

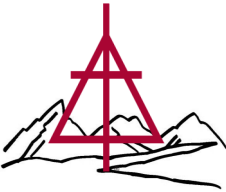
Upcoming Events						
March 10	March 11	March 12	March 13	March 14	March 15	March 16
10:00am Worship Service 1:30pm Clearwater Centre Service 2:30pm Westview Lodge Service No Youth today	7:00pm Friendship	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30am Coffee break 7:30pm Admin	2:00pm Seniors Tea & Social 7:00pm GEMS 7:00pm Cadets 7:00pm Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 9:30am Ladies Craft Group		
March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23
10:00am Worship Service Youth - Clue at Covenant	7:00pm Friendship	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30am Coffee break 7:30pm Elders	7:30pm Membership Class	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		1-3:00 pm Family Event at Flippin' Out

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website (firstcrocky.ca) for links to sermons.

H
E
L
P
I
N
G
H
A
N
D
S

Thank you, for all you do!		March 10	March 17	March 24
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder		Chris T.	Gary V.	Albert V.
Serving Deacon		Lorraine A.	Peter B.	Doug D.
Music Team		Mosaic	Lifted Hearts	Six Track
Children's Message		Joel S.	Elroy L.	Corinne S.
Nursery		Annette D., Stephanie C. Alyssa D., Jonah D.	Cody & Teagan L. Brenda B., Miyah B.	Justin & Courtney D., Marlene D., Arieanna V.
Coffee Host		Rocky & Nancy K.	Justin & Mikala D.	Andrew & Delanea D.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup		Pierre & Ria J. Tom & Kathy S.	Art & Karen T. Elmer & Joanne D.	Jim & Margo D. Aaron & Cheryl T.



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

Pastor Natasha Specht- pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca (Monday -Thursday)

Church Office: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm office@rockycrc.ca



Morning Worship Service

Welcome ♪ Easter Medley	Announcements and Congregational Prayer
Responsive Call to Worship God's Greeting & We Welcome One Another ♪ Be Unto Your Name	Offering for - Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Offertory
Call to Confession & Prayer ♪ Beautiful Scandalous Night Assurance of Pardon ♪ All is Well	Scripture - Isaiah 43:1-2; Mark 14:32-50; Psalm 23:4 Sermon - Through the Valley ♪ Man of Sorrows
Children's Message - Joel S. (Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5)	Parting Blessing ♪ Cornerstone

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.firstercrocky.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 **St. Matthews Roman Catholic Church**.

† Congratulations to **Mark & Keanna H.** on the birth of a son, **Jack Jannes** on March 8. A brother for Scarlett & Penny!

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



"A martyr is one who refuses to be separated from the promises of God."

~ Dr. Eric Foley CEO for VOM Korea ~

INDIA: Land Dispute Escalates to Violence

Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide

For several years, villagers in Janwada, which is located within India's Telangana State, have been demanding that a road in their community be widened. On February 13th, workers moved into the area to start construction. However, it was discovered during the building process that the construction had encroached by several feet onto the property belonging to the community's Methodist Church, which had existed there for 50 years.

Members of the congregation who were present at the time of the construction demanded that the work stop until their church leaders arrived on the premises to discuss the matter. In retaliation, a mob of over 200 villagers eventually gathered and began quarrelling with the church members. By evening, the mob turned violent, throwing stones and bricks at the church building. Some of the participants in the mob violence began chanting a Hindu slogan while vandalizing the building. Of the 14 Christians who were injured during the incident, three of them had to be admitted to hospital as a result of head injuries.

When the violence erupted, Christians at the scene called the police who were thankfully able to disperse the crowd. However, the authorities placed an order on the village that until February 21st, there were to be no gatherings of more than three people. Although 12 perpetrators were arrested in connection with the mob violence, a counter complaint was filed against the assaulted Christians. The accusers claimed that people of the church had instigated the violence, leading to the arrest of five congregation members.

While some effort has been taken to ensure justice is upheld in this case, there remains concern over the frequency of communal violence committed throughout various areas of India

Please pray that each of the individuals who have been injured in this attack will experience full recovery – both physically and emotionally. In the meantime, may those responsible for inflicting the violence be held accountable for their destructive actions. Ask the Lord to give all parties wisdom, so they will be prepared to discuss positive alternatives and come to an amicable resolution to this disagreement. Also pray that any further tensions in the community will ease so peace and harmony can ultimately prevail.

ReFrame Ministries

Groundwork: The Paradox Of The Cross - In the Roman empire, the cross brought death in a brutal, humiliating way. But believers of Jesus Christ find life in the cross. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Romans 5:1-11, and Ephesians 2:8-10 to study the paradox of the cross, remember the profound love of God, and learn how we should live in light of this paradox. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

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.

Kids Corner: Healing Love - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Jesus goes to the tomb where Lazarus' family laid him to rest, and miraculously restores Lazarus to life. Jesus also healed Lazarus' family's broken hearts. It restored their joy. We might not be able to heal physically those we love as Jesus did. But, like Jesus, we can come alongside them and demonstrate God's never-ending, always-present love. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.



COUNTRY UPDATE - PAKISTAN: Acquittals in Blasphemy Cases

Sources: Pak Christian News, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Morning Star News

In August 2023, thousands of citizens demonstrated in the streets of Jaranwala, Punjab, after allegations of blasphemy were announced against two Christian brothers. Umair Saleem Masih (known as Raja) and Omar Saleem Masih (known as Rocky) were accused of burning pages from the Quran while disposing of garbage.

In a March 1st judicial hearing, the Anti-Terrorism Court in Faisalabad acquitted the brothers, ruling that they had been framed by individuals with a personal grudge. Despite the verdict, Raja and Rocky were not able to return to Jaranwala due to threats against their lives and concerns of renewed mob violence.

In an unrelated ruling, a court in the Punjab city of Bahawalnagar determined on Feb. 20 to acquit a Christian man named Noman Masih of the blasphemy charges filed against him within that vicinity. In addition, Noman was convicted in May 2023 of the same charge yet in a different city of Punjab, one known as Bahawalpur, where he received a death sentence. The February acquittal raises hope that the Lahore High Court will consider the merits of Noman's appeal for the Bahawalpur conviction.

All allegations against Noman have been denied by his family and, according to his attorney, witnesses have failed to corroborate the police allegations against him.

Praise God that Raja and Rocky have been acquitted of all charges! Pray that community tensions will dissipate to the point where these brothers will be able to safely return to their home area again. Also pray that this ruling will serve as a precedent for other cases involving allegations of blasphemy. As Noman's case is presented to the judicial leaders of the Lahore High Court, may the merits of the appeal be rightfully considered so he too can be released. The same applies to the many others in Pakistan who are facing similar false allegations.

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

Upcoming Offering

March 10 - Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

Our flights carry medical supplies, bibles, building materials, and emergency food in times of crisis. They also transport national pastors, teachers, relief workers, doctors and healthcare workers who conduct medical clinics who would otherwise never see a doctor. Whatever the reason to countless of thousands of families living in more than 30 countries from around the world, planes from MAF, an international, Christian, humanitarian, relief and development organization are anticipated and welcome.

March 17 - Calvin Theological Seminary

As the official seminary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), Calvin Seminary is blessed to be included twice a year on the Special Sunday Offering schedule. The funds contributed to these offerings go towards specific projects or programs that contribute directly to the church. Of course, churches are welcomed and encouraged to take an offering at any point during the year.

Gratefully Received February 18-25

Canadian Food Grains Bank \$3719 Raise Up Global Missions \$805

E- Transfers received February 2024

Local Church Ministries \$4180 Canadian Food Grains Bank \$2300 Tribal Trails \$50
Raise Up Global Missions \$50

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.

Upcoming Services

March 10 - Pastor Ken leads worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:30 pm)
& Westview Lodge (2:30 pm)- all are welcome to come for a time of worship and fellowship with the residents.
March 29 - Good Friday (7:00 pm, Lord's Supper) **March 31** - Easter Sunday (10:00 am worship service)

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)

Church Announcements

Children's Prayer Partnership - Completed forms can go in mailbox 91 or if you want to sign up as a prayer partner contact Jessica H. If you didn't receive a form or have any questions, contact Jessica.

Funeral Fund Fees - The annual fee is \$60. Cheques can be made out to *CRC Funeral Fund* and placed in mailbox 79. If you have questions contact Marlene K. **TODAY** is the final day to pay your fees without penalty; after that there will be a \$10 penalty.

ATTENTION SENIORS - You are invited to come to an afternoon tea/social this **Wednesday (March 13th) at 2:00 p.m.** in the Social Hall. We hope to have some songs, jokes and stories as well as a devotion by Pastor Natasha and, of course, some coffee/tea/juice and goodies! It'll be a great opportunity to get to know our new pastor! Hope you can all come!"

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) has been legal in Canada since 2016. In 2022, 4.1% of all deaths in Canada were medically assisted. What does the Bible say about such things? How does Christ want His church to respond? ARPA invites you to an information evening at **Covenant Christian Reformed Church on Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 pm** to hear and discuss updates on the status of MAiD legislation in Canada. ARPA is the Association for Reformed Political Action. ARPA's mission is to educate, equip and encourage Reformed Christians and to bring biblical perspectives to our civil authorities.

Rocky Christian School Presents - Rescue In The Night ~ Please join our students on **Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 pm at the Lou Soppit Community Centre** as they perform this year's Spring Musical, Rescue In The Night, the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den. It is shaping up to be a performance you won't want to miss!

Mark Your Calendars - Word is getting around that we plan to have a Mother's Day Market/Bazaar to raise funds for our church's 75th anniversary next year. The bazaar will be on **Saturday, May 4, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** A list of suggested items is on posters in the social hall and hallway. We really hope to make this a big success and a great get-together as we haven't done something like this since before Covid. For further information or patterns for crafts call Marilyn H. (Please **DO NOT** drop any items off at the church beforehand)

Church Announcements

Looking to join other **couples** in a **Bible study**? Look no further! If you are interested in joining or want further information, contact Sjoukje V.

Summer Ministries (July 7-12, July 14-19 & July 22-25) has several opportunities to volunteer! Check out the bulletin board in the hallway to sign up. Any questions contact the camp committee members Albert V., Kelly B., Marie A., Sheldon B., Zachary B., Lydia B., Cody L., or Cheri-Lynn B. Vacation Bible Camp contact Cailyn B.

Families are welcome to join us at Flippin' Out for gymnastics and tumbling fun on **Saturday, March 23 1:00 - 3:00 pm**. See you there! Any questions please contact Cailyn B., Krystal H. or Kelsey O.

Looking for a rental in town - Hello, my name is Chantale and I've been in this church for a few months now. I live out of town but need a place in town because I don't have a vehicle. If you are able to help me even for a short time, please contact the **church office** for my phone number. Thank you!

Rembrandt's Jesus - Reflections for Lent In our walk of life and faith, the timeless art of Rembrandt invites us to explore the light of God as it shines in our dark places. Join amateur art historian and pastor, Tony Maan, author of "Rembrandt's Jesus: Meditations on the Life of Christ" for an evening of Lenten reflections and renewal as we journey with Jesus through the eyes of the Dutch master. Presented at The Star of the North Retreat Center in St. Albert, AB, **Thursday, March 14 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm**. Registration: \$20. Register by calling 780.459.5511.

Thank you from World Renew extends our deep gratitude for your commitment to advancing God's work of justice and mercy in our global communities. Your gifts of **\$16,741.00** during 2023 helped equip 478,504 participants in 1,200 communities for a hopeful future in 29 developing countries around the globe. We give God the glory for all that He has done in 2023! In the spirit of gratitude and humility, we invite your church to continue to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation with World Renew.

Life Changing! That's what **Rehoboth Camp Ministry** can be! RCM provides a one-week summer camp experience for persons with developmental disabilities, and we need volunteers. Come and be a friend to someone with a developmental disability and show them the love of Christ, and at the same time enjoy our beautiful camp facility. We are looking for all kinds of volunteers, especially nurses/LPNs, cooks, and counsellors for all of our weeks: **R&R** (a more relaxed week from June 23 – 28), **Adult 1** (June 29 -July 5), Adult 2 (July 6 -12), **Independent** (July 13-19), and **Youth** (July 20 - 26). Check out our website at www.rcmflourish.ca/camps for descriptions of the weeks and more information. Anyone age 14 and up is welcome to apply. No experience is necessary and full training and support is provided. Bring a friend! For more information, please e-mail camp@rcmflourish.ca. With your help we can flourish in the land. See you at camp!