

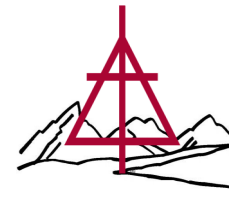
Upcoming Events

April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13
10:00am Worship Service S.S. story card #143	7:00 pm Friendship	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30 am Coffeebreak 7:30pm Admin	7:30 pm New Members Class	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 9:30am Craft Morning		
April 14	April 15	April 16	April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20
10:00am Worship Service 1:15pm Clearwater Centre Service 2:30pm Westview Lodge Service S.S. story card # 145	7:00 pm Friendship	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30 am Coffeebreak	7:00pm GEMS 7:00pm Cadets 7:00 pm Catechism 7:30pm Finance Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Forum on Children at the Lord's Supper in Social Hall		

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 7	April 14	April 21
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder		Randy D.	Alan H.	Karl H.
Serving Deacon		Justin D.	Lowell S.	Lorraine A.
Music Team		Mosaic	Six Track	The Experience
Children's Message		Joel S.	Elroy L.	Corinne S.
Nursery		Karl & Krystal H. Sjoukje V., Travis A.	Margo D., Amber B. Kelsey D., Lucas H.	Isabelle D., Colleen T., Corinne V., Shanelle T.
Coffee Host		Gordon & Bettie V.	Dave & Henriette V.	Aaron & Cheryl T.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup		Herb & Bertie W. Albert & Sjoukje V.	Dirk & Sandra V. Lowell & Chris S.	Dave & Sandra S. Jason & Tanya P.



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 7

Luke 24:13-35; Acts 16:6-15
Lord's Day 7 Q&A 21
Lord's Day 25 Q&A 65

Sacramental Series #1:
When God Opens a Heart -
The Gift of Faith

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

Morning Worship Service

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Welcome
 🎵 Father of Lights</p> <p>Call to Worship
God's Greeting and we greet each other
 🎵 Open the Eyes of My Heart</p> <p>Call to confession & prayer
 🎵 Jesus Strong and Kind</p> <p>Assurance of Pardon
 🎵 Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me</p> <p>Children's Message - Joel S.
(Sunday School for Ages 3 to Grade 5)</p> | <p>Announcements and Congregational Prayer</p> <p>Offering for Local Church Ministries
Offertory</p> <p>Scripture - Acts 16
Message - Sacramental Series #1 - When God Opens a Heart - The Gift of Faith
 🎵 I Sought the Lord and Afterward I Knew</p> <p>The Blessing
 🎵 There is a Redeemer</p> |
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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 **Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**.

† Congratulations to **Pearl V.** (12) and **Rose W.** (12) who celebrate birthdays this week! Blessings to you on your special day!

† 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 14 - Baptism of Jack Jannes H.

April 14 - Services at Clearwater Center (1:15 pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30 pm)

April 21 - Gems & Cadet Sunday



IRAN: Overseas Conversion Leads to Prison Sentence

Sources: Article18, Human Rights in Iran

For some time, an Iranian woman named Laleh Saati lived in Malaysia and, while there, she was baptized as a Christian. Not wanting to return to Iran, Laleh applied for asylum, but the process continued to drag on without resolution. Frustrated with the delay, as well as missing her elderly parents, she returned to Iran in 2017.

Since her return, Laleh had been summoned for interrogation by intelligence agents multiple times. Then, on February 13th of this year, the Christian convert was arrested at her father's home in Ekbatan Town, a suburb of Tehran. Photographs and videos of her baptism and Christian activities in Malaysia were presented as evidence against her.

On March 16th, the 45-year-old believer was brought before a judge who asked her why she risked returning to her home country, given that she had "done such things [Christian activities] outside of Iran." She was then sentenced to two years' imprisonment, followed by a two-year travel ban for "acting against national security by connecting with 'Zionist' Christian organizations."

This case clearly demonstrates that Iranian authorities are able to obtain information on the activities of asylum seekers in foreign countries and use that against them. While most Western countries acknowledge the dangers faced by Iran's Christians, asylum claims are often rejected if the judge questions the genuine nature of a religious conversion.

Remember Laleh in your prayers as she faces this two-year prison sentence. Pray that she will receive the comfort, courage and spiritual strength needed to continue standing firm in her faith. May God soften the hearts of the Iranian authorities involved in Laleh's case, allowing this Christian woman to be freed of all charges and thus released from prison. Also uphold Laleh's parents during this painful time of separation, asking that they too would tangibly sense the Lord's comforting presence with them.

MYANMAR: Baptist Pastor Killed by Unknown Assaultants

Sources: UCA News, Radio Free Asia, VOMC Contact, Democratic Voice of Burma

On March 18th, three armed men entered a computer shop run by Pastor Nammye Hkun Jaw Li from his home in Magaung township. There, the men shot the pastor twice in the stomach and, when he did not immediately die, they also shot him in the head. At the time of publishing this report, the identities of the gunmen and the reason for the assassination are not completely evident. The pastor leaves behind a grieving wife and three children.

The slain Christian man was a well-known community leader who often participated in anti-military protests. He was also involved with a community-based anti-drug organization called Pat Jasan. The community has witnessed significant unrest because of military activity in the area. Additionally, there have been several reports of local Christian leaders being killed or arrested by members of the military junta. However, in this particular case, it is believed that Pastor Nammye was attacked due to his activities in fighting drug cultivation and distribution. Hundreds of innocent people in Myanmar have been killed or displaced due to the ongoing violence. Military forces also commonly target Christians

Please prayerfully lift up Pastor Nammye's wife and children as they mourn this terrible loss, asking our Heavenly Father to comfort them with His presence and provide for all of their emotional, spiritual and practical needs. In the midst of the ongoing violence, pray that followers of Jesus in this war-torn region will serve as agents of His love and peace. May the message of God's saving grace spread throughout the country and bring many more people to faith in Christ.

World Renew

World Renew Tanzania and Kenya Discovery Tour - Join us on an enriching journey to East Africa, travelling to Tanzania and Kenya from **June 11-25**, where you will experience a little bit of everything—meet vibrant communities, learn about East African culture, experience a safari, and witness firsthand the power of compassionate action! This is your invitation to be a part of something truly meaningful—a journey of inspiration, hope, and transformation with World Renew. Registration Deadline is May 11th, 2024. For more details on this life-changing tour, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2024tourtkflyer>



"Against the persecution of a tyrant, the Godly have no remedy but prayer. "
~ John Calvin ~

PAKISTAN: New Look at Evidence Against a Long-Imprisoned Christian
Sources: Morning Star News, AsiaNews

In 2002, Anwar Kenneth received a court verdict sentencing him to death, purportedly for defending Christianity in the days following the September 11th attacks on the New York World Trade Centre. He had written a letter in which he defended his Christian faith and, as a part of that, expressed his belief that Muhammad, the founder of Islam, was not a prophet of God.

Anwar was consequently convicted of blasphemy for allegedly insulting Muhammad – a conviction that carried a mandatory death sentence. The Lahore High Court upheld the verdict in June 2014. However, in a significant move that took place on March 12th of this year, the Supreme Court of Pakistan sought opinions on whether the letter Anwar had originally sent falls within the definition of blasphemy. Lawyer Abdul Hameed Rana argued that Anwar, as a devout Christian, had the right to express his religious beliefs, which do not accept Muhammad as a prophet. The lawyer also indicated that the letter did not contain any derogatory language which could be interpreted as blasphemy.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws have been used against religious minorities for many years. While a death sentence for blasphemy has never been carried out, some accused believers – including Anwar – have spent many years in prison under the threat of death.

Please join us in praying that Anwar will finally be acquitted after all these years. As he awaits the court officials' decision, pray that this long-suffering believer will continue to trust in the Lord who promises to uphold all those who steadfastly cling to Him (Psalm 63:8). Prayerfully remember the many other Christians who are likewise serving time in Pakistan's prisons due to similar false accusations. May this recent development in Anwar's case serve as an impetus towards meaningful societal change, resulting in the resolution of challenges posed by the country's current blasphemy laws.

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

Upcoming Offerings

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.

April 14 - Thrive

Nine ministries of the Christian Reformed Church have joined together to better equip and encourage our congregations, under the name of Thrive. We continue to support churches in the areas of: faith formation, safer churches, disability access, racial justice and diversity, pastors and church support, chaplaincy, justice and worship.

E-transfers received March 2024

Local Church Ministries \$12,270	Mission Aviation Fellowship \$40	
Calvin Theological Seminary \$40	Resonate Global \$300	Canadian Foodgrains Bank \$400

Gratefully Received March 17 & 24

Theological Calvin Seminary \$538	Local Church Ministries \$8,123	Lord's Foodbank \$50.00
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There is a newsletter from the **Ministry to the Seafarer's** on the Deacon's bulletin board. If you would like to view an online version go to <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/bW0R6O8Qrngzk>

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.

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)

From Council

Here are a few highlights from our last Council meeting. (February 26, 2024)

- 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 deVries 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.

Church Announcements

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.

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. The place I currently live has been sold and I am looking for a rental. I require a place in the next two weeks. If you are able to help me even for a short time, please contact the **church office** for my phone number. Thank you!

Thank you to the GEMS, the leaders and organizers that hosted the Grandparents social night on Wednesday. It was a wonderful evening! We enjoyed the big smiles, strong coffee and fellowship with you all!

From a couple of great-grandparents

Church Announcements

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 H. 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. It's going to be a fun day!

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!

Calling all Girls! Plans are underway for **Wildrose GEMS Camp** to be held **July 29 - August 2** at the Rehoboth facility on Gull Lake. Registration forms are now available from your GEMS leader. Registration deadline is May 31, but register early so you don't miss out! Come and enjoy fun and fellowship, crafts, activities, great food, singing, campfire, worship, and sharing the love of Christ together. If you are *going into* grades 5 through 8 in the fall of 2024 and wish to have a great summer experience, this is for you! Girls entering grade 9 who wish to learn leadership skills and discover their gifts for serving at camp can register for our Transition Year. Girls entering grades 10 - 12 are eligible to register as a CIT (Counselor in Training). Interested in volunteering as a camp cook or cabin counselor or if you have questions contact Bonnie Bennik at 403.652.1078 or email wildrosegemscamp@gmail.com

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: I Wonder - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Jesus' friends were filled with wonder when they witnessed his miracles and teachings. When he told stories, he painted a picture in their imaginations of a better world where there would be no more pain or sadness, a world where people with their whole hearts would love God and love their neighbors. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like The Spring Scavenger Hunt, and go for a hike!

The Banner

Annual Banner Appeal is Underway! - The 2024 appeal for The Banner, the CRC's award-winning monthly magazine, has started. The Banner is delivered free in print and online, and this annual donation appeal makes it possible. To help keep this community conversation going please give online now at: TheBanner.org/Give er.org/Give