

FALL 2026

THE PULSE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Blessings, Rocky Mountain District Families!

Every summer, we offer a motorcycle prayer tour to visit churches in a specific geographical area of our district. This year, a group of four motorcyclists traveled to churches across Colorado. We departed from Colorado Springs on Monday, June 15, traveled for four days, and ended our tour back in Colorado Springs on Thursday, June 18.

We were blessed to visit 12 of our churches. It was a privilege to hear how God is at work through their pastors and ministry leaders, and we were able to pray with and for these leaders, their churches, and the communities where God has placed them. We were deeply encouraged by the stories of changed lives and by seeing how these leaders are trusting God to work in and through their congregations.

Please consider joining us in 2027 as we travel to churches in Wyoming and South Dakota. While the exact dates have not yet been set, we will announce them by the end of this year and publish them on our website (www.rockymountaindistrict.org).

Additionally, we have a transition in our district staff. Larissa Blackwell, who has served as our Credentialing Admin and Pulse Editor, has decided that her current bandwidth no longer allows her to remain in these roles. Larissa has done a wonderful job serving our district—thank you, Larissa! We are pleased to share that we have hired Lisa Vegter to step into these two administrative roles. Thank you, Lisa, for your willingness to serve our district by supporting candidates seeking credentialing and by communicating what God is doing through the Pulse newsletter.

Praying,

Barry



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
DISTRICT EFCA

**SERVING OUR CHURCHES & OUR PASTORS
TO MULTIPLY GOD'S KINGDOM**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT – EFCA

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**ASSOCIATE OF MULTIPLICATION &
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Rev. Kevin Boaz

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Dr. Robert Evans	Pastoral Care & Coaching
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Rev. Brian Sharpe	Magnify EFC Colorado Springs, CO
Jonathan Anderson	Gateway Fellowship Newcastle, WY
Jeff Howard	Fellowship Community Church Centennial, CO



YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT TO START THE CONVERSATION

Rev. Kevin Boaz

Director of Multiplication and Leadership Development

Leadership challenges rarely arrive with a clear label or an obvious next step. Sometimes a pastor knows something needs to change but is not yet sure what to call it. A church may be wrestling with how to develop emerging leaders, how to partner with a church plant, strengthen its disciple-making culture, clarify its ministry direction, or move from good intentions to a workable pathway.

Sometimes the right next step begins by initiating a conversation.

While church planting and multiplication remain an important part of my role, this work is broader than planting. It includes helping churches strengthen the environments where disciples are formed, leaders are developed, ministry responsibility is shared, and people are prepared to serve and be sent. My hope is to serve as a relational and strategic resource for leaders and churches across the Rocky Mountain District.

Where are you seeing life in your church? What feels unclear or stuck? What kind of leader does your church need to develop next? What would need to become true for your disciple making efforts to become more intentional, sustainable, and reproducible?

In a culture crowded with ministry books and programs, I help leaders discern what fits by listening well, understanding their context, and curating tools and training for their church's next faithful step. A good conversation helps me to continue learning from the leaders and churches of our district. Many of the most useful ideas, practices, and examples already exist within RMD churches! Part of my role is helping those insights travel by sharing what's working, celebrating wins, and connecting leaders.

You do not have to have a pressing need or a major crisis to reach out. A question, an emerging idea, or a sense that your church is ready for a next step is enough to begin.

**When the time is right, send me an email at:
kevin@rockymountaindistrict.org
and let's get a strategic conversation on the calendar.**

ANSWERING THE CALL TO FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

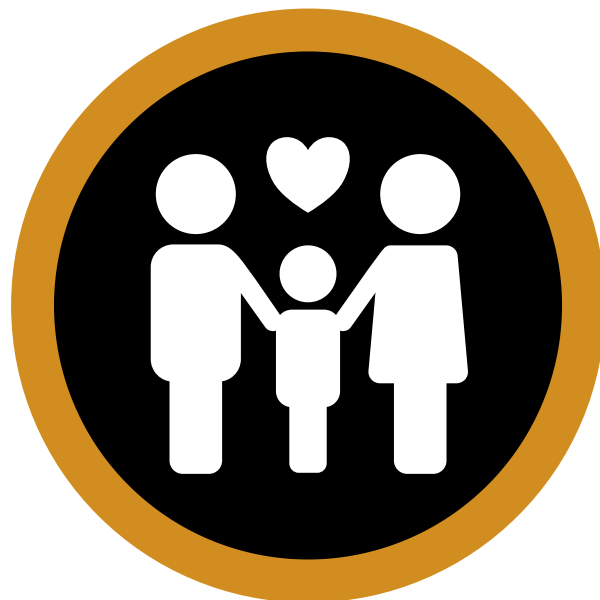
Rev. Stephen B. Moore, Senior Pastor, Free Church of Cañyon City, CO

Our congregation has a long history of fostering and adoption. I've been pastoring here for three years, so I'm a newcomer to a story that God has been writing in this congregation for decades, but it's one that has shaped us significantly. Although fostering and adoption aren't represented by any of our formal ministries, their thumbprint is evident throughout nearly every ministry of our church. Our weekly attendance is only about 350, yet we currently have 28 foster or adopted children in Children's Ministry alone (a number that doesn't include those in Student Ministry or the adults in our congregation who were fostered or adopted themselves).

Our church is learning to care for both children and caretakers. Our Children's Ministry recently hosted trauma-informed care training for volunteers, and two mothers in our congregation helped launch a Foster the Family support group that serves foster, kinship, and adoptive mothers throughout Southern Colorado. These ministries weren't created through a strategic initiative but have grown naturally as the Lord has continued to cultivate this conviction among His people.

Our commitment to the vulnerable is rooted in the character and work of God Himself. Scripture reveals God as the "Father of the fatherless and protector of widows" (Ps. 68:5). Or again: "He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing" (Deut. 10:18). God abounds with affection for the marginalized and vulnerable. At the heart of the gospel, God redeems rebels and children of wrath through the finished work of Christ and adopts us as His own sons and daughters (Eph. 1:4–5; Rom. 8:15–17). Our adoption is not based on our worthiness but on God's mercy alone.

Because this is so central to who God is and how He approaches us in the gospel, He commands His people to do likewise: defend the vulnerable, pursue justice, and demonstrate His covenant love to those who cannot care for themselves (Isa. 1:17; James 1:27). Having received God's mercy and been welcomed into His family, we seek to extend that same covenant love to children who need the security and stability of a faithful home.



**"OUR COMMITMENT TO THE VULNERABLE IS ROOTED
IN THE CHARACTER AND WORK OF GOD HIMSELF."**



ADOPTION, CONTINUED

By God's grace, many families within our congregation have answered that call by fostering and adopting children. Others have supported them through prayer, financial generosity, meals, childcare, and practical encouragement. Along the way, we've celebrated adoptions and grieved painful goodbyes. Through both joy and sorrow, the Lord has reminded us that every member of Christ's body is called to bear one another's burdens. The work of foster care and adoption isn't carried by a few families; it's an opportunity for the entire congregation to display the love of Christ together.

The impact has also reached beyond our fellowship. Through relationships with biological families, caseworkers, educators, counselors, and others involved in the foster care system, the Lord has opened doors for gospel witness. Our desire has never been merely to meet temporal needs but to faithfully display the love of Christ and proclaim the hope found in His saving work. Acts of mercy and gospel proclamation belong together, reflecting both the compassion and truth of our Savior.

We give thanks to God for what He is accomplishing in and through our church. We pray that He will continue to raise up families willing to open their homes for His glory, and that as our church cares for the fatherless, our community will see a living picture of the gospel. May He alone receive the glory for every child welcomed, every family strengthened, and every life transformed by His grace.

2026 EFCA CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY LEADER NETWORK GATHERING

When: November 9-10

Where: Christ Community Church, Ames, IA

Who is invited: part-time or volunteer children's and family ministry pastors, directors, and leaders in EFCA churches

What does it cost: the gathering is FREE! You cover your travel and lodging

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CLICK [HERE](#) OR SCAN THE QR CODE.





GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE

Rev. Jonathan Anderson

Gateway Fellowship EFC, Newcastle, WY

Our church plant began in 2001 and for 19 years we rented space, all the while looking for an adequate building to purchase. In August of 2020, the Lord provided us with a plumbing shop that had 11 overhead doors and 10 small walkout doors. With those 11 work-bays, The Lord provided adequate space to continue His work on us!



My wife Barb and I had moved to Newcastle on Valentines Day 2009 with four small children, the youngest being just 8 months old. This year he is turning 18, and you can imagine the growth and change in him. Gateway Fellowship Church has also undergone growth, both spiritual and physical, since we purchased it with the help of the revolving fund through the Rocky Mountain District.

**“Humility
has been
required in
this
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because we
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In terms of physical growth in the past 6 years, in our “plumbing shop” both our kitchen and our Worship Center moved to 3 different locations, we have gone from one toilet to eight. Up to this present day, we still function with only one office and one classroom. We have remodeled most of the building and soon, next month we believe, we will have four office spaces, four to six classrooms depending on how we partition them, one full kitchen, a fellowship hall, a nice entry way, a nursery, and some storage. Now there are just three garage doors and it no longer “feels” like a plumbing shop.

You might imagine all of the road blocks, moving of boxes, looking for study materials, long work days. But you might not expect the deep peace God has given us as a body. Sure, there has been plenty of stress and even conflict, but God has always helped us through the trials by providing exactly what was needed for effective ministry and most importantly, spiritual growth.



GROWING, CONTINUED

I remember hearing from The Lord in 2009 that He wanted us to learn to love one another deeply from the heart. So, as we set up chairs at the local Senior Center every Sunday, we began to learn how to love as Jesus had commanded in John 13:34-35. We have grown together over the years as we have walked through various books of the Bible in our worship times. The next step God taught us through His word and by His Spirit was “not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, (Philippians 2:3).” Humility has been required in this journey because we have learned that pride kills the heart’s capacity to love.

God has shown Himself faithful to us all along the way, at the start in 2001 through struggles in 2007. From 2009-2019 we often talked about our desire to find a new location: a building to be our church home where we could grow together, serve together, spread the gospel together and pray together. Now, we have grown in our average attendance by over 50%. We have the need and desire to expand our current worship center and fellowship hall. But mostly, our concern is how to help people grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I could talk much more about how God is helping us reach our community, but you will just have to come and see!



“The Plumbing Shop” before renovations began.



The building as it looks currently. It’s beginning to look like a church!



REFLECTIONS ON THE CHALLENGE CONFERENCE 2026

Ryan Walters, Associate Pastor, Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO

It probably sounds like a Christianese cliché in our prayers to say, “We can’t wait to see, Lord, how you will move in the lives of our students at this conference.” But if you know anything about the EFCA Challenge conference that rolls around every two years, then you know why as youth leaders, we pray that prayer on repeat prior to Challenge.

“God’s Word will not return void.” That is one of the major reasons that every two years hundreds of churches witness their students return home from Challenge no longer the same people as when they were sent off. The foundation of God’s Word, central to all that Challenge embodies, pervasively stirs in the hearts of young people and leaders over five full days in an unfamiliar environment that challenges (pun intended) believers to step out of their comfort zones.

How do I describe Challenge to someone who’s never attended? It usually goes something like this: “Challenge is a rare blend that combines the summer camp Kumbaya experience, mission trip vibes, and your typical conference training all into one.”

Challenge provides opportunity for both the usual intimate space to grow within your own church group context (think small groups and huddles) as well as worshiping alongside the greater big ‘C’ Church (think thousands of voices singing as one). I don’t know about you, but we should always yearn to see our students see themselves and their role within the greater Kingdom picture, especially in light of eternity. Those moments of “holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty” resounding in a convention center is providing teenagers with a legitimate taste of what heaven will be like. You just can’t put a price on the value of that experience in the life of a teenager.

As God builds His Church, there is something so powerful and special about partnering together as local student ministries for the sake of the Gospel. Challenge intentionally promotes the curiosity of minds to begin wondering: “Am I called to global missions? Am I called to full-time vocational ministry? Am I called to church planting?”

I am truly grateful for the emphasis Challenge places on not just being hearers of the Word, but doers. As with any conference, it eventually must come to an end. Challenge prepares its participants for the ‘coming down off the mountain’ return to normal life. One way it attempts to extinguish any chance of spiritual honeymoon is by the Friday *Sending Huddle* segment. This has become one of my favorite elements of Challenge: a time set aside to thoughtfully review what we have learned, how the Spirit has moved in our hearts, and how we plan to put it all into action upon our touchdown back home. After all, what is head knowledge without it seeping down deep into our hearts by faith, and further to our hands through practice?

Sending Huddles have led my students to discuss and discover the values by which they want to be known for in our local community. They come home with not just a passion, but a biblical metric to constantly measure how effectively we’re living out what we preach. I thank my friends at Challenge for providing the space and structure that has led to that.

We’re two years out from yet another impactful and life-changing Challenge conference.

But my prayers of “Lord, I can’t wait to see how you’ll move at Challenge” have already begun.

Your’s should too.

“Challenge helps open young people’s eyes to the reality that they’re not on an isolated island away from the church; they are very much the body of Christ themselves as much as anyone else.”

CHALLENGE CONFERENCE 2026



Kevin Boaz had the privilege of leading an equipping lab at Challenge! It's not too early to encourage future generations of church planters!



EFCA President Elect Carlton Harris was one of the speakers at this years conference



PASTORAL COUPLES *Refresh Retreat*

OCTOBER 4-7, 2026

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REGISTER



RMD DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM (DLT)

L to R: Barry Vegter, Ben Green, Andrew Johnson, Jonathan Anderson, Brian Sharpe, Anette Versaw, Kevin Boaz, Melissa Houdmann, Jeff Howard

Please pray for our District leadership team who met August 9-11 for their annual Planning Retreat. Pray for them as they implement next steps to better strengthen leaders and district churches toward health and multiplication.

JOIN THE 10:02 CHALLENGE

Pray for Church Planters and Plants to be strategically launched throughout the RMD.

Set an alarm on your cell for 10:02 AM and/or PM to remind you to stop and pray Luke 10:2, asking for workers for the harvest in these strategic areas in our district.



[Click to learn more.](#)

MAKE THE RMD WEBSITE PART OF YOUR MINISTRY RHYTHM

New resources, training opportunities, upcoming events, and practical tools for leadership development, discipling, youth ministry, and church multiplication are regularly added to the [Rocky Mountain District website](#). Make a habit of checking in to see what is new and discover resources that may fit your church's next faithful step.

PRAY TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER

1. Aurora, CO - New Life Community Church
2. Aurora, CO - Iglesia El Camino Church
3. Black Hawk, CO - Rocky Mountain EFC
4. Boulder, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
5. Boulder, CO - Chinese EFC
6. Broomfield, CO - Calvary EFC
7. Burlington, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Burlington
8. Cañon City, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Cañon City
9. Casper, WY - Cornerstone EFC
10. Castle Rock, CO - Ridgeline Community Church
11. Cedaredge, CO - New Hope EFC
12. Centennial, CO - Bethany EFC
13. Centennial, CO - Fellowship Community EFC
14. Centennial, CO - Vida Nueva Church
15. Cheyenne, WY - Cheyenne EFC
16. Colorado Springs, CO - Covenant Grace EFC
17. Colorado Springs, CO - Cross & Crown Church
18. Colorado Springs, CO - Faith EFC
19. Colorado Springs, CO - First EFC
20. Pray for EFCA Leader's Summit, Minneapolis, MN
21. Colorado Springs, CO - Magnify EFC
22. Colorado Springs, CO - SALT Church Plant
23. Cortez, CO - Grace Fellowship EFC
24. Crook, CO - United EFC
25. Custer, SD - Crossroads Church
26. Denver, CO - Chinese EFC
27. Denver, CO - Pilgrim Congregational Church
28. Divide, CO - Little Chapel of the Hills
29. Douglas, WY - Lighthouse Church
30. Eaton, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Eaton

OCTOBER

1. Erie, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
2. Estes Park, CO - Rocky Mountain Church
3. Evergreen, CO - Bergen Park Church
4. Florence, CO - The Pulse
5. Pray for the Refresh Pastors & Wives Retreat
6. Fort Collins, CO - Chinese EFC
7. Fort Collins, CO - Faith Church
8. Gillette, WY - Living Rock Church
9. Golden, CO - Whispering Pines EFC
10. Grand Junction, CO - Living Hope EFC
11. Greeley, CO - Christ Community EFC
12. Greeley, CO - Mountain View EFC
13. Hot Springs, SD - Southern Hills EFC
14. Johnstown, CO - Cornerstone EFC
15. Lander, WY - Lander Free Church
16. Laramie, WY - Snowy Range EFC
17. Littleton, CO - Red Rocks Fellowship EFC
18. Littleton, CO - Southwest Community Church
19. Longmont, CO - Grace EFC
20. Louviers, CO - Faith EFC
21. Loveland, CO - Pioneer Grove Church Plant
22. Mead, CO - Abundant Life Church
23. Milesville, SD - Hardingrove Community EFC
24. Montrose, CO - Cedar Creek Church
25. Monument, CO - Cathedral Rock Church
26. Newcastle, WY - Gateway Fellowship Church
27. Okaton, SD - Okaton EFC
28. Ouray, CO - Ouray Christian Fellowship
29. Pagosa Springs, CO - Grace in Pagosa
30. Palisade, CO - Central Orchard Mesa Comm. EFC
31. Philip, SD - Community EFC

PRAY TOGETHER

NOVEMBER

1. Piedmont, SD - Hills View EFC
2. Pueblo, CO - Grace Life Church
3. Pueblo West, CO - The Peak EFC
4. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
5. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
6. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
7. Steamboat Springs, CO - Steamboat Bible Church
8. Thornton, CO - Calvary Bible Church
9. Timnath, CO - Christ The Rock Community Church
10. Wall, SD - Evangelical Free Bible Church
11. Wheat Ridge, CO - Crown Hill Church Plant
12. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
13. Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Superintendent
14. RMD Director, Multiplication & Leadership Development
15. RMD Staff
16. RMD Leadership Team (DLT)
17. RMD Healthy Pastor Gatherings (HPGs)
18. RMD Finances
19. RMD Church Planting Leadership Team
20. RMD Student Ministries Consultant and Team
21. Pray for our pastor's wives and children
22. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing Chairman
23. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing (Credential Team)
24. Pray for RMD Churches searching for pastors
25. Pray for Regional Care Pastors in the RMD
26. Pray for prayer saturation to take hold in the RMD
27. Pray for EFCA President Elect Carlton Harris
28. Pray for EFCA Dir. of Nat'l. Ministries Scott Sterner
29. EFCA District Superintendents (17 total)
30. Pray for future church plants

THE PULSE IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA SENT TO MEMBERS OF EFCA CHURCHES WITHIN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

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DONATIONS

Tax deductible donations for the Rocky Mountain District can be made on the [website](#) or mailed to:

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