

Holy Week is an important time for believers to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Each of our Holy Week services offers a window into an essential event in the life of Christ. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend each of these special worship services.

Join us for **Palm Sunday** services on March 24 at 9:00 am and 10:30 am as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and prepare our hearts for the Holy Week ahead. Children will wave palms as we celebrate the arrival of our King.

Our **Maundy Thursday** service, on March 28 at 7 pm, will be a time to remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. We will close the service with Holy Communion.

This year's **Good Friday Tenebrae** service will be on March 29 at 7 pm. Our choir will sing Michael John Trotta's *Seven Last Words* with orchestra, and we will reflect on the suffering of our Savior. This service will also include congregational singing, Scripture readings, and the gradual extinguishing of candles to symbolize the increasing darkness Jesus experienced on the cross.

Holy Week culminates in our **Easter Celebration** on Sunday, March 31. Come and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His victory over sin and death! We will gather for traditional worship with choir, organ, and strings at 8:00 and 9:30 am and contemporary worship at 11:00 am.

The Easter season traditionally continues with days of joy and laughter, celebrating the resurrection. The Sunday after Easter is known as Bright Sunday. We are making plans to come together for food, fellowship, and fun. The invitation follows.

### Inside this Issue:

Bright Sunday  
Music Ministry  
Fellowship  
Page 2

Stephen Ministry  
Discipleship  
Page 3

Rockland  
Testimonial  
Page 4

Rockland Talks  
Daily Bread Ministry  
Page 5

Rockland Staff  
Children's Ministry  
Page 6

Care Ministry  
Page 7

Loaves & Fishes  
Page 8

Prayer Shawl  
Page 9

Tanzania Action  
Committee  
Page 10

Mean Street  
Historic Rockland  
Pages 11

Church Mouse  
Page 13

Rockland Italy Trip  
Page 14

CC Rock House  
Page 15

## Bright Sunday

YOU'RE INVITED TO

### Bright Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

11:45AM - 1PM

Last Names A-P: bring a side dish

Last Names Q-Z: bring a dessert

MAIN DISH PROVIDED

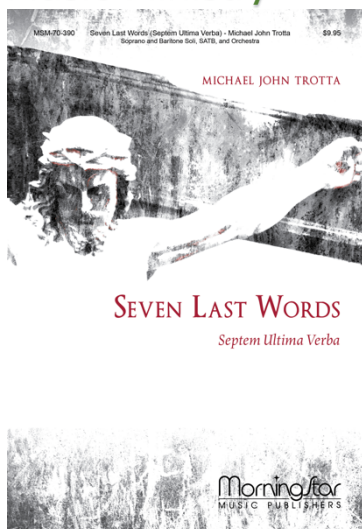
Rockland Community Church

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

### What is Bright Sunday?

Bright Sunday or Holy Humor Sunday is a tradition extending to some of the earliest Christian theologians who noted that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was "God's supreme joke played on death." The Sunday after Easter became a "bright Sunday" filled with joy and laughter. Many churches celebrate with picnics, bright decorations, laughter, and fun.

## Music Ministry



### Mark your calendar!

Good Friday Tenebrae service  
Rockland Choir Cantata  
March 29, 7:00 pm  
Rockland Community Church

## Fellowship

A Seder meal? What? Isn't that a Jewish thing? It is, but it is also for the Christian. The Seder is the traditional dinner that Jews partake of during Passover. It is observed around the globe to commemorate the wondrous signs and miracles God did when He took the Jewish people out of Egypt and out of slavery. It foreshadows the miraculous work our Lord Jesus Christ did on Calvary.



Come to Rockland Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 pm and learn about the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Join Messianic Rabbi Stewart Lieberman and his team as they lead us through a Passover Seder teaching and meal that will enrich your understanding of Christ's death and resurrection. Register online at [rockland.church/seder](http://rockland.church/seder), the cost is \$30 per person: first come, first served. Nursery is available upon request. Contact Janis at [jgraham@rockland.church](mailto:jgraham@rockland.church) with questions

### A Story About Our Supportive Rockland Community

This story begins with Rockland's Weekly Prayer List, which is intended to connect us to our church community, especially those we may not have seen at services for a while. Maybe they have not been participating because of a surgery or some other health issue. Reading this list, you may be moved to write a get-well card or sympathy card. Certainly, we are strongly drawn to remember those in need in our prayers.

Think about Judgment Day. Suppose that Jesus had a Judgment Day. If He did, what would He have presented: That He was a good son to His God? That He prayed? It is unlikely He would have only referenced, "I have believed in God and prayed." He took *meaningful* action when He was aware that somebody was hurting, and not just within His close circle of friends and loved ones.

While we realize that good deeds alone are not sufficient, do consider taking the next step when you review the Weekly Prayer List. Consider taking action to comfort those who are in need. Perhaps they need a ride to get to Sunday services or to their next doctor visit. Perhaps they would appreciate something from our *Daily Bread* food pantry. Perhaps just a quick phone call would brighten their day. God will guide you! And, if you are not receiving Rockland's Weekly Prayer List, just let Chris know at [celmgreen@rockland.church](mailto:celmgreen@rockland.church).

## Discipleship Ministry

Have you made public that you are a follower of Christ? If you have never been baptized after trusting Christ as your Savior, we invite you to come to a two-session preparation class on Sun. Mar. 17 & 24th at 9 AM in the Conference Room to learn more. The actual Baptism Service will be on April 7th, 2024. For more information, contact Pastor Paul at [plucks@rockland.church](mailto:plucks@rockland.church).



### The ALL-NEW Art of Marriage 6-Week Sunday Morning Class

Begins Sun. April 21 at 9 AM in Room 108 and goes through May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Cost: \$30 (cost of workbooks)

Facilitated by Paul & Sandy Lucks.

We all crave "the good stuff" in our marriages: resiliency, forgiveness, selflessness, and all the rest. But how do we practice perfect love in our imperfect marriages? Essential aspects of God's love are illuminated in this ALL-NEW Art of Marriage, bringing God's example into practical application through six 60-minute sessions. This class is designed to help couples explore new levels of intimacy, communication, and connection with their spouse. Each session includes a 25-minute video followed by a 35-minute group discussion. The class comes with His and Her workbooks to teach how to live out the brilliant, untapped potential of marriage, which, in the eyes of God, is a true masterpiece. The workbook set offers an experience tailored to each spouse with reflections, challenge questions, and devotionals designed to enhance the distinct perspectives men and women bring to a marriage. To register, go to [www.rockland.church/artofmarriage](http://www.rockland.church/artofmarriage).





## Rockland Testimonial

### Who I am in Christ – Michael Drewek

I was lost for the first 44 years of my life. How is that possible for someone who is a successful neurosurgeon? I have an awesome wife and two great kids. I was raised by parents who ensured we attended church every week. Church was something I continued to “do” even as an adult. We were married in an Episcopal church in Nashville. We had two kids who were baptized and went to Sunday school.



Then came the summer of July 2010. We were in Wisconsin at our lake house. My wife gave me a book to read called *Left Behind*. The story depicts a possible scenario of what could happen if there indeed was to be a rapture of all the believers in the world. Many people left behind, including a pastor, were surprised to find out they didn't make the cut. One of the evenings that July, I was awakened by the full moon shining through the bedroom window on my face. Sitting up in bed, I looked out over Lake Michigan with the moonbeam on the water catching my attention. In the background was a quiet voice saying, “Read Matthew.” I had no idea where that came from or what it meant. I went back to sleep.

A few days later, I was totally alone on the screened porch on a cold, foggy afternoon. No one else was around, not even the dog. I wanted to finish the book my wife had given me. The concept of being left behind started to become very real and frightened me somewhat. After turning over the last page of the story, another page asked if I wanted Jesus to truly be a part of my life. I started to cry, dropped to my knees, and asked for forgiveness as I shouted out loud the Sinner's Prayer, which followed at the bottom of the page. Even though the cold fog was surrounding me, I felt my body suddenly turn warm. Something powerful had just happened, but at the time, I had no understanding of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. From that moment, I was transformed.

Then God jumpstarted my journey of building my faith and trust in Him. When I returned home, I bought a Bible and read the book of Matthew. Even though I had recited the Lord's Prayer hundreds of times in the past it now came to life. Two weeks later, I stepped into the classroom at Rockland, where the 7 am Men's Bible Study was being held. The Spirit also prompted me to get baptized in a river, and my family and other brothers witnessed it. I felt like Levi being transformed from someone focused on money to the Apostle Matthew now following in the footsteps of Jesus.

We traveled to Tanzania with my family to meet the students we sponsored there. Gospel for Asia asked me to join them on a two-week journey around India to visit leprosy colonies and meet missionaries on boats as they went off two by two on bikes. Back home, my wife and I did weekly street ministry with Mean Street. Pastor Ken Williams offered me the opportunity to join the outreach team at our church. It was a privilege to serve and learn about what Kingdom building means in practical terms.

I have spent the last three years trying to understand the Holy Spirit and how to obey God's calling through the Spirit. God does not reveal his five-year plan to us but prompts us one step at a time. I have heard in prayer that there is a mission ahead of me for which I need to prepare. I have heard many times, “God does not call the equipped but equips the called.” When I learned about the William Tennent School of Theology from my close friend, I searched deeper into the program. We meet in person along with our professors at a Christian camp outside Colorado Springs each semester for two weeks. We study the Bible in-depth and write papers and sermons during the rest of the semester in preparation for our time in residency with our classmates and professors. Spouses and family are invited to attend as well. The program is based on a model used by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The curriculum will clearly help equip me for my still unknown journey that God has planned. It also helps draw me closer to Jesus through an in-depth study of the Word.



Being a part of a cohort of like-minded students excites me, especially when one of them is a close brother in Christ. I retired last summer from neurosurgery to enable me to focus on my Biblical studies. I am excited to see where God leads me after completing my seminary training in January 2025.

*Michael Drewek*

## Rockland Talks

### **Does Pain and Suffering Prove that God Does Not Love Us?**

***Greg Jesson, Ph.D.***

April 18, 2024, 5:45 to 8 pm

At the very heart of Christianity and the center of the life of Jesus is the startling claim that God profoundly loves humanity. Yet, how can the supposed goodness of God be reconciled with the undeniable wretchedness of so much of life? How can one claim that the universe is overseen and governed by an all-loving God in the midst of a world like ours? Doesn't the daily news, with its sad and pathetic stories of human tragedy and unceasing tears, count against the existence of a loving God just a little?

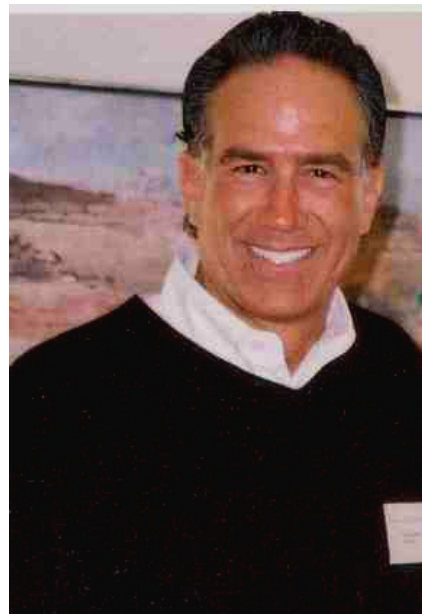
This is the age-old question of the problem of evil. Our study will examine this question and attempt to uncover the unique resources within Christianity to address it. As C. S. Lewis wrote in *A Grief Observed*, "Sometimes it is hard not to say 'God forgive God'... But if our faith is true, He did not. He crucified Him." What we will find is that only Christianity can account for substantial and revolutionary hope being revealed in the human sphere.

This lecture will give us time to ponder this question, which sooner or later touches every single person. There will also be time for discussion and questions. Please join us.

Greg Jesson's long journey took him from UCLA and USC (where he studied under Dallas Willard) in Los Angeles, where he earned a BA and Masters degrees, to L'Abri in Switzerland, where he studied under Francis Schaeffer, and finally to the University of Iowa, where he completed his PhD in philosophy, writing on what the structure of the mind must be in order for knowledge to be possible. He has published articles on the nature of thought and knowledge, philosophy of mathematics, Francis Schaeffer, Dallas Willard, apologetics, the truth and relevance of Christianity, and the portrayal of ultimate issues in movies. Over the decades, he has taught at eight colleges and one seminary, and lectured extensively in America, including Stanford, the University of California at Santa Cruz, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the Pentagon, and the National Cathedral. He has also lectured widely in Europe in the last few years. He was most recently a professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Ethics and Public Life at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He now spends his time writing, lecturing, and restoring an old Porsche and an older house, while trying to keep up with his energetic puppy, Dr. Watson.

## Daily Bread Ministry

Many families have appreciated the well-stocked Daily Bread freezer since the new year. Fortunately, we have several good cooks. If you would like to be one of those providing meals, please contact Jan Bakken at [JanBakken@Gmail.com](mailto:JanBakken@Gmail.com). If you are not able to cook, but would like to contribute cooking ingredients, such as ground beef, Italian sausage, or chicken, we have the cooks. We are currently in good shape for meals, but could use some quick breads, such as banana, zucchini, pumpkin bread, etc. A small loaf or half loaf is best. Thank you to our cooks and bakers!



## Rockland Staff

This past January, Allison Weber joined our staff as Kids & Student Ministries Coordinator.

Allison grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, where her older brother introduced her to a youth group at an Anglican Church. Through the youth group, she began attending that church, volunteering, and then interning there. During this time, she discovered her heart for ministering to the young members of our congregations. She attended the University of St Andrews in Scotland, where she earned a degree in Biblical Studies and Hebrew.



After graduating, Allison was on staff as a Pastoral Resident over Student Ministries at Central Peninsula Church in Foster City, CA, starting and growing their youth group for a new campus. She then moved to Denver, Colorado, serving at Saving Moses, a non-profit dedicated to life-saving programs for babies and toddlers worldwide.

In Denver in 2018, Allison met her husband, Pete, a Golden native. Pete is an owner of Shredder, an indoor ski facility for kids with locations around the Front Range as well as locations in Michigan, Illinois, and Texas. Pete and Allison were married a year later, moved to Idledale, and now have two boys. Charlie is two and a half, loves garbage trucks, riding his bike, and all things trains. Wiggs is four months and an absolute joy. They have attended Rockland for two and a half years.

Allison enjoys skiing with her family, tending to their chickens, all things cowboy, and now helping the youngest members of our congregation learn about Jesus.

## Children's Ministry

**SCUBA**, our 2024 Vacation Bible School, will take place June 17-21. We will need plenty of adult volunteers to make this week a success. So, mark your calendars and get ready to dive into friendship with God!



**Jun 17–21, 2024**

### A Word About Grief-Share by Pastor Paul



**Grief-Share** is a seminar and support group for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. Group members discover others have the same kind of feelings they do, understanding the hurt they feel and the loss they have experienced. Our recent Grief-Share support group began on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be finishing session 10 of 13 sessions as you are reading this. Our group consists of 7 people (2 from Rockland and 5 from the community) who have all lost a loved one. Facilitators who often help me include Gloria Owens, Marc Mumby, and Wenda Messer. Our next

Grief-Share class will begin on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Each Grief-Share session has three distinct elements:

1. **Video seminar with experts** - Each week, your Grief-Share group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These videos are produced in an engaging television magazine format, featuring expert interviews, real-life case studies, dramatic reenactments, and on-location videos. Each Grief-share session is "self-contained," so participants do not have to attend in sequence. They also get access to go back and watch any videos they may have missed.
2. **Group discussion with focus** - After viewing the video, group members will spend time as a support group discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what has currently gone on in their lives.
3. **Personal study and reflection**- During the week, group members will have the opportunity to use their workbooks for further personal study of the grieving process and to help sort out their emotions through journaling. Members will also spend time discussing questions and comments from the workbook study.

Grief-Share is being featured in a new Pure Flix drama series entitled **Going Home**. The new heartfelt show follows an inspiring team of nurses who bring hope and healing through Grief-Share to families and their loved ones before they go "home." As a result, a large audience will become aware of Grief-Share and its mission to provide Christ-centered comfort and care to people grieving a loss through church-hosted support groups.





### **A Blessed Holiday**

I am pleased to announce that we distributed 282 holiday boxes between Thanksgiving and Christmas and served 385 people a hot holiday meal. Thanks to all of you who helped make this possible. A special shout-out to all our volunteers who helped build and distribute all the boxes.

### **Frozen Chestnuts**

I want to start by thanking all my volunteers, including the youth from the Rock House, who helped score thousands of chestnuts. The first week of the Georgetown Christmas market was a rough one. The first Saturday was not bad, and we were able to go through all eight pans of chestnuts we brought that day by 4 pm. Sunday, on the other hand, was COLD! Between the cold and wind, there was virtually no foot traffic. We were still able to go through three pans of chestnuts, which was honestly a blessing. At 2 pm, the only people left at the market were vendors, so we called it a day for our health.



However, I am happy to say that the following week was quite a different story. We sold out of chestnuts on both days! I want to give a special thank you to a few of the volunteers. First, there was Ruth Baker, who stuck it out through the cold to help sell what we could that first Sunday. Second, Marc Lefkovics for being the loudest barker and bringing in a crowd. MVP: Marc Mumby, for being my right-hand man, between transporting the grill and getting things set up. This would have been incredibly hard without him.



### **One Year Stronger**



I have been at Loaves and Fishes for one year now, and a lot has happened. Even with some good and some bad, I think of it all as blessings.

As some of you may know, in March of 2023 we had a plumbing emergency. The short version is, through the hydro-jetting frozen pipes, we discovered that the pipes needed to be gutted and replaced, half of them immediately. As you can imagine, a job like this comes with a large price and a hard decision. Do we try to search for a better price and take bids, all while the food pantry is closed due to being unable to practice basic sanitation; or, do we take this price and only close for two weeks? We could not close for that long.

#### *The Blessing*

Even though we were taken advantage of by this plumbing company, it expanded the support system for *Loaves & Fishes*. The amount of support that came in for *Loaves & Fishes* during and after this project was overwhelming, including a spot on the local news! Even though we had to take out a loan, it ignited a flame for fundraising and outreach that was fairly dim prior to this. We pulled off two extra successful fundraisers last year: The Wing Crawl and a Yard Sale.

While we are still bouncing back, without God something like this could have been detrimental to *Loaves & Fishes*. No matter what is happening, God has a plan. Though it is hard to see it at times, there is always a reason why you are going through hard times.

*Romans 5:1-5*

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

I would like to incorporate these director's notes in the future as a chance for all of you to get to know me.

Thank You,



Want to Help? Want to Volunteer? <https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/food-box>  
<https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/volunteer>

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team has started the year well with many shawls having been created, labeled, wrapped, and ready for distribution. We have new members and are happy to have more crocheters and knitters. In April, we will meet on Monday, April 8, and Tuesday, April 23, from 1:00-3:00 in the conference room/library. We have yarn, needles, and crochet hooks to get you started. Join us!

Have yarn to donate? It does not need to be enough for a shawl. We can combine several yarns for a beautiful shawl.



*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Psalm 51:1*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Editor: Jan Bakken

Production Staff: Janis Graham, Phyllis Moore, Janice Smith, The Great Mailing Crew

Founder, Editor Emeritus, and Consulting Editor: Shirley Johnson

Contributing Writers/Photographers: Ruth Baker, Dane Daniels, Michael Drewek, Joy Gabler, Liz Hawkins, Rachel Josselyn, Paul Lucks, Sid Platt, Kelly Selva, Lori Stup, Elaine Swope

Lead Pastor: Jim Gribnitz

Student & Family Pastor: Aaron Stevens

Care and Missions Pastor: Paul Lucks

Operations Director: Kyle Buchanan

Executive Administrative Assistant: Chris Elmgreen

Worship & Communications Director: Dane Daniels

Kids' and Student Ministry Coordinator: Allison Weber

\*\*\*\*\*

## Tanzania Action Committee

### FRIEND, BROTHER, PASTOR, BISHOP ABEL

On February 11, 2024, Godson Abel was consecrated as Bishop of the North Central Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

In 2004, Rockland Church and then Pastor Abel were led into an unexpected partnership. What began as a small group from Rockland attending Ngaramtoni Sunday services blossomed into a long-term relationship built on mutual trust and service. With strong leadership from Pastor Abel and committed Rockland members, the two ministries have partnered in completing a church, a children's center, secondary and continuing education for girls, evangelism, the distribution of Bibles, and the provision of dairy animals that serve the needs of the families in the community.



Many Rockland brothers and sisters have walked with Pastor Abel through changes and challenges with love and support over the years. There has been a sense in our hearts that God had this plan for his life. Now, we are filled with joy, not just for Bishop Abel, but for the many of his parishioners who will benefit from his gifted leadership.



As a congregation, we can praise God for allowing Rockland to participate in His great plan for Bishop Abel. Our partnership in serving our Lord Jesus Christ in Tanzania continues.

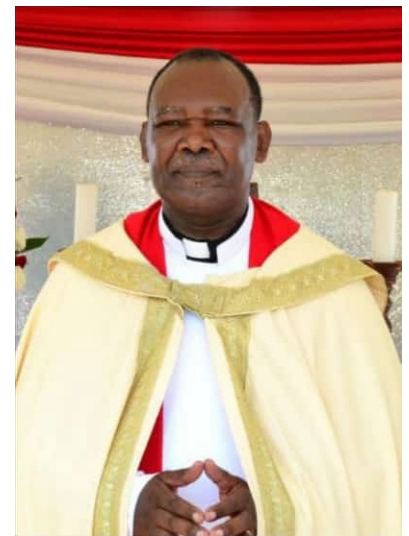
### Tanzania Action Committee (TAC)

Rockland's ministry to Tanzania will be the mission focus for the month of March at Rockland. You can sponsor a high school student's education, purchase a donkey or milky goat to help two Maasai villages, or contribute to our new Bible fund. We have set a goal of raising funds for 1,000 Bibles to distribute on our next mission trip. We would love to share with you how God has blessed the people of Tanzania this past year.

February 2025 is our next planned mission trip to Tanzania. We are beginning a preliminary list of who would be interested in joining us. Our mission objectives will be to:

- Meet the students sponsored by Rockland members.
- See the donated animals that are a blessing to so many Maasai families and widows.
- Share the gospel with the Maasai people in the villages we serve.
- Rejoice in what God has done in Arusha, Tanzania, through our partnership with schools, hospitals, and villages there.

Donations for Tanzania missions can be made via the church website or at the Tanzania table in March. For more information, contact Katie Bellott at [katiebellott@yahoo.com](mailto:katiebellott@yahoo.com).





Judy and John, who are brother and sister, came to Mean Street Ministry for the first time in the early days of October 2023. Judy has a severe disability and was in the process of applying for disability with Social Security. She has a part-time retail job but depends on her brother to pay most of the bills. John has had a job with the US Postal Service for several years.

A few months ago, John was furloughed from his position while changes were being made at his home base office. He was told that the furlough was temporary but was not given a timeline. Unfortunately, about a month later, Judy and John exhausted their savings and found themselves living in their cars. Scared, frustrated and out of options, they came to Mean Street Ministry to take a shower and have a hot meal. John asked if it was possible to get a toothbrush and some toothpaste, as well.

The next morning, Judy came with tears in her eyes wanting to say a heart-felt thank you for the toothbrush and toothpaste. It turns out that John had received a phone call from his boss that very morning asking John to come back to work that day. Judy said, "Because of [Mean Street Ministry's] generosity, John was able to return to work with dignity." Who would have thought that a small thing like a toothbrush and some toothpaste could have the power to lift up a life?

No donation is too small to make a difference in the life of someone experiencing homelessness. For more information about Mean Street Ministry, please contact Todd Graber or Lori Stup at (303) 232-2500 or [info@meanstreetministry.org](mailto:info@meanstreetministry.org)

## Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery

### How do we know its age?

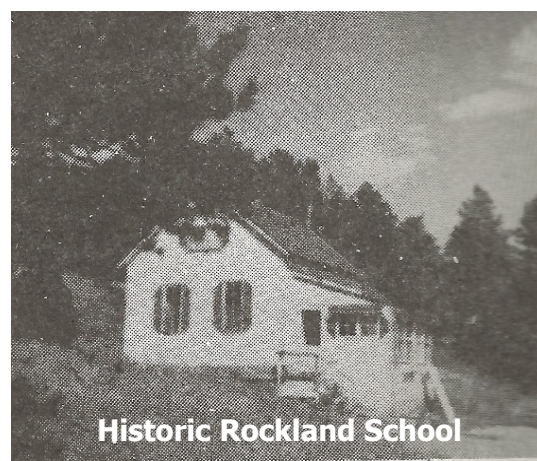
The Historic Rockland Church was created in 1874, meaning 2024 is the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the church's existence. This article will explain why we know the church began in 1874.

### How do we define the origin date of a church?

What is the best way to determine the origin date of a church? Do you use the date on which the building was officially dedicated, the time on which church construction was started, or the time on which the congregation was first founded? This paper will define the origin of the *Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery* as the time the congregation was founded.

### The Craigs Arrive in Colorado

The Mexican-American War ended in 1848. Before that date, there were virtually no people living in the Lookout Mountain area except Indians. Some people arrived in the area before the Civil War started in 1861, but the area had not even been surveyed then. People began to come into the area after the Civil War ended in 1865, but very few people still lived in the area in the early 1860s.



One of the significant early families of the *Historic Rockland Church* was the Craig family. The best-known member of this family is Katherine Lee Craig, whose very large gravestone can be seen in the *Historic Rockland Cemetery*. For our purposes, however, we are much more interested in her brother, H.T. Craig.

The family came to Colorado in 1870. People were starting to do the same thing because there was much turmoil in the country. The Craig family, for example, came from Waverley, Missouri, which was a very troubled state both during and after the Civil War.

H. T. Craig was four years old when the family arrived in Colorado. There was no church, no school, and very few people lived in the area.

The church congregation decided in 1938 that they would begin to develop the history of the *Historic Rockland Church*, so they asked H.T. Craig to write a history of the early church.

### **H.T Craig's Historical Document**

One consideration that historians use to evaluate historical documents is to look for documents that are dated with a contemporary date and written by an unbiased author.

The Craig document fits this criteria since H.T. Craig was present when the church was founded, even though he was a baby. He also later went on to become a member of the church board when he was older. He was certainly contemporary with the founding of the church, and he dates the founding of the church in his document. He was also relatively unbiased since he was simply writing a history of the church.

In the opening paragraph of that document, he states:

"The inception of the church of Rockland was in 1876 when the first schoolhouse, which was built in 1873-1874, was the central gathering point for a large district (Number 13)."

H.T. Craig chose to define the inception of the *Historic Rockland Church* as the time that a formal Sunday school was created but note that he indicates that the schoolhouse was completed in 1874.

Not many people lived in the District 13 area in 1874, but the few people there decided to build a community center. This was a time when the early settlers were religious, and they wanted a place to gather.

So, we see that the congregation was certainly in place in 1874, and most likely, the congregation existed even before 1873.

We have chosen to date the church from when something concrete existed. In this case, the first documented entity was the completion of the Sunday school building in 1874.

H.T. Craig also references Rev. Ross, who was active in area churches in 1874. Rev. Ross is buried in the Riverside cemetery. An Internet site called *Find a Grave* was used to look up Rev. Ross' gravestone, and a family member was contacted who had created the gravesite entry of Rev. Ross. This family member remarked on the *Find a Grave* site that Rev. Ross left several documents that had been written by him.

A family member was contacted to see if copies of these documents could be obtained. A reply is pending. Since Rev. Ross was active in 1874, we hope that some of the documents will give us further information about the founding of the Historic Rockland Church.

So, by these definitions, the inception of the *Historic Rockland Church* occurred in 1874.

**It is that Historic Rockland that is in need of a wooden cross for the altar. We are looking for something 16" to 18" tall. Something that will stand on its own. The cross will be grouped with a chalice and a silver plate with the host. The "new cross" will be on our altar.**

**Someone may know of a cross in one of the church closets or a cross not in use in a basement or storage area. It will be a cherished piece to begin in our 150th year of existence.**

# Overheard by The Church Mouse



## The Church Mouse Visits Class

The church mouse visited a small inner-city church that offered after-school programs for young children in the neighborhood. Some attended Sunday School regularly, while others were not familiar with the Bible stories. Young Miss Green was very creative. She started class with a song to set the scene for the Old Testament lesson of the day. The children were boisterously singing:

*Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho...  
And the walls came a tumbling down.*

Next, Miss Green opened her Children's Bible to Joshua, in chapter 6. She read how the Israelites marched around the city walls once a day for six days. On the seventh day, the priests blew their horns as the people shouted.

"Now, children, let's pretend our table is the city of Jericho." She handed out horns, and the class began marching and singing around their table. Finally, Miss Green asked the children to be seated once again. She asked Zachary, "Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?"

"Well, it wasn't me!" Zachary shouted.

Worried about the boy's lack of Bible knowledge, the teacher called Zachary's mother. His mother said, "Look, my son's a good kid. If he says he didn't knock the wall down, he didn't knock the wall down."

The exuberant Miss Green was not to be discouraged. She thought, "Zachary's family may not be familiar with the Old Testament. Easter is coming. I will try the New Testament, the Easter story." She disassembled the palm tree in the corner of the room, handing a branch to each child, then taught them a new song:

*Hosan-nah, Hosan-nah, the little children sang,  
Their branches waving in the air, their voices clearly rang.*

This time, instead of marching around the table, the teacher led them into the sanctuary where the setting sun was streaming through brightly colored stained-glass windows. The children marched down the aisle waving their branches, singing, "Hosanna!"

Miss Green opened the great book lying on the podium and read, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory to God." She gathered the children at her feet and quietly told them of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a lowly donkey, and how He was put on trial and hung on a cross. The sanctuary was growing dim as she revealed how Jesus was buried on Friday and then arose from his grave on Sunday. Lighting a candle, she whispered, "He is the Light of the World. That's why we celebrate Easter."

Little Zachary raised his hand, "Is this where God lives?" he asked.

"God lives everywhere," Miss Green explained. "Pointing to little Zachary's heart and giving him a hug, she added, "He lives within our hearts."





**ITALY: Following St. Paul**  
**September 2-13, 2024**  
**WITH ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Tour leader: Randall Smith

Full Tour \$5,999.00, includes airfare and transfers

Land Only \$4,899.00

**Register at:**

<https://christiantravelstudyprograms.net/tr240901x>

For full details, go to [Rockland.Church/Italy](https://Rockland.Church/Italy).



"All roads lead to Rome," as they say. Rockland Community Church will have an opportunity to be a part of the "Following St. Paul" Christian Travel Study Program led by Dr. Smith this year, September 2-13. You will follow Paul to Rome, Italy, and beyond.

An overnight flight from Denver will take you to Rome, with a hotel near the coast. For four days you will be immersed in the New Testament setting of the Roman Period. The first three days include a visit to the maritime villa of Emperor Tiberias. You will discuss how events led up to the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate. The motifs in Paul's Epistles depicting daily life will help you read Paul's Epistles more clearly. At Cumae the group will tackle the passage from Ephesians where Paul described events between the Crucifixion of Jesus and His Resurrection. An overnight stay in Pompeii will allow us to see the excavations of this ancient city.

Day 5 is set aside for fun in the sun! The Rockland tour group will walk through ancient streets from 79 CE at Herculaneum and Pompeii to see images used by Paul, followed by two overnights in Sorrento.

Day 6 will take us to the local markets in "The City of Lemons," to enjoy sightseeing, with an option to ferry to the Isle of Capri to see the Villa of Tiberias and enjoy the water activities. The next day will be spent touring the villa of San Marco, the museum, and the excavated winery at Boscoreale. Another site is the Villa of Poppea Sabina, as well as the WWII site, the Abbey at Montecassino. This day draws to a close near the Papal retreat at Castel Gandolfo.

Four nights in Rome: A bus tour will reveal that Rome was held together by spectacles seen at the Forum Romana, Palatine Hill, Circus Maximus, and of course, the Colosseum. A walking tour along the Tiber River will take us from Teatro Marcello to Capitoline Hill.

Paul came to Rome the first time under house arrest. For two years he wrote the so-called "Prison Epistles." You will visit this site and follow his second visit from his arrival in Rome to his beheading and burial. The sites include St. Paul alla Regola, Pantheon, Three Fountains Abbey, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, and the Catacombs.

The Gospel was transmitted through the centuries to the ordinary people by means of the arts. This day includes a visit to the incredible Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Church, and the Sistine Chapel.

The final day is at your leisure to see the modern Roman culture and sense that "Dolce Vita." The group will depart from Rome and return to Denver on Friday, September 13, having followed in the footsteps of Paul, to carry home his message for us today.

The youth group at the Rock House has consisted of a handful of youth who have their heart on the right path to love the Lord. We admire their desire to stay on this path by attending weekly group activities, and most recently, they attended a Youth



Group Rally. One of our youth attended the Fireside series at Rockland Church and said he enjoyed the experience. We extend a big appreciation to our tutors in our tutoring program. They devote their time to helping students reach their academic goals. The students rely on this help. Each week these teachers share their gifts and talents and stay committed to seeing the progress in their students.



The New Year 2024 is well underway in the Rock House mentoring program. We take a moment to reflect on the wonderful end-of-year celebrations we shared with our mentors and the mentees and their families. Our Thanksgiving feast was such a joy to witness as we shared a moment of gratitude with our loved ones. Each mentee shared a two-minute speech of gratitude. We served a wonderful meal to over 100 in attendance.

Our most anticipated outing of the year was a formal event where we had the opportunity to dress up. We prepared weeks in advance for this by discussing and practicing manners, respect, and gratitude. We had a wonderful experience attending a live show, "A Christmas Carol", at the Performing Arts in Denver. Their hard work showed up in their behavior and we are proud of them.



We have enjoyed all that we have experienced so far, and now look forward to moving into spring activities and warmer weather.

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



With Gratitude,

*Ruth Baker*

*Clear Creek Rock House Media Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator*



*Connecting all generations to Jesus*

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

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

**Current resident or:**

**DATED MATERIALS – PLEASE RUSH**

### **Holy Week Services**

Palm Sunday 9:00 and 10:30 am  
Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm  
Good Friday Tenebrae 7:00 pm  
Easter Sunday 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am



# Welcome Home.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:00am & 10:30am  
[www.Rockland.Church](http://www.Rockland.Church)