

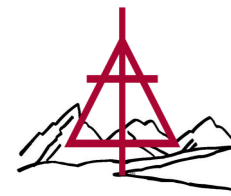
## Upcoming Events

| Nov. 12  | Nov. 13           | Nov. 14   | Nov. 15                                     | Nov. 16  | Nov. 17                           | Nov. 18 |
|--|-------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 10:00am Worship Service<br>Lord's Supper<br>Voting re: second staff<br><br>Youth Group - Lunch at Pastor Ken's. Followed by singing at the senior centers.<br><br>1:15pm Clearwater Center<br>2:30pm Westview Lodge<br><br>Sunday School<br>Story Card #99 | 7:00pm Friendship | <i>Office: Josephine</i><br>9:30am Coffee Break<br><br>7:30pm Admin | 7:00pm GEMS/CADETS<br><br>7:00 pm Catechism | 9:30am Ladies Craft Group<br><br>12:00pm Bulletin Deadline |                                   |         |
| Nov. 19  | Nov. 20           | Nov. 21   | Nov. 22                                     | Nov. 23  | Nov. 24                           | Nov. 25 |
| 10:00am Worship Service<br><br>8:00pm Youth Group at Covenant CRC<br><br>Sunday School<br>Story Card #100  | 7:00pm Friendship | <i>Office: Keanna</i><br>9:30am Coffee Break<br><br>7:30pm Elders   |   | 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline                                  | 5:00-7:00pm GEMS Chili Fundraiser |         |

All bulletins can be found online [www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca)

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website ([firstcrocky.ca](http://firstcrocky.ca)) for links to sermons.

| HELPS IN GROUND SANDS          | Thank you, for all you do!                      | Nov. 12                                  | Nov. 19                                      | Nov. 26         |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------|
|                                |   | Pastor Ken D.                            | Pastor Ken D.                                | Pastor Karen N. |
| <b>Serving Elder</b>           | Alan H.   | Anthony B.                               | Jessica H.                                   |                 |
| <b>Serving Deacon</b>          | Lorraine A.                                     | Peter B.                                 | Doug D.                                      |                 |
| <b>Music Team</b>              | Mosaic  | Six Track                                | Lifted Hearts                                |                 |
| <b>Children's Message</b>      | Pastor Ken                                      | Corinne S.                               | Elroy L.                                     |                 |
| <b>Nursery</b>                 | Justin & Courtney D.,<br>Stephanie C., Jonah D. | Mark & Keanna H.,<br>Alyssa D., Miyah B. | Marion R., Marlene D.,<br>Anita M., Ruth D.  |                 |
| <b>Coffee Host</b>             | Aaron & Cheryl T.                               | Anthony & Lydia B.                       | Peter & Trudy D.                             |                 |
| <b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b> | Ernie & Jeanette S.<br>Shaun & Maeghan M.       | Alan & Jacqueline H.<br>Dick & JoAnn D.  | Dieneke S. & Erika W.<br>Trevor & Sharlea L. |                 |



## **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](mailto:kgdouma@gmail.com) 780.728.8148

Church Office: Josephine: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm

Keanna: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm; Thursday 12:45pm to 2:45pm

### Kingdom Living: The Sermon on the Mount;

### Radical Love - Loving Your Enemies

**Matthew 5:38-48**

*Sunday, November 12*

[www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca)  
@FirstCRC.Rocky Mtn House on Facebook

### Morning Worship Service

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Welcome<br>🎵 Shout To The Lord   | Announcements and Congregational Prayer   |
| Call to Worship  | Offering - Mission Aviation Fellowship<br>Offertory   |
| God's Greeting/ We Welcome One Another<br>🎵 You Are My King (Amazing Love) | Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48<br>Message: Kingdom Living: The Sermon on the Mount;<br>Radical Love |
| Lord's Supper<br>🎵 Jesus Strong and Kind<br>🎵 Encounter                    | 🎵 They'll Know We Are Christians  |
| Children's Message - Pastor Ken<br>Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5     | Parting Blessing<br>🎵 Let Your Word Go Forth  |
|  | Second staff vote to take place after the service.  |

## 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 to Grade 5 during the service.  
Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

For more Information view: [www.firstercrocky.ca](http://www.firstercrocky.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 **St. Matthews Roman Catholic Church**.

† Belated birthday congratulations go out to **Seenie B.** who celebrated her birthday on November 10th. May God bless you in the coming year!

† Birthday congratulations to **Herb W.** who is celebrating his birthday today. 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., Alan H., Karl H., Jessica H., Alan O., John O., Dave S., Chris T. and Albert V. Your *Deacons* are Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Doug D., Justin D. and Lowell S.



### INDIA: Positive Court Ruling on State Anti-Conversion Law

Sources: The Hindu, NDTV, Scroll.in

A recent ruling by the Allahabad High Court has brought encouraging news to Christians in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. This court decision may help to more precisely determine who is legally qualified to file a grievance under the state's anti-conversion law, as well as provide some beneficial legal guidelines on what constitutes "allurement."

In January of this year, Pastor Jose Papachen and his wife Sheeja were sent to jail after a leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party accused the couple of luring people to Christianity. Although the two believers appealed the decision, their application for bail was denied in March. Fortunately, following a ruling issued by the high court on September 6th, in which the judge determined that the accusations against them were not in contravention of the legislation, the two Christians were released on bail.

The court ruled that "accusations of alluring people to convert" can only be filed by the person being targeted or by a family member of that person. Therefore, a third party cannot file the accusation, as was done in the case against Pastor Jose and Sheeja. The court also determined that distributing a Bible and imparting "good teachings" are not considered to be acts of "allurement for religious conversion."

In his ruling, Justice Shamim Ahmad observed: "Providing teaching, distributing [a] Holy Bible, encouraging children [to receive an] education, organizing [an] assembly of villagers and performing *bhandara* [providing a free meal], [and] instructing villagers not to enter into [an] altercation [nor] to take liquor, do not amount to allurement under the 2021 act."

Christians in the Uttar Pradesh state have frequently been targets of vindictive neighbours and militant community members who use false accusations of forcible conversions against them. While the recent encouraging ruling only relates to this particular case, and specifically applies within this Indian state, Christian leaders are hopeful that it may serve as a precedent in determining future allegations.

***Praise God for the wisdom demonstrated by the court's presiding judge after his consideration of the presented legal arguments. Pray that the judge's equitable ruling will help to prevent other similar cases from being filed against our Christian brothers and sisters in Uttar Pradesh state, and potentially throughout the entire country of India. Now that a favourable verdict has been determined, may the Lord protect Pastor Jose and Sheeja as they return to their community and adjust to life following the ordeal.***

***"Prayer enables us first inwardly to overcome the enemy, and then outwardly to deal with him."***

~ Watchman Nee

**CUBA: Pastors Detained for Organizing Religious Freedom Conferences**

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Marti, Instituto Patmos

In the early hours of October 31st, Alejandro Hernández Cepero, who serves as the pastor of an independent church in Cuba, was taken from his home by state security officers and detained. Another pastor, Luis Eugenio Maldonado Calvo, had been summoned to appear before the authorities that same day, and was subsequently also taken into custody.

Both pastors were instrumental in organizing roundtable meetings in various parts of the island nation for the purpose of discussing religious freedom. These meetings were to include representatives from a wide variety of religious and ethnic groups. The first session was held on October 3rd in Havana and Santiago de Cuba. The second session was scheduled to take place the day the two Christian leaders happened to be unexpectedly detained.

The two pastors were reportedly released later that day, after the time had passed for the scheduled meeting in which they were both supposed to participate.

***While we can praise God that these two pastors have thankfully been released from custody, please pray for their ongoing efforts to encourage religious freedom in this Communist nation. May the Lord continue to equip church congregations throughout the country in their endeavors to faithfully fulfil Christ's Great Commission by proclaiming the Gospel message. Pray that those in Cuba who are opposed to Christianity will eventually come to understand that acknowledging Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour is the only way to receive God's provision of eternal life.***

## Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Doug D., Justin D., Lowell S.

### Upcoming Offerings

#### **November 12 - Mission Aviation**

Your donation to MAF provides Hope and Changes the lives of those living in isolated communities. You can make a lasting impact and change lives in isolated communities. Give to MAF today. Preventative care. Flying doctor services. Infant care and Missionary work.

#### **November 19 - Local Church Ministries**

Local Church Ministries goes to all our budget commitments: Staff, office expenses, power, heat, insurance, children's programs, mission support and ministry shares.

#### **Gratefully Received October 29 & November 5**

Local Church Ministries \$5,179      World Renew \$1,263      The Ministry to Seafarers \$100

### 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](mailto: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.

## Church Announcements

**PRE-CHRISTMAS SENIORS' LUNCHEON** - All seniors are invited to a luncheon to be held on **Wednesday, November 22nd in the Social Hall at 11:30 a.m.** We'll start with coffee and preliminaries and lunch will be served at 12:00. Then we'll enjoy entertainment and conclude with dessert. We hope you can all come! There's a sign-up sheet on the table in the Social Hall so we'll know how much food to prepare - or you can contact Ella. There will be a \$10.00 charge to offset costs.

**GEMS** - Please join the **GEMS on Friday, November 24th** from 5-7pm for a **Chili Supper**. We are looking forward to an evening of delicious food and great fellowship. Supper is by donation.

**Men's Breakfast** - All men (youth included) are invited to come to the church for a delicious breakfast on **Saturday, December 2nd at 8:30am**. Pastor Ken will share and we will talk about plans for men's ministry in the church. Plan on staying until 10:00 or feel free to eat and run if you have to. We hope you will be able to join us. If you have dietary restrictions, please let Pastor Ken know.

**CADETS** - Winter is coming so it is time to **stock up on firewood**. Once again cadets are selling firewood for a fundraiser. We hope to be delivering it **Saturday, November 18**. The firewood will be a mixture of spruce and pine and cut to 16" lengths. We are selling it for \$300 for a trailer load, which is approximately 1 cord. To book it please contact Mark H., Bob A., Jordan P., Alan O. or John M.

**Red Deer Pro Life** - There is a knock on the Back Door. A young woman is there. She is confused, afraid, and looking for help. She has come to **The Back Porch**, located across the street from Edmonton's abortion clinic. She is looking for someone who will listen, help her, and speak the truth about what her choices are for her unborn child. Would you like to listen too? Get a group together and join us to hear **The Back Porch Director, Gabrielle Johnson, speaking at the Red Deer Pro Life Banquet on November 23rd**. Admission is free, but you must pre-register at [reddeerprolife.com](http://reddeerprolife.com). or contact Joel S.

**Ministry to Seafarers** - With the Fall season comes preparations for **Christmas at Sea**. This year the **Ministry to Seafarers** will again be delivering Christmas gifts for seafarers. Your donations for this project can be made by cheque payable to **Ministry to Seafarers**, and mailed to 401 E Waterfront Rd, Vancouver, BC V6A 4G9. You can also make donations online via our website, [ministrytoseafarers.com](http://ministrytoseafarers.com). Please designate gifts for "Christmas at Sea." Thank You! The fall newsletter is also available on the bulletin board in the social hall.

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - End-of-year giving opportunities abound at this time of year, so be intentional about your giving. Consider doing some research to discover a new local ministry or organization that supports a cause you care about deeply, and then give generously of your time, talents, and treasure to help it flourish. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

## First Steps Update

## 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](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**Kids Corner: Talking About God When We're Scared** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). It can be scary to step out of your comfort zone and tell someone about God. This week's devotion is all about not letting your fear hold you back. God will be with you just like he was with Moses (Exodus 3:12). And he has promised you that you can do all things with his help (Philippians 4:13). Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the Bible story podcast "Paul in Athens."

**Groundwork: In His Mercy, God Chose You** - When someone we love doesn't share our belief in Jesus, we often experience grief and heartache. Join Groundwork as we study Paul's lament for his fellow Jews in Romans 9-11. Together we'll learn about God's sovereign choice and our free will and we'll discover comfort in the truth that God, in his mercy, has chosen us. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly