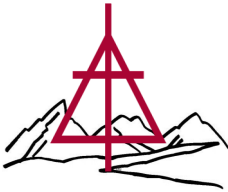


Upcoming Events						
Jan. 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13
10:00am Worship Service Sunday School Story Card # 110	7:00 pm Friendship	<i>Office: Keanna</i> 7:30 pm Admin	7:00 pm GEMS/ CADETS 7:00 pm Catechism	9:30 am Ladies Craft Group 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		
Jan 14	Jan. 15	Jan. 16	Jan. 17	Jan. 18	Jan. 19	Jan. 20
10:00am Worship Service Sunday School Story Card # 111	7:00 pm Friendship	<i>Office:: Josephine</i> 7:30 pm Elders		12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 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!	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21
		Pastor Ken Douma	Pastor Ken Douma	Pastor Ken Douma
	Serving Elder	Albert V.	Anthony B.	Randy D.
	Serving Deacon	Justin D.	Ken B.	Lowell S.
	Music Team	Mosaic	The Experience	Six Track
	Children’s Message	Joel S.	Corinne S.	Pastor Ken
	Nursery	Marisa P., Rita B. Stephanie C., Arieanna V.	Justin & Courtney D., Marion R., Jonah D.	Cody & Teagan L. Alyssa D., Brenda B.
	Coffee Host	Albert & Sjoukje V.	Josephine & Peter B.	Devon & Marisa P.
	Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Randy & Annette D., Sheldon & Amber B.	Mark & Keanna H. Bob & Marie A.	Dirk & Sandy V. Ray & Audrey 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	
Call to Worship	Children’s Message - Joel S. - Sunday School
<div> <div></div> <div>Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come</div> </div>	Announcements and Congregational Prayer
God’s Greeting/ We Welcome One Another	Offering - ThereforeGo Ministries
<div> <div></div> <div>You Shine</div> </div>	Scripture: Matthew 2:1-23
Call to Confession	Message: Joy and Tears
Prayer of Confession	
Assurance of Pardon	<div> <div></div> <div>Shine On Us</div> </div>
	Parting Blessing
<div> <div></div> <div>Jesus Strong and Kind</div> </div>	<div> <div></div> <div>Only a Holy God</div> </div>

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 that all Christians would celebrate our unity in Christ.

✝ Pray for **Cheryl T.** as she awaits her upcoming hip surgery on **Jan 12** and **Marilyn S.** who will have her knee surgery in Mexico. We pray for **Joan S.** who celebrates her Birthday this week **Jan. 9**, may God bless you with a wonderful year ahead. We pray for **Gus V.** also as he re-cooperates at home from hip surgery.

✝ We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Elly 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.firstcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

Church Announcements Cont.

The Micah Centre would like to extend an invitation to justice-seekers, church communities, and people of faith concerned about our changing climate to an evening of personal and biblical exploration with Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat on ‘The Lament of the Land and the Tears of God’. Biblical scholar and farmer Dr. Keesmaat will explore the themes of creational destruction, God’s lament, and faithful human response in the biblical text and in our own lives. Dr. Keesmaat’s reflections will be followed by a panel discussion with pastor Rev. Jonathan Crane, economist Dr. Gerda Kits, and artist & activist Céline Chuang hosted by Dr. John Hiemstra. The event begins at 7:30 PM in Room N102 at The King’s University on Monday, January 22. All are welcome. See poster on bulletin board in hallway.



"For someone to come to see what I am passing through, I feel that some people have concern for me....I feel secure, and I feel loved."

~ Pastor Gah Yohanna Sunday of Jabu Village, Plateau State

NIGERIA: At Least 140 Fatalities Due to Christmas Attacks

The Christmas season was anything but peaceful for Christians in Plateau State, Nigeria, this past December. Approximately 20 Christian-majority communities were targeted during a series of coordinated attacks committed by Islamic Fulani militants on December 23rd through to the 25th. By the time the assailants left after causing widespread devastation, hundreds of homes were burned, along with eight church buildings. Thousands of innocent villagers were displaced and/or injured, and more than 140 people were killed, including two pastors.

The ordeal has been referred to as the worst attack on Christians in the area since 2018. Bishop Matthew Kukah has called on the newly elected Nigerian president to take immediate action. In his address, the bishop emphasized his concern that "Nigerians have almost lost hope" in the government's promises of intervention. Various reasons have been speculated for the ongoing attacks of Christian persecution perpetrated by militant Fulani groups. In response to the latest outbreak of violence, Gideon Para-Mallam, a Nigerian church leader, stated: "A terrible genocide is taking place in Plateau State, but it is being window-dressed to look like a clash between farmers and herders. Sadly, false and misleading narratives are created while rivers of blood continue to flow."

In a separate attack that took place in the eastern state of Adamawa, a group of assailants, believed to be members of Boko Haram or a faction of Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), raided the village of Kwapre on Christmas Day. Houses had been set on fire, shops were looted, and two Christians ended up tragically killed. The attackers then fled on their motorcycles into the Sambisa forest, which has been a key Boko Haram hideout for years. An extensive podcast report, in which host Greg Musselman interviews Andrew Boyd of Release International, has just been released. During their discussion on the persecution trends for 2024, they address the Plateau State's recently occurring attacks in light of the ongoing challenges facing Christians in Nigeria. To view this informative video, [click here](#).

Please pray for the thousands of innocent Nigerians who were impacted by this most recent series of devastating attacks. Ask the Lord to minister healing to the injured victims and provide greatly needed comfort to those who are now mourning the tragic loss of their loved ones. Pray that He will also minister to the spiritual and practical needs of the many displaced believers who've lost their homes and/or livelihoods due to the violence. In the process, may God grant wisdom and guidance to the country's political and spiritual leaders, providing them effective strategies that will prevent further attacks from taking place against our Nigerian family in Christ and the unnecessary bloodshed of so many innocent lives.

Church Announcements

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!

Jonathan and Sarah L. and family will be returning to Alberta beginning of April and need accommodation for 4-6 weeks, if anyone has a place or knows of a short term rental, please let the church office know.

Check foyer tables for update from Jonathan and Sarah.

FREE - Office desk available to whoever would like it. Contact the Church office asap.

CRC Communications

Stories & Strategies: Strengthening the CRC in Canada - Are you interested in learning more about church planting and renewal in the CRC? Join the Canadian Ministry Board for stories (and best practice learnings from those experiences) and how they might be applicable to your local church context. We look forward to discussing these ideas with you alongside other church members & leaders. More at crcna.org/Canada

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - “Visio divina” is the practice of meditating on Scripture using art or other images. Try it by reading the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 and then meditating on the art in Calvin University’s collection based on this story (tinyurl.com/ProdigalArt). Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Reframe Ministries

Kids Corner: Caring for You - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Did you know that along with caring for others, God wants us to care for ourselves, too? It makes God happy when you treat your body with respect and care, just like you would treat a special, holy temple. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: Compassion - The Christlike virtue of compassion is more than an emotion. Join Groundwork as we explore Matthew 9:36, Colossians 3:12-14, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 to discover why the apostle Paul identifies compassion as a defining characteristic in followers of Jesus and what it looks like in our everyday lives. 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

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 24 -31

Pregnancy Care Centre 1523, World Renew 1036, Womens Shelter 100, Lomavatu’s 300, The Lord’s Food Bank 1000, Local Budget, 24,280

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 19-31 - Local \$10,300; First Steps \$100; The Lord’s Foodbank \$200; World Renew \$1000; Benevolence \$500

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!