

Upcoming Events

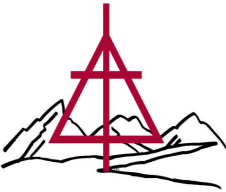
March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9
10:00am Worship Service  Pot Luck after service today to Welcome Natasha  Youth Group - bible study at Trevor and Sharlea's  Sunday School   Story Card #94	7:00 pm Friendship	Office: Cheri-Lynn  9:30 am Coffee break  7:30 pm Deacons	7:30 pm Membership  Class	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline  7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	Youth Ski Trip →	
March 10	March 11	March 12	March 13	March 14	March 15	March 16
10:00am Worship Service  No Youth   Sunday School	7:00 pm Friendship	Office: Josephine  9:30 am Coffee break  7:30 pm Admin	7:00pm GEMS  7:00 pm Cadets  7:00pm Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline  9:30 am Ladies Craft Group		

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.

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Thank you, for all you do!	March 3	March 10	March 17
	Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.	Pastor Ken D.
Serving Elder	Jessica H.	Chris T.	Gary V.
Serving Deacon	Lowell S.	Lorraine A.	Peter B.
Music Team	Experience	Mosaic	Lifted Hearts
Children's Message	Pastor Ken	Joel S.	Elroy L.
Nursery	Corinne V., Rita B. Marion R., Chelsey B.	Annette D., Stephanie C. Alyssa D., Jonah D.	Cody & Teagan L. Brenda B., Miyah B.
Coffee Host	Robert & Brenda B.	Rocky & Nancy K.	Justin & Mikala D.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Dustin & Jeffrey D. Henry & Lorraine A.	Pierre & Ria J. Tom & Kathy S.	Art & Karen T. Elmer & Joanne D.



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

**Pastor Natasha Specht**- [pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca](mailto:pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca) (Monday-Thursday)

**Church Office:** Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm [office@rockycrc.ca](mailto:office@rockycrc.ca)



Morning Worship Service

Welcome 🎵 Blessed Be Your Name	Children's Message - Pastor Ken (Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5)
Call to Worship God's Greeting & We Welcome One Another 🎵 He Leadeth Me	Announcements and Congregational Prayer
Call to Confession Assurance of Pardon 🎵 To The River	Offering for - Local Church Ministries Offertory - Summer Ministries presentation
Installation of Pastor Natasha S.	Scripture - John 14:1-7; Luke 9:18-27; Psalm 23:3 Sermon - The Right Paths
🎵 Who You Say I Am,	🎵 Goodness of God Parting Blessing
	🎵 How Great is Our God

## 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](http://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 **Rocky Mtn. Alliance Church**.

† Birthday Congratulations go out to **Lena V.(4)** and to **Marily S. (9)**. who will celebrate his special day . May you  
have a blessed year ahead.

† 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.



### INDIA: Family Attacked for Refusing to Renounce Christianity

Ayatu Ram Podiyami, a believer who lives in Gufanpal, Chhattisgarh, came to faith in Christ alongside his family in 2020. On February 6th, an opposing group of about 20 people from the village approached the Christian man and asked him if he would convert back to Hinduism. After Ayatu refused to renounce his Christian faith, a larger mob began to gather outside his house, further pressuring him to return to the Hindu religion. Fearing for his safety, the harassed believer fled into the jungle.

When Ayatu returned home a few hours later, his family told him that they had been given an ultimatum: either convert to Hinduism by February 12th or face the consequences. Ayatu called the police but was informed that they could do nothing. After filing a police report, village leaders were summoned to the police station on February 9th. Unfortunately, all efforts to diffuse the volatile situation failed.

On the morning of February 12th, a community leader named Ram Singh phoned Ayatu and told him that the villagers were coming to talk to him. Soon afterwards, three people arrived at Ayatu's house and asked if he was ready to renounce his faith. When the Christian once again refused to return to Hinduism, the villagers began beating him with rods. After Ayatu had been pulled away from the attackers by his mother and brother, the assailants then turned against his father, Mahngu Ram Podiyami.

Ayatu was forced to flee once more and, to his dismay, he found his father unconscious on his return. His brother had also been beaten during the attack. All three believers were admitted to the hospital, with Mahngu suffering life-threatening injuries. At last report, the three injured family members are still recovering from the ordeal.

Following the attack, a police report was filed. However, the authorities reportedly fabricated several details surrounding the case, claiming the incident was a "family feud" and that the victims received their injuries by accident. To review other reports on the persecution of Christians in India, go to our [country report](#).

***Pray that Ayatu and his family will fully heal from the injuries and trauma they experienced due to the attack. In the face of intense pressure from the opposing members of their community, ask God to divinely protect this targeted family and continue to sustain them with His strength, courage and peace. May these persecuted believers be so filled with God's Spirit that they will respond to the hostility of villagers with the love of Christ in both 'word and deed' – encouraging community members to likewise submit their lives to Him. At the same time, may the Lord's righteousness be upheld throughout India, so that the country's governing authorities would take incidents of persecution seriously and strive to hold accountable all those who wrongfully harm or harass Christians because of their faith.***

***"Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."***

~ Ephesians 6:11-12 ESV

#### **OCCUPIED UKRAINE: Priest Fatally Tortured; Others Facing Deportation**

Members of the Russian occupation forces seized Father Stepan Podolchak on February 13th. The Christian leader had been serving as the abbot of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in Kalanchak, a village located within the Russian-occupied Kherson Region. Taking him away with a bag over his head, the soldiers insisted that he go with them for questioning. Two days later, Father Stepan's battered body was found on the village street. Some reports state that he had also suffered a bullet wound to the head.

Russian officials now controlling the area have refused to take any action in response to the church leader's tragic death. When *Forum18* representatives contacted the local police, they were simply told to "forget about it." The occupying Russians have frequently placed pressure on priests who refuse to leave the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and join churches under the Moscow Patriarchate. As a result, some priests have been abducted or taken into captivity by the Russian forces.

For example, two priests from the Russian-occupied Donetsk Region, Father Khristofor Khrimli and Father Andri Chui, were both convicted of "conducting missionary activities" in September 2023. As a result of their convictions, Russian officials ordered that the Christians be deported from "Russia." Since Russia now lays claim to Ukraine's Donetsk Region, the men are unable to return to their homes. Father Khristofor and Father Andri are now caught in a situation where they are to be deported, but their destination has not yet been determined. Russian officials will send them to Latvia, if the two believers are in agreement. However, the Christian leaders have refused this option since they are Ukrainians. The men have also been offered Russian citizenships, which would allow them to return to Donetsk. Yet, wanting to retain their true citizenship as Ukrainians, they have refused this proposal as well. In the meantime, the Christian leaders are being held at a deportation centre in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don.

***Please uphold the members of Father Stepan Podolchak's family and church community as they mourn this tragic loss, praying that they will sense the Lord's comforting presence especially near to them.***

***May all our Christian brothers and sisters in this war-torn nation serve as agents of God's peace, demonstrating the love of His Son Jesus to those around them. Pray that the Lord will also provide protection, wisdom, favour and guidance to His people – especially those residing within the occupied regions of Ukraine – as they determine how to carry on their lives and ministries in the midst of the ongoing political conflict.***

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

### **Upcoming Offering**

#### **March 3 - 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.

#### **March 10 - Mission Aviation Fellowship**

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

### **Gratefully Received February 18-25**

Canadian Food Grains Bank- 3719.00, Raise Up Global Missions 805.00

### **E- Transfers received January 2024**

Local ministries 6370.00

## **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.



## 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)

## Church Announcements

Reminder for the **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 did not receive a form or you would like more information feel free to contact me.

**Welcome Potluck** - To celebrate and welcome our new associate **Pastor Natasha S.**, we will be having a potluck lunch following the service this **Sunday, March 3**, if your last name begins with **A-H** - a main dish, **I-S** - salad and **T-Z** - desert. We hope you are all able to join us that day as we welcome their family into our congregation!

**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 **March 6 at 7:30pm**. The class will take place **every 2 weeks** and will run for 3 or 4 sessions.

**Funeral Fund Fees** - It was decided to raise the annual fee to \$60 this year and to \$70 next year. Cheques can be made out to *CRC Funeral Fund* and placed in mailbox 79. If you have questions or want a financial statement call Marlene K.. **March 10** is the final day to pay your fees. After that there will be a \$10 penalty.

**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, 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.

**Would you like to learn new ways to support your charities more effectively?**  
Love to use Cryptocurrency? It is estimated that 1.2 million Canadians own cryptocurrency. Learn about how this currency might be used in donations, how to plan for any that might land in your estate, and more. Christian Stewardship Services is hosting a complimentary open Q&A sessions this winter to answer all of your questions on Cryptocurrency Donations and Estate Planning. Explore the topics and register [here!](#)  
For more information, contact: [info@cssservices.ca](mailto:info@cssservices.ca).

## Church Announcements Cont.

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 #, thank you. Chantale

**Save the Date!** We are planning a Senior's Tea/Social for Wednesday, **March 13th @ 2:00 pm** in the Social Hall, **Pastor Natasha** will be there, so come on out so we can get to know her. Everyone welcome!

**Update on Partners Worldwide work in Liberia;** This past week several Albertans have been visiting a remote area in Northern Liberia near Voinjama. They are looking at the rice mill that we have been involved with and also into some obstacles small holder farmers are facing. One thing they learned is that it is mainly older women harvesting the rice in the lowland fields because it is very hard work and slow. Here we talk about how many bushels an hour a combine can harvest; there it may be only a bushel or two a day when you are harvesting with a small hand held sickle. Because of the hard labor younger people are leaving to find work in the cities. The Alberta team is hearing about the need for mechanization and looking into how that could be achieved. They are very encouraged by the eagerness of the people they have met and are excited to see how God is working through their visit. I hope to give an update after they return and give more information as to how we can participate in the ongoing work there. John Middel.

**ARPA** - Applications are closing soon for the **2024 ARPA Internship**, a 4-month program running from September through December. The ARPA Internship offers a unique opportunity to live in Canada's capital, engage with political issues from a Reformed perspective, and work in a Member of Parliament's office on Parliament Hill. If you or someone you know is interested in this 4-month program, please contact [internship@arpacanada.ca](mailto:internship@arpacanada.ca). We're also happy to connect you with a current intern to discuss their firsthand experience. Applications are open until March 30, 2024. For details, visit [arpacanada.ca/internship](http://arpacanada.ca/internship)

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: Living a Holy Life** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Have you ever wanted to do something that you knew wasn't right? We all wrestle with sin, but we need to take personal responsibility. We can't blame Satan for our poor behavior (Ephesians 6:11-17). Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

**Groundwork: The Shame Of The Cross** - As we seek to comprehend the fullness of Jesus' sacrifice, we need to revisit the shame of the cross. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 53:1-3, Philippians 2:5-8, Genesis 2:25, Genesis 3:7-10, Hebrews 12:1-3, and 1 Peter 2:4-6 to examine the relationship between sin and shame and unpack why Jesus' experience of shame was necessary for our salvation. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.