

Chimes

April & May 2020

Pastor Jim's message

As Bob Dylan said, "Times they are a changin' "!! Learning to live in the new Coronavirus world is new for us all. No one has all the answers, and even the best experts can't tell us exactly what is going to happen. We will simply take precautions to care for our congregation and those in our community in accordance with the best information out there. Unfortunately, that means that our stellar team of folders who prepares this for us each time was not able to meet to do so. So, enjoy your first ever Chimes: Digital Edition!

One of the common threads you will find throughout these pages and everything that happens at Rockland is a stark contrast to the world in our lack of panic. We can act wisely and take the best advice from the most informed individuals. We can take measures to help slow the spread in the larger community instead of selfishly just caring for ourselves and our closest family. But Christians panic less. That's a fact - or it should be.

We know that in our broken world this kind of thing can happen so it is not surprising to us. In fact, we half expect tragedy to strike quite a bit and the times it doesn't is the grace of God.

We know that a sovereign God reigns supreme over all. Even if earthly leaders have their thrones shaken,....not our God!

We know that we can pray to God in need and He listens and answers. He is real. He is powerful to do something about it.

I am proud of how Rockland staff, elders, and all in the community have responded. We have made hundreds of phone calls and delivered oodles of goods for people in need. That is the church.

Let's pray together that God is glorified through this mess and the reunion we get to have at the end of this will be sweeter than ever before.

To God be the glory.



Inside this Issue:

Pastor Jim's message
Pg. 1

Church Mouse
Pg. 2

Kid's Ministry
Pg. 3-5

Women's Ministry
Pg. 6

CCRH
Pg. 6-7

Mean Street
Pg. 8

EChO
Pg. 8

Loaves & Fishes
Pg.9

Habitat for Humanity
Pg. 9

Romania
Pg. 10

Tanzania
Pg. 11

Elder's Corner
Pg. 12

**Holy Week & Easter
Sunday Online**
Pg.13

Overheard by the church mouse ...



It was a long time ago – July 1998 that we first created *Chimes* in order to communicate the good things that Rockland was doing. We had a group of writers and a group of men and women who folded, stickered and prepared our publication for mailing.

Among our group so many years ago were two people who continued to participate through many years up until just a couple of years ago. It was Joe and Dorothy Maruyama. Now we are saddened by the loss of our dear friend Joe who died recently at the age of 95.

We celebrate his life though because of many reasons but one aspect since he was a hero during World War II. No one knew this for many years and then the U.S. government gave Joe clearance to talk about his part in the war. After interviewing him and hearing the details, I asked Joe “Were you a spy” in WWII? He got a twinkle in his eye and nodded “YES”.

Because of his heroic efforts he was honored in November 1, 2011 in a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, Washington D.C. along with 319 other American soldiers of Japanese ancestry from the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regiment Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Joe’s service in the MIS began after the Pearl Harbor attack. At the time he was a student at the University of Colorado. As a second-generation American or Nisei, Joe was classified 4C – not subject to the draft, but as his friends at CU began to leave school to serve in the military, Joe wanted to show his loyalty and enlisted.

Joe recalled that there was no discrimination in Colorado as it was on the West coast, but we felt loyalty challenged. America said “America is our country and I needed to prove my loyalty. All of us wanted to prove that we were just as good in spite of Japanese blood. We won the battle for antidiscrimination.”

The way Joe won the battle was to become a linguist – serving in the MIS. Using his language skills to intercept radio transmissions, translate documents and interrogate prisoners.

Joe served on Midway Island, Manila, Okinawa and a year in Tokyo helping set up a new democracy after the end of the war.

President Harry Truman, July 15, 1946 described the country’s pride in Joe and his fellow veterans, and “we won the war.”

In the 2011 ceremony President Obama described these troops as “In the face of discrimination and adversity. Their dedication in their country never wavered, and we owe a profound debt of gratitude to these veterans and their families.”

After the war, Joe finished school at the University of Colorado and worked for International Harvester Company, Chicago, in Human Resources/Labor Relations for 40 years, then he and Dorothy retired to Colorado.

Because of the valor of the Japanese American soldiers, they came home well-respected heroes. It was such a victory. All of us who knew Joe celebrate his life and heroism.

Kid's Ministry

Clothesline of LOVE

“For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38b

Rockland, on behalf of all of those whom you have blessed, Kids and Family Ministries thanks you. Our collection for Mean Street Ministry netted 24 hats, 24 pairs of gloves, 34 pairs of mittens, 17 scarves, 86 pairs of socks and one pair of boots. You over-filled our Clothesline of Love and will help to keep warm many hands and feet in need this winter; and we are grateful for your caring and generosity.



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Join in the fun for ROCKY RAILWAY VBS! It will be pulling into the Rockland station **June 22-26** and we'd love to prepare a ticket to ride with your name on it.

We will be sharing the incredible message with kids that Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. VBS is a high energy, spirit-filled week at Rockland and a true gift that we give to kids as we help them to learn about and love Jesus; but it will require lots of volunteers to keep this train on the rails! If you're ready to join in the fun; and share your time and love of Jesus, contact Kids & Families Ministry Director Lori Fullmer- LFuller@Rockland.Church.

Consider serving as a Station or Crew Leader, be a part of the snack team, use your creative talents as a part of the decoration crew or bring out your inner "stage star" as part of the skit team. No matter what role you play, we promise that volunteering at VBS will be the highlight of your summer.

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10

ALL ABOARD ROCKLAND'S ROCKY RAILWAY

@ VBS 2020

June 22-26
9:00AM-12:00 PM
Age 3-5th Grade

REGISTRATION STARTS 5/1!

Jesus' power pulls us through.



KidzLife

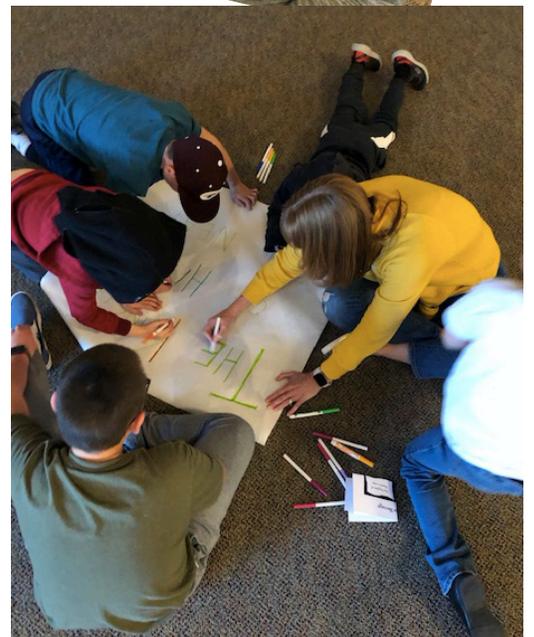
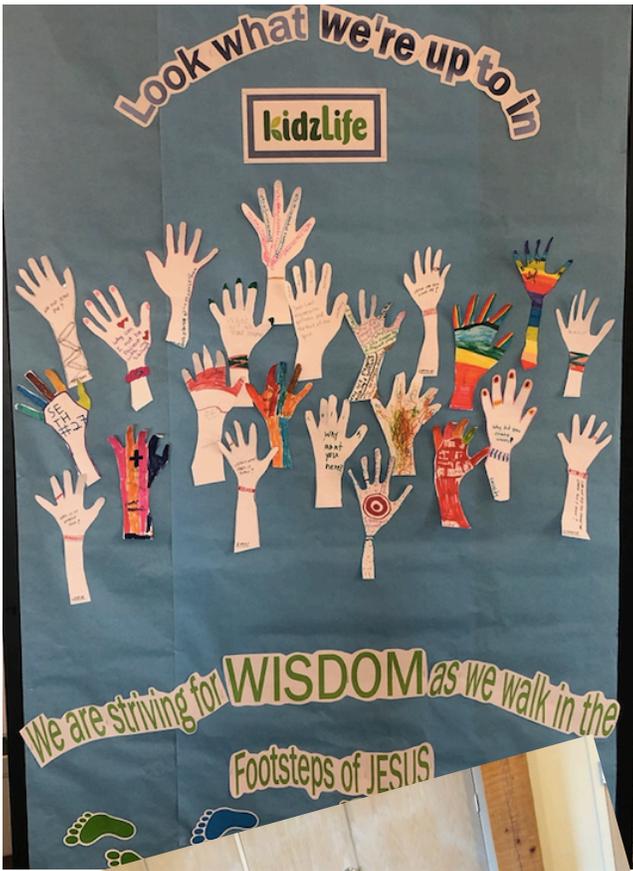
Kids learn through observing, listening, exploring, experimenting and asking questions – and lessons really sink in when kid’s senses are engaged too! Our schools are working hard to address the whole child in the classroom for the most effective learning; at Kidzlife we do the same!

How?

- **Play:** We play games that are fun and have kids up and moving around; but also point back to our weekly Bible story. Having kids work their way through an obstacle course in giant monster feet, dad-sized cowboy boots and on stilts was a great way to get kids thinking about walking in someone else’s shoes as we prepared to discuss the theme of ‘Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.’
- **Eat:** We eat snacks that tie into our lesson – and sometimes even have kids make their own! Combining half and half, sugar and vanilla to make ice cream was a great lesson about the Holy Trinity. Three things that make one – Yum!
- **Bible Stories:** We read the Bible story, have kids re-count it in their own words and sometimes watch a video of the story too to make sure we’ve addressed each type of learner. (And repetition is always key!) Can you re-tell the story of Jesus’ temptation in the dessert in 30 seconds or less? We sure had fun trying!
- **Investigate:** We do hands on experiments. How was it for Anna and Simeon as they waited for the arrival of Jesus? We waited to see how long it would take for a drop of food coloring to work its way through a mixture of vegetable oil and water – and found out that waiting is pretty tough, but that the results can be pretty spectacular.
- **Interact:** We use Write it! Pray it! Draw it! Do it! journals in our small groups that encourage and enable kids to review the lesson in these varying ways. This engages each kid where they’re at both academically and spiritually to really help them build their own relationship with Jesus.
- **Talk:** We have both large group and small group time- but absolutely no long, one sided teaching lessons. We sit together on the ground, have lots of give and take conversation and keep things interactive. We learned that Jesus has the ultimate wisdom- and had it even as a child when He taught religious leaders in the temple, but we also learned that kids have a lot to teach us leaders too (although we also learned that some leaders should also never try the backbend maneuvers some kids can pull off!).
- **The surprise:** We throw in a little bit of the unexpected and crazy – because making a lesson memorable absolutely helps it stick! John the Baptist ate locusts and honey as he called out, “Prepare the way of the Lord!” and we had quite a few kids who happily crunched up chocolate covered bugs when we were discussing the Baptism of Jesus. Yum? Maybe?



Teaching Rockland’s kids about the love and life and Jesus is a privilege and a joy – and a responsibility that we don’t take lightly. Engaging all of the best teaching methods is as important – if not more so- as we study the Bible as it is when they study in the classroom. But we also never forget that, “For children, play is serious learning” (thanks Mr. Rogers!). If your kids haven’t had the chance to join us at Kidzlife yet, we hope you will consider sending them along to join in the fun when we resume again – and if you’re a little too old for this gathering of PreK-5th graders, keep an eye out for our display board in Fellowship Hall so you can see what we were up to in February and March (or maybe consider volunteering next fall. We’ll save some chocolate covered bugs for you!).



Women's Ministry



Women's Ministry hosted the first Coffee, Casseroles, & Conversation Brunch on March 8th at the home of Tammy Roth. 17 ladies gathered together to share a little of themselves with the "story timelines" we were given at our Fall Retreat by our guest Speaker, Carol Kuykendall .

We prayed, enjoyed wonderful food, and connected with one another. We look forward to having another one again in the future and hope to have more ladies join us to share this special time. Happy Spring! The Lord's blessing to all.

-Tammy Roth and Rene' Ruland

Clear Creek Rock House



The Rock House hosted a "Lover of Your Soul" Valentine's dinner with 18 kids and adults. The purpose of the dinner was to introduce kids to the creator of love, the Lord, who is the lover of their soul. We hosted the dinner to get kids curious about the Lord and get them to continue coming to a Bible study. We've had five kids return to keep learning about the Lord and how He can open their hearts to Him to be their Lord and Savior. Please pray for continuing attendance from these wonderful children!

We started the Equine Horse Therapy Program with three students at Mustard Seed Ranch in Evergreen which will go until summer. The goal of this program is designed for students to move through trauma and neglect in their lives. This program is faith-based and helps students face their fear and anger. They learn responsibility, respect, courage, and healing necessary for healthy relationships by caring for and trusting their horses. This is a remarkable program to be able to offer given the experiences of some of the students we serve in our county.

So far this year, our mentoring program has really focused on the future: goals, health and wellness. At the beginning of the year our mentors sat down with their mentees to talk about their goals for 2020 and how they can achieve them. The mentees created a salad bar one evening to learn about eating healthy and how to do that in their own home. We had a health professional visit with the kids to really explain the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and how impactful that can be for the future. Another focus has been around the Rock House principles: respect, accountability, positive attitudes, honesty and integrity. One evening the mentees chose one of the principles and created an art project to express that principle. We then hosted a small job fair for our 8-12 grade kids which included hearing from a business owner, a military representative and the kids practiced filling out applications for employment.

The mentoring program has specific objectives we strive to fulfill every month: teaching life skills, partaking in community service, and experiencing cultural/recreational activities. We enjoyed the Western Stock Show in Denver, an etiquette dinner at Troia's in Georgetown, tubing at Echo Mountain, and taking the light rail into down town Denver.

Continue on next page →

Each outing we have builds the mentor/mentee relationship and serves even greater purposes. For example, taking the train into Denver taught the kids a huge life skill of how to use public transportation.

We have had three new students come to the Rock House for tutoring, bringing our total number of kids that we are serving in the tutoring program now to 16! As we near the end of the school year, please remind any students in Clear Creek County that tutoring is FREE and available after school on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Rock House. If you or anyone you know has questions, please have them email the Rock House Director, Cheryl Holmberg, at director@clearcreekrockhouse.org.

We are so grateful for your support and could not do what we do without you!
-Natalie Andersen (Clear Creek Rock House Media Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator)



"Lover of Your Soul" dinner



Salad bar dinner during our Health and Wellness studies



Night out at the Stock Show and Rodeo

Masthead: The Chimes

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

All articles will be published and/or edited at the discretion of the editor and the staff of Rockland Community Church.

Questions? Call Shirley Johnson 303-670-0520

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 Ed Lange, Associate Pastor,
 David Brown, Discipleship Pastor

Mean Street Ministries



Happy Spring to our Mean Street Ministry friends!

Soon the green foliage will begin to appear with colorful flowers not far behind - oh what a treat that will be after this long, difficult winter!

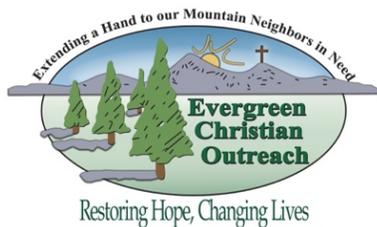
Spring and warmth also bring a bit of relief to our homeless friends as they won't have to spend the nights shivering in the cold, but perhaps will gain more rest and strength to look to the future with hope.

Speaking of hope, we know that our hope is in the Lord during this trying time as we press onward, endeavoring to serve those most vulnerable among us. As we continue as safely as possible to be the hands and feet of Jesus, our clients are still able to get a hot meal each day, Monday through Thursday until noon and shop in our food bank once per week, either Tuesday or Thursday until noon.

We have been so encouraged by our Christian brothers and sisters who continue to come and volunteer with us. We don't take this lightly. We are so thankful for their service as we all pray with humility and faith that God will continue to lead us in His Path forward.

If you would like to know more about how you might serve with us during these trying times, please give us a call and chat. We also desperately need your prayers! Please pray for continued health for ALL involved here – staff, volunteers and clients, and please pray for God's favor upon Mean Street so that we may bring Glory to Him.

Thanks and blessings to you,
Diane Chapman- Diane@meanstreetministry.org



EChO

Connecting local talent with local employers



No matter where you are in your career....

The EChO Job Center offers community members a full menu of workforce services aimed at advancing the economic well-being of the mountain community.

A local, middle-aged mom of 2 came to us shortly after her husband passed unexpectedly. Prior to his passing, they had been a 2 income household so this tragedy left it all on her shoulders. "Sarah" came to the EChO Job Center at wits end working 2 jobs that totaled over 45 hours per week, but had no benefits, no sick leave, no medical insurance for herself or her children. Sarah participated in multiple services: job seeker workshops, mock interviews, and resume development for digital interface. In less than 30 days Sarah had a new full-time job in the mountain community working 40 hours a week with benefits that included paid time off, sick leave, and medical and dental insurance for the whole family.

A few months later, Sarah's son came in and we were able to refer him to a paid internship in his field of study while he continues attending college.

Loaves & Fishes

It seems in my life, every ten or fifteen years there seems to be a major event that starts to shake my world. In the Sixties, it was the Cuban missile crisis, when they had us hiding under our desks. In the Seventies I was nervous about Vietnam and Watergate. In the 80's I purchased a house just in time for the Savings and Loan crisis. As the century came to an end we had Columbine and then in 2001 "911" shook our world. In 2008 we had the banking crisis where my 401K turned into a 201K. We've had the Ebola scare, the Swine Flu epidemic and now it is the CoronaVirus Pandemic. As Rosana Roseannadana used to say on SNL, "It's always something!" I must admit during all these times my faith has been shaken. And yet when I look back, it never turned out as bad as I thought it would. I seemed to come out stronger. My faith had gotten stronger. I realize that this world is broken, it's not perfect and we are going to have to deal with hard times. But because of these hard times, I have come to believe that God is with me always. Sometimes it doesn't feel that way but I know he is and I find that comforting. He's not a total insurance policy but more like a warm hand on my shoulder letting me know that it will be OK.

With the new Corona crisis Loaves and Fishes has had to re-think all of our procedures. Not only do we worry about our shoppers but most of our volunteers are over 60. We need to keep everyone safe. We have stopped serving lunch for the time being in order to get our clients in and out faster. We are taking orders by phone and pre-packing so that our clients can just pick up their food. With the schools closed, we have informed families they can pick up extra school food baskets at our facility. Due to the age of some of our volunteers, some will have to take a hiatus until this is over. We need some new volunteers to help us. Please call me if you can help out on Thursdays or Fridays. It is amazing how your problems seem to shrink when you work with people that are truly in need. It will be different for a few months but we will make it through and we might even keep some of these procedures in place. It will make us stronger.

Just last month we had our boiler go out in our annex building. It was going to be a \$5800 repair. I opened the mail and there was a check from a trust for \$5000! Somehow, God will provide. I see it every day at L&F. I just keep coming back to the bible verse, "Why worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." I know we are not alone in this and at the end we are going to be in a better place. That is our promise!

Blessings to you and yours,
Marty Hutt, Director

Habitat for Humanity

Women's Day Build in Empire

On Thursday, March 5, we hosted a Women's Build Day in Empire. A total of 35 volunteers were on site, with 114 volunteer hours, to raise many of the walls for our latest home in Empire. They did a wonderful job, had a lot of fun, and many commented on how much they learned. Many thanks to any Rockland folks that volunteered!



Together, Habitat For Humanity and Thrivent help those in need build a safe and decent place to call home. We are currently building Tuesdays through Fridays in Empire. Volunteer and make a real difference for a family!

Rockland Volunteers Support "Hands Of The Carpenter"

We've have a great crew of Rockland folks that provide repairs, oil changes & vehicle inspections at their facility in Golden. These services help single mothers and widows in need that they often can't afford. The loss of a vehicle often leads to homelessness.

Join our Rockland "Pit Crew" team! We volunteer one evening a month from 5 to about 8:30 p.m. to perform vehicle repairs for these women – and we have fun doing it! Hands accepts donations and donated vehicles that we repair, so that they can be placed with women in need. My sincere thanks to our Rockland team...Craig Bakken, Fred Gabler, Doug Hercomb, Bob Hildreth, Shawn Harris and Ray Waldron!

"Hands Of The Carpenter" is a faith-based ministry at Hands Automotive in Golden.

Please contact Dusty Dodge (303-909-7565) with any questions.

Hearts for Romania

The 2020 Hearts for Romania fundraiser held February 8 did not disappoint. As in previous years, the event was held at Mount Vernon Canyon Club and included a social time, dinner, program and live music with dancing. Heidi Duston's Jazz ensemble performed throughout the evening. She also led the group of sponsors to a musical message, which was sent back to Romania.

World Vision Romania's Director, Vali Sabou attended, as well as our program coordinator, Cristina Constantinescu. They presented an update of the high school program supported by Rockland and shared videos to further bring the program highlights to life for the event participants.

Most importantly, it netted close to \$37,000 to help fund Rockland's Romanian Outreach scholarship program. Proceeds are used to supplement the sponsorships paid for by Rockland members. Howard Hargrove served as emcee and auctioneer extraordinaire, helping to raise the record amount.



Tanzania

The Tanzania Action Committee has been busy preparing for the upcoming mission trip to Tanzania this summer. Nine people from Rockland will be traveling from July 16 – 26 to visit our ministry partners and participate in several new programs that our committee and other church members have instituted this year. These include visits to the homes of some of the sponsored girls in our secondary school program, eyeglass clinics in two Maasai villages, “Milky Goat” presentations to families who will be receiving goats and hens, and a pizza party where the mission team will interact with the secondary students in an informal setting. Most of the mission team will finish up their time in Tanzania with a two day safari.

Our mission in Tanzania has changed the lives of numerous young women who have benefitted from the education they have received. The following are success stories of two such beneficiaries.

ELIFARAJA MARKO



Ellie has exercised her faith through courage and determination. When she lost her father at a young age, her family was divided among relatives, her mother left the children, and some of her siblings were sent far away. As a secondary student she was cared for by an aunt and uncle who shared what they could with her. Her greatest desire in receiving an education has been to be equipped to help others, and most importantly, to find her family. During the three years that she was in a college program through Pathways, she was able to save some money that was sent to pay for her food by cooking dry beans over a small coal burning stove. With those saved funds she was able to find two of her young brothers, and to help and encourage a sister in secondary school. Amazingly, she even located her mother. With the family reunited, they were able to attend her college graduation. Now she is ready to pursue her desire to help others. Having completed her diploma in Community Development and Social Work, she will now be assisting Rockland’s liaison, Patrick, in mentoring the Rockland sponsored students in both Secondary and Pathways programs.

“God always has a good answer and I have a lot of thanks to him. There is no God like our God. I am so proud of what has been given to me because it is what makes me to be seen in our society. I am becoming an educated girl. I can’t forget this gift because it is the roots of my life to grow. Then I can eat the fruits later. I can see that I don’t have hardship like others but there are people who are crying every day because of hardness of life. Through your help I can do good things in my society. “

LILIAN MATHEW

Lilian has been the head of her household since she was 12 when her final relative died. She took over the care of her younger brother, but they had both lost their safety and provision. They were living in a cinder block house surrounded by the graves of the family members they had lost. As a secondary student, the difficult challenge she had was having a safe place to go, especially during holidays from school. She was not satisfied with the results of her National Exam following Secondary school, so she applied to repeat the classes and emerged one of the highest in her class. Speaking, reading and writing English at an accomplished level, she is now studying all aspects of the Tourism and Hotel Management Business. Through her trials, she has developed the resilience and determination to do well in her Pathways studies, and to be able to support herself and assist her brother.



“I never imagined that I would be like this, but am very proud to be like this (success). Even my fellow students regard me as a different person, all of this is because of being educated. I see myself strong enough and of good character with everything because of this. My prayers will be payment to all members of RCC. I will be a role model in my family and my country at large because I always remember the slogan which say, “do not let any to spoil your dreams and future” and I reply like this “NO BOYS” because I am a woman of principle. I will never forget you for what you have done for me.”

Elders' Corner

The deadline for this Chimes article was early March and, thus, was written before the pandemic created the dramatic change in our world and at Rockland. The purpose of the Elder's Corner is to keep the congregation informed of what the elders have been and are working on. We do receive calls and comments that help keep us connected to the needs of the church as a result of this information.

The timing of the Chimes, like all else, has been delayed as a result of the quarantine, providing an opportunity to add to this article. Pastor Jim, in consultation with the elders and the staff, made the decision to cancel the planned leadership meeting and then to cancel in person church services on March 12th. This was ahead of the quarantine order and was done out of prudence. It was clearly the correct course. Pastor Jim and the staff are doing a great job with the streaming service and the number watching is encouraging. As Pastor Jim mentioned in the service last week, Rockland is working to connect with people who may need assistance of one kind or another and to continue connecting with each other through on-line Bible studies. The elders are praying for the Pastors and staff at Rockland, for our congregation, and for our financial situation during this difficult time. With that said, here's the rest of the story.

Our elders met three times since our last Chimes Elder's Corner. As you know, we always begin with prayer seeking our Lord's guidance for our meetings and a devotional from Jim or one of the elders that seeks to settle the meeting and focus it on God's will for Rockland.

A lot of time at the January and February meetings was spent on finalizing the budget and finishing the recommendations to the congregation on changes to the constitution and budget. Both were challenging; the budget because, while the number of pledges increased, the average amount per pledge decreased. The primary reason for this is because several families have moved away who were very generous in their support of Rockland. In addition, several pledges were less than the year before. This hasn't happened before and is, perhaps, because in last year's stewardship drive the congregation was asked to increase giving by 10%, and the impression was that the need was a one-time event associated with the remodeling. In fact, the cost of the repairs and upgrades was only \$20,000 and within the budget while the 10% increase was needed to support our ongoing operations of the church. In any event, we have decided to slightly decrease our annual budget for the first time in a while, and we are relying on various reserves to fund existing activities. Our church is growing in membership and attendance and we pray that next year giving will increase.

Drafting of the constitution and bylaws was also a challenging effort. We sought and received plenty of input in the process that resulted in over two-dozen drafts. We did our best to reconcile the divergent views and to present a proposed constitution and bylaws during a spirited annual meeting. The result was that we as a congregation adopted a revised constitution reflecting our values and adopted revised bylaws that align with our existing operating practices.

Other:

- Approved Pastor Gribnitz's 2020 goals for the year:
 - Focus on maintaining a strong caring ministry effort at Rockland.
 - Improve our Sunday morning welcoming and greeting process.
 - Maintain the strong 1st service and continue to improve the 2nd service.
 - Complete a five-year strategic plan for Rockland.
- Reviewed elder and deacon commissioning.
- Planned a Rockland leadership meeting for March.
- Approved Elder Policies and Procedures.
- Elected Jed Burnham Lead Elder.
- Discussed Pastor Gribnitz's sermon plan for the next 12 months.
- Our Outreach team is beginning a practice of meeting with ministry partners relationally as a team for encouragement and support. This allows the ministry team to build better relationships, understand the ministry on a deeper level, and allows them to encourage our partners to keep Christ as their central purpose.
- Discipleship has decided to move from a single women's retreat to four gatherings a year hoping to reach more women.
- Jan Thulin is planning a farewell dinner for Ed and Michelle. Stay tuned for details.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the elders by e-mail or by phone. We appreciate it when members of the congregation are willing to let us know how they feel and are willing to be part of solutions

*Respectfully,
Jed Burnham, Joyce Dunbar, Pastor Gribnitz, Steve Hannah,
Patrick Heck, Pastor Lange, Penny McDonald, Peter Miterko*

17 S. Mt. Vernon Country Club Road
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DATED MATERIALS – PLEASE RUSH

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

Current resident or



Holy Week & Easter Sunday Online

www.rockland.church/livestream

