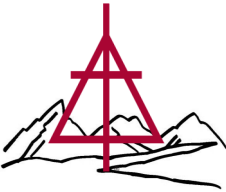


Upcoming Events						
Dec. 10	Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16
10:00am Worship Service Baptism of David L. Sunday School Story Card #109	7:00pm Friendship Christmas Party	<i>Office: Keanna</i> 9:30am Coffee Break 7:30pm Admin	7:00 pm GEMS/ Cadets/Catechism	9:30 am Ladies Craft Group 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		
Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
10:00am Worship Service Lord's Supper		<i>Office: Keanna</i>		12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrcrocky.ca

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

H E L P I N G H A N D S	Thank you, for all you do!	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24
		Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.
	Serving Elder	John D.	Dave S.	Chris T.
	Serving Deacon	Tanya P.	Lowell S.	Lorraine A.
	Music Team	Mosaic	The Experience	Mosaic
	Children’s Message	Corinne S.	Elroy L.	Pastor Ken
	Nursery	Karl & Krystal H. Amber B., Shanelle T.	Justin & Mikala D. Kelsey D., Chelsey B.	Colleen T., Marie A., Janelle V., Travis A.
	Coffee Host	Dave & Sandra S.	Jason & Tanya P.	Thomas & Alyssa D.
	Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Pete & Josephine B. Aaron & Colleen T.	Nic & Shianne V. Sara D. & Arlyn D.	Doug & Karen D. Glenn & Kari M.



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: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm

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



Morning Worship Service

Welcome	Announcements and Congregational Prayer
Lighting of the Advent Wreath	
Call to Worship	Offering for Local Church Ministries
♫ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Offertory
God’s Greeting/ We Welcome One Another	Scripture: Proverbs 8:1, 6, 22–36; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25
♫ Hark the Herald/O Come All Ye faithful	Message: Come, Wisdom
Lord’s Supper Preparation	Responsive Affirmation of Faith
	♫ One Small Child
Baptism of David L.	Parting Blessing
♫ How Great Is the Love of the Father	♫ Mary’s Boy Child
Children’s Message - Corinne S.	
Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5	

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* **or** *FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook*

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 **Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**.

✝ We celebrate the baptism of **David L. (Ryan & Alissa)** today! Welcome into the family of God, and we pray that God will keep and guide you all the days of your life.

✝ Belated birthday congratulations go out to **Marlene K.** who celebrated on December 4. May God bless you in the coming year!

✝ On December 2nd, **Dick O.** went home to Jesus. We extend our deepest condolences to **Anneke** and the extended families during this time.

✝ 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.** (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.

Reframe Ministries

Kids Corner: Promises and Peace - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. During Advent, we remember the story of Mary, a teenager, called by God to be Jesus’ mother. “How could this be?” she wondered at first. But the angel Gabriel assured Mary. “God’s favor is on you,” he said. “Anything is possible with God.” Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “The Birth of Jesus.”

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.

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Mighty God - The prophet Isaiah next calls the coming Messiah “Mighty God.” Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 10:21, Acts 1:6-8, and Revelation 5:6,11-14 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus. Together, we’ll discuss how his presence as a helpless baby displays the awe-someness of God’s power and gives us hope as we anticipate his return. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.



"Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually!"
~ 1 Chronicles 16:11 ESV

ALGERIA: Church Leader Loses Appeal/Source: Middle East Concern

Pastor Youssef Ourahmane is a senior pastor who oversees a number of churches and Bible schools in Algeria, in addition to serving as the vice president of the Église Protestante d'Algérie (EPA) – an association composed of more than 45 Protestant churches.

After holding a small gathering with a few Christian families in March, Pastor Youssef was charged by governing officials for organizing an unauthorized religious assembly. Without notice, he was tried and convicted in absentia, receiving a sentence of two years in prison, along with a fine of 100,000 dinars (approximately \$1,000 CAD).

Subsequently, the pastor's conviction was appealed, and the hearing for this took place on November 19th. Although the verdict, which was announced on November 27th, ruled to uphold the church leader's conviction, the judge presiding over his case reduced the prison sentence to one year. Pastor Youssef now intends to appeal this latest verdict to a higher court.

The EPA has faced an escalating campaign of harassment to the point where only a few of the churches remain open. There are at least ten ongoing court cases against Christians presently in process at the time of publishing this report.

Pray that justice will be upheld in Pastor Youssef's case, and that he will be able to resume his ministry work without any further interference from Algeria's governing officials. Also prayerfully uphold our other persecuted Christian brothers and sisters in this North African nation – including those who are likewise facing the threat of prosecution – asking God to provide them encouragement, strength and guidance. Even during this time of uncertainty, may these faithful followers of Jesus seize every divinely orchestrated opportunity presented to them by demonstrating the love of Christ and sharing His wonderful plan of eternal salvation.

Church Announcements

2nd Staff Update - Natasha S. has **accepted** the call. We are so thankful. God is good!

Christmas Morning Singing - We are looking for **volunteers to take over singing at the hospital Christmas** and Easter mornings. John and Jean B. have been coordinating this for many years but have decided it’s time to pass it on to someone else. They are willing to help the new organizers this year. Please **contact John** or the office if you are interested. Thank you!

Men’s Event - All men (high school youth included) are invited to the Red Deer Rebels vs. Medicine Hat Tigers **hockey game on January 5, 2024**. Sign up is on the bulletin board near the social hall. If we can get 20+ guys we will get a group rate of \$23/person, but we need to know soon so we can book it! Any questions contact Kelly B.

Men’s Bible Study - We will be **starting a book study on Thursday, January 11th** for several weeks. The cost will be \$10 and you can pay when we begin the study. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near the social hall. We’ll need to know how many books to order. We hope you’ll join us!

Christmas Greetings - Joel and Corinne S. will be **leaving on December 14th** to go and see Christopher and Jenna. If anyone would like to send a card or letter please **contact Corinne** .

Financial Update - The bookkeeper shows that we are about \$75,000 short of our 2023 budgeted amount, with only one month remaining please consider how you might help meet out budget commitments.

Thank You - We are amazed and overwhelmed by your congregation’s generosity and support of our refugee sponsorship. What an incredible blessing! We are humbled and awed. Thank you, from The River Community Church.

Sunday School Parents - The Sunday School children are practicing for Christmas. They are learning a new song, Glory (Let There Be Peace) by Matt Maher. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/QW4c6DcxgGc?si=6SKWWEDqeIT7nOkX>. Please play this in your homes to help familiarize your children. Thank you!

World Renew

The Light of the World is Jesus - At the darkest time of the year, Christmas is the light of hope. What will you do this Advent season to prepare the way for Jesus to be born into this world for you? Share God’s light of hope with those who live in poverty through World Renew’s Gift Catalogue. Spread the good news of hope for the future at worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-975-3769 to give.

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

Upcoming Offerings

December 10 - 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.

December 17 - Benevolence Fund
A fund that is used by the church to support those in the community who are in need. It can assist with living expenses such as rent, utilities and groceries.

Gratefully Received November 26 & December 3
Chaplaincy & Care Ministry \$698 The Lord’s Foodbank \$3,879 Local Church Ministries \$6,170

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.

November E-transfers & Auto Withdrawals - Local \$13,605; CFGB \$1,092; MAF \$50
GEMS fundraiser \$20; Hall Rent \$200; World Renew (World Hunger) \$500

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.