

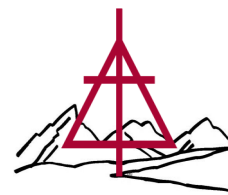
## Upcoming Events

May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18
10:00am Worship Service Lord's Supper Happy Mother's Day!  S.S. story card # 149  7pm "From Inside Out" Course @ Church  Youth - Tea/Talent Show for Mother's at Hendri/Deanna H.		<i>Office: Josephine</i>  7:30pm Admin	7:00am-8:30am Prayer Meeting at Church  7:00am-8:30am Community Prayer Breakfast at Community Centre	12:00pm Bulletin deadline	Sonrise Camp workbee	8:30am coffee is on at the Sonrise Camp workbee
May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25
10:00am Worship Service  Youth coffee night at Jos & Janneke S.	7pm "From Inside Out" Course @ Church	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i>  7:30pm Elders	7:00am-8:30am Prayer Meeting  7:30pm Prayer Service	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.

HELPS	Thank you, for all you do!	May 12	May 19	May 26
		Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
	<b>Serving Elder</b>	John D.	Chris T.	Dave S.
	<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Justin D.	Ken B.	Lowell S.
	<b>Music Team</b>	Six Track	The Experience	Lifted Hearts
	<b>Children's Message</b>	Corinne S.	Elroy L.	Joel S.
	<b>Nursery</b>	Annette D., Jonah D. Justin & Courtney D.	Brenda B., Stephanie C., Marlene D., Arieanna V.	Sara D., Alyssa D., Amber B., Miyah B.
	<b>Coffee Host</b>	Don & Marion R.	Devon & Marisa P.	Tom & Kathy S.
	<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Hank & Betty K.  Tom & Alyssa D.	Randy & Annette D.  Peter & Trudy D.	Justin & Mikala D.  Jim & Margo 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  
Gathering Songs  
    ♪ Only a Holy God

Call to Worship  
God's Greeting & We Welcome one another  
    ♪ How Great Thou Art

Lord's Supper  
    ♪ The Wonderful Cross  
    ♪ For Those Tears I Died

Children's Message - Corinne S.  
Sunday School for Ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements  
Congregational Prayer  
Offering for Local Church Ministries

Scripture - Acts 1:1-11  
Message - Ascension of Jesus  
    ♪ Your Will Be Done

The Blessing  
    ♪ The Commission

## 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

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.  
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."  
Ephesians 6:18*

† As a ministerial church, each church has been asked to pray for our brothers and sisters in our community, today we are praying for **Living Branches Community Church**.

† Birthday best wishes to **Margaret V.** who celebrates a birthday today! May your day be blessed!

† Last weekend, **Diane W.** went home to be with Jesus. We lift Marvin, Janelle and families in prayer during this time.

† Please keep **Dick & JoAnn O.** and family in your prayers as his condition weakens.

† 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., 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.



**NIGERIA:** Violence Continues Unabated Continued.....

### **Kaduna State**

Pastor Manasseh Ibrahim, who led a church in the Kurebe area of Kaduna State, was ambushed and killed on April 23rd as he was travelling to a church conference. Although the motive and identities of the perpetrators remain unknown, it is believed that the pastor was attacked by bandits.

In a separate incident, the village of Ambe was raided around midnight on May 5th by a large number of Fulani herdsmen armed with guns and machetes. During the attack, six Christian villagers were killed and eight others wounded. According to a police spokesperson, one of the assailants was apprehended by the villagers, and a police investigation is underway.

### **Plateau State**

In the early morning of April 19th, militant Fulani herdsmen attacked the farming community of Tilengpan Pushit while the residents were sleeping. During the raid, a total of 12 people were killed. According to a survivor, most of the victims were women and children. The state's governor, Caleb Mutfwang, expressed his "heartfelt condolences" to all those who have been affected by the attack. He also appealed to Christians to remain steadfast, stating that his government will continue to collaborate with security forces to better protect vulnerable communities.

### **Benue State**

At least 28 Christians were killed in Benue State between April 20th and April 22nd. Dozens of surviving victims have been treated for injuries sustained during the violence, and several other believers were reportedly kidnapped. The attacks happened in three villages located within the Gwer West area of the state. In response to the recent wave of attacks, protestors blocked a major roadway on April 23rd to protest the inaction of the government in addressing the issues leading up to the violence. One of their demands includes the need for enforced legislation to prohibit open grazing, a practice that has resulted in many of the attacks perpetrated by Fulani herdsmen.

### **Enugu State**

At least six Christians were killed in the southeastern Nigerian state of Enugu on April 28th. The slain victims, who included children, were from the village of Ugwujoro Nimbo. As a result of the incident, seven other believers were treated for injuries caused by machete cuts. While the state governor has assured local villagers that those responsible for the attacks will be pursued and captured, residents in the area remain fearful of further violence. According to a community leader, villagers have been leaving their homes each evening and staying in safer locations to avoid possible repeat of attacks.

***Please prayerfully remember all the innocent Nigerians who have been affected by these recent attacks, including survivors suffering from physical and emotional wounds, family members mourning the loss of their loved ones, and villagers living in dread of other similar incidents possibly occurring. May God minister complete healing to each of these traumatized believers – comforting their grieving hearts and providing them His peace, strength and protection. Further, pray that the country's governing authorities will actively work to resolve the various issues associated with this violence, and that those responsible for committing such horrific crimes would be brought to justice.***

**"Our motto must continue to be perseverance. And ultimately I trust the [Lord] Almighty will crown our efforts with success."**  
~ William Wilberforce (1759-1833)~

**COUNTRY UPDATE FROM ALGERIA:** Sentence Upheld for Pastor Youssef Ourahmane  
Source: Middle East Concern

Pastor Youssef Ourahmane is a senior pastor and vice president of the Église Protestante d'Algérie (EPA). In March 2023, he was charged with organizing an unauthorized religious assembly and sentenced to two years in prison, along with a fine of 100,000 dinars (approximately \$1,000 CAD). Following an appeal of the verdict, the pastor's conviction was upheld, but his sentence was reduced to one year in prison.

Another appeal hearing took place on April 23rd. The verdict of this most recent hearing, which was released on May 2nd, upheld the one-year prison sentence and fine. However, the sentence has since been suspended pending a further appeal to the Supreme Court.

In an episode of the Closer to the Fire podcast, host Greg Musselman interviewed three Algerian church leaders about the challenges they are encountering. You are encouraged to view this inspiring video. For more reports on the persecution facing Christians in Algeria, go to this report.

***Continue to prayerfully uphold Pastor Youssef during this difficult time, asking that his case be heard soon by the Supreme Court. May God's truth and justice ultimately prevail. Please also pray for the many other church congregations throughout Algeria that are being subjected to ongoing restrictions from the government. For believers who are able to gather together, even if done so in an informal manner, may they be a tremendous source of blessing and encouragement to one another.***

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**NIGERIA:** Violence Continues Unabated

Sources: Morning Star News, International Christian Concern, Punch, TVC News

In areas throughout Nigeria, violence has continued relentlessly, disproportionately affecting the Christian population. Those responsible for the brutality are generally members of Islamic terrorist groups such as Boko Haram or the nomadic Fulani herdsmen. While attacks perpetrated by the herdsmen often stem from conflicts over their free-ranging cattle, the accompanying violence also commonly involves a religious element, as militant members of the predominantly Muslim group specifically target Christians and churches. Within the past month, multiple attacks have occurred in at least four different Nigerian states:

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### May 12 - 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 19 - Wycliffe

We're passionate about seeing lives and communities transformed at home and abroad. We believe the work of Bible translation provides a unique opportunity for the church in Canada to meaningfully partner with the global church in the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

#### Gratefully Received April 28 & May 5

Local Church Ministries \$6879      NewGround \$805  
Sunday School \$85      Church Bazaar \$3067

#### Gratefully Received via E-transfer in April

Local Church Ministries \$9,070      Thrive \$40      Gems/Cadets \$40

## 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.

## Upcoming Services

May 12 - Lord's Supper

May 22 (Wednesday) 7:30pm Prayer Service

June 9 - Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30pm)

June 9 - Sunday School Grade 5 graduation

## 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

**Thank you** *"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."* Helen Keller was right. We had a wonderful Mother's Day sale/bazaar last Saturday because so many people worked together to make it a success - donors, stagers, sellers and buyers. Thanks to each of you who took part, we raised over \$3500 toward our seventy - fifth anniversary next year. May God continue to bless us. *Marilyn H.*

**Sonrise Camps (July 7-12, July 14-19)** is *needing* counselors (week 1), 2 head cooks, bus drivers, sport person (week 2), craft person (week 2). 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.

**Sonrise Camp Workbee** will take place on the May long weekend. The amphitheater is getting a revamp, cleaning out and tearing down a shed, tree clean up and the cleaning of the kitchen & buildings. Many hands will make light work. Coffee will be on at **8:30am Saturday, May 18** and the work will commence after that, lunch will be provided.

**Youth May Events - May 12:** Tea/Talent Show for Mother's at Hendri & Deanna H., **May 19:** Coffee night at Jos & Janneke S., **May 26:** Activity at Sonrise Camp. Mark your calendars for the upcoming service project at the **Medicine Hat Gleaners August 22-24.**

**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.**

Mark your calendars for a **Men's Campout!** - All men (High School and up) are invited to come to Kelly & 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 -10am followed by a worship time and a Yard Game Olympics (no skill required!) Events will wrap up by 2:30pm 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! Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner:** A Mom's Love: Mother's Day - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Pay attention to your mom's love for you. Maybe it's your grandmother, a female family member, or perhaps a teacher. Know that her love for you reflects God's love for you: always watching and caring for you while you find your place in this world. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the KC Bible Story Podcasts.

**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](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

**Groundwork:** Spiritual Apathy and Justice in Malachi - Back in their homeland, the Israelites were finally comfortable again and spiritual apathy began to settle in their hearts. Join Groundwork as we study Malachi 1-4 to witness how out-of-sync life can get when we go through the motions of faith without investing our hearts and learn from Malachi's warnings against spiritual apathy and his encouragement to examine our hearts. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## CRC Communications

**Please pray for Synod 2024!** - We need everyone to be involved. The theme for synod worship and prayer is God With Us. You can sign up to pray on your own, with your church or small group, or at Calvin University in June. Check out the many opportunities at [crcna.org/synod/prayer](http://crcna.org/synod/prayer) and join us in humble prayer for God's will to be done in the CRC. Email [SynodPrayer@crcna.org](mailto:SynodPrayer@crcna.org) with your questions or comments.

## The Banner

**The Banner Needs You!** - The Banner is the CRC's award-winning monthly magazine. It is delivered free in print and online to every household in the CRC, and their annual donation appeal makes it possible. Please support this journalistic ministry and keep the community conversation going. You can give online now at: [TheBanner.org/Give](http://TheBanner.org/Give)

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - The Lord's Prayer: An Intergenerational Event and Worship Experience is a downloadable free resource with which children, teens, and adults can gather to learn about and/or deepen their understanding of the Lord's Prayer. Try it in your church! Find it at [tinyurl.com/intergenprayer](http://tinyurl.com/intergenprayer). Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)