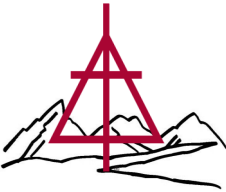


Upcoming Events						
Dec. 31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Josephine 7:30 pm Deacons 7:30 pm WPC		12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		
Jan 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13
10:00am Worship Service	7:00 pm Friendship	Office: Keanna 7:30 pm Admin	7:00 pm GEMS/ CADETS	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 9:30 am Ladies Craft Group 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study		

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. 31	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	
	Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.	
	Serving Elder	Gary V.	Albert V.	Anthony B.
	Serving Deacon	Doug D.	Justin D.	Tanya P.
	Music Team	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	The Experience
	Children’s Message	Elroy L.	Joel S.	Corinne S.
	Nursery	Corinne V., Annette D., Brenda B., Teslynn A.	Marisa P., Rita B., Stephanie C., Arieanna V.	Justin & Courtney D., Marion R., Jonah D.
	Coffee Host	Lowell & Chris S.	Albert & Sjoukje V.	Jerry & Lena F.
	Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Gary & Shirley V. Elroy & Arlene L.	Randy & Annette D., Sheldon & Amber B.	Mark & Keanna H., Bob & Marie A.



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

Gathering Songs

- ♪ O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic is Your Name
- ♪ O, Come Let Us Adore Him

Call to Worship

- God’s Greeting/ We Welcome One Another
- ♪ Holy, Holy, Holy

- Prayer of Confession
- ♪ My Tribute

- Assurance of Pardon
- ♪ Cornerstone

- Children’s Message - Elroy L. - NO Sunday School
- ♪ Trust and Obey

- Offertory - Video 2023
- Announcements and Congregational Prayer/ Prayer for offering
- Offering for Local Ministries

- Scripture: Joshua 4:1-24
- Message: Living Stones
- ♪ Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Apostles Creed in Unison
- Parting Blessing

- ♪ We Will Glorify the King of Kings

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.firstcrocky.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 **Cowboy Church**.

✝ We pray for **Gus V.** as he re-cooperates from a broken hip. He is currently in 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.

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



***"The message of the Gospel is for Jesus, so don't fail to preach it because of fear.
Preach it, whether they like it or not. Just deliver it."***

~ Nigerian Pastor Joshua Amako Maraya
who was killed in November 2023

India

This year started and ended with reports about Christians who were detained in the state of Uttar Pradesh due to its anti-conversion legislation. This is one of the 12 Indian states that has laws regulating religious conversions, with increasing political pressure being placed on the country's government to enact the legislation nationally. While regulations protecting people from religious conversions by force or deception may be beneficial, the regulations are often misused by individuals and officials as a way of stopping any religious activity they personally oppose. On January 2nd, accusations of coercion led to a violent confrontation at a Catholic church in Chahattigarh. Significant damage was made to the church building, and several police officers were injured while attempting to intervene. Christians have also been accused when conducting small gatherings in their homes. In early June, a group of militants disrupted a family gathering, resulting in the arrests of five Christians. Thankfully, those who had been arrested were eventually released on bail. In a positive development, following elections that took place in the state of Karnataka this past May, action has begun to repeal the state's anti-conversion laws. This move has been strongly opposed by the BJP – a political party with strong Hindu-nationalist leanings. Even so, a recently made court ruling in the state of Uttar Pradesh may help to further mitigate the effects of the state's future laws. The judge ruled that "accusations of alluring people to convert" can only be filed by the person being allegedly targeted or by a family member of that person. He also provided some legal guidelines on what constitutes "allurement." For more details about this court ruling, go to [this page](#). Known as the most populous nation in the world, India is officially a secular country guided by a constitution that guarantees religious freedom. However, the process of ensuring that this freedom is respected has proven to be a difficult task in a country where there is strong pressure to establish India officially as a Hindu nation. For more reports on India, and/or to view podcasts addressing Christian persecution in this country, go to our [country report](#).

Prayerfully uphold the many Christians in India who are facing serious threats to their freedoms, securities and safeties because of their faith in Christ. May believers throughout this nation receive the spiritual strength required to stand firm in the midst of extreme opposition and brightly shine His light in the darkness. Please also remember the ongoing ministry work of those who are boldly reaching out to others with the "Good News" of Jesus. May any further threats from their opponents not stop the proclamation of the Gospel, but rather serve as the catalyst for leading many more to faith in the "Prince of Peace."

Church Announcements

Congratulations to Devon and Erin S. on the birth of little Lochlan Bernard who was born December 17, weighing 4lbs, 11 oz. Everyone is doing well.

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..

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!

Dear Friends at First Christian Reformed Church-Thank you for helping people around the world discover the life-changing power of Jesus! The work of introducing a person to the gospel can take a long time. Your missionary-ies, church planters, campus ministers, and other ministry leaders depend on congregations like yours to have a sustainable ministry. Thank you for giving them the opportunity to walk alongside those they minister to! The impact you have through your support for Resonate reverberates through more than 40 countries. By sending ministry leaders you make it possible for them to bring the good news and offer continual support for believers and seekers everywhere. I also want you to remember that mission work brings us together. It’s an area of unity for our denomination, helping us forge a path forward together. Thank you for believing in God’s purpose for the Christian Reformed Church—your giving is an encouraging reminder of what we can accomplish as the body of Christ across North America. We are grateful for your prayer, care, and support. In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Director

Reframe Ministries

Kids Corner: Big Plans - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Do you like to make plans? By making plans, you can be excited about what’s coming and anticipate what you may need to prepare. But did you know God has made even bigger plans for you? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: Your Questions about Scripture and Hope - Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 6:9-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 11:13-16, Revelation 20:1-6, John 15:18-25, and Psalm 46 to look at some of the questions you asked this year in response to our discussions on the Lord’s Prayer, Joshua, and Revelation; then we’ll talk about the issues that feel most pressing for our faith right now and where we can find the hope and encouragement to keep living faithfully each day. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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

Upcoming Offerings

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.

January 7- Therefore Go Ministries

ThereforeGo Ministries helps churches challenge youth and emerging adults to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and transform this world for Him.

Gratefully Received December 10 & 17

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

Giving Thanks at Christmas - Thank you for sharing God’s love through the World Renew Gift Catalogue during Advent. Your donation of a chicken, water filter, or goat can be a miracle for people who are facing poverty, hunger, and injustice today. It’s not too late if you want to give in the New Year! Go to worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-975-3769. Thank you!