

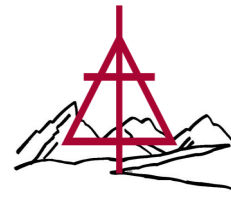
Upcoming Events

Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15	Sept. 16
8:30 am Pancake Breakfast 10:00am Worship Service 1:15 pm Clearwater Center 2:30 pm Westview Lodge		<i>Office: Keanna</i> 7:30pm Admin		12:00 pm Bulletin deadline		10:00 am-4:00pm Come Alive Event on Main Street
Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23
10:00am Worship Service		<i>Office: Josephine</i> 7:30pm Elders		12:00pm Bulletin deadline		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website (firstcrocky.ca) for links to sermons.

Thank you, for all you do!	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
	Pastor Ken Douma	Pastor Ron deVries	Pastor Ken Douma
Serving Elder	Jessica H.	Alan O.	John O.
Serving Deacon	Doug D.	Justin D.	Tanya P.
Music Team	The Experience	Lifted Hearts	Six Track
Children's Message	Pastor Ken	Elroy L.	Joel S.
Sunday School ages 3 & 4	Corinne S.	Sunday School	Sunday School
Nursery	Marion R., Isabelle D., Alyssa D., Jonah D.	Mark & Keanna H. Cailyn B., Miyah B.	Shi V., Marlene D. Kayley T., Ruth D.
Coffee Host	Art & Karen T.	Zach & Cailyn B.	Gary & Shirley V.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Justin & Mikala D. Tom & Kathy S.	Dave & Sandra S. Lowell & Chris S.	John & Jean B. Jerry & Lena F.



FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

RR3 Site 4 Box 6, Rocky Mountain House, T4T 2A3 403.845.6067

Our **MISSION** is to worship God faithfully, nurture one another to grow in Christ, joyfully tell others about Jesus, develop our gifts to serve and pursue stewardship, justice and peace in every area of life.

Pastor Ken Douma – kgdouma@gmail.com 780.728.8148

Church Office: (Josephine & Keanna) Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm office@rockycrc.ca



Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ What A Beautiful Name

Call to Worship

God's Greeting and We Welcome One Another

♪ Blessed Be Your Name

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Jesus Strong and Kind

Children's Message— Corinne S.

Sunday School for 3&4 year olds

Ministry Leaders - presentations

Announcements and Congregational Prayer

Offering - Resonate Global Missions

Offertory

Scripture: Matthew 4:23-5:1-12

Message: Kingdom Living: Sermon on the Mount,
Wonderful News

♪ Come Thou Fount

Parting Blessing

♪ How Great is Our God

Welcome to First CRC Rocky

If you are visiting we want to offer a warm welcome!

We pray you will encounter God today as you worship and bring him praise!

Nursery is available for infants & small children. Sunday School for ages 3 & 4 during the service.

Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

For more Information view: www.firstcrocky.ca or [FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse)

CHURCH FAMILY

*"...Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16 ~

† As a ministerial church, each church has been asked to pray for our brothers and sisters in our community, today we are praying for **First Christian Reformed Church**.

† We pray for **Nic and Shianne** and their family as they mourn the passing of **Shianne's mom, Kelcy R**. We extend our deepest condolences to the family.

† Birthday Congratulations go out **Gloria D.** who will celebrate her birthday on **Sept. 11**, may God bless you in the coming year.

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Elly O., Anneke O., Sylvia D.** and **Joe & Lena V.** For those at care facilities: **Tonia T.** (Westview Lodge), **Diane W.** and **Dick O.** (Clearwater Centre); **Seenie B.** and **Dick O.** (Park Avenue), and for all the caregivers who are able to assist those who require a little extra help and care.

† Please keep **all missionaries** in God's care, wherever they may be serving. Join us in praying that: God will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships, for strength and stamina, that the Holy Spirit will provide them with words that communicate effectively in other cultures and languages, that God will keep them safe, for an abundant harvest that will be produced as more people learn about the love of Christ, and for restoration — physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually — that can only be found in Jesus.

Check out the Missions bulletin board, in the social hall, for updates on the missionaries that we support.

If you know of anyone that we should be keeping in our prayers for various reasons, council asks that you please call Pastor Ken, an elder or deacon. Your *Elders* are Anthony B., Randy D., Jessica H., Alan O., John O., Jeannette S., Chris T., Dave S. Albert V. and Janelle V. Your *Deacons* are Peter B., Doug D., Justin D., Tanya P., Lowell S. and Nic V.



*"Please rejoice for me! Jesus has
died on the cross for me. It is my utter
joy to be imprisoned for my Lord.
This is a reality and not self-comfort
nor self-encouragement."*

*~ Pastor John Cao, who is
currently imprisoned in China*

CHINA: New Laws Tighten Grip on Churches

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has released new religious restrictions which took effect on September 1st, bringing added concerns in a country already experiencing increased repressive measures. The new rules require religious venues to submit to the leadership of the CCP and its plans for the "sinicization" of religion.

According to the State Administration for Religious Affairs, all religious activities will be limited to official venues only and religious symbols must not be displayed outdoors. In recent years, more than 1,500 crosses have been torn down from officially recognized churches in the Zhejiang province alone. It is expected that such enforcements will increase under these new rules.

The new regulations also put further stipulations on the preaching taking place in government-approved churches. For example, pastors' sermons must now reflect China's politics and the values of President Xi Jinping, demonstrating their full support for the Communist Party of China and its socialist system. Any clergy members refusing to comply face disqualification from preaching.

While such regulations are specifically aimed at the official Three-Self churches, the policies will undoubtedly be used against underground churches that have refused to be placed under government control. For more details on the persecution encountered by Christians in China, go to our [country report](#).



*"Please rejoice for me! Jesus has died on the cross for me. It is my utter joy to be imprisoned for my Lord. This is a reality and not self-comfort nor self-encouragement."
~ Pastor John Cao, who is currently imprisoned in China*

On August 16th, protests by thousands of angry Muslims in the Christian colony of Jaranwala resulted in damages to hundreds of homes and over 20 churches. For more details on this recent incident, view our [report from August 24th](#) and a very informative [video alert](#).

While the intense violence has been quelled, tensions persist throughout the region, and the anti-Christian sentiment which fuelled the violence remains. Eleazar Sidhu serves as the pastor of the Myong-Sang Naserth Church in Jaranwala, which was one of the many churches attacked in the riots. On August 28th, Islamic slogans were painted on the wall of the church building, including a curse against Pastor Eleazar. This vandalism was reported to the police and the writing has since been painted over.

A few days later, a group of people intercepted Pastor Eleazar and threatened to kill him because he had removed the writing. On September 3rd, the church leader was returning to his home when two unidentified men approached him. Pulling out a pistol, one demanded that Pastor Eleazar recite the *Kalima* (the Islamic declaration of faith). When the pastor instead began reciting the Apostles' Creed, the man shot him in the upper chest and then fled.

Pastor Eleazar was taken to the hospital, where doctors were able to remove the bullet. While he lost a lot of blood, the pastor is now considered to be out of danger and, thankfully, recovering well after surgery. The incident has led to renewed concerns regarding the safety of Christians in the area. Police guards have been deployed at churches, but there is scepticism about whether this will be an effective means of protecting worshippers at risk.

Pray for the complete healing of Pastor Eleazar, asking that this Christian leader and his family members will tangibly sense God's comforting presence throughout his recovery. Praise the Lord that there have been no reported casualties due to the ongoing religious tensions in Jaranwala. Please pray for the Lord's protection over His people in this troubled city, as well as those residing in other areas within the nation of Pakistan. Also ask for His intervention in the affairs of the country so that the blasphemy laws, which are so commonly abused, will be revoked.

Deacon's Corner ~ Peter B., Doug D., Justin D., Tanya P., Lowell S., Nic V.

Upcoming Offerings

September 10 - Resonate Global Ministries

Resonate joins with a diverse network of CRCNA congregations and other partners locally and globally. We work to mobilize individuals and communities to participate in God's mission and work for the spiritual and social transformation of the world.

September 17 - Mountain Rose Womens Shelter

Our Mission is to build on our abilities to meet individual, family, & the changing needs of those impacted by gender-based violence by providing trauma-informed services, increase community engagement, and championing the voices of all survivors by creating safe spaces for help, hope, and healing.

Gratefully Received August 20 & 27

Rocky Christian School \$1,348	Rehoboth \$50
Wycliffe \$1,380	Sonrise Camp \$590

From the Deacons & Treasurer

There are several ways to give to the church:

Coupons allow you to give to the weekly offerings, without having to use loose change. They come in \$2, \$5 and \$10 coupons. You will be receipted for the amount of Coupons you purchase. Coupons can be directly purchased from a Deacon, in the Council room on Sunday morning, after the service. They expire at the end of each year.

Budget/Local Church Ministries: Write to "First Christian Reformed Church of RMH". If you wish to have your cheque allocated to a specific cause approved by the deacons or otherwise announced please indicate that cause on the memo line of your cheque.

E-transfers: send to treasurer@rockycrc.ca on the memo please specify the cause you would like money allocated to.

Pre-Authorized Bank Withdrawals—Contact Marlene O. to sign up or get a form from the office.

Prayer Ministry

There are times in life when everything seems overwhelming- times when you can't find answers or you don't know where to turn. But in every season of life the Spirit invites us into a relationship with God through prayer. This is how we align our hearts with His. It is reassuring to know He is there and is listening. Whatever you are going through-times of beauty or ones of trouble- we'd love to pray with you. Contact the team through email, the church office, phone call or through the website anonymously.

Visit www.firstcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

Church Announcements

Fall Kickoff Sunday

Sunday, September 10th

Join us in the social hall for a
pancake breakfast, starting at 8:30am.

Found - a Starkey remote on a lanyard was found in the church parking lot on August 27th. Please see the office if it is yours.

Sunday School Teachers Needed - we are very grateful for the teachers who have already signed up to make this year's Sunday School program possible. We are **still in need of 2 teachers**; 1 in the Kindergarten to Grade 3 class and 1 in the Grade 4&5 class. This allows for a 3 week rotation. Please prayerfully consider if this is an area you can bless our congregation with. Our plan is **start the program on September 17th**. **Contact Bettie V. or Sandra S. for more information.**

Clearwater Center & Westview Lodge - our church will be putting on the services at the care facilities on **September 10th and September 24th**. The services at the **Clearwater Center will begin at 1:15pm** and the services at the **Westview Lodge will begin at 2:30pm**. Everyone is welcome to join!

Celebrate Recovery - is a biblically based, recovery program that addresses our hurts, hang-ups, and habits using a 12 step approach. Starts **Tuesday, September 5th from 7-9pm** at the **The Church of the Nazarene** in Rocky Mountain House. Call 403-845-3215 for more information.

6th Annual Come Alive Event - **September 16th from 10am-4pm on Main Street (4903 50th Street)**. Come and enjoy some live music, kid activities, youth games, free food & refreshments and fellowship! If you can, bring a food or cash donation for the Foodbank.

A Call To Prayer - **Sunday, September 10 from 3-4pm**, join us as we pray for our community. We will **begin at the town office at 3pm**, then go on to other key locations including: schools, churches and entrances. As we pray we want to ask God to move in our community: bringing protection, healing, unity and His presence. Come be a part of the change. For more information, contact Trevor & Amy Scott 403-845-3840.

Check out the **First Steps News Letter** on the bulletin board in the social hall and there are also some copies on the foyer tables.

Many of you know **Lies K.**, she will be turning **100** on **September 16**, many of us have received cards from her, so we thought it would be nice if we could surprise her with cards for her 100th birthday. They can be either dropped off at the office or put in Irene Kerklaans mailbox.

Church Announcements

Northern Crossing Music and Drama Society's Christmas Concert is **December 6th and 7th**, this year. We are extending an invitation to everyone who has a love of singing Christmas music! Our rehearsals begin **Monday September 18th, 6:45 – 9:15 pm** at **Ecole Rocky Elementary** in the McCabe room. Rehearsals run every Monday, same time, same place with the one night weekly commitment till we move into the Centre December 3rd. December 4th, 5th are rehearsals with December 6th and 7th for the shows.

Hello Men! You are invited to a **Men's Retreat at Frontier Lodge** from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon (**Oct 27-29**). Last year, those who attended were truly blessed and we look forward to another great week-end of deepening friendship, adventure, growth and great food! For more information or to register, please go to www.frontierlodge.ca/sons-and-brothers.

Rita B. was in BC recently and had a visit with Pastor Len and Nienke, they are doing well and want to pass their greetings along to the congregation.

Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre Rocky Mountain House will once again be having our **Dessert Evening and Silent Auction on November 30th, 2023**. We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning of the event and to help on the day of. If this is something that you are able and willing to do, please contact Tammy B. by phone/or email me at tammy@pregnancycare.ca.

Standing for the sanctity of life for the Pre-born

Proverbs 31:8 gives us courage in our convictions to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." Take part in Christ's great commission! Join us at **Highway 2A at Woodland Dr., Lacombe**, on Saturday, **September 30, 2023 at 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm** or at **32nd St at 57th Ave, Red Deer**, on Sunday, **October 1, at 2:00pm - 3:00pm**, to participate in Life Chain, a peaceful, annual pro-life event praying for an end to the killing of the preborn in Canada. Be a voice for the voiceless! Signs provided. Visit Campaign Life Coalition's website—www.campaignlifecoalition.com—for more information.

Reframe Ministries

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Kids Corner: Angels Around Us - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When you read the Bible and find out that there are angels around us, how do you picture them? Do you think they have a glowing, heavenly light shining on them? Or majestic wings like the ones on Christmas ornaments? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the KC's Liz and Friends Podcast "At Your Service."

Groundwork: When Our Faith Defines Our Character - Daniel knew what it was like live in a cultural context that was not welcoming to his faith practice. Join Groundwork as we study Daniel 1. Together we'll discuss the challenges he faced and witness what God can do when we let our faith and not our context define our character. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.