

SUMMER 2024

THE PULSE

A Quarterly Publication of the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church

Blessings Rocky Mountain District Churches,

I hope you will be encouraged by this edition of The Pulse newsletter. Inside, you will read about how God used our recent conference to encourage ministry leaders in our churches throughout the RMD. You will also read about two of our new pastors—one of whom is a church planter and another who is beginning his new ministry as a Senior Pastor. Finally, you are invited to pray for our pastors and churches in our district.

Praying,
Rev. Barry Vegter
District Superintendent of the RMD

HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR NEW LOGO?



The purpose of the Rocky Mountain District is to serve our congregations and pastors as they seek to multiply healthy disciples, healthy leaders, and new congregations. As we prayerfully considered our vision and our distinctives as part of the EFCA, we were led to choose an evergreen tree as our unifying symbol. The tree connects us with our national EFCA logo, but it is also a tree that is highly visible in all three states in our district.

The three sets of branches represent Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota, and their shape depicts our support of one another as we partner to saturate each region with the gospel while raising up healthy churches and leaders. The bottom blue arrow represents the water and reservoirs common in our district, the green is for the prominent ponderosa pines throughout the three states, and the top teal green represents new growth. The upward arc of the tree reminds us of our Source of strength, health, and growth.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
DISTRICT EFCA

Serving our churches and our pastors to
multiply God's Kingdom.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT – EFCA
8089 Sandmere Drive
Colorado Springs, CO. 80908
Phone – 719-453-8369

www.rockymountaindistrict.org

SUPERINTENDENT
Rev. Barry Vegter

MULTIPLICATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Rev. Kevin Boaz

MINISTRY CONSULTANTS:
Carson Greenhaw Student Ministries
Mark Vaporis Credentialing

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Ben Green District Chairman	Rimrock EFC, Rapid City, SD
Rev. Neil Magnuson District Vice Chairman	Crossroads, Custer, SD
Rev. David Williams Secretary	New Hope EFC, Cedaredge, CO
Rex Smithgall Treasurer	Mountain View EFC, Greeley, CO
Carson Greenhaw MeLissa Houdmann Rev. Andrew Johnson Rev. Brian Sharpe	New Life EFC, Aurora, CO Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO Living Hope EFC, Grand Junction, CO Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO

CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

Rev. Kevin Boaz Rev. Francisco Mendez Rev. Erik Valenzuela	Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO Vida Nueva Para Denver, Centennial, CO Iglesia El Camino, Aurora, CO
--	--

PLEASE MEET THE MIDDLETON FAMILY!

Chris Middleton, Cornerstone EFC, Johnstown, Colorado

To our brothers and sisters in the RMD,

I'm thankful for the opportunity to introduce myself as Cornerstone EFC's new Pastor in Johnstown, Co. It's an honor to step into a role that has been so faithfully served by Pastor Doug Kehr and his supportive family. My family and I have been tremendously blessed by a loving and supportive congregation that is operating in both maturity and zeal for the Lord. I count this as a testimony to God's moving through Pastor Doug and his leadership team through these last 25 years!

My wife and I recently returned to Northern Colorado after a ten-year absence, and I couldn't be more excited. Jen and I have been married for 26 years. We are both graduates of CSU and we have two boys. Our oldest, Jacob, just got married to a wonderful young lady named Katelyn and will graduate college about the time that you read this newsletter. Our youngest, Lucas, is finishing his sophomore year in college and will be staying with us over the summer before returning to school in the fall. Being a father to these two children has been an incredible blessing to Jen and me.

The Lord originally put Johnstown on our hearts back in 2002, when we were part of a church transplant from Fort Collins. I have never lost my heart for the people here, and we are humbled to have been called back. Johnstown has grown tremendously since I left here in 2013. Looking out across all the new subdivisions, I recognize that each of these rooftops house souls whom God longs to redeem. It's with prayerful anticipation that we seek the Spirit's guidance in how God may use our local body to engage in His mission.

I am thankful for the RMD and its resources. I trust we will be leaning on the district as we partner with other like-minded churches in the growth of His Kingdom in our region.

Together in Him,
Middleton Family



“I RECOGNIZE
THAT
EACH OF
THESE
ROOFTOPS
HOUSE SOULS
WHOM GOD
LONGS TO
REDEEM.”

PLEASE MEET JIM AND LEDA KIMBRIEL

Redemption Valley Church, Elizabeth, Colorado

There I sat. Having my blood pressure taken for the third time by my friend who happened to be a cardiologist. Again the reading was high enough to put me in the hospital, but he knew what was going on in my life. Kerri, my wife of 36 years was dying and the stress of it all was showing up in my health. He prescribed some meds and set another appointment. As pastors we are called on to be the calming voice when others are in crisis or are hit with tragedy. What about the pastor in crisis in a country church? Who is their calming voice? Where do you go when your wife needs you, your kids need you, your church needs you, and you are without support? Nothing prepared me for this. I cared for my wife through her fifteen months of brain tumors and I was there when she died. By the time she died, I was out of energy. Then came the waves of grief for both me and my kids. I stepped out of ministry and spent time with my kids.

Before my wife died, she had a revelation. She had picked out my next wife. This next wife was in our church and her husband Kevin died three months before Kerri. Kerri knew I was pretty worthless without a mate. So she was excited for me when she told me who I was to marry next. Eight months after Kerri died, I married Leda. We cared for each other in our grief and slowly began ministering to widows, the terminally ill, and teaching the Bible at Ridgeline Community Church in Castle Rock. Having grown up in the Free Church and having been a pastor on staff at Southern Gables Church in Littleton, I felt like I was back where I belonged. For seven years I had pastored an independent church in Elizabeth. In that time, I realized how alone it can be in ministry without the help and camaraderie of other pastors and churches. How different it felt at Ridgeline when I saw the students attend a district retreat or saw the church leadership supported by the district staff as the church was searching for a senior pastor. I saw once again the gift of a fellowship of like minded pastors and churches working together and encouraging one another.

After a year of marriage, Leda and I began looking at pastoring opportunities in our area. We felt we needed to stay close to Elizabeth for the stability of our two kids who were in High School. They needed their friendships and schooling to not be upended when their lives had changed so much with the death of a parent. We also knew we wanted to be a part of the Free Church. At that time, I spoke to our District Superintendent, Barry Vegter, and expressed a desire to be considered for a church plant in Elizabeth. He introduced me to Kevin Boaz, the District's Director of Multiplication and Leadership Development, and Kevin signed us up for the process of being considered as a church planter.

After filling out multiple tests and assessment tools, Leda and I attended the RMD Church Planting Boot Camp in January and were accepted. We came home, pushed hard and began [Redemption Valley Church](#) with in person meetings starting on February 11th. By the time we started, we had twenty-five people with us in the plant. Currently, we meet in a 100+ year old building, formerly the town hall for Elizabeth. We live on a little forty acre ranch with Black Angus cattle, chickens, dogs, and cats. So we always have good animal stories!

Pastors ask me what is it like to plant a church at my advanced age of sixty-one. It is very challenging. It takes more energy than I have. It takes more faith than I possess. It takes more patience than I have. Even so, it is pretty amazing to be a part of a work that could bring Christ glory until He returns. I so want to make sure I am preparing a bride for Christ that excites Him. Please pray for Leda and me as we seek to bring glory to God in Elizabeth Colorado through Redemption Valley Church.

“I SAW ONCE AGAIN
THE GIFT OF A
FELLOWSHIP OF LIKE
MINDED PASTORS AND
CHURCHES WORKING
TOGETHER AND
ENCOURAGING ONE
ANOTHER.”



LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER

Barry Vegter, RMD District Superintendent

Recently, ministry leaders in the RMD and leaders throughout the EFCA's Districts were part of two conferences that were hosted by the Rocky Mountain District.

The first conference was our annual RMD Spring Conference on April 16-17, at Faith EFC in Ft. Collins, CO. Faith Church did an excellent job hosting the conference. We invited Dr. Larry Osborne to come and teach our ministry leaders about some important leadership principles that they can apply to their individual ministries. We learned from six workshop leaders who taught on a variety of topics relevant to their lives and ministries. We enjoyed refreshing times of worship, prayer, and fellowship together. Finally, during our business meeting we unanimously passed our next budget and spent time discussing the topic of how we can more effectively work together in living out our mission as churches in the RMD. Pray that the learning that happened at this conference would take root and lead to several applications in the lives of our ministry leaders and churches.

The second conference was a gathering of ministry leaders from throughout the EFCA. We met at New Life EFC in Aurora, CO on May 7-9. New Life Church did a wonderful job hosting this conference in cooperation with the EFCA's All Peoples Ministry which focuses on God's heart for all of the people groups in the world. We learned together how God is inviting us to reach the different cultural groups represented in the communities where God has planted each of our EFCA Churches. We focused on how we can bring the gospel of grace to every man, woman, and child within our communities, and then as people who become followers of Jesus, we can learn to worship and disciple one another together in the midst of our diversity. What a worthwhile undertaking for all of our EFCA churches. We want to be intentional to pursue what is described in Revelation 7:9-12:

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.'"

The Lord was glorified as we gathered at these two conferences to seek Him together. Thank you for praying and if you would like to attend next year's RMD Spring Conference, be sure to set aside May 6-7, 2025 on your calendar. It will be held at Faith EFC in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Dr. Alan Fadling from *Unhurried Living* will lead our conference, focusing on how to be a healthy ministry leader and develop healthy ministry leaders.



Among All People Gathering



April Warfield, Leader of the All People's Ministry

RMD SPRING CONFERENCE



Former EFCA President Kevin Kompelen



Main Speaker - Dr. Larry Osborne



New Life EFC Staff



Catherdral Rock EFC Staff



Cañon City EFC Staff



Breakout Session



Affinity Group Meeting

Pray Together

LET'S PRAY EARNESTLY FOR THE CHURCHES IN OUR DISTRICT. PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A HELPFUL PRAYER GUIDE. YOU MAY USE THE CALENDAR BELOW TO LIFT UP EACH CHURCH ON ITS DESIGNATED DAY.

JUNE

1. Aurora, CO - Harvest Community Church
2. Aurora, CO - New Life Community Church
3. Aurora, CO - Iglesia El Camino Church
4. Black Hawk, CO - Rocky Mountain EFC
5. Boulder, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
6. Boulder, CO - Chinese EFC
7. Broomfield, CO - Calvary EFC
8. Burlington, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Burlington
9. Cañon City, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Canon City
10. Casper, WY - Cornerstone EFC
11. Castle Rock, CO - Ridgeline Community Church
12. Cedaredge, CO - New Hope EFC
13. Centennial, CO - Bethany EFC
14. Centennial, CO - Fellowship Community EFC
15. Centennial, CO - Vida Nueva Church
16. Cheyenne, WY - Cheyenne EFC
17. Colorado Springs, CO - Covenant Grace EFC
18. Colorado Springs, CO - Cross & Crown Church
19. Colorado Springs, CO - Faith EFC
20. Colorado Springs, CO - First EFC
21. Colorado Springs, CO - Magnify EFC
22. Cortez, CO - Grace Fellowship EFC
23. Crook, CO - United EFC
24. Custer, SD - Crossroads Church
25. Denver, CO - Ancient Paths 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

JULY

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. Fort Collins, CO - Chinese EFC
6. Fort Collins, CO - Faith Church
7. Gillette, WY - Living Rock Church
8. Golden, CO - Whispering Pines EFC
9. Grand Junction, CO - Living Hope EFC
10. Greeley, CO - Christ Community EFC
11. Greeley, CO - Mountain View EFC
12. Hot Springs, SD - Southern Hills EFC
13. Johnstown, CO - Cornerstone EFC
14. Lander, WY - Lander Free Church
15. Laramie, WY - Snowy Range EFC
16. Littleton, CO - Red Rocks Fellowship EFC
17. Littleton, CO - Southwest Community Church
18. Longmont, CO - Grace EFC
19. Louviers, CO - Faith EFC
20. Mead, CO - Abundant Life Church
21. Milesville, SD - Hardingrove Community EFC
22. Montrose, CO - Cedar Creek Church
23. Monument, CO - Cathedral Rock Church
24. Newcastle, WY - Gateway Fellowship Church
25. Okaton, SD - Okaton EFC
26. Ouray, CO - Ouray Christian Fellowship
27. Pagosa Springs, CO - Grace in Pagosa
28. Palisade, CO - Central Orchard Mesa Comm. EFC
29. Philip, SD - Community EFC
30. Piedmont, SD - Hills View EFC
31. Peyton, CO - Aspen Ridge Church

Pray Together

AUGUST

1. Pueblo, CO - Grace Life Church
2. Pueblo West, CO - The Peak EFC
3. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
4. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
5. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
6. Seibert, CO - Trinity Hill 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. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
12. Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Superintendent
13. RMD Director of Multiplication & Leadership Development
14. RMD Staff
15. RMD Leadership Team (DLT)
16. RMD Finances
17. RMD Healthy Pastor Networks
18. RMD Church Planting Leadership Team
19. RMD Student Ministries Consultant and Team
20. Pray for our pastor's wives and children
21. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing Chairman
22. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing (Credentialing Team)
23. Pray for RMD Churches searching for pastors
24. Pray for Regional Care Pastors in the RMD
25. Pray for prayer saturation to take hold in the RMD
26. Pray for Caleb Haynes, Church Plant, Loveland, CO
27. Pray for Jim Kimbriel, Church Plant, Elizabeth, CO
28. EFCA District Superintendents (17 total)
29. EFCA Chaplain Director and Endorser
30. EFCA President and Vice President
31. EFCA National Board of Ministerial Standing
- 31a. EFCA Hispanic Ministries Director

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

DISTRICT MINISTRY STAFF

District Superintendent: Rev. Barry Vegter
719-453-8369
bvegter@rockymountaindistrict.org

Multiplication & Leadership Development
Director: Kevin Boaz
719-651-0742
kevin@rockymountaindistrict.org

Treasurer: Rex Smithgall
970-217-3963
rex.smithgall@bankofcolorado.com

Financial Secretary: Sheri Williams
970-312-6619
swilliams@rockymountaindistrict.org

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Vegter
920-266-5317
admin@rockymountaindistrict.org

DONATIONS

Tax deductible donations for the Rocky Mountain District
can be made out to RMD
Send to:
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT - EFCA
PO BOX 869
CEDAREGE, CO 81413

WEBSITE

www.rockymountaindistrict.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



[Rocky Mountain District EFCA](#)



[Rocky Mountain District EFCA](#)



[rockymountaindistrictefca](#)