

## Upcoming Events

January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
10:00am Worship service Sunday School story card #15  Youth Gym Night	7:00pm Friendship  7:00 pm Griefshare	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30am Coffee Break 7:30pm Admin	8:30am Prayer meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline  7:30pm Men's Bible study		
January 19	January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25
10:00am Worship service Sunday School Story Card #17  7:00pm Romans Bible Study  Youth Bible Study @ Karl & Krystal H.	7:00pm Friendship  7:00 pm Griefshare	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30am Coffeebreak 1:00pm Senior's Bible Study 7:30pm Elders	8:30am Prayer meeting  7:00pm GEMS & Cadets 7:00pm Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin deadline  9:30am Craft Morning 7:30pm Men's Bible study		

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.



## 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)



H  
E  
L  
P  
I  
N  
G  
H  
A  
N  
D  
S

Thank you, for all you do!	January 12	January 19	January 26
	<b>Pastor Ken</b>	<b>Pastor Ken</b>	<b>Pastor Ken</b>
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Anthony B.	Sheldon B.	Alan H.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Ken B.	Jim D.	Justin D.
<b>Music Team</b>	Six Track	Lifted Hearts	The Experience
<b>Children's Message</b>	Joel S.	Corinne S.	Elroy L.
<b>Nursery</b>	Amber B., Lucas H. Justin & Mikala D.	Cody & Teagan L. Colleen T., Travis A.	Marie A., Corinne V., Sara D., Jonah D.
<b>Coffee Host</b>	John & Nancy D.	Ryan & Alissa L.	Aaron & Collen T.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Bruce & Joanne T. Cheryl T., Rhonda T.	Doug & Penny B. Mark & Jessica H.	Rita B., Debbie S. Gary & Shirley V.

## Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Responsive Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We welcome One Another

♪ How Great Thou Art

Call to Confession

♪ Create in Me A Clean Heart

Assurance of Pardon

♪ O Praise the Name of the Lord our God

Children's Message - Joel S.

Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for ReFrame Ministries

Offertory

Scripture - John 2:1-11

Message - Can You Read the Sign?

♪ What a Beautiful Name

Blessing

♪ All the People Said, Amen

## 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 - Grade 5 during the service.  
Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

[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 **Bethel Union Evangelical Free Church**.

† Congratulations to **Darlene I.** who celebrates a birthday on January 14!

† Pray for **Marilyn H., Pearl V. and Margaret V.** who are currently in the Rocky Hospital and **Tonia T.** in the Drayton Valley hospital.

† We will be praying for **Aaron T.** as he undergoes back surgery on January 16.

† **Christopher & Jenna S.**, along with their girls, have returned to North America and are no longer in Indonesia. After a six month furlough Christopher has begun seminary (January 6). His studies should take him approximately two years to complete. Please lift them in prayer as they adjust to living in North America again, that they all may be healthy and for Christopher's studies to go well.

† We pray for those at home: **Sylvia D., Marvin W., Gus V. and Joe & Lena V.** For those at the local care facilities: **Joan S. 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. Open doors can't be taken for granted. Many missionaries work in countries that are difficult to access or in areas that are resistant to the gospel. But open doors include more than just access to nations and people groups. Individuals' hearts also need to be open and receptive to God's truth. Pray ...That God will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships, that those who serve will be led by the Holy Spirit and recognize open-door opportunities, that God will lead his people past barriers to hearts ready to receive his Word.

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, Pastor Natasha, an elder or deacon.

Elders are

Anthony B., Sheldon B., Alan H., Karl H., Jessica H., Cody L., John M., Alan O., Joel S., Chris T. and Gary V.

Deacons are

Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., and Mark H.



We are thankful to report that Matthias was recently released on December 14th after completing his sentence. Regrettably, another court case against him remains pending, dating back to December 2022 when the Christian leader had been arrested – along with several other church members – during his short furlough from prison.

- Praise God that Matthias was recently released from prison.
- Pray that the Lord will grant this Christian leader peace, guidance and the provisions he now needs to integrate back into Iranian society.
- Please remember to prayerfully uphold the numerous other followers of Jesus who are continuing to serve time in Iranian prisons because of their faith.
- In general, pray for renewed courage, strength and perseverance on behalf of Iranian Christians across the country, so that they will remain steadfastly committed to following Christ in all circumstances.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **NIGERIA:** Dozens Killed in Christmas Week Attacks

Sources: Release International, International Christian Concern, Morning Star News

Nearly 50 Nigerian Christians were killed in a series of attacks that took place during the week of Christmas. On Sunday, December 22nd, believers in a village located within Nigeria's Plateau State had gathered to celebrate the season by singing carols. As they were leaving, a group of armed Fulani militants opened fire, killing 14 of the attending Christians, including a pregnant woman and a one-year-old child.

In a series of separate attacks, Christmas Day became a nightmare for five other Christian communities in the state of Benue. Invaders entered the villages of Anwase, Ubutu, Tse Azege, Nyiev-ya and Ityuluv, setting fire to homes and killing approximately 33 people. In the wake of the devastating raids, which resulted in several deaths and the destruction of many properties, the members of these communities have been left reeling. One resident from Anwase stated that the assault "left the community in shock and mourning."

These attacks are reminiscent of the violence that took place in Plateau State during the 2023 Christmas season, resulting in the fatalities of more than 140 citizens.

- Pray for greatly needed peace, comfort and encouragement on behalf of all those who are mourning the loss of their loved ones as a result of these brutal attacks.
- Ask the Lord to also minister to believers otherwise affected by the violent raids – meeting the spiritual, practical, physical and emotional needs of those who were injured, or have lost their homes, properties and/or livelihoods.
- May Nigeria's governmental forces take increased action against the horrific destruction caused by militant groups, bringing an end to the reign of indiscriminate terror across large areas of the nation.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner:** Loving My Enemy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). As you listen, remember that what bullies say about you doesn't define you. God has already said who you are. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

**Groundwork:** Repentance, Forgiveness, and Sin's Consequences - Does God still punish us for our sins, even though in Jesus he forgives all our sins? Join Groundwork as we explore 2 Samuel 12 and the prophet Nathan's conversation with King David to help us answer that question and discover God's hope even in bad situations. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## World Renew

**World Renew Honduras Discovery Tour** - Begin the year by embarking on an unforgettable journey from March 15-20, 2025! Join us to see firsthand the incredible impact of World Renew's work in Honduras. This exciting tour offers a unique opportunity to explore World Renew's integrated agriculture projects in the beautiful, mountainous region of La Campa. For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/2025hondurasinfo](http://bit.ly/2025hondurasinfo)



*"[Christians] are unknown, yet are condemned; they are put to death, but it is life that they receive. They are poor, and enrich many; destitute of everything, they abound in everything. They are dishonored, and in their dishonor find their glory."*  
~ From the "Epistle to Diognetus" Unknown 2nd-Century Author ~

COUNTRY UPDATE: **IRAN:** Christian Leader Released from Prison  
Sources: Church in Chains, Christian Solidarity Worldwide

In 2012, Matthias Haghnejad was among three Christian leaders who were charged with "spreading corruption on earth" and "action against national security." As a result, he was sentenced to six years in prison. In December 2014, the Christian man was thankfully acquitted of all charges.

Despite the positive news of Matthias' acquittal, unfortunately it was not the end of his ordeal. In January 2022 – three weeks after being re-released from prison (where he served an additional three years on a separate charge) – the Christian leader's acquittal relating to the 2014 charges was overturned, and he consequently had been forced to serve his former sentence. In the summer of 2023, the believer was then transferred to a prison located 1,600 kilometres away from his family.

## Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., Mark H.

### Upcoming Offerings

#### January 12 - ReFrame Ministries

At the start of a new year, people at home and around the world are looking to grow in faith or to recommit in their relationship with Christ. Your global partners at the CRC's media ministry, ReFrame Ministries, send out thousands of biblical messages, videos, and podcasts in 10 different languages. Your offerings and ministry shares help seekers find the biblical resources needed to start a new journey! ReFrame Ministries could not share the gospel without the prayers and financial gifts of churches and people just like you. Thank you!

#### January 19 - Thrive

Today we celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Thrive, the CRCNA's congregational service agency, is helping churches across North America commemorate the sanctity of human life in ways that are sensitive and mindful of the impact abortion has on society, our churches, and members of our congregations. They invite us to visit their resource page ([crcna.org/life](http://crcna.org/life)) to start exploring a holistic ethic of life as it relates not only to the unborn, but also to the disabled, and end of life issues too.

Deacons will have **2025 coupons available for purchase** in denominations of \$2, \$5, \$10, following the service.

### 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. Coupons can be directly purchased from a Deacon, in the Council room on Sunday mornings.

**Cheque** - 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.

### From the Finance Committee

Our bookkeeper can report that our giving exceeded our 2024 budget. Thank you for your generous giving!

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 26** - Worship Services Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30pm)  
On January 26, Pastor Natasha will host a lunch of soup and buns at her house for those helping with the Clearwater and Lodge services. If you are available to join me at these 2 services to help with singing and would like to join me for lunch, you are welcome to come over to the Parsonage after Church.

**Sunday January 26** - 75th Anniversary Music Event 4:00pm

**Sunday, February 2** - Lord's Supper

**Tuesday, February 25** - Congregational Meeting

## 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)

## Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary

By the time the country was liberated by Canadian and Allied forces in May 1945, around 20,000 Dutch people had died from the famine. With liberation came an influx of food and other provisions for the starving population. The Canadian role in liberating the Netherlands resulted in a lasting relationship between the two countries.

For the Dutch people, though, liberation brought relief. They had survived and life could now return to something more closely approaching normal. The war diary of the Canadian Scottish Regiment recorded one example of the Dutch reaction to liberation. This scene was repeated thousands of times around the Netherlands:

It would have been impossible to take and hold the town of Deventer so successfully if it had not been for the splendid cooperation of the Dutch Underground Movement. There was a continuous stream of German [prisoners of war] and civilian prisoners being brought in to the Command Post for dispatch to the PW cage. It is impossible to describe fully the enthusiasm with which the people of Deventer welcomed the battalion. No member of the battalion could stop on the street without having a flock of men, women and children gather around him asking for chocolate and cigarettes as an introduction to any other conversation they might have to offer. It was learned that the occupation of Deventer by this battalion would come to a rapid end this afternoon. The troops were not pleased with this news as we had hoped to have a day or so amongst the friendly people. (War Diary, Canadian Scottish Regiment, 8 April 1945).

## 75th Anniversary Upcoming Events

**75th Anniversary Musical Celebration** will be held on **Sunday, January 26th at 4:00 pm**. We are planning a program of singing and special music which will include the organ as well as other instruments. We hope to have special guests and sharing of memories, followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Social Hall. Save the date and think about how you might participate! We'll keep you posted on further details. We also have a choir started and practices will be every Sunday after church until Jan. 26th. Please stay after church **TODAY** if you would like to sing with us. Everyone is welcome!

**Church Picnic** - July 1. If you would like to help out with this event, contact Brenda B., Chris T., Rita B. or Joanne T.

**A Church Campout** is in the planning stages to celebrate our **75th anniversary on August 22-24th**. We look forward to hosting this campout to enjoy God's creation together as a church family!

**Dinner at the community Centre** - October 25

## Church Announcements

**Out of the office** - Pastor Natasha will be away from the office from January 13 -17 for a study week.

**Griefshare** is a support group that helps and encourages people after the death of a loved one. This 13 week group provides valuable guidance and tips that can lead to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. We are beginning a new session on **Monday, January 13th, at 7:00 pm**. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Natasha or Jeannette S.

**Men's Video/Book Study** - On **January 16th**, a 6 week men's Video/Book Study will be starting at church, on Thursday evenings at **7:30 pm**. We will be watching and discussing videos based on John Eldridge's book, *Wild at Heart*. Reading the book won't be required but may be helpful for discussions so if you'd like a copy, please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall or let Pastor Ken know.

**Bible study on Romans** will begin **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm**, in the council room, with Pastor Natasha. If you are interested, please let Pastor Natasha or the office know.

Are you interested in joining a **small group on a Sunday Evening**? Are you interested in a book study? Rob D. is willing to host booking study on C.S Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*. If you are interested, please talk to Rob or email Pastor Natasha @ [pastor.natasha@rockycrc.ca](mailto:pastor.natasha@rockycrc.ca), so we can order some books.

**Pregnancy Care Centre** We have had the pleasure of having Kjersti W. as the Centre Director at the Rocky location of the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre for the past few years. Kjersti has resigned from her position, and we are looking for someone new to take on this role. If you are interested or would like more information, see the poster on the bulletin board or contact Lisa Smith [director@pregnancecare.ca](mailto:director@pregnancecare.ca)

**Christian Stewardship Services** is hosting open Q & A sessions every week this winter to answer all your questions on charitable giving and estate planning. Each session will have a 10 minute introduction, an interactive Q&A on any charitable giving and estate planning questions. The first four topics are: *Multiplying your Gift, Pets, Life Insurance, adding a Charity child and Cryptocurrency*. Explore the topics and register at [csss-service.ca/winter-conversations-2025/](http://csss-service.ca/winter-conversations-2025/) More information is on the bulletin board.

**The King's University's Micah Centre** invites you to a public presentation by Adrian Jacobs – an educator, community leader, and the CRCNA's senior leader for Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation from the Six Nations of the Grand River in Ontario – on **January 16th from 7-8:30 PM** in at The King's University (Room N102). Indigenous Christians using smudging in Christian community settings has and continues to provoke visceral responses from some Christians. Fear of compromising Christian faith worries some to the point of raising objection to this practice. The church in Canada, the CRCNA in particular, has a history of addressing these concerns theologically and pastorally. Adrian Jacobs will review this historic and contemporary concern and address the various dimensions of concern.