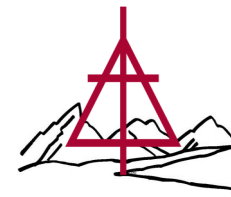


Upcoming Events

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 Coffee Break 1:00 pm 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		
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
10:00am Worship service Sunday School Story Card #20 1:00pm service at Clearwater Centre 2:30 pm Service at Westview Lodge 4:00pm 75th Anniversary Musical Celebration 7:00pm Romans Bible Study Youth @ Trevor & Sharlea	7:00pm Friendship 7:00 pm Griefshare	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30am Coffee Break 7:30pm Full Council	8:30am Prayer meeting 7:30 pm Funeral Fund Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 7:30pm Men's Bible study Youth Ski trip to Canmore		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website (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 780.728.8148

Pastor Natasha Specht - pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca (Monday -Thursday)

Church Office: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm office@rockycrc.ca



Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ Here I am to Worship

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We welcome One Another

♪ Be Unto Your Name

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Because He Lives

God's Will for Our Lives

♪ Be Thou My Vision

Children's Message - Corinne S.

Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering -Thrive

Offertory

Scripture - Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 6:9-10

Message - Sanctity of Life Sunday - What Does Love Look like?

♪ Shine On Us

Blessing

♪ The Goodness of God

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Thank you, for all you do!	January 19	January 26	February 2
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Sheldon B.	Alan H.	Karl H.
Serving Deacon	Jim D.	Justin D.	Mark H.
Music Team	Lifted Hearts	The Experience	Mosaic
Children's Message	Corinne S.	Elroy L.	Pastor Natasha
Nursery	Cody & Teagan L. Colleen T., Travis A.	Marie A., Corinne V. Sara D., Jonah D.	Marion R., Janelle V. Annette D., Sophia K.
Coffee Host	Ryan & Alissa L.	Aaron & Colleen T.	John & Anita M.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Doug & Penny B. Mark & Jessica H.	Rita B., Debbie S. Gary & Shirley V.	Logan & Jaylene V. Rob & Fran D.

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 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 **Church of the Nazarene**.

† Congratulations to **Dirk V.** who celebrates a birthday on January **20!** Belated Happy Birthday to **Wilma T.** who celebrated her birthday on the **18th**.

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

† Pray for **Aaron T.** as his surgery was postponed into February.

† **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.



"Only he who can say, 'The Lord is the strength of my life' can say, 'Of whom shall I be afraid?'"

~ Alexander MacLaren

COLOMBIA: Pastoring Family Assassinated

Police are currently investigating the drive-by assassination of Pastor Marlon Lora and his family, which took place on December 29th. Pastor Marlon, his wife Yurlay Rincon – along with their two children, Angela and Santiago – had been finishing lunch when they were suddenly gunned down by men on a motorcycle. The violent attack occurred just metres away from the police station in Aguachica, northern Colombia.

In addition to providing leadership to 36 churches across the region, Pastor Marlon personally pastored the Prince of Peace Villaparaguay Church in Aguachica. According to the couple's supervisor, Pastor Giovanni Bermúdez, "Marlon was like many of us pastors; we keep quiet about many things so that everything runs smoothly, even while we carry heavy burdens inside."

The motive behind the attack is not yet clear. However, there has been speculation that one of the perpetrators may have previously attended a service at Pastor Marlon's church. Authorities are investigating whether there may have been extortion threats in an attempt to obtain offering money that was collected by the church.

The office of the ombudsman in Colombia has warned that incidents violating religious freedom increased by 31 percent within the first nine months of 2024. In particular, the report noted a concerning increase in cases involving death threats against religious leaders. For further information on Christian persecution in Colombia, and/or to view informative video interviews, visit our [country report](#).

- May the comfort of the Holy Spirit rest on all those who are now mourning the heartbreaking loss of this dear family of believers.
- Pray that God will mightily protect Colombia's church leaders and their families from those opposed to the Gospel message.
- In fact, ask the Lord to strengthen and encourage all believers throughout Colombia, empowering them to stand firm in the face of opposition and faithfully serve as testimonies of God's love and grace to those around them.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Word Power MLK Day - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Did you know words have power? Your words. Your neighbor's words. Everybody's! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. knew that. He used his word power to help people see each other as equals, no matter their skin color. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

Groundwork: When Jesus Prays - Listening to a person pray gives us a glimpse into their heart. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study John 17:1-5, the opening verses of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. Together we'll discuss the meaning of Jesus' words as he asks God to glorify him and the implications of his prayer in our own lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Today! - Thrive has developed materials to observe this special Sunday in a way that affirms the value of every human life--and at all stages of development. Learn more and discover other resources now at this website: crcna.org/life



PAKISTAN: Three Christians Shot on Christmas Day

Three Christians were injured in a violent attack on Christmas Day outside the home of a pastor in Lahore. The incident happened just one day after a confrontation between Pastor Shahzad Siddique and a group of militant Muslim youth who had been harassing guests at a church event. Speaking of the incident, Pastor Shahzad stated, "I had returned home from church on Christmas Day and was resting when gunmen opened fire on a gathering outside my house in Maryam Colony."

Witnesses attest that though more than a dozen gunmen were involved in the initial attack, no one was wounded at that time. However, after police arrived at the scene 25 minutes later and began investigating the initial incident, several youths on motorcycles suddenly appeared and opened fire. During this second attack, three people were injured – including Akash Patras, a believer who suffered a serious abdominal wound.

Although one suspect was caught immediately, the others fled on foot, leaving five abandoned motorcycles behind. Since the shooting, at least four other perpetrators have been arrested. While police officials continue their investigations, additional security measures have been deployed in the area.

Violence against Christians in Pakistan, which is often instigated by false accusations against them, appears to have escalated over recent years. More information, as well as previously published reports of concern, may be viewed at our [country profile](#).

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

Upcoming Offerings

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) 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.

January 26 - 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 - January 1-12

Lord's Food Bank 940, Local Church Ministries 8900, Reframe Ministries 880, Pregnancy Care Centre 50
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 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.

Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary

Post war in the Netherlands: As Gus said, "The country was a mess!" The economy was only 2/3 what it had been before the war due to all the damage to buildings and houses, the cost of having a government in exile, looting by the enemy, and heavy losses in both foreign investments and their own monetary reserve. Despite the dimensions of the task ahead, the poverty, the decimation of many laborers and the poor health of thousands of others due to malnourishment the Dutch people took up reconstruction expeditiously. Bombed cities and villages re-emerged from the rubble and thanks to central management, the Netherlands were redeveloped spatially.

During the war years the population had grown to 9.3 million people. Many couples could see no future in their country for their own families and many thousands came to the conclusion that they needed to emigrate to a new country. Thus began the migration of many families to Canada in search of a future for them and their families.

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

Bible study on Romans will begin **Sunday, January 19th @ 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, 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

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 cssservice.ca/winter-conversations-2025/ More information is on the bulletin board.

Hello to the First Rocky CRC community. I'm spreading the Word that after a number of delays, the **Community Warming Shelter** is now open at the Foodbank from 10pm-7am every night. Many different organizations and churches worked together to make this happen and the town, the county and the provincial gov't have also supported it. it has opened, however, there is one BIG NEED: the need for VOLUNTEERS! 2 staff have been hired on a 4 nights on 4 nights off shift, but we need volunteers to work alongside them. If you or anyone you know might be interested in volunteering for a night to support our local homeless population, please contact Lindsay, the volunteer coordinator at lhunt@mrwsa.net.

CRC Funeral Fund will be discussed and we would like to receive your input. Also annual fees are set each at this time. The Annual General Meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 pm at First CRC**. Several bylaw changes will be discussed. Please attend this short meeting. For further information please call **Marlene K.** .