

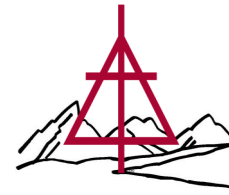
## Upcoming Events

September 1	September 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30 pm Deacons	8:00 am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts 9:00 am Worship Planning Committee Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
September 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Josephine 7:30 pm Admin	8:00 am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	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!	September 1 Pastor Ken	September 8 Pastor Natasha	September 15 Pastor Ken
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Anthony B.	Randy D.	Alan H.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Doug D.	Justin D.	Ken B.
<b>Music Team</b>	Six Track	Mosaic	Lifted Hearts
<b>Children's Message</b>	Pastor Ken	Joel S.	Corinne S.
<b>Nursery</b>	Amber B. Lucas H. Justin & Mikala D.	Colleen T., Marie A., Marion R., Jonah D.	Janelle V., Corinne V. Sara D., Teslynn A.
<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	TEACHER NEEDED Penny Butler	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Dave & Sandra S.	Logan & Jaylene V.	Alan & Jacqueline H.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Mark & Keanna H. Henry & Lorraine A.	Nic & Shi V. Jo-Ann D. & Arlyn D.	Rita B, Deb S. Aaron & Colleen T.



## 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

♪ I Will Not Be Shaken

Responsive Call to Worship

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

♪ Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Christ is Mine Forevermore

Assurance of Pardon

♪ What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Children's Message - Pastor Ken

(Sunday School for ages 3 & 4)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Mountain Rose Women's Shelter

Offertory

Scripture - James 1:17-27

Message - Taking an Honest Look

♪ They'll Know we are Christian by Our Love

Blessing

♪ The Blessing

## 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 and 4 during the service.

Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

For more Information view: [www.firstercrocky.ca](http://www.firstercrocky.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 **Living Branches Community Church**.

† Congratulations to **Audrey B.** who celebrates her birthday today. May God bless you with many more years.

† Congratulations **Chris and Regan** and to **Travis and Nicole** on the birth of Eleanor Sydney this past Saturday. Mother and daughter are doing well.

† **Seenie B.** is doing well following hip repair surgery . She has been transferred to the Rocky Hospital.

† 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.



***"I have learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse."***

~ Author Philip Yancey

#### **Uzbekistan Church Demolished Without Warning**

As the members of a Baptist church in the city of Urgench began to increase in numbers, they soon found themselves exceeding the capacity of their worship facility. To accommodate the growth, the congregation purchased a plot of land and began to construct a new church building. They had received all the necessary building permits to do so, and other developments were being built around them in various parts of the same vicinity.

Unbeknownst to the Christians, a civil suit had been filed against the church. At the court hearing, which took place on April 25th, the judge ordered the demolition of the building — along with the home of a church member that was being built on the same property. As the Christians had not been informed of the hearing, they weren't able to represent themselves in court.

More than a month later, the order came into effect. The resulting demolition unexpectedly began on July 30th but was halted when the church members announced that they would be filing a complaint against the decision. A week later, the destruction resumed, but then it was delayed again on August 8th after numerous believers further protested the action. While the teardown efforts have ceased for the present time, officials told the former landowner that they are "determined to complete the demolition sooner or later."

Reasons for the demolition order have been unclear. One official claimed that it was due to "a tax issue" but refused to give any details. Additionally, while the judge referred to the land as "arable" (suitable for cultivation of crop), and thus disqualified for construction development, no action has been taken against the buildings surrounding the worship facility. Church members described the land parcel as "full of buildings and construction work," clearly confirming that no prospective farming initiatives have been planned for the area.

Though officially a secular state, the Uzbek government has relentlessly oppressed Christians, particularly those who belong to unregistered fellowships. For more details on the difficulties facing believers in this Central Asian nation, go to our [country report](#).

***Pray that the Lord would provide these church leaders and congregation members His divine peace, strength and direction as they determine their next steps of action. At the same time, may He also powerfully work in the lives of the judge and governing officials involved with the demolition order by speaking to their hearts — in hopes they will obediently respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings and reconsider their decision. As the congregants await the outcome, may they continue to boldly reach out to others in their community with the message of the Gospel, knowing that the Lord will ultimately meet their growing needs.***

## ReFrame Ministries

**Groundwork: Dramatic Messages From God** - God repeatedly gives the prophet Ezekiel both a verbal message and instructions on how to also convey that message visually. Join Groundwork as we study Ezekiel 4-7 and 12 to witness God's heartbreak, his deep love for his people, and his great effort to get their attention. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Kids Corner: God Is Talking to Me?** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). It's okay to have questions about the things that happen in a church service. The good news is that God's happy when we all come together and worship him, whether we've been to that church a hundred times or are new for the first time. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of Samuel.

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Labour Day marks the beginning of a new season of school, church life, and work. As you engage in new and familiar activities this week, reflect on where you see God at work. Where have you witnessed love in action? Where have you seen people who are sad and lonely being befriended, those who are in need receiving help, and those who are excluded included? Make a list of the ways you see God at work in your life and in the lives of the people around you, and give thanks to God for God's ongoing love for the world. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)



### China: Pastor John Chao Blocked from leaving China

After serving seven years in a Chinese prison, Pastor John Cao was finally released on March 4th of this year (see [this page](#)). Despite his release from custody, the Christian leader is not truly free, as the authorities are refusing to give him an ID card and passport. According to Todd Nettleton from the Voice of the Martyrs USA, an ID card is required for most transactions in China – whether it involves travel or making a doctor's appointment. "You can be arrested if the police ask you for an ID card and you don't have one," he explains.

Pastor Cao is a Chinese citizen who also happens to be a permanent resident of the United States. Since his release, the pastor would like to return to the United States where his wife is residing, but he has repeatedly been blocked from doing so. The Christian man also remains under constant surveillance. For other reports addressing Christian persecution in China, including previously published information regarding Pastor Cao, go to our [country profile](#).

***Pray that God will work mightily within the hearts of governing officials, allowing Pastor Cao to receive the necessary documentation so he can be reunited with his wife in the United States. May those monitoring the activities of this Christian leader witness the love and hope of the Gospel through his dedicated life and, as a result, come to faith in Jesus. Finally, pray that God's provision, protection and encouragement will sustain Pastor Cao and the many other harassed believers in China – including those remaining imprisoned for their Christian faith – as they continue to serve the Lord despite the opposition they receive from members of the Communist government.***

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### **September 1 - Mountain Rose Women's Shelter**

Shelters are committed to providing safety, competent and ethical care for women, children and seniors who access shelters in Alberta. Best practice requires an integrated community-based response to bring together law enforcement, criminal justice, health, education and community agencies in providing direct services.

The Principle of Responsibility to Society requires shelters to demonstrate concern for the welfare of society generally, and in this context for the welfare of women and families in society. Because it is unjust for segments of society to be devalued or abused, professionals have an ethical responsibility to use their knowledge and power to contribute to change. Shelters may play a leadership role in advocating for social change.

Family Violence is not a private matter...but rather a public issue that impacts on all members of society.

**24 Hour Crisis Line 1.877.845.4141 Phone 403.845.5339**

#### **September 8 - 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.

#### **Gratefully Received August 18 -25**

**Local Church Ministries - 5209.00, Central Alberta Pregnancy Care -50.00,  
Rocky Christian School - 739.00**

## 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](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.

## 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](http://www.firstcrocky.ca) (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

## Church Announcements

**New Janitors-** starting today **Alissa L.** and **Mikala D.** will be sharing the janitorial duties. Thankyou to Jaylene V. for your past service.

**Do you enjoy Hospitality?** Our church has been growing and council would like to help us welcome new members and deepen existing relationships in our church. We are looking for people to sign up as Weekly Hosts who will be prepared to invite guests and/or others over for lunch after Church. We are hoping to have enough people sign up that your turn would only come up every few months. Please sign up on the bulletin board as you enter the fellowship hall. This would begin in the fall, but in the meantime, we encourage everyone to take time this summer to get to know our new members and to spend time deepening the relationships we have with each other.

**Summer Sunday School** teachers & helpers are needed for the 3 & 4 year olds. (Sept. 1) There is a sign up sheet outside the classroom. Any questions, contact Bettie V. or Sandra S..

**Church photo directory** Time has come to update the church photo directory . You will notice many changes as we look at the last directory made in 2020. The photographer is booked for **October 23-26. (DATE CHANGE)** We need 2 volunteers to assist with booking appointments with everyone in the congregation. To get your first pick of appointment time or volunteer to help please call Marlene K.

**Worship Weekend** - to be held **October 5th** at Rimbey CRC. This year again we hope to host a Praise and Harmony event, singing the book 'Resurrecting God', Songs old and new: Man of Sorrows / Living Hope / Only a Holy God / Who You Say I Am / You Say - to name just a few. The Saturday will begin at 9:30 AM spent learning songs in 4 part harmony (acapella), coffee and lunch will be provided. There will be 2 concerts in the afternoon. The first at the Valleyview Manor in Rimbey and later a presentation at Rimbey CRC to which anyone is invited to attend. The times are yet to be determined. On Sunday, some of the songs will be included in the church service at 10AM and all are welcome to join us, but this is optional The cost will be \$50.00 for the weekend, and will include the music that you will receive ahead of time (print or USB) If this is of interest to you, email Grace at [sygrab@gmail.com](mailto:sygrab@gmail.com) for more formation. Pre-registration is required this year. Psalm 108 (The Message) "I'm ready, God, so ready, from head to toe. Ready to sing, ready to raise a God-song: I'm thanking you, GOD, out in the streets, singing your praises in town and country."

## Church Announcements Cont.

**Students Attending the University of Alberta** - You are welcomed and invited to meet anytime with the Christian Reformed Campus Minister, Rick Mast. We have organized meals and times of connection every Tuesday from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. We organize a variety of outings and a Reading Week outing twice a year. The group is made up of diverse and interesting people, persons I meet through my regular "tabling" presence in student residences. Drop by for conversation, advocacy, ideas and direction. Peace to you. [rmast@ualberta.ca](mailto:rmast@ualberta.ca)

Dear Church family,

We continue to offer support and education to families before, during, and after pregnancy on topics such as pregnancy, parenting, relationships, sexual health, and more. We have programs specially made for women, men, and teens. Our programs are open to anyone who can benefit from them, so please don't hesitate to reach out for more information, or stop by our centre. We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-4. Our number is 403-871-5111 or send us an email at [rmhdirector@pregnancycares.ca](mailto:rmhdirector@pregnancycares.ca)

**GriefShare Ministry:** Beginning on **Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm**, First CRC will host a 13-week grief support. You are welcome to join at any time. For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Pastor Natasha or Jeannette S.

Save The Date: Join Redeer Prolife for a walk-a-thon to be held on Saturday September 21@Cranna Lake in Lacombe. Help us raise awareness and money for this important cause! For more details and to register go to [reddeerprolife.com](http://reddeerprolife.com) so you can get signed up and get a T-shirt. You can also print off a pledge form to raise money and win prizes! After the walk there will be a BBQ lunch. Thankyou for your support!

**Join us on Tuesday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 7:00 PM** as EduDeo Ministries, ActFive, and Gateway Christian School host a Storytelling Night at Woody Nook Christian Reformed Church. Hear from Canadian, Nicaraguan, and Malawian storytellers, as they reflect on the idea of "who is my neighbour." Join us in celebrating the global Kingdom of God through an evening of fellowship and unique stories. Please RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/1003661096357?aff=oddtcreator> Email [info@edudeo.com](mailto:info@edudeo.com) for questions.

It's the time of year again where we start the process for finding **new Council members**, we ask for your prayers for those who will be receiving nomination letters. Pray for discernment as they decide if serving the church in this way is God's will for them at this time. Pray that there would be no fear in serving for those who are being nominated for the first time. And pray for a desire and willingness to serve, that it would not be a burden but rather a joy.

**Please also be in prayer for Pastor Natasha as she prepares for her Classical Examination coming up in October.**