

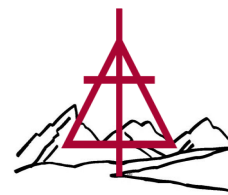
## Upcoming Events

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.		<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 7:30pm Elders	7:00am-8:30am Prayer Meeting at Church  7:30 pm Prayer Service	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1
10:00am Worship Service  Youth at Sunrise Camp  7:00pm "From the Inside Out" Course		<i>Office: Josephine</i> 7:30pm Full Council	7:00am-8:30am Prayer Meeting	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.

	Thank you, for all you do!	May 19	May 26	June 2
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha
<b>H E L P I N G H A N D S</b>	<b>Serving Elder</b>	Chris T.	Dave S.	Gary V.
	<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Ken B.	Lowell S.	Lorraine A.
	<b>Music Team</b>	The Experience	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic
	<b>Children's Message</b>	No Children's Message	Joel S.	Corinne S.
	<b>Nursery</b>	Brenda B., Stephanie C., Marlene D., Arieanna V.	Sara., Alyssa D., Amber B., Miyah B.	Cody & Teagan L. Marisa P., Ruth D.
	<b>Coffee Host</b>	Devon and Marisa P.	Tom & Kathy S.	Case & Marlene K.
	<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Randy & Annette D.  Peter and Trudy D.	Justin & Mikala D.,  Jim & Margo D.	John & Jean B.  Ray & Audrey B.



## **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	No Children's Message- No Sunday School Today
🎵 You're Worthy of My Praise	Guest Speaker
Responsive Call to Worship God's Greeting & We Welcome One Another	Announcements Congregational Prayer Offering for Wycliffe
🎵 Boldy I Approach	Announcements & Congregational Prayer
Call to Confession Silent Prayer of Confession Assurance of Pardon	Scripture - Assorted Texts Message - The Spirit at Work 🎵 I Lift Your Name
🎵 When Peace Like a River	Blessing 🎵 This Is The Day (City Alight)

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse)

### 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 **Memorial Presbyterian Church**.

† Birthday best wishes to **Ray B.** who celebrates a birthday on **May 24!** May your day be blessed!

† This past week, **Dick O.** went home to be with his Lord and Saviour. We lift, **Joanne** and families in prayer during this time.

† 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.



### KAZAKHSTAN: Multiple Raids of Unregistered Gatherings

Police in the Shu district of southern Kazakhstan raided four worship gatherings during the months of March and April, resulting in a total of seven fines being laid. During the raids, officers filmed those who were present and demanded that they provide written statements explaining the reasons for their gatherings. These raids affected the worship activities of three unregistered Protestant churches.

On the morning of March 3rd, police invaded the home of Valter Mirau, whose residence is located in the village of Koneyeva, just before he and his fellow church members were about to begin their Sunday worship meeting. Valter was issued a fine for his "leadership of an unregistered, halted, or banned religious community or social organization." Two other church members who had attended the gathering were also fined.

In another incident, police raided a Council of Churches Baptist meeting that was led by Pastor Andrei Boiprav in the village of Shu on April 14th. While no fines were issued at the time, officers took photos and videos of the attending Christians and warned them to stop holding unregistered religious gatherings.

Police returned to Pastor Andrei's congregation on April 28th, claiming that they had received complaints from neighbours, though all nearby residents denied having contacted the authorities. One officer later appeared apologetic, explaining that the order had come from the Religious Affairs Department. Fines were issued against the congregants as a result of their involvement in an unregistered religious gathering. Immediately after raiding Pastor Andrei's church, officers moved on to another Protestant community in the village known as "the Children of God."

Religious groups in Kazakhstan are required by law to register with the government. However, the process to do so is very complex, expensive and restrictive. Some groups, such as those affiliated with the Council of Churches Baptist, choose not to register, sometimes due to concerns that it could lead to increased government interference — as was the case under the country's former Soviet rule. Further information on the persecution of our Christian brothers and sisters in Kazakhstan is [available here](#).

***Pray that God will grant wisdom, protection and encouragement to believers throughout Kazakhstan as they navigate how to best deal with opposing officials of the country's governing forces who are mandating the cease of all worship activities. May those directly affected by these recent raids not grow despondent in the face of opposition, but rather become further empowered to effectively live out their Christian faith and witness. As a result, may the Gospel message of God's love and saving grace spread throughout the country, leading many more people to eternal salvation through the provision of His Son Jesus — the Risen Saviour.***

***"We don't pray to be better Christians,  
but that we may be the only kind of  
Christians God means us to be: Christ-like  
Christians; that is, Christians who will bear  
willingly the cross for God's glory."  
~ A believer in former Communist Romania***

Mexico: Over 100 Protestants Forced from Their Homes

For several years, leaders in the villages of Coamila and Rancho Nuevo, which are both located within the state of Hidalgo, have been pressuring members of the Great Commission Baptist Church to participate in religious festivals that go against their beliefs. In December 2022, one of the non-compliant Protestant believers was admitted to hospital after being tied to a tree and beaten. Additionally, since 2018, the children of church members in these villages have been banned from attending school.

After years of tension between village leaders and members of the Protestant community, matters came to a head this spring. On March 25th, Pastor Rogelio Hernández Baltazar and other church leaders were arbitrarily detained for 48 hours. Subsequent to their detainment, five plots of land belonging to members of the church were taken over by village leaders in early April.

Since then, church members have been attacked on several occasions, and three Protestant families were prevented from returning to their homes. Furthermore, 139 church members – including at least 70 children – were forced to flee their homes on April 26th after village leaders cut off their electricity. The church building was also vandalized, and guards were posted at the entry points of the two villages in order to keep church members out.

The displaced Baptists are currently being sheltered in a municipal building in Huejutla de los Reyes where they are requesting assistance from the government. Local churches are providing humanitarian aid and have joined in the call for governing municipal leaders to intervene.

When speaking earlier in the year about the treatment of his church members, Pastor Rogelio stated, "When you convert from Catholicism, you lose all rights and all standing in the village." For more reports on persecution in Mexico, go to our [country report](#).

***Please prayerfully uphold these displaced Mexican believers, asking God to provide for their practical and spiritual needs. As they determine what steps to take next, may they receive greatly needed guidance, encouragement and strength. Pray that the state government will also respond to the 'call for action' by ensuring these persecuted Christians are duly granted 'freedom of belief,' and thus treated respectfully by village leaders – particularly in areas of Mexico where communities practise a combination of ancestral indigenous beliefs with traditional Catholicism. As a result, may peace and justice be upheld throughout the country.***

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

### Upcoming Offerings

**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.

**May 26 - World Renew**

Join World Renew to discover how you can help women in vulnerable communities learn about proper food and nutrition, the importance of sanitation for disease prevention, and more.

### 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 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

**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.

**Youth May Events** - **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.**

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.

**"Rehoboth Camp needs YOU!** Counsellors are desperately needed to ensure our weeks can run and Campers with developmental disabilities can enjoy their favourite week of the year. All of our weeks are still looking for volunteers, but R & R Week (June 23-28) still requires a minimum of eight volunteers to go ahead. R & R week is for our older Campers that are looking for a relaxing and quieter camp experience – this week is perfectly paired with more mature volunteers. Help us make this summer a highlight for so many adults with disabilities! [www.rcmflourish.ca/camp](http://www.rcmflourish.ca/camp)

**A big thank-you** from Gus and Margaret V. for all the visits and cards and all the support poured out while Gus was in the hospital. It was so appreciated. We are so thankful that Gus is back home and recovering well.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: The Promised Gift: Pentecost** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). When Jesus was about to return to heaven to be with his Father, he reminded his disciples of the gift his Father had promised them. Did you know that the same gift is promised to you as well? God sends his Holy Spirit to everyone who believes in Jesus. It's an old promise that is still good for you today! Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the KC Bible Story Podcasts.

**Groundwork: Salvation Through Jesus Christ Alone** - As the Christian faith spread, the Apostle Paul often wrote letters to churches he planted to help clarify and solidify his teachings. Join Groundwork as we begin a study of his letter to the church in Galatia by studying Galatians 1. Together, we'll study Paul's teaching about salvation and let it continue to encourage our faith and strengthen our commitment to Christ today. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## Deaconal Ministries Canada

**NewGround** - Thanks to our supporters' prayers and generosity, NewGround has been cultivating community impact across Canada for almost 50 years! Last year, Diaconal Ministries received applications to the program totalling over \$90,000. Because Christian Reformed Churches held offerings and individual donors gave generously, we were able to say "Yes!" to more churches longing to share God's love in their local community. Thank you for your prayers and support! You are helping us and our partners make a difference. Together we can continue to help transform communities for God's glory! To donate once or monthly, visit our website ([diaconalministries.com/donate](http://diaconalministries.com/donate)), send an e-transfer to [dmc@crcna.org](mailto:dmc@crcna.org) OR donate through your CRC church. Questions? Visit [diaconalministries.com/newground](http://diaconalministries.com/newground) and/or email our fundraising coordinator, Kathrin, at [kveenstra@crcna.org](mailto:kveenstra@crcna.org).

## The Banner

**Banner Writing Contest for Young Adults: Peacemaking** - Cash prizes and winners published; enter by June 23. For details visit [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org).

## Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Families, check out the free downloadable resource 5 Ways to Pray with Kids—[tinyurl.com/5WaysPray](http://tinyurl.com/5WaysPray). Here's one of those ways to pray: have each person create a shape that represents what they'd like to pray about. Lego bricks, play dough, or pipe cleaners work well! Then pray about those things together. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)