

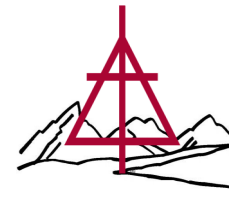
## Upcoming Events

March 31	April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6
8:30 am Singing at the Rocky Hospital 10:00am Worship Service No Sunday School today No Youth	No Friendship	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30 am Coffee break 7:30pm Deacons 7:30 pm WPC	7:15 pm GEMS Grandparents / Friends Tea RSVP to Alyssa D. 7:00 pm Cadets 7:00 pm Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		
April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13
10:00am Worship Service Sunday School today	7:00 pm Friendship	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30 am Coffee break 7:30pm Admin	7:30 pm New Members Class	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		

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.

HELPING HANDS	Thank you, for all you do!	March 31	April 7	April 14
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
<b>Serving Elder</b>		Albert V.	Randy D.	Alan H.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>		Justin D.	Ken B.	Lowell S.
<b>Music Team</b>		Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	Six Track
<b>Children's Message</b>		Pastor Ken	Joel S.	Elroy L.
<b>Nursery</b>		Mark & Keanna H. Marisa P., Ruth D.	Karl & Krystal H. Sjoukje V., Travis A.	Margo D., Amber B. Kelsey O., Lucas H.
<b>Coffee Host</b>		Ken & Cheri-Lynn B.	Gordon & Bettie V.	Dave & Henriette V.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>		David & Stephanie C. Steven & Simone B.	Herb & Gertie W. Albert & Sjoukje V.	Dirk & Sandra V. Chris & Lowell S.



## **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)



*Sunday, March 31*

Psalm 23, Luke 24:9-12, 36-39

[www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca)  
@FirstCRC.Rocky Mtn House on Facebook

### Morning Worship Service

Welcome

- ♪ Come into Your Presence
- ♪ Low in the Grave He Lay

Call to Worship

God's Greeting and we greet each other

- ♪ Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Apostles Creed

Assurance of Pardon

- ♪ In Christ Alone

Sunday School Children Singing

Children's Message - Pastor Natasha

(Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5)

Announcements and Congregational Prayer

Offering for Resonate Global Mission

Offertory

Scripture - Psalm 23, Luke 24:9-12, 36-39

Message - Home Forever

- ♪ I Serve A Risen Savior

Responsive Sending

The Blessing

- ♪ Crown Him with Many Crowns

## 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](#)

## 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 **Church of the Nazarene**.

† Birthday Congratulations go out to those celebrating this week are **Gertie W.**(1), **Barrie B.** and **Gordon I.** and **Bill S.** all on the (5th). May God grant you a blessed year ahead.

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Sylvia D., Gus & Margaret V.** and **Joe & Lena V.** For those at the local care facilities: **Tonia T., Diane W., Elly O., Dick O., Seenie B.** 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.

## Upcoming Services

**April 21** - Gems & Cadet Sunday



***"Persecution is a price worth paying for the Lord. We would rather live through it than to hide our faith. We hope more Chinese churches will speak up and stand with us."***

~ Li Yingqiang

Elder of Early Rain Covenant Church

### PAKISTAN: College Student Accused of Blasphemy

Ashbeel Ghauri was recently arrested following accusations from a former classmate that he had allegedly disrespected Islam during a WhatsApp conversation. According to Ashbeel's father, Babar, the young Christian man had engaged in conversation several times with Sheraz Gulistan and other Muslims who attempted to convert him to Islam. Babar believes that Sheraz implicated Ashbeel after the young man refused to renounce his faith in Christ.

Police arrested the 18-year-old college student at his home in Attock, Punjab, on March 6th. The believer was placed with other blasphemy suspects in a detention centre where he was locked in a small room. There he spent his time in prayer, reading the Bible and fasting. During his detainment, Ashbeel was reassured as he remembered the words of Joshua 1:5, in which God says, *"Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you"* (ESV). His family also leaned on God for strength during that difficult time. "It's a crucial time for my family, especially for Ashbeel," his father Babar was able to testify. "But we know God will walk us through this test, and [Ashbeel] will emerge victorious in faith."

Thankfully, during the bail hearing, the magistrate listened to the evidence that was presented and consequently released Ashbeel from custody on March 14th. Surety bonds were paid by a close friend of Babar. The friend, who is a Muslim, has since been threatened for assisting the Christian family. Babar has also expressed concerns about the security of his own family, but says he remains hopeful that Ashbeel will soon be acquitted and granted the freedom to resume his studies.

In Pakistan, threats of violence against those accused of blasphemy are rampant. According to the Centre for Social Justice, which is based in Lahore, seven people were killed through vigilante violence in 2023 because of blasphemy accusations. For more reports concerning our persecuted Christian family in Pakistan, go to our [country report](#).

***Praise God that Ashbeel has been released on bail. Pray that all charges against this young man will be dropped. May God's protection rest upon Ashbeel and his family, as well as the friend who provided them financial assistance. Also prayerfully remember the many other Christians in Pakistan who are presently facing imprisonment, violence and even the threat of death because of blasphemy allegations, praying that the Lord would sustain them daily with His strength, wisdom and courage.***

## ReFrame Ministries

### Resonate Global Mission

**Double Your Impact this Easter!** - As we celebrate our Savior who is the Resurrection and the Life, let's go out with joy in our hearts to join God's mission! This Easter, you can help Christian Reformed church planters, missionaries, and campus ministers live out the good news by making a gift to Resonate while your gift will go twice as far! Find out how at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/double](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/double)

### Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Today we celebrate an event that changed everything: the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As you celebrate Easter with family and friends, read 1 Peter 1:3-9 together, and invite people of all ages around your table to share how you experience the "living hope" that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection offers. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

### Lent Season Daily Devotional Guide March 31

**Sunday, March 31 - Matthew 28:1-10; Psalm 23:6; Psalm 16:9-11**

Q: These are the passages we use today in our Easter worship. What is it that makes Easter such a great day of celebration?



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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### **March 31 - Resonate Global Mission**

Has Jesus ever met you all of the sudden? Suddenly, you realize you are in a special moment. Suddenly, you realize he is going ahead of you, just as the angel promised on that first Easter! Our calling as Christians, when it comes down to it, is to be ready for those sudden moments—the opportunities God places in our lives to be involved in mission. Resonate Global Mission is privileged to walk with you, wherever God is leading. We love to see the way God invites his church into mission through callings to go around the world and callings to be present in the every day.

**Your Gift Doubled!** Resonate Global Mission has a great opportunity for your giving to God's mission through the Christian Reformed Church! Now through April 30, any amount you give for our special campaign will be matched, dollar for dollar, by a generous donor!

#### **April 7 - 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.

The Deacons are supporting, through prayer, Coleton & Ira G. with their work through YWAM in the Ukraine. We encourage you to keep them in prayer and check out their newsletter on the Deacons bulletin board in the social hall.

#### **Gratefully Received March 17 & 24**

Theological Calvin Seminary \$538, Local Church Ministries \$8,123, Lord's Foodbank \$50.00

### 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

**Parsonage update-** the past 2week we were blessed with many willing helpers at the parsonage, cleaning, filling holes etc., painting is almost done and possibly will be laying the flooring in the next couple of weeks, if you are able to help out with that please contact Peter B..

**Needed:** Please note that this ministry needs a new coordinator to organize Easter & Christmas singing times at the Rocky Hospital, if you would like more information or would like to volunteer to fill this role contact John & Jean B. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMS** are hosting a **grandparents (friends) tea** on **April 3rd at 7:15pm** at the church! If you didn't receive an invite, still feel free to come for an evening of fellowship, entertainment, and fun. **RSVP** to Alyssa D.

**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.

**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. If you are able to help me even for a short time, please contact the **church office** for my phone number. Thank you!

**MAY 4: BAZAAR and BAKE SALE:** By now, I hope everyone has looked at the posters to see what they can donate to the 2025 75th anniversary fund. We will also have CERTIFICATES for shoppers to buy if someone donates a service or item to be available at a later date. Some examples are a dinner invite or delivery, a fancy cake or buns for an upcoming occasion, a DQ meal delivered, a couple of hours housework or yard work, painting or cleaning house for a few hours, play dates, etc. Let Marilyn know if you can donate one of the above services and we'll fill out a gift certificate so the price of the service and info can be filled in ahead of time. Call 846-0402 . It's going to be a fun day!

## Church Announcements

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](http://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](mailto:camp@rcmflourish.ca). With your help we can flourish in the land. See you at camp!

**Living in color** - Healing from a past abortion (support and education). Are you carrying the secret of having had abortion? Are you struggling with shame and guilt? Are you ready to find healing, restoration and forgiveness? Please join us as we start a Living In Color Support Group, April 8th from 5:30-7:00 pm. (Course runs for 10-12 weeks. Day of week to be determined.) At the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre- Rocky Mtn House. Confidential and facilitator led. For more information, please call 403-871-5111 or email: [rmhdirector@pregnancycares.ca](mailto:rmhdirector@pregnancycares.ca). Please register by April 1.

**Igniting Revival in the Power of the Holy Spirit** (April 10 -13) at Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton. Come join us at this event which aims to equip individuals and small team to cooperate with Jesus to see an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which could lead to revival and the Next Great Awakening.



[dfcanada.org/events](http://dfcanada.org/events)  
[jane@dfcanada.org](mailto:jane@dfcanada.org)  
[anne@mosaichouse.ca](mailto:anne@mosaichouse.ca)



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### From Council

Here are a few highlights from our last Council meeting.

-As part of our ongoing discussion regarding Children at the Lord's Supper we would like to extend an invitation to parents and any others who may be interested to come out for an evening of conversation and teaching. Please join us **April 18 at 7:30** in the social hall, where we will begin with a time to address any questions you may have and then move on to some teaching that we hope will help to equip parents to have meaningful conversations with their children regarding participation in the Lord's Supper.

-Our church is blessed to be looking forward to its 75th Anniversary coming up next year! We would love to mark this milestone in a memorable way and so we are looking for volunteers to organize a celebration. If you are interested in helping out please contact Jessica H..

-Ron d. joined us at our last meeting to share about the church in Nordegg, and how God has been working in that community. He shared with us some of the struggles the church has been facing and also shared some ideas on ways we may be able to offer support.