

Upcoming Events

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 7:30 pm Camp Meeting	Office: Cheri-Lynn 9:30am Coffeekbreak	7:30pm Worship Planning Committee meeting	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		1-4pm Bazaar & Bake sale in church social hall
May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11
10:00am Worship Service S.S. story card # 139 1:15 pm Clearwater Centre 2:30 pm Westview Lodge 7 pm "From Inside Out" Course @ Church Youth- Jam session with Cheryl D. location TBD	7:00pm Last Friendship Potluck	Office: Cheri-Lynn 9:30am Last Coffee-Break 1:00-3:00pm Grand Parents Day @ RCS 7:30 pm Deacons		12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 12:00-2:00 pm March for Life in Edmonton @ Alberta Legislature Building		

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 28	May 5	May 12
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
	Serving Elder	Jessica H.	Alan D.	John D.
	Serving Deacon	Peter B.	Doug D.	Justin D.
	Music Team	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	Six Track
	Children's Message	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
	Nursery	Justin & Mikala D. Marie A., Teslynn A.	Janelle V., Rita B., Marion R., Chelsey B.	Annette D., Jonah D. Justin & Courtney D.
	Coffee Host	Tom & Kathy S.	Ernie & Jeanette S.	Don & Marion R.
	Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Elmer & Joanne D. Peter & Josephine B.	Cody & Teagan L. Rennie & Tina K.	Hank & Betty K. Tom & Alyssa 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 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

Welcome

Gathering Song

♪ We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

Opening Song

♪ Ten Thousand Reasons

Call to confession & prayer of Confession

♪ Lamb of God

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Your will be done

Children's Message - Pastor Natasha
Sunday School for Ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements and Congregational Prayer

Offering for Local Church Ministries

Scripture - Exodus 12:1-16, 21-28, Luke 22:1-20
Message - The Lord's Supper and Passover

♪ There is a Redeemer

The Blessing

♪ Blessed assurance

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 **Cowboy Church**.

† 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.



**"We are the followers of Jesus.
If He says, 'Forgive your enemies,'
then we forgive them."**

~ Walter Masih, a Pakistani believer whose
wife and daughter were murdered in 2009

VIETNAM: New Regulations Bring Tighter Restrictions

With the release of Decree 95, which took effect on March 30th, Vietnamese governing officials declared that the new regulations they were instituting would ensure freedom of belief for all people within the country, enhancing the responsibilities of individual agencies and organizations. The decree expands on the "Law on Belief and Religion" that was implemented in 2018, which outlines additional policies and procedures regulating religious activities in Vietnam.

In the view of the country's spiritual leaders, however, the new decree has added regulations that will further restrict religious freedoms. Two of the most significant changes revolve around financial reporting and the rights of local officials to suspend religious activities for unspecified "serious violations."

The decree requires that all finances and in-kind goods be reported within 20 days of receipt. Yet this rule is impossible to follow for many religious communities, since they are often not registered due to the government's stringent registration criteria. As a result, the requirement to report income, as well as expenditures, may be onerous for many churches throughout the country.

A third of the policies presented in the Decree 95 document focus on suspending religious activities for various violations. Such infractions include "infringing on the morality of our indigenous culture" and "using religion for personal aggrandizement." The use of such vague terminology could allow local Communist authorities to shut down any group considered a threat to the authoritarian government in Vietnam.

For Christians in Vietnam, how the new rules will actually play out is yet to be seen, as not all religious regulations have been strictly enforced in the past. As one local church leader states, "In Vietnam everything is open; everything is negotiable." Despite the new regulations, Hien Vu from the Institute for Global Engagement is confident that the country's pastors and church leaders will remain steadfast and resilient. "They are used to these restrictions," he explains. "We'll deal with it when it comes; but we'll do whatever God calls us to do." For more reports on the challenges facing Christians in Vietnam, go to our [country report](#).

On behalf of church leaders throughout Vietnam, pray that God will grant them wisdom as they deal with the outcome of the newly implemented regulations. May their ministries not in any way be thwarted by the potential challenges, but rather further thrive due to the help and guidance provided by our Heavenly Father. For believers who have been arrested or otherwise persecuted for their faith in Jesus, ask the Lord to impart to them His sustaining grace and strength so they will remain resilient amid opposition. Also, pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the citizens of this country in general, leading all those who view Christianity as "a threat" to acknowledge their need for repentance and salvation through Christ.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Push Pause - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Rest can take many forms. As long as we slow down, pay attention, and enjoy God's blessings, we receive the benefits of rest. Try it! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like The Spring Scavenger Hunt, and go for a hike!

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.

Groundwork: Our Hearts and God's Character in Nahum and Zephaniah - Nahum and Zephaniah urge God's people to examine their hearts and act in ways that honor God and reflect his character. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Nahum 1-3 and Zephaniah 1-3 to remember that God longs for our repentant hearts and for us to live as his ambassadors bringing justice, transformation, and reconciliation to this world. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

World Renew

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

Share Christ's Hope Through the Gift of Improved Health - According to the World Health Organization's most recent global maternal mortality report, every day almost 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth—95 percent of these deaths occur in the Global South. In two weeks, join World Renew for Women of Hope Sunday and discover how through your gift you can help provide training in proper health practices to new and expectant mothers, so they can better protect their health and the health of their children. For more information go to: worldrenew.ca/womenofhope

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

Upcoming Offerings

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.

May 5 - Diaconal Ministries Canada

Diaconal Ministries Canada partners with deacons, churches, and ministries to demonstrate God's love in the community.

Gratefully Received April 14 - 21

Local Ministries 850.00, Thrive 1066.00

GEMS & Cadets 1222.00

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 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.

Jean Brouwer (403.845.2357)

Anita Middel (middelanita@gmail.com)

Visit www.firstcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

Church Announcements

GRANDPARENTS DAY ~ Please join us for Grandparent's Day 2024 at **Rocky Christian School** on **Tuesday, May 7th**. You are invited to come to the school from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm for a tour of your grand child(ren)'s classroom, to participate in some fun activities with them, and then enjoy a light snack and tea while the students present a short program for your entertainment. If you don't have grandchildren in our school, but would like to be a grand-friend for a student whose grandparents aren't able to attend, please contact the school office at 403-845-3516, and we will pair you up with a student.

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

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

March for life: the Priest and the Levite saw the man lying along the road. They chose not to get involved. But the Samaritan stopped to help. If you saw a child lying on the road to Jericho what would you do? Would you stop and help? Would you speak up?

Alvita King, niece of Human rights leader Martin Luther king Jr. is speaking at the March for Life in Edmonton, May 9. **The March for Life is scheduled for May 9, 2024, 12-2:00 at the AB Legislature Building.** Please join us in person or in prayer.

Thank you so much to all who have been busy these past weeks getting ready for the **Mother's Day Sale** next Saturday afternoon. We know your efforts will have all been worth it and they certainly are appreciated! Hope everyone will bring a friend or neighbor for an enjoyable afternoon.

If you need to deliver your contribution early, can you send it with a friend? You might like to bring your own shopping bags and loonies, toonies, fives and tens. The church will be open at 9:30 Saturday morning for donations. Sale begins at 1:00p.m. See you there!

Youth April events - April 28: Bible study at Trevor & Sharlea L. Mark your calendars for the upcoming service project at the **Medicine Hat Gleaners August 22-24.**

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)

Mark your calendars for a **Men's Campout!** - All men (High School and up) are invited to come to Kelly and Shantelle's campground on **May 24 and 25**. We will have a late supper at 7:30 followed by a Skeet Shooting/Sharpshooter competition. On Saturday morning we will have breakfast/brunch from 9-10 followed by a worship time and a Yard Game Olympics (no skill required!) Events will wrap up by 2:30 although you are welcome to stay longer if you'd like. Come and participate in as much or as little as you want. Everyone is welcome to camp or to head home for the night and then come again in the morning! More details to come!