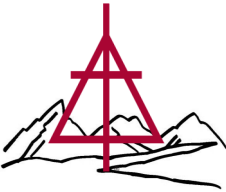


Upcoming Events						
Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
10:00am Worship Service Lord's Supper		<i>Office: Keanna</i>		12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		
Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30
10:00am Worship Service	10:00am Christmas Day Service	<i>Office: Josephine</i>				

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. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	
	Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.	
	Serving Elder	Chris T.	Dave S.	Gary V.
	Serving Deacon	Lowell S.	Lorraine A.	Doug D.
	Music Team	The Experience	Mosaic	Lifted Hearts
	Children’s Message	Elroy L.	Pastor Ken	Elroy L.
	Nursery	Justin & Mikala D., Kelsey D., Chelsey B.	Colleen T., Marie A., Janelle V., Travis A.	Corinne V., Annette D., Brenda B., Teslynn A.
	Coffee Host	Jason & Tanya P.	Thomas & Alyssa D.	Lowell & Chris S.
	Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Nic & Shianne V. Sara D. & Arlyn D.	Doug & Karen D. Glenn & Kari M.	Gary & Shirley V. Elroy & Arlene 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 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
♪ Joy To The World	
Lighting of the Advent Wreath	Offering for the Benevolence Fund
Call to Worship	Offertory
God’s Greeting/ We Welcome One Another	Scripture: Revelation 1; 3:7–13
♪ For To Us/Open The Eyes	Message: Come, Key of David
Lord’s Supper	Responsive Affirmation of Faith
♪ In Christ Alone	♪ Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
♪ Cornerstone	
Children’s Message - Elroy L.	Parting Blessing
Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5	♪ Hark The Herald/King Of Heaven

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.firstcrcrocky.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 **Covenant Christian Reformed Church**.

† Birthday congratulations go out to **Art T.** who celebrates his birthday today, December 17th. 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.** (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.

There are times in life when everything seems overwhelming- times when you can't find answers or you don't

Prayer Ministry

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.firstcrcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

Reframe Ministries

Kids Corner: The Shepherds' Joy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. At the beginning of Luke 2, the shepherds were kind of like the last ones to be picked. They got the long and boring night shift job that nobody wanted to do: watch the stinky sheep. But God picked them for a special task the night Jesus was born. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible story podcast "The Shepherds."

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Everlasting Father - Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called him the "Everlasting Father." Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



"Our brothers and sisters in Muslim countries can't celebrate Christmas – or any aspect of their faith – openly for fear of persecution and death. And yet we, with all our freedoms, often choose to make Christmas a celebration of commercialism!"

~ Erwin W. Lutzer

SUDAN: Humanitarian Aid Denied to Muslim-Background Believers/Source: Mission Network News

Now in its eighth month, Sudan's civil war has displaced over six million people, many of whom were forced to take refuge in camps where food and other basic resources are scarce. Some humanitarian assistance has been provided to the country, which is then distributed through smaller local aid groups. According to a Christian ministry worker in the region, this aid has been denied to some displaced followers of Jesus.

The ministry worker reports that when local aid distributors – who are typically Islamic – realize someone has come to faith in Christ after leaving Islam, they refuse to give them food, even though the rations have been supplied by the United Nations and other international organizations to help all who are being severely affected by the war. Some of the Muslim distributors believe it is their duty to withhold any means of compassion towards those who have left Islam.

To overcome this problem, Christian ministries are endeavouring to provide practical relief to believers in areas where the humanitarian aid is being denied. However, the need is enormous and the resources extremely limited.

Please uphold the war-torn nation of Sudan in your prayers, and its many displaced people, asking the Lord to minister His peace and provision in this deeply divided part of the world. Pray for the ongoing efforts of humanitarian organizations to help all citizens in need, and that these necessary provisions will also be fairly distributed to our suffering family in Christ. May those opposing the displaced Christians – and trying to prevent them from receiving greatly needed humanitarian aid – come to personally experience God's transforming love and forgiveness, which are available to all through Christ's redemptive work on the cross.

Church Announcements

Thank You - We, the family of Dirk (Dick) op den Dries, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone that has sent messages, cards, made phone calls and shown support and genuine love to our family during our husband, father and Opa’s passing.

We want to especially thank Pastor Ken who has shown so much love, care, support and visits over the past 4 1/2 years. Being by our side through many difficult moments has blessed us richly! Also, thanks for helping in many ways for the set up of the service and for the beautiful graveside and funeral services and kind words.

Thank you to all who helped us. Keanna, for your patient assistance while we made arrangements. To Randy, Rob and Erika for helping with the sound, power points and video. To Margo and Shantelle for providing us with such beautiful piano and saxophone accompaniment. To Mikayla and Justin D. for blessing us by taking care of our little ones in the nursery during the service.

A big thank you to Marlene K. for organizing the lunch prior to the service and the refreshments and snacks after. Thank you also to Rennie & Tina and Tom & Kathy for setting up and helping to serve as well.

Sunday School - We are grateful to all the teachers, music leaders, story tellers, helpers, and Children’s Message leaders who faithfully volunteered their time to love and bless the children of our church family. We are in **need of 2 teachers for the January- June months**. Please prayerfully consider if this is a way you can use your gifts. Call Sandra or Bettie.

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 call 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!

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!

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

Upcoming Offerings

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.

December 24 - Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Center

Our free services are available at any of our offices. Our Centre serves all people impacted by an unexpected pregnancy, regardless of age, race, income, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, disability or other circumstances. 5110 50 Ave, RMH, AB (entrance is at the back) rmh@pregnancycare.ca
24 Hour Helpline: 1-844-343-1611 Office: 1-403-871-5111 Tuesday & Thursday: 9am-5pm

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

World Renew

Great Christmas Joy - God gave us his Best Gift at Christmas, Jesus, and in gratitude, we give as we have so abundantly received. Your donation to the World Renew Gift Catalogue can bring deep joy to a family who is struggling to survive. A chicken, a latrine, or a nutrition kit is a life-changing gift. Donate today at worldrenew.ca/ gifts or call 1-888-975-3769 to give.