4-5 different stations depending on their ages. The stations included Bible stories, learning memory verses, playing games, learning about mission opportunities, and even enjoying a yummy snack. Each of the stations served to re-emphasize the Bible point and learning expectations for that day.
- At the end of the week, we presented each child with a full set of armor to remind them of all that they have learned throughout the week.
- On Friday, the parents joined us for the closing ceremonies and a family picnic. The children were able to show off what they had learned and done during VBS.

Overall, it was a very impactful week, and we appreciate the opportunity to pour into these children and help them to learn more about Jesus.

We also want to say a big thank you to all our amazing volunteers, we truly could not have done this without you.

Find VBS pictures throughout Chimes.



Stephen Ministry

HOORAY FOR ROCKLAND!

Our Rockland community is so fortunate to have a strong and thriving Stephen Ministry as one of the benefits that we offer our congregation. As a result, many individuals have received support when they needed it the most. Six talented, compassionate people just completed training and have been commissioned as Stephen Ministers. They are (from left to right): Carole Urbas, Holly Davidson, Jon Stockham, Dr. Elaine Swope as the Ministry Leader, Jim Ament, Bob Vanourek, and Tami Grieve. Please join us in praying for them as they provide confidential, one-on-one care to those in need. Want more info? Contact Pastor Paul, Chris Elmgreen, or Elaine. WE CARE!!



EMPATHY IS SOMETHING WE ALL NEED

....and it's something we ALL can give.

Empathy is a powerful way to understand others, forge stronger relationships, and care for those who are hurting. If everyone empathized with each other more often, it could go a long way to overcoming the division, isolation, and misunderstanding that are so prevalent today.

Here are three essentials for doing that:

- Be open to the other person's experience by LISTENING more and talking LESS
- Be willing to make a personal connection! Seek to understand, as best you can, what the other person is thinking and feeling
- Be focused on the other person. One of the many blessings of offering empathy is that it lets the other person know that their feelings are valid, their experiences are important, and that somebody cares about them

Need more empathy in your own life? Consider reaching out to our own rock stars at empathy! **Rockland's Stephen Ministers come with an empathy mindset.** We stand ready to support you in coping with life's challenges. A brief referral via Pastor Paul Lucks might be just the ticket you need.

Rockland Fellowship

April 16, 2023 Rockland Bright Sunday Celebration

What is Bright Sunday?

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including Bright Sunday, **the Sunday after Easter**, was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Rockland has supported that tradition each year by having a celebration potluck. This year it was April 26, 2023, with 225 attending this joyous celebration. The food was delicious and the fellowship was warm and loving! The kids were so excited as they received their individualized balloons made by our "balloon lady." Look for pictures of the celebration on Page 6.

Student Ministries

On a Wednesday morning in June, Pastor Aaron and Pastor Robby accompanied six Rockland students to Christ's Body Ministries in Denver. Their motto is *We Feed, Clothe, Heal and Share the Gospel*. They have a "Caravan of Care" that provides warm meals, hygiene products, clothing, and pastoral care to those in need.

The students helped to prepare and wrap 620 burritos to be delivered to those who are homeless and in need. The burritos serve as nourishment as well as open the door for conversations about Jesus Christ. The students also spent some time sorting and organizing the donated clothing items to be delivered to those in need.



Aaron, Riley, Cassidy, Abigail, Seth, Josh, Robby and Tucker

At the end of our service, they heard a very powerful testimonial from a gentleman who used to live on the streets. He has broken his addictions and now works on the staff at Christ's Body. All in all, it was a great time of service and fellowship that will leave an impact on this group for a long time.

Tanzanian Action Committee

As you read this, the 2023 Rockland Church Mission Team is making final preparations for its July trip to Arusha, Tanzania. Joining the trip this year are Scott, Grace, and Anaya Kern, Sonya Ostrander, Diane Wein, Steve Hannah, Nancy Clement, and Katie Bellott.

Our ongoing missions in Tanzania are the Christian education of young women to empower them to live independent and Godly lives. We also make livestock placements in rural areas to improve access to water and nutrition, especially among families with young children and widows. Our longstanding partnership with Ilboru Church allows us to support them in their precious and vital role in supporting their community. The cornerstone of each of these missions is *Relationship*. *Relationship* allows us to both demonstrate the love of Christ through service and also to encourage the Tanzanians we touch in their relationship with Christ.

As an extension of those relationships, and with the help of Ilboru Church, we are able to access areas of the Arusha region where many people have not heard the message of Salvation through Jesus. We will be conducting two "Eyeglass Clinics" on the outskirts of Arusha. These clinics are open to all in the region. The format is for each person's vision to be tested to see if they would benefit from a pair of simple reading glasses. Then, they are asked if they would like to hear the message of Salvation through Christ. The goal is for each person to first hear, then accept, the message of Salvation. Bibles (in Swahili) are gifted to all who would like to read God's word for themselves.

Please pray for the 2023 Tanzania Mission Team, for the physical safety of the team, and most importantly, that they fulfill God's will for them during their time with His children in Arusha, Tanzania.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Summer Reading Possibility

A Rockland friend, a very caring person, gave me a book called ***Contemplative Knitting*** by Julie Cicora. The introduction begins: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for all this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1Thessalonians 5:16-18

This beautiful book has given me great inspiration to keep knitting prayerfully. Julie Cicora is an Episcopal priest who was ordained in 2000 after a long career in the business world. She is an avid knitter and a good writer.

Each chapter is inspirational, and I will be sharing her thoughts with our Prayer Shawl Ministry team as we continue meeting through this year. We meet on the second Monday and the fourth Tuesday of each month. We create our shawls either by crocheting or knitting, then pass them on to others.

This quote from Julie's book seems very poignant to me. She is referring to an old sweater her grandmother knitted which she has kept in her closet for years.

"Material things hold the meaning that we give them. What is important is the love we pass on to others, the memories we make with them that they can take into the future."

If you cannot attend our gatherings in person, we would be happy to share some yarn, needles, and patterns so you can be creative in your own time and space.

We will be gathering on July 10 and 25, August 14 and 22. Come join the fun!



Rockland Bright Sunday



Awake Not Woke

The Disciple Ministry hosted another Rockland Talks, the fourth in our series, featuring Noelle Mering, speaking on the topic of *A Christian's Response to the Woke Movement*. We had a great evening with approximately 210 people attending from inside and outside Rockland.



Noelle Mering, a Fellow at the Washington DC-based think tank, the Ethics and Public Policy Center, author of the book, *Awake Not Woke: A Christian Response to the Cult of Progressive Ideology*, founder and editor of the website "Theology of the Home" and co-author of the book *Theology of the Home*, gave prepared comments for about 45 minutes followed by brief Q&A. She thoughtfully, but directly described the status of the "woke" movement, which traces its roots back to Marxist ideology, as anti-Christian, anti-family, and anti-American. While Marxism framed the power struggle as one of economics between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, "wokeism" now defines its power struggle as societal oppression along the lines of gender, race, and sexuality. She explained how the woke movement is continuing the "long march through the institutions" and that its goal is not truth but power, division, and control. History, she said, shows us that because the movement cannot tolerate dissent, its trajectory is censorship, violent enforcement, and cultural totalitarianism. Christianity is the antithesis of what the woke movement is doing today. Christianity's goal is unity, restoration, love, and acceptance. Noelle's talk is anchored on five key themes:

1. Christianity defines us by what we *share*, our common humanity, our brotherhood/sisterhood, and our love of God. The woke movement defines us by our *divisions*, hatred, and contempt.
2. Christians are called to spread the *good news* that we are loved by God. A woke activist is called to spread the *bad news* that you are oppressed by an external force and deeply hated and to rub raw the sores of discontent leading to disharmony.
3. Christianity asks us to look inwardly and reflect on our own sin and take *accountability* for our own behavior. The woke ideology asks us to be a *victim* and perpetual accuser leading to helplessness as all my successes are due to privilege and all my failures are due to systemic oppression.
4. Christians believe God created Man and Woman as distinct yet complementary, uphold the sanctity of marriage, and cherish the *intrinsic value* of every person comprised of body and soul. The woke movement insists that your body, your biology, and sex is *meaningless* leading to transgenderism, homosexuality, and abortion which ends in instability, confusion, and dehumanization.
5. Because sin is insatiable, the woke movement will continue its downward trajectory becoming more radical and more aggressive in its pursuit to normalize sin. There is no limiting principle. It will seek to corrupt our children, to remove any last remnants of purity and innocence in our society.

Looking ahead, Noelle sees three categories of action: We need to heal, we need to awaken, and we need to stop the "woke" movement. Noelle posited that the re-establishment of the fatherhood role, as

protector, provider, and shepherd is one key pathway to renewal. She offered several real-world applications, and she encouraged us as individuals and church leaders to:

1. Be a good friend and co-worker to others to build relationships and community.
2. Stand for the truth knowing that you may suffer for it.
3. Engage in the dialogue with grace, dignity, and respect, and seek clarity and understanding.
4. Start and end with prayer.

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 their corresponding culture of ideas. That is your worldview. Given this context, we host two events per year 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 19, 2023**, featuring best-selling author, Christian Philosopher, and Apologist, Dr. Douglas Groothuis from Denver Seminary.

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

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Rockland Testimonial

I was born to devoted God-loving parents. My early memories of around the age of three included, beyond nighttime prayer, sitting at the dining table with Mother reading the 23rd Psalm to me daily. With an uncluttered mind I soon could "read" it to her. It began to give meaning to the picture on our living room wall of Christ praying at Gethsemane. I loved singing *Jesus Loves Me* and *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, as it gave meaning to my picture book of the children sitting and kneeling at the feet of Jesus.

The innocence and faith of a child! I knew Jesus was always with me. Each night I gave room for Him to lie down next to me in bed. I dreamed about Him at night. At the age of five when my sister was born and I was excitedly given the news, "You have a little sister," I confidently said, "I know. I asked God for a little sister."

Such a beautiful foundation my parents had given me in growing up with Jesus!



My growth in "knowing Him" to a deeper level came many years later. My dog, Heidi disappeared. When you live alone, your dog is often your everything! I was devastated, yet through the pain and condolences of many friends I continued to reply, "I have faith that she'll come back." My pleading prayers cried out nightly and throughout the day, yet I kept saying, "I have faith." One night, after several months, my cry was louder and more accusing that God was not answering my prayer. I heard very firmly my Lord say, "Your prayer is not in alignment with my will." I realized that my faith was in what ***I wanted***, not faith in my Father's will. I cried, asking forgiveness and that Heidi, wherever she was, would be well taken care of.

That was the beginning of a beautiful plan in the making. Just as Heidi disappeared another pup was being born. After several failed attempts in adopting a pup, God guided me to the home of the final pup and the runt of a litter of 7. I fell in love with Baylea the moment I picked her up. Although she appeared in every way to be healthy, I had a gut feeling that something was not right. Upon taking her in for a wellness check a week later, it was discovered that she needed heart surgery. The vet was amazed that I had picked up on her "illness" and said, upon completion of surgery that, on a scale of 1-6 the hole in her heart was a six. She would not have lived beyond another three days. She is now an aging but healthy 16-year-old pup! AND, five years later, to the month, I received a call from a lady that had found Heidi living more than 100 miles away! God had it all in place for a healthy Baylea and a happy Heidi now living together with me.

As the return of Heidi opened a closer relationship with God, it was the beginning of His peeling back layers in the revelation of who He is and where He wants me to be. There are so many beautiful things that happened during Heidi's absence that would NOT have taken place had she not disappeared.

I had finally released my faith *in my will* to the **faith of my Father**. He knows. He never lets me down.

And now, as I grow nearer to God, I still lie down and ask Him to snuggle next to me. He does! I still sing. Oh, how I love to sing hymns!! But I now sing, *Jesus KNOWS me, this I LOVE!*



Overheard by The Church Mouse



Nuggets of Truth From the Substitute Church Mouse

The substitute church mouse crawled out of his hole 15 minutes early to arrive at Rockland where he scurried under the back pew. "Be still and know that I am God," Pastor Jim preached. "We must prepare our hearts and minds for worship."

"But we Coloradoans have so much to yell and scream about," thought the church mouse. "Doesn't Jim know we have the best NBA team in the West? We adore Saint Nikola, the Joker. He delivers more games than Santa Claus. In fact, they call him 'The Complete Package.'" And he is a Christian too. He was raised in the Orthodox Christian Church in Serbia.

"Sorry, God, I was just joking. I get distracted by the Nuggets. I know that you are the one and only true God. But what time is the game on today? What network? Did I set my DVR?"

The sun shone bright on the snow-covered mountains creating a shining postcard of beauty, just luring his thoughts to next Sunday's hike. "No better place to pray than out on the trail," thought the church mouse. "I'll find the trailhead using my Google Maps with GPS."

"But you must also come together with other Christians to worship God," Jim quoted the Psalm. "With prayer and song we shout for joy!"

"I bet most of the shouting is for Nikola and Murray at Ball Arena on this Sunday," allowed the church mouse. Martha Mouse was home in her hole preparing her buffet of snacks for the game. She was always serving others with her homemaking talents, no time today for gazing at the rocky cross up front in the sanctuary. Let her sister Mary Mouse sit with Jesus.

The screen was lifted as the service was ending, and glorious light spread over the sanctuary from the horizon. The church mouse could begin to visualize next Sunday's hike in the distant light.

"He is the Light and the Truth and the Way," Jim continued as he was about to break the communion loaf. Never one to miss a crumb of truth, the substitute mouse raced forward just in time to savor a tasty morsel of bread as it fell. It traveled down his small throat and nourished his little mouse soul. "I think I'll be back next Sunday!" he squeaked. And the Light shone on his curvy mouse tail and plump little body, satisfied at last.

This mouse tale was written just for you. Set your GPS, God Positioning System, for Rockland. Come into the Light next Sunday. Break bread with fellow Christians, and you shall be satisfied.





A Beloved Ragamuffin Project

MEAN STREET MINISTRY STREET OUTREACH

While most of us are about to settle in for dinner on Monday and Tuesday nights each week, a group of faithful volunteers are hitting the east and west sides of Colfax armed with burritos, Bibles and the Holy Spirit. These Mean Street Ministry volunteers are bringing hope and prayer to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. Rockland Elder and Mean Street Ministry Manager Todd Graber has been leading the evening outreach trips for more than a decade. "Street Ministry is not what you think it is. Slavishly quoting scripture, or memorizing lines aren't the best ways to reach people," says Graber. Last year, through this outreach, Mean Street Ministry saw more than 60 individuals accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! "Listening is the most important way to illustrate your love for them," he explains.



If you want to learn more about Mean Street Ministry's outreach group and how you can get involved, contact Todd Graber at 303-232-2500.

Rockland Prayer Chain

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. 1 John 5: 14-15

Once a man was asked "What did you gain by regularly praying to God? The man replied, nothing...but let me tell you what I lost: Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death." Sometimes the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing, which ultimately is a gain.

It is important that we remember to never limit our prayers because we think we are sinful or undeserving. We are not praying because of who we are, we are praying because of who He is.

If you would like a team of prayer warriors to pray for you or a loved one, please send an email to Chris Elmgreen at CElmgreen@Rockland.Church to be added to a prayer sheet that is distributed to approximately 130 people. Also, contact Chris if you would like to receive the weekly prayer sheet via email.



Rockland Staff Updates

Chris Elmgreen

This past April, Chris Elmgreen joined our staff as Executive Administrative Assistant. Chris married her husband in 1992 and they have three children. Her husband Kevin is head of security here at Rockland and is a financial and retirement planner. Her daughter, Natalie is married and attends Rockland from time to time. Her daughter Kinna teaches Sunday school here at Rockland and serves coffee. Her son Trace is a volunteer on the security team, and occasionally he will fill in for the Jefferson County deputies at church.



After being a stay-at-home mom for 14 years, she attended the Victim Assistance Academy through Colorado Organization for Victims Assistance and Metro State. Chris became a victim advocate for a law enforcement agency where she would go to crime scenes with law enforcement and provide services for victims. Three years later she worked at a district attorney's office where she specialized in working with victims of felony-level crimes, and she was on the prosecution team for trials. After thirteen years Chris left victim advocacy, and six months later she happily started working here at Rockland.

Aaron Stevens

Rockland recently welcomed Aaron Stevens as the Student and Family Pastor. Aaron has been working in ministry for nearly a decade. He has a bachelor's degree in Christian ministry with a minor in church ministry and an associate degree in business administration. Aaron is looking forward to helping kids, students, and families develop and take ownership of their relationship with Jesus.

Aaron brings with him his wife Lizzie and their 5 children. Carter, age 17 will be attending pilot school in Texas. McKinley, age 13 will also be attending school in Texas. Lucas is 5, Mia is 3 and Gracelyn is 1. They have extended family in Littleton and are excited to be closer to them. Lizzie will begin teaching 4th grade at Denver Christian School in the fall, where Lucas will also be attending.



Aaron is excited for the kingdom work being done at Rockland and believes God is at work in bringing his family to Colorado.

Aaron humbly requests prayers for his family as they transition to their lives in Colorado.

Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery

Memorial Day at Historic Rockland Church & Cemetery

The little Historic Rockland Church & Cemetery was filled to capacity to celebrate Memorial Day. CT Westgard, US Navy, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of our National Anthem. Holly Davidson, of the Rockland Choir, offered a Memorial Day Prayer. The UltrasoniX Quartet then recognized our veterans with the "Armed Forces Medley." They vocalized the song of each branch of the Armed Services while each group of veterans stood and saluted. "My Country 'Tis of Thee" was presented in Bells by Tony and Nancy Pranaitis and a third wonderful volunteer.



"A Moment of History" was presented by Steve Engle who spoke about five deceased members of Rockland Community Church who are included in the Jefferson County Hall of Fame. Dick Parks gave us an outstanding Memorial Day message. It included the challenges of Patriotism, and what challenges America has faced in the past and present, and how we have persevered and America's hope of our future.



The Rockland Choir presented a beautiful rendition of "Eternal Father! Strong to Save". Dr. Bob Klimek from our community led us to sing "America the Beautiful" with a special overlay from the quartet.

We finished our program outside in the Historic Cemetery with Patrick Heck playing "Taps." Throughout our celebration, David McNeil, Rockland Music Director, led our hymns and choir by playing our 1907 pump organ. It was a gorgeous day, and everyone played a part in a beautiful service.



Whoa, we're halfway there!

I am thrilled to announce that Loaves & Fishes is halfway to paying off the sewage repairs after just two months. All of us would like to thank you for your support.

We are working hard to earn the other half, and we do have a fundraiser planned in July. On July 15th and 16th, we are having a yard sale/BBQ. We will start accepting small item donations July 5th and large items on July 12th-15th.

If you have any questions, you can email me at loavesandfishescc@gmail.com or call the office Wednesday-Friday 10 am-4 pm.

If you would like to support for the rest you can donate through our Website

<https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/donate> or through Colorado Gives

<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/Loaves-And-Fishes-43>.

As a way to increase our impact in our community, we have new hours! As of June 1st, we are open: Thursday 11 am-4 pm and Friday 12 pm-6 pm.

God has blessed *Loaves & Fishes* in many ways, and I know that He will continue His work through us.

Rachel Josselyn, Executive Director

Rockland Supper Club

My husband Mike and I started attending Rockland last summer. We agreed that we wanted to make Rockland our church home, but as newcomers to the area, we knew very few people here. When I read about Rockland's Supper Clubs in the church bulletin, we sensed this would be the perfect opportunity to make deeper connections with the church community and to move beyond, "Hello, it's nice to meet you" on Sunday mornings.

We've enjoyed two seasons of supper clubs, meeting with 4-5 couples or singles once a month for four months and enjoying conversation around the table over a leisurely meal. These meals have fostered growing friendships. Potlucks and rotating to each family's home make hosting uncomplicated. The groups have been flexible about meeting times, looking to find a time that works for everyone. We've met on weeknights, weekends, and Sunday brunches. It's not about creating a perfect meal but sharing time together. Learning about one another's faith, families, and lives has been a joy. Coming to church and moving from familiar faces and trying to remember names to being asked, "How's your house hunt going Emily, how's your job search going? I've been praying for you." Or "Thanks for praying for my visit with my children. It went well," feels so good. The wonderful Rockland community is beginning to feel like the church family we need. Because of these supper clubs, we now have at least eight families we can call friends. And our happy update is with gratitude for prayers: I have a new job and we're moving into a beautiful new home this week!

Sharing a meal and conversation with anyone is a treat. Meeting repeatedly creates a special opportunity to build relationships. Rockland's supper clubs are a unique opportunity to build community, and strengthen our church family.





We have wrapped up the 2022/2023 school year programs and we're now into our *Summer Fun* programs. Our volunteer mentors have been incredibly supportive throughout the year in helping, guiding, and caring for our students. We are grateful for the incredible sacrifice in the giving of their time. The mentoring students made big steps in our life skills training assessment from the beginning of the year. They learned the importance of giving back to others by doing local community service projects. They learned to push themselves harder and farther when they went to the climbing wall. We witnessed each student's personal growth and progress as they experienced new learning opportunities. The mentors and students recently celebrated an end-of-year picnic at Bear Creek Lake Park.

In our tutoring program, there was an improvement in grades for all students with the help of our amazing tutors. The youth group did well in grasping basic gospel teachings through the Alpha course. They attended a rally in Lafayette where the students enjoyed live music, games, and listened to a motivational speaker. In June the youth group kids spent a week camping at Boyd Lake. A successful season was had by all seven students who completed the equestrian therapy program. They gained confidence and skills to use in their daily life, a beautiful witness of hope. At the end-of-year celebration, each student received a completion certificate and a framed photo with their horse.

We are very excited and proud of two students who made the commitment to be baptized this year. We had great attendance from parents, mentors, and students at the Rockland baptism in April.



On June 6th we hosted an ice cream social for all 5th and 6th grade students of Clear Creek County to introduce ourselves and invite them to be a part of the Rock House summer programs. Our *Summer Fun* program meets on Wednesday evenings, from June 21st through mid-August, and includes activities like karaoke, scavenger hunts, BBQs, and games on the full-use court. We plan to take kids boating and paddle boarding at Chatfield Lake throughout the summer, and horse camps will also be offered through Grace Mountain Ranch.

If you are interested in volunteering or knowing more about any of our programs, feel free to contact us.

Director - [Cheryl Holmberg](mailto:Cheryl.Holmberg@clearcreekrockhouse.org) director@clearcreekrockhouse.org

Tutoring - Kandi Hedges tutoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org

Mentoring - Kimsey Lillard mentoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org

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With Gratitude,

Ruth Baker

Clear Creek Rock House Media Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator



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ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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