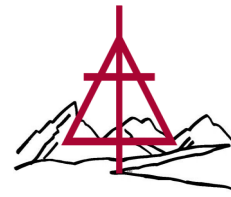


## Upcoming Events

| Jan. 28                                                                                                                | Jan. 29           | Jan. 30                                                                                      | Jan. 31                      | Feb. 1                                                                             | Feb. 2 | Feb. 3                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|
| 10:00am Worship Service<br>1:15pm Clearwater Centre<br>2:30pm Westview Lodge<br><br>Sunday School<br>Story Card # 113  | 7:00pm Friendship | <i>Office: Josephine</i><br>9:30am Coffee break<br>7:30pm WPC<br>7:30pm Funeral Fund Meeting | 7:30pm New Members Class     | 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline<br>9:30am Ladies Craft Group<br>7:30pm Men's Bible Study |        |                                        |
| Feb. 4                                                                                                                 | Feb. 5            | Feb. 6                                                                                       | Feb. 7                       | Feb. 8                                                                             | Feb. 9 | Feb. 10                                |
| 10:00am Worship Service<br>Lord's Supper<br><br>Youth Group - Gym Night at RCS<br><br>Sunday School<br>Story Card #119 | 7:00pm Friendship | <i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i><br>9:30am Coffee break<br>7:30pm Congregational Meeting            | 7:00pm GEMS/Cadets/Catechism | 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline<br>7:30pm Men's Bible Study                              |        | 4-5:00pm Family Swim at the Rocky Pool |

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.



## **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:** Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm



| HELPING HANDS                  | Thank you, for all you do!              | Jan. 28                                          | Feb. 4                                   | Feb. 11       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                |                                         | Pastor Ken D.                                    | Pastor Ken D.                            | Pastor Ken D. |
| <b>Serving Elder</b>           | Alan H.                                 | Alan D.                                          | Jessica H.                               |               |
| <b>Serving Deacon</b>          | Lorraine A.                             | Peter B.                                         | Doug D.                                  |               |
| <b>Music Team</b>              | Lifted Hearts                           | The Experience                                   | Mosaic                                   |               |
| <b>Children's Message</b>      | Elroy L.                                | Joel S.                                          | Corinne S.                               |               |
| <b>Nursery</b>                 | Mark & Keanna H.<br>Marlene D., Ruth D. | Isabelle D., Sjoukje V.<br>Amber B., Shanelle T. | Karl & Krystal H.,<br>Margo D., Lucas H. |               |
| <b>Coffee Host</b>             | Rob & Fran D.                           | Don & Marion R.                                  | Alan & Kelsey D.                         |               |
| <b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b> | Zach & Gailyn B.,<br>Dave & Henriett V. | Kyle & Trina A.,<br>John & Jean B.               | Dick & Rose W.,<br>John & Rina V.        |               |

### Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ He is Exalted  
♪ Great is the Lord

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/ We Welcome One Another  
♪ I Lift My Eyes Up

Lord's Supper Preparation  
♪ Speak, O Lord

Children's Message - Elroy L.  
Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5

Announcements and Congregational Prayer

Offering for the Medical Equipment Lending Society  
Offertory

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-6  
Message: Kingdom Living: The Sermon on the Mount;  
Do Not Judge

♪ Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Parting Blessing  
♪ Lord, Be Glorified

## 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](http://www.firstcrocky.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 the **Memorial Presbyterian Church**.

† We pray for **Marilyn S., Cheryl T.** and **Gus V.** who are all recovering from recent surgeries. Pray for patience as they go through the healing process.

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Sylvia D.** and **Joe & Lena V.**. For those at care facilities: **Tonia T.** (Westview Lodge), **Diane W., Dick O. and Elly 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.



### **NIGERIA: New Year Begins with Increased Violence**

Sources: Morning Star News, Channels Television, This Day

In November 2023, a report was released stating that incidents of anti-Christian violence and kidnappings in Nigeria appeared to have declined in comparison to the year before. The Christmas season, however, was particularly violent and now, as 2024 begins, numerous reports seem to point towards increasing brutality from militant groups in northern and central Nigeria.

On January 1st, members of Boko Haram attacked two Christian villages in the Chibok region of Borno state. They first targeted Gartamawa village, killing 12 people and wounding two others. The militants then ambushed a group of Christians who were returning to the nearby village of Tsiha after mourning those killed earlier in Gartamawa. During the latter incident, three more believers were killed and one young girl was kidnapped.

Two days later, Fulani militants launched attacks in two counties of Kaduna state. In Kauru county, 17 Christians were killed and 36 others kidnapped. A government source reported that 22 of the abducted believers were later rescued by local vigilante groups. In Gefe village, Kajuru county, another 17 Christians were murdered. Speaking of these attacks, the state governor referred to the bandits as "beasts in human skin" whose sole aim is to "reverse the gains the good people of Kaduna State have made in rebuilding trust, forging understanding, and reviving the economies of conflict-challenged communities."

The violence continued on January 5th when a group identified as either fighters from the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) or a faction of Boko Haram invaded the town of Kwari in Yobe state at approximately 1 a.m. The militants entered Pastor Luka Levong's church building and killed the Christian leader before setting the place of worship on fire. During the rampage, they raided the homes of several church members, killing 13 Christians, in addition to destroying their houses and vehicles.

January 7th also brought a series of fatal assaults by Fulani terrorists; this time, targeting three villages in Benue state. As villagers slept, the attackers moved from house to house, killing ten people and injuring several others. Many of the residents fled their villages to escape harm.

All of these recently occurring incidents indicate that Nigeria remains an extremely dangerous country for Christians, particularly because of the repeated attacks perpetrated by various militant groups.

***As you approach the Lord's throne in prayer, please remember to lift up the multitudes of Nigerian Christians who are now mourning the tragic loss of their slain loved ones. May these surviving believers – who must live each day with the uncertainty of knowing when the next violent attack will take place – receive God's divine protection, as well as His great comfort, encouragement and hope. Pray for those in governmental authority, asking that they be given the wisdom and resources required to gain control over the violence committed by various militant groups. Ultimately, may the "Prince of Peace" reign sovereignly over this troubled African nation and within the hearts of its people.***

## 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.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca) (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)



***"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."***

~ Romans 8:35,37 ESV

### **ERITREA: More Christian Youth Released from Prison**

Source: Church in Chains

In April 2023, more than 100 talented Christian young people, who are members of a musical group known as the Mahalians, were arrested after recording songs of praise which they had intended to share on YouTube. The government deemed their recording session to be an illegal church gathering.

In September, it was announced that close to half of the detained youth had been released. Since then, more imprisoned believers have gained their freedom, generally in small groups at a time. As of late November, it was reported that around 20 young people were still being held in captivity, with hopes that they too would soon be released.

While there has been no change in governmental policy, Church in Chains reports that hundreds of Christian prisoners have been released in the past few months, and that fewer believers than normal were arrested during the same period. The total number of Christians currently incarcerated for their faith in Eritrea is estimated to be around 300.

***Praise God that many of these detained young people, as well as hundreds of other Christian prisoners, have been recently released from captivity. Please continue to prayerfully uphold those who presently remain imprisoned, asking that they too will soon be safely released and joyfully reunited with their families. May God work deeply within the hearts of the Eritrean authorities and, as a result, bring about positive changes in the religious policies of this East African nation so followers of Jesus will be granted their rightful freedom to worship Him and praise His holy name.***

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### **January 28 - Medical Equipment Lending Society**

We provide a service which helps to prevent people from being and feeling isolated while enhancing their ability to access, participate and live in their community longer. We foster a sense of independence, self-worth, and overall, a better quality of life.

#### **February 4 - Tribal Trails**

Tribal Trails was never intended to replace the face-to-face ministry of First Nations believers, churches, pastors, and church-planting missionaries. But television does have unique advantages, and a useful role. Through TV the Gospel is presented to people who would not normally welcome a personal visit nor attend a church meeting. It reaches into many more homes than would be physically possible for missionaries, pastors and evangelists to visit.

Tribal Trails has become a "door-opener" — the missionary or pastor who identifies himself with the program often finds that he and his message have already been introduced to the people. Tribal Trails has opened the way for missionaries to settle in new communities. In addition to telecasts, the distribution of Tribal Trails DVD videos have proven to be an effective ministry tool.

#### **Gratefully Received January 7- 14**

Therefore Go Ministries \$570

Reframe Ministries \$820

Local Budget \$9800

## 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.

## Highlights from Full Council Meeting January 23

**AGM** - We will be holding our annual Congregational meeting on Tuesday, February 6 @7:30pm. One of the topics for discussion at this meeting will be Children at the Lord's Supper, some information on the subject has been distributed to your mailboxes so be sure to give that a read in preparation for the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and have any questions or concerns you would like to have addressed please speak with your Elder or Pastor Ken.

**Welcome Potluck** - We are very much looking forward to our new associate pastor, Natasha S., starting her position here on February 20th. The plan is to install Natasha during the service on February 25th and host a potluck afterwards. We hope you are all able to join us that day as we welcome her into our congregation!

## Church Announcements

**Thank You** - We would like to thank everyone for your support, love, kind words, meals, baking and prayers in this past year. It has been a year since George was diagnosed with prostate and bone cancer. It has been a difficult journey but we can say with gratitude that the treatments have been successful and the current prognosis is stable. With the power and blessings of an Almighty God, marvels of modern medicine, exceptional doctors, nurses and a superb Alberta health system, the support of prayers from so many people in our family, friends and congregation we are starting to become functional again.

We still have a long way to go and we hope you continue to hold us in your prayers.

Thank you and may God bless you all. From George and Corinne V.

PS: If you haven't noticed my curly locks are starting to grow back.

**Sonrise Camp** - Summer is coming and so are summer camps! Mark your calendars for the following weeks: July 7-12 (ages 10-12 yr olds), July 14-18 (ages 13-15 yr olds) and July 22-25 is Vacation Bible Camp (for ages 5-9 yrs old).

**Membership Class** - Anyone interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of our church is welcome to talk to Pastor Ken and attend a membership class beginning on **January 31st at 7:30pm**. The classes will take place **every 2 weeks** and will run for 3 or 4 sessions.

**Clearwater Center & Westview Lodge** - our church will be putting on the services at the care facilities **today**. The service at the **Clearwater Center will begin at 1:15pm** and the service at the **Westview Lodge will begin at 2:30pm**. Please join us as we support those who are no longer able to attend our Sunday morning services.

**Funeral Fund Annual General Meeting** - will be held at First CRC- Tuesday, **January 30 at 7:30 pm**. Discussion on increase of fees. Come and be part of the decision.

## Church Announcements

**Family Swim** - Families are welcome to join us at the Rocky Aquatic Center for swimming fun on Saturday, **February 10 from 4-5pm!** See you there!

**Rocky Christian School Kindergarten & Pre-Kindergarten Information Evening** - Do you have a child who was born in 2019 and is looking forward to kindergarten in September? Please join us at the school on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30PM for our Kindergarten Information evening. If you have a child turning 3 or 4 before December 31, 2024 and are interested in signing him/her up for Pre-Kindergarten, this evening is for you as well! Four year olds will take precedence for Pre-Kindergarten, but if our program has not reached maximum enrollment by August 1st, registered three year olds will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school office at 403-845-3516.

**Getting tired of Netflix? Maybe it's time for something different.** - InterMission Silent Retreat is coming up May 31-June 2 at King's Fold Retreat Centre in St. Albert, a lovely and cozy retreat house on the ridge of the Ghost River overlooking the Rockies. 2 nights accommodation, 4 meals, 2-3 spiritual direction sessions, silence, rest, peace, quiet, spirit, soul. Single private room. "Be still and know that I am God." Registration is \$500/person. Contact [rev.klok@gmail.com](mailto:rev.klok@gmail.com) to register.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: How Can I Use the Internet Wisely?** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). When we learn internet wisdom, we can protect ourselves online. But what we do online has to be more than that because God has called us here, too. We can do God's work, be a positive Christian presence online, and share his message by safely using the internet. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Valentine Cards.

**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.

**Groundwork: Generosity** - Giving generously of our time, money, and ourselves does not always come naturally. Join Groundwork as we study Mark 6:35-44, Titus 3:3-7, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, and 1 Timothy 6:17-19 to discover why generosity is an important virtue for Christ's followers to cultivate, what it looks like to be generous people, and how we can nurture generosity in our everyday lives. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.