

THE PULSE

WINTER 2025

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

Blessings, Rocky Mountain District Churches,

As we enter the Christmas and New Year's season, I know it can be both busy and deeply life-giving. This time of year invites us to remember all that God has done, all that He is doing, and all that He will continue to do. As I reflect on this season, I am especially grateful for the ways God is working in and through the churches of the Rocky Mountain District. On behalf of the District Leadership Team, thank you for your prayerful support and your faithful financial partnership in the ministry of the District.

In this issue of *The Pulse*, we are highlighting several pastors and ministries that we hope will encourage you as we give thanks for how God is at work, accomplishing His purposes through His people. Join us in praying for workers to be sent into the harvest fields where our 80 District churches are located, especially during this season when many are lonely and without hope. Pray that every man, woman, and child living in proximity to our churches will have an opportunity to hear the gospel and come to know the Savior.

Praying,
Barry



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
DISTRICT EFCA

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

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STRENGTHENING

Kevin Boaz
Director of Multiplication and Leadership Development

The mission of the Rocky Mountain District is **to strengthen leaders and churches to promote health and multiplication**. What a joy it has been to see God faithfully answering prayer and allowing us to see this mission become a reality in a variety of ways. I wanted to take a moment to share a few highlights, and also encourage you to explore the last to QR code video links to learn more.

STRENGTHENING MULTIPLICATION Pioneer Grove has launched and is now meeting weekly in Loveland, Colorado. Crown Hill Church has launched in Lakewood/Wheatridge, Colorado, strategically located between the campuses of Colorado Christian University and the Colorado School of Mines. Salt Church is coming soon to southern Colorado Springs in 2026.

Please utilize their provided websites to help spread the word to anyone who may be in their area or who has a college student nearby.

STRENGTHENING DISCIPLEMAKING We are in the final stages of developing our online Disciplemaking Lab, designed to help churches think through how to live out the Great Commission in their unique context. Check out video linked to the right.

STRENGTHENING LEADERS At our annual conference this spring, we will offer a specific track focused on leadership development. Various leaders from across our district will facilitate roundtable discussions addressing key leadership challenges with the goal of encouraging, equipping, and engaging leaders. Together, we will explore how we can collaborate as a district to create pathways for developing future leaders. Later in 2026, our online Develop Lab will be launched.

Please click or scan QR codes to access links.



CROWN
HILL



PIONEER
GROVE



DISCIPLE
MAKING LAB



PLANTING
TOGETHER



ON TRACK

HEALTH & MULTIPLICATION

SAVE THE DATE

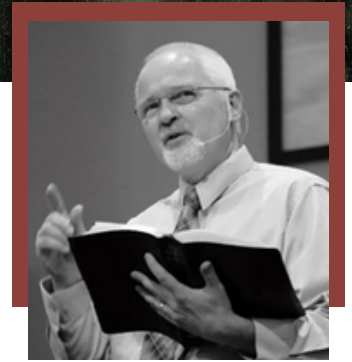
RMD CONFERENCE 2026 | APRIL 27-28, 2026

Southwest Community Church in Littleton, Colorado

The On Track Conference is designed to help churches and ministries realign with the biblical rails that have always carried the mission of Jesus forward: health and multiplication. Like two parallel tracks, these priorities must run together—neither can stand alone, and both are essential for discipling momentum. Save the date and keep an eye out for more details in early 2026. We believe there is something valuable for your pastors, staff, and lay leaders, so please invite them all.

SOME REFLECTIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

Pastor Bruce Smalley
Preacher of the Word



At the end of August, I stepped away from full-time pastoral ministry after 23+ years as the Senior Pastor at Mountain View EFC in Greeley, Colorado. (If you really want to know a bit more about me and what I am doing now, you can go to my website: www.preacheroftheword.com.)

Here are a few observations about ministry—some of which may lead you to say, “Been there!”

As early as seminary, I learned that reactions to the same sermon can be drastically different. I once received positive feedback from fellow students after preaching a sermon in homiletics class. At the same time, another student commented that I should quit trying to be something I was not. I’ve learned to simply study well, faithfully share God’s Word, and not worry about what people think about me as a preacher.

People can be so kind and so mean. I once received a note from a lady telling me I was a really great pastor. A couple of weeks later, she wrote a long letter to the elders complaining about what a failure I was as a pastor. We must realize that those we minister to are human (like us). There are things going on in their lives and minds that may lead them to do and say things that leave us confused, baffled, and discouraged. As others have pointed out—sometimes the sheep bite. Getting “vaccinated” with the “immunoglobulin” of the love and strength God provides keeps us healthy as we continue to minister.

Even some church leaders won’t have a desire to share in the ministry. Shortly after beginning my ministry in one church, I arranged a meeting with youth parents. I shared with them my hopes for us to come alongside one another in ministry partnership on behalf of their children. The church chairman loudly proclaimed, “I thought that’s what we hired you for.” He had no desire to be equipped or to serve.

Believing in and striving to follow God will not always be easy—but with confidence in Him, we can serve joyfully. Consider passages such as Psalm 13 and John 16:33.

The fact that God has made me useful for His purposes is a reminder of His mercy, grace, and power. In me, God took a boy from a single-parent, welfare-dependent home (thanks to alcoholism and divorce), someone who knew what it was like to live in the slums and in housing projects, and brought me to faith in Jesus. He enabled me to earn my way through Trinity College and TEDS. He gave me opportunities to serve and grow in my faith. **All of this is a reminder that no one is beyond God’s reach.** As you serve our Lord, regardless of whether or not people seem likable or whether or not they like you, try to see them as people for whom Christ died. Aim to be faithful in sharing His Word and showing them His love and compassion. Not everyone will respond as we might wish. We cannot expect to know how God is using our efforts, but we can be sure that He will accomplish His good purposes. Be grateful that He graciously chooses to use our efforts as His instruments of righteousness in the process!



THE JOURNEY OF TRUSTING GOD FOR A NEW CHURCH BUILDING

Pastor Neil Magnuson
Crossroads EFC, Custer, South Dakota

Less than a year ago we had space, but we were now squeezed in shoulder to shoulder. Crossroads had taken the leap of converting an old machine shop into an amazing facility only a few years prior, yet already space was maxed out throughout the week. It was an amazing problem, but it was stifling our ability to grow. We needed to add space, but was this for our own vanity, or was God really leading us? Prayer flowed. As we sought God's direction, a committee was formed, and we were encouraged down the path of expansion. In response, we began to untangle a ball of complications. We didn't actually have enough land to expand, so we began searching for a new place. Each option we explored had detrimental issues, which led us again to wait and to pray. Again we questioned: did God really want us to expand?

We continued to strain against the boundaries of our facility. We believed God was leading us to expand, but were unsure of how. Financially, God had been blessing us and giving us funds that we saved toward a new facility. Our current facility is mere feet from the property line, but a new idea was brought up, asking about the potential of expanding if we could buy some land from our neighbors. God showed us favor, and we were allowed to purchase a section of land from them for an amazing price.

Encouraged, we formed a new committee to plan and develop an addition. Time, treasure, and tears were poured into an awaited expansion, but like a flame to a wet fuse, it sputtered and went out. At the same time, Crossroads entered a time of pain. Challenges came to the surface, threatening to destroy the body itself. People sensed tension and began to dwindle. Friends and leaders left our fellowship, refusing restoration, and leaving tears and sorrow in their wake.

Many questions arose and resurfaced. Do we even need more space now? We thought we were following God, but have we been fools all along? Though Crossroads was hurt, God was still faithful. The very next week we saw new growth. Prayers heard! God brought our Custer community in to worship and grow in Christ with us. Within a year, we were again pressing against the constraints of our facility.

We added a second worship service and a mobile building to help alleviate the pressure, but it was not enough. We needed more space. Again, we prayed; and again we felt as if God did want us to build. We had been on this road so many times; yet in faith, we took next steps, fully believing we were told that it was all in His time.

Still steeped in prayer, a committee was brought together. Maybe we could build on the back of our existing property. Once again, God showed us favor and allowed us to buy even more land from our neighbor. They even moved their easement, giving us further freedom to build on the property. In God's timing, these plans came to fruition, and a building arose: a place used for worship and discipleship, helping people to take Christ into their community and world.

God is faithful just as He says. His timing is not ours; rather, His timing is perfect.

Trusting God...

Pastor Neil Magnuson

CROSSROADS EFC BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN CUSTER



CONNECT with us at the RMD

Share a little bit about yourself and your church
so that we can provide you with important
information that is relevant to you.



JOIN THE 10:2 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.](#)

PRAYING & TOGETHER

LET'S PRAY EARNESTLY FOR THE CHURCHES IN OUR DISTRICT.
USE THE CALENDAR BELOW TO LIFT UP EACH CHURCH ON ITS DESIGNATED DAY.

DECEMBER

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. Colorado Springs, CO - Magnify EFC
21. Cortez, CO - Grace Fellowship EFC
22. Crook, CO - United EFC
23. Custer, SD - Crossroads Church
24. Denver, CO - Chinese EFC
25. Denver, CO - Pilgrim Congregational Church
26. Divide, CO - Little Chapel of the Hills
27. Douglas, WY - Lighthouse Church
28. Eaton, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Eaton
29. Erie, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
30. Estes Park, CO - Rocky Mountain Church
31. Evergreen, CO - Bergen Park Church

JANUARY

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

PRAYING & TOGETHER

FEBRUARY

1. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
2. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
3. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
4. Steamboat Springs, CO - Steamboat Bible Church
5. Thornton, CO - Calvary Bible Church
6. Timnath, CO - Christ The Rock Community Church
7. Wall, SD - Evangelical Free Bible Church
8. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
9. Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Superintendent
10. RMD Director, Multiplication & Leadership Development
11. RMD Staff
12. RMD Leadership Team (DLT)
13. RMD Finances
14. RMD Healthy Pastor Gatherings (HPGs)
15. RMD Church Planting Leadership Team
16. RMD Student Ministries Consultant and Team
17. Pray for our pastor's wives and children
18. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing Chairman
19. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing (Credential Team)
20. Pray for RMD Churches searching for pastors
21. Pray for the EFCA ONE Gathering beginning today
22. Pray for Regional Care Pastors in the RMD
23. Pray for prayer saturation to take hold in the RMD
24. Pray for Caleb Haynes, Church Plant, Loveland, CO
25. Pray for future church plants
26. EFCA District Superintendents (17 total)
27. Pray for gospel opportunities in our communities
28. Pray for ongoing growth among believers in the RMD

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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