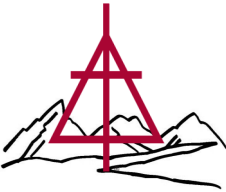


| Upcoming Events | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|-------------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Dec. 24 | Dec. 25 | Dec. 26 | Dec. 27 | Dec. 28 | Dec. 29 | Dec. 30 |
| 10:00am Worship Service | 8:30am Singing at Rocky Hospital 10:00am Christmas Day Service | | Office: Josephine | 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline | | |
| Dec. 31 | Jan. 1 | Jan. 2 | Jan. 3 | Jan. 4 | Jan. 5 | Jan. 6 |
| 10:00am Worship Service | | Office: Josephine 7:30pm Deacons 7:30pm WPC | | 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. 24 | Dec. 31 | Jan. 7 |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | Pastor Ken D. | Pastor Ken D. | Pastor Ken D. |
| | Serving Elder | Dave S. | Gary V. | Albert V. |
| | Serving Deacon | Lorraine A. | Doug D. | Justin D. |
| | Music Team | Mosaic | Lifted Hearts | Mosaic |
| | Children’s Message | Pastor Ken | Elroy L. | Joel S. |
| | Nursery | Colleen T., Marie A., Janelle V., Travis A. | Corinne V., Annette D., Brenda B., Teslynn A. | Marisa P., Rita B., Stephanie C., Arieanna V. |
| | Coffee Host | Thomas & Alyssa D. | Lowell & Chris S. | Albert & Sjoukje V. |
| | Greeters/Coffee Cleanup | Doug & Karen D. Glenn & Kari M. | Gary & Shirley V. Elroy & Arlene L. | Randy & Annette D. Sheldon & Amber B. |



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 | Children’s Message - Pastor Ken - NO Sunday School |
| Lighting of the Advent Wreath Call to Worship ♪ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | Announcements and Congregational Prayer |
| God’s Greeting/ We Welcome One Another ♪ Hope of the Nations | Offering for Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre Offertory |
| Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession Assurance of Pardon | Scripture: Haggai 2:1–9; Luke 1:26–38, 46–55 Message: Come, Desire of Nations |
| Dedication to Holy Living ♪ It’s Christmas Medley | Responsive Affirmation of Faith ♪ What Child Is This |
| | Parting Blessing ♪ Worship the King |

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 **Coyote Creek Chapel**.

† We pray for **Gus V.** as he fell and broke his hip this past week. After surgery in Red Deer, he was transferred to the Rocky Hospital. He is doing well. Please keep him and Margaret in your prayers.

† 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.

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

Reframe Ministries

Kids Corner: Christmas Love for God's Global Family - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Just like the wise men, we can choose to follow Jesus. By accepting the gift of his love, we give him a big gift: our hearts. God's family is together by the love of Jesus, which was shown on the first Christmas. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible story podcast "The Wise Men."

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 Prince of Peace - As we celebrate Christmas, join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 137, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ephesians 2:14-19, and Luke 2:1-21 to discover the deep and meaningful shalom Jesus brought to us in his birth, that he promises to establish permanently when he returns, and how we can be his agents of peace in our world here and now. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



***"O come, Thou 'Rod of Jesse' [the Messiah], Free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave."***

~ These lyrics, based on Isaiah 11:1-5, are from the hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Translated from Latin by John Mason Neale

Christmas Reflection

According to the Christmas accounts recorded in the Scriptures, the news of Jesus' birth resulted in an uprising of violence against God's people during that historical era. In an effort to prevent the sovereign reign of the "King of kings" here on earth, wicked King Herod ordered the death of many innocent children. After being forced to flee for their lives, Joseph and Mary – along with their infant child Jesus – became refugees in a foreign land. And although the message of the angels was that of peace and goodwill, from the time of Jesus' birth to this present day, God's gift of spiritual peace has come at a cost for many around the world.

**"In this world of trouble, may the message of
Christ fill your soul with hope, peace, and anticipation
for that great and glorious day of His return!"**

~ Floyd A. Brobbel, Chief Executive Officer
for The Voice of the Martyrs Canada

Until that day, when the anticipated "Prince of Peace" triumphantly returns, Christians here in Canada are urged to continue prayerfully upholding our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, especially those who suffer threats to their freedoms, securities and safeties because of their faith in Christ. Since targeted violence against persecuted followers of Jesus tends to increase during the Christmas season, please pray for the protection of those who may be at risk as they gather to remember the birth of our "Promised Messiah" – in celebration of the eternal promises and spiritual blessings He alone can provide to all who willingly receive Him.

Church Announcements

Singing at the Hospital - on *Monday, December 25 at 8:30am*. Come join together to bless the patients of Rocky Hospital with songs. Following singing, there will be coffee and a potluck breakfast at the church. We are still 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. Christmas morning is the perfect opportunity to see what’s all involved. Please **contact John** or the office if you are interested or have any questions. Thank you!

Merry Christmas - We wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the wonder of Jesus' birth and the gift of a Saviour come home to each of us this year. He is Emmanuel, God with us!
From Pastor Ken, Sara, Jamie and Kara.

Thank You - Thank you for all the support and encouragement we have received over the year, it has meant so much to us. From Bill and Norah B.

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. Contact Sandra or Bettie.

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!



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

Upcoming Offerings

December 24 - Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre

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

December 31 - 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 December 10 & 17

Local Church Ministries \$20,553 Benevolence Fund \$2,277

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.

December E-transfers From December 1-18th - Local \$11,930; CFGB \$560; The Lord’s Foodbank \$550

World Renew

Jesus is The Reason - As we give and receive gifts at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God’s gift to us! Will you add someone who lives in poverty to your Christmas giving? Change a life with an item like a goat, a bicycle, or a handwashing station from World Renew’s Gift Catalogue. Give online at worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-975-3769 to give.