

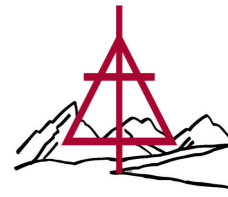
Upcoming Events

April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27
10:00am Worship Service GEMS/CADETS Sunday S.S. story card # 147 Youth singing at the Ravines (2:30pm) Youth at John & Jean B. (4pm)	7:00pm Friendship	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30am Coffeebreak	7:30pm last membership class	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 9:30am Ladies Craft Group - Final meeting for the season	6:30pm Family Night in the church social hall- RSVP for pizza	
April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
10:00am Worship Service S.S. story card # 148 Youth Bible study at Trevor & Sharlea L.	7:00pm Friendship	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30am Coffeebreak	7:30pm Worship Planning Committee Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		1-4pm Bazaar & Bake sale

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

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

HELPING HANDS	Thank you, for all you do!	April 21	April 28	May 5
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Karl H.	Jessica H.	Alan D.	
Serving Deacon	Lorraine A.	Peter B.	Doug D.	
Music Team	The Experience	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	
Children's Message	Corinne S.	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken	
Nursery	Isabelle D., Colleen T. Corinne V., Shanelle T.	Justin & Mikala D. Marie A., Teslynn A.	Janelle V., Rita B., Marion R., Chelsey B.	
Coffee Host	Aaron & Cheryl T.	Tom & Kathy S.	Ernie & Jeannette S.	
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	GEMS Cadets	Elmer & Joanne D. Peter & Josephine B.	Cody & Teagan L. Rennie & Tina K.	



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

Sunday, April 21

Isaiah 40:1-2, 21-31
Do You Not Know?

www.firstcrocky.ca
@FirstCRC.Rocky Mtn House on Facebook

Morning Worship Service

- | | |
|--|---|
| Welcome
Responsive Call to Worship
♪ Everlasting God

God's Greeting and we greet each other
♪ Only a Holy God

Call to confession & prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon
♪ This is Amazing Grace

GEMS & Cadets
Children's Message - Corinne S.
Sunday School for Ages 3 - Grade 5 | Announcements and Congregational Prayer

Offering for GEMS & Cadets
Offertory - GEMS

Scripture - Isaiah 40:1-2, 21-31
Message - Do You Not Know?
♪ Wings of An Eagle

The Blessing
♪ What a Beautiful Name |
|--|---|

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](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 **Coyote Creek Chapel** (Sunchild Reserve).

† This week **Dick O.** went home to be with Jesus, our deepest sympathies to the families during this time.

† Congratulations to **Irene K.** (April 23) and **Frank D.** (April 26) who will be celebrating a birthday in the coming week!

† 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. and 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.



OCCUPIED UKRAINE: Russian Forces Charge Another Church Leader
Source: Forum18

In May 2023, Father Kostiantyn Maksimov, a priest from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, was taken by Russian occupation forces. Several other religious leaders have either been killed, tortured or reported missing after being detained by members of the Russian forces.

In late March of this year, the Regional Prosecutor's Office for the occupation forces in the Zaporizhzhia Region announced that Father Kostiantyn was to face trial on charges of espionage. The prosecutors allege that the priest had reported the location of Russian air defences to the Ukrainian security service via Telegram, an instant messaging app. At last report, no details have been released regarding when and where the trial will be held.

In a separate incident, two priests from the Orthodox Church of Ukraine were convicted of "conducting missionary activities" in September 2023. (Read a previously published report.) Father Khristofor Khrimli and Father Andri Chui are from the Donetsk Region of Ukraine, an area currently considered part of Russia by occupational forces. Both church leaders were ordered to be deported from Russian territory, but since court officials claim that the region of their home is now within the jurisdiction of Russia, there was uncertainty at the time as to where the priests would be sent.

According to a recent update, the two men were deported to the country of Georgia in March. Since then, they have returned to Ukraine but are living in an area that's under the control of the Ukrainian government. Due to orders of the court representing Russia's occupational forces, they are forbidden to return to their home community within the Donetsk Region.

Continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, especially within the hearts of those residing in occupied or volatile regions of the country. In the midst of the ongoing threats of violence and oppression, may God also minister His divine protection, love and provision. Specifically pray that the charges issued by Russian officials against Father Kostiantyn and other falsely accused religious leaders will be dropped. And may Father Khristofor and Father Andri, along with the many other Christians who have been forced from their homes, receive the resources and support required to continue reaching out with the hope of the Gospel – wherever they happen to be located. On behalf of all the remaining Ukrainian church leaders and their congregants, pray for ongoing strength, wisdom and guidance as they faithfully gather together for worship and continue in their endeavours to meet the needs of others in their communities.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Earth Day - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When God created the earth, he made sure to make everything right. After every day of creation, he looked at what he had made and called it good. And then—at the end of creation—God gave it all to us and put us in charge. That is an incredible blessing and a huge task! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Earth Day Collection.

Pastor Darrell Delaney Answers Your Questions - Pastor Darrell Delaney, co-host of Groundwork and author of the Today devotions for April 2024, will be answering your questions about how God's word addresses life's practical challenges in a live webinar on May 2, 2024 at 12:30 EDT. Post your question and sign up for the webinar at connect.reframeministries.org/answers

Groundwork: God's Judgment and Hope in Micah - A contemporary of Isaiah, the prophet Micah is most well-known for the famous verse "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Join Groundwork as we study Micah 1-7 to discuss God's judgment and hope woven throughout Micah's prophecies. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



"... 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."
~ John 15:20 ESV ~ Quoted by Li Yunyan

CHINA: Members of Raided Church Detained/Source: ChinaAid

On March 10th, the members of the Maizhong Reformed Church in Fuyang, Anhui province, were gathered at a restaurant when their meeting was suddenly raided by local police. Without showing identification or giving reasons for the raid, the police began interrogating the Christians. Officials from the local religious affairs bureau, along with national security agents, also entered the restaurant and began taking pictures.

After questioning the believers who had attended the gathering, the authorities took 18 Christians, including two children, to the police station. The interrogation continued until well after midnight before Elder Chang Shun was given a 15-day administrative detention for "carrying out activities in the name of an illegal social organization." This is the third time that Elder Chang has been detained within the past six months. Additionally, as a result of the raid, eight other church members were each given a 13-day detention.

After learning of Elder Chang's detention, his wife, Li Yunyan, released a letter calling for prayer and expressing deep concern for her husband. The couple's children, unable to grasp what was happening, asked their mother, "Why do they have to take Daddy? Daddy is not a bad person."

Prayerfully uphold the members of this persecuted church as they contend with ongoing oppression because of their desire to meet together for worship. Pray specifically for Elder Chang and his family, along with the other recently detained church members and their loved ones, asking that each of these believers would receive the encouragement, strength, courage and perseverance they need to remain undeterred by the governmental opposition. May God also work mightily in the lives of the Chinese Communist Party officials, turning their hearts towards repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.

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

Upcoming Offerings

April 21- G.E.M.S and Cadets

GEMS - GEMS is an acronym for **G**irls **E**verywhere **M**eeting the **S**avior. Our vision is to see girls around the world actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others—girls equipped, motivated, and passionately engaged in living out their faith. Our mission is to bring girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. The club meets bi-weekly and leaders can help guide girls into a relationship with Jesus.

Cadets - Cadets is a weeknight program that meets bi-weekly and helps boys become more Christlike in all areas of life. Each meeting includes assembling with the entire club for the landmarks, breaking up into small groups (called "cadres") for Bible study and working on badges, and a time of games or other physical activity.

April 28 - Local Church Ministries

Local Church Ministries goes to cover all our budget commitments: staff, office expenses, power, heat, insurance, children's programs, mission support and ministry shares.

Thank you for your recent contributions to Diaconal Ministry Shares. Your continued support has allowed Diaconal Ministries Canada to faithfully support deacons across the country! One of the things that ministry shares supports is our incredible staff and network of Diaconal Coaches. Our Western & Eastern Regional Ministry Developers work hard to equip and encourage our Coaches, who in turn can walk alongside local diaconates - using relevant workshops, updated and practical resources, and one-on-one mentoring so that deacons can live out their mandate.

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

May 5 - Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30pm)

May 12 - Lord's Supper

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

From the Finance Committee - copies of the first quarter financial statements are on the table in the foyer.

Family Fun Night- all are invited to join us for a family fun night of pizza and Yahtzee! **April 26 at 6:30pm** at the church. If you have a game of Yahtzee feel free to bring it along. RSVP if possible so we can know how much pizza we need! Contact Krystal H, Cailyn B. or Kelsey O.

We will be **offering the course** *From the Inside Out* starting **Sunday, May 5 (at the church) 7:00pm**. It is six sessions. *From the Inside Out* is intended to help people develop an understanding of Christian Spiritual Formation, the lifelong process by which Christlikeness is established in the depths of our being. We will learn how our picture of God, self and the gospel shape how we think and live. Please talk to Pastor Natasha or Brenda B. to sign up or for more information.

Community Prayer Breakfast- Rocky & District Ministerial Association invite you to the 5th annual Community Prayer Breakfast on **Wednesday, May 15th** at the Lou Soppit Community Centre from **7:00am-8:30am**. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the church office until May 8.

An organizer is needed to coordinate the 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.

Sonrise Camps (July 7-12, July 14-19) have *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. Registration forms for both weeks of Sonrise Camp and Vacation Bible Camp are on the table in the foyer and on the church website.

Urgent Request for a rental- My name is Chantal and I am urgently looking for a place to rent either in town or in the country, as I need to be out of the place. If you can help me out, even for a short while, that would be much appreciated. Contact the church office for my contact number.

Church Announcements

Bazaar & Bake Sale - Doll blankets, pot holders, Bison meat, cakes, cookies, lunch with Pastor Natasha! There is a buzz about the May 4 Bazaar & Sale. Are you nearly ready? See you Saturday, **May 4 from 1:00pm-4:00pm** at the church. Contact Marilyn H. if you have items to donate. It's going to be a fun day!

Youth April events - **April 21:** Singing at the Ravine's (2:30 pm), Snacks @ John & Jean B. (4:00 pm), **April 28:** Bible study at Trevor & Sharela L. Mark your calendars for the upcoming service project at the Medicine Hat Gleaners August 22-24.

World Renew - Your opinion matters! Please complete the World Renew Supporter Survey - Thank you for walking alongside World Renew to share Christ's hope with communities facing hunger, poverty, and injustice. World Renew is always seeking out ways to improve, whether in our programming around the world or in our communications with you. To that end, we invite you to complete a donor survey. As a thank you for completing the survey, we'd love to send you a copy of our 60th anniversary book, *Your Story is Our Story*, about ordinary people following God's call to do extraordinary things. We welcome your input: worldrenew.ca/survey

Is God calling you to Ministry in the Church? There is support!

Classis Alberta North's Student Support Team invites those considering full-time ordained or non-ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church to apply for a forgivable loan to support their graduate studies. Application forms and further information can be found at the Classis Alberta North website: <http://www.classisalbertanorth.ca/student-support-team.html>. The application deadline is May 31, 2024. Questions and completed forms can be forwarded to Student Support Team chair Peter Rockhold (peterrockhold@gmail.com)

Thrive

Thriving Essentials Overview Webinar - April 30 - Thriving Essentials is a training course for elders, deacons, church staff and any volunteer ministry leader. This one-hour webinar will give you an overview of what the full 4-hour course involves, including discussions on key concepts of Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Attend this preview on April 30 (11am EDT) to see if the full course is right for your church. Get more info at crcna.org/essentials

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Family traditions create unforgettable memories—and they can form faith! Choose one night of the week (or one day of the month) to be Family Celebration Night. To see how one family does this, check out the video at tinyurl.com/BewleyVideo. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject