

Pieter found the blacksmith work he had been hired for could be done very quickly which left him time to shoe horses and do repairs for other dairies. He was able to get ahead and soon had his own blacksmith shop. He was able to retire when he was sixty.

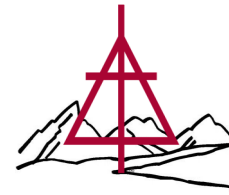
As the city of Regina expanded, the Crusons found themselves sitting on some pretty valuable property. The city wanted to build a subdivision so gave the family a good price for their land.

In the meantime, one of the original members of Rocky First CRC, Max V. was single and working for a seismic crew in the Rocky area. In 1952, their work took them to Saskatchewan in search of oil. Often the crew was working on Sunday so Max was unable to get to church. He had heard there were other Dutch people in the vicinity and through a friend was directed to talk to the C's. He caught up to them as they were driving off from a friends' house. He knocked on their car window and introduced himself saying he wanted to learn more about the church. The family was pleased to oblige and Max became a regular visitor at their home on his days off. When Ella graduated high school she and Max became engaged and two years later they married.

By 1962, they had three little children; Dick, Marlene and Peter. Max's brother John was finding that his business in Rocky Mountain House, John's Rocky Agencies, had more business than he could handle so he contacted Max to see if he would come from Saskatchewan and be in business with him.

Max agreed and found that he loved working in this business where he could do accounting, insurance, real estate and notary public work. His brother John, on the other hand was no longer enthusiastic and wanted to become a teacher. Max agreed to buy him out and John fulfilled his desire and became a teacher in British Columbia.

...and as the saying goes...the rest is history. Two more girls and a boy were added to the family and have blessed our local church with their musical talents ever since.



## **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

♪ Filled with Your Glory

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We welcome One Another

♪ Boldly I Approach

Lord's Supper Preparatory

♪ Your Will Be Done

Children's Message - Elroy L.

Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Local Church Ministries

Offertory

Scripture - John 4:46-54

Message - Love of Another Kind

♪ I Stand Amazed

Blessing

♪ How Great is Our God

## 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](#)

## 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 **Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**.

† Birthday congratulations to **Lena F.** who celebrates on January 27! Blessings to you on your special day!

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

† **Val and Elaine L.** have moved away from our community. They thank everyone who made them feel welcome and for all the support they've received over the past couple of years from our church community.

† 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. Missionaries are regular people who fear pain and rejection as much as anyone else. When faced with opposition, they need God's strength to help them stand firm. Pray ...That the Holy Spirit will provide missionaries with words that communicate effectively in other cultures and languages, that they will have boldness to overcome the fear of embarrassment or failure, and against evil forces that would seek to hinder the spread of the gospel.

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.

## Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary

### V. Family

Fed up by the Dutch government and the aftermath of World War 2, this successful family decided they were going to emigrate. Their life had already been turned upside down and now the cleanup had to begin. There were dead bodies everywhere - both animal and human. They couldn't enjoy the seaside because the beaches had been mined.

The Emigration Society was urging people to emigrate to promote the Christian Reformed Church in Canada. So, upon seeing a wanted advertisement for a blacksmith, Pieter C. made application through the immigration society. He was 43 years old when he left his birth country behind and emigrated to Regina, Saskatchewan. His parents and his wife's parents were not at all in favour of them going.

In October, Pieter went by himself and said he could always come back if things didn't work out. He was pleased with the job that awaited him and upon obtaining a lease on a house, he sent for the family. Meantime, the owners cancelled the lease but Pieter knew the Lord would prevail so he didn't cancel their plans.

He found a house on the outskirts of the city and decided he would buy it. He had saved some money from his new job and had some of the \$100.00 he had been allowed to bring from the Netherlands. That wasn't enough but he knew his wife would have another \$100.00 to contribute and his three children would each have \$50.00. The down payment was \$300.00.

The family arrived December 21. The temperature was minus 60 degrees below zero. What a welcome! Pieter met his wife Lena at the bank so they could deal with the down payment.

The little house had power but no water and sewer and badly needed some paint. Ever the optimist, Ella's mom said they could soon get it shipshape. Her older daughter quickly found employment as a live-in nanny/housekeeper so that left 14 year old Ella and her 4 year old brother Isaac at home.

Since Pieter had come in October, his shipping container had already arrived. Thus, he had a bicycle to go back and forth to work. Ella already knew a lot of English so was placed in grade ten. A kind neighbour came to help her mom learn more of this new language, telling her the names of the various household items.

New flooring was layed, the house had been given a good cleaning and their little house got painted in the spring. It felt more like home when the rest of their belongings arrived in February.

## Upcoming Events

January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
10:00am Worship service Sunday School Story Card #20  1:15pm service at Clearwater 2:30 pm Service at Westview  4:00pm 75th Anniversary Musical Celebration  7:00pm Romans Bible Study  Youth @ Trevor & Sharlea L.	7:00pm Friendship  7:00pm Griefshare	<i>Office: Josephine</i>  9:30am Coffee Break  1:30pm Worship Prep Meeting  7:30pm Full Council	8:30am Prayer meeting  7:30pm Funeral Fund Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline  7:30pm Men's Bible study  Youth Ski trip to Canmore		
February 2	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6	February 7	February 8
10:00am Worship service Lord's Supper  Sunday School Story Card #25  7:00pm Romans Bible Study	7:00pm Friendship  7:00pm Griefshare	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i>  9:30am Coffee Break  1:00pm Senior's Bible Study  7:30pm Deacons	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.

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

Thank you, for all you do!	January 26	February 2	February 9
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Sheldon B.	Karl H.	Jessica H.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Justin D.	Mark H.	Lorraine A.
<b>Music Team</b>	The Experience	Mosaic	Lifted Hearts
<b>Children's Message</b>	Elroy L.	Pastor Natasha	Joel S.
<b>Nursery</b>	Marie A., Corinne V. Sara D., Jonah D.	Marion R., Janelle V. Annette D., Sophia K.	Rita B., Marisa P., Marlene O., Teslynn A.
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Aaron & Colleen T.	John & Anita M.	Mark & Keanna H.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Rita B., Debbie S. Gary & Shirley V.	Logan & Jaylene V. Rob & Fran D.	Glen & Anneleen D. Justin & Courtney D.

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### 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.

#### February 2 - Tribal Trails

Tribal Trails was never intended to replace the face-to-face ministry of First Nations believers, churches, pastors, and church-planting missionaries. But television does have unique advantages, and a useful role. Through TV the Gospel is presented to people who would not normally welcome a personal visit nor attend a church meeting. It reaches into many more homes than would be physically possible for missionaries, pastors and evangelists to visit. Tribal Trails has become a "door-opener" — the missionary or pastor who identifies himself with the program often finds that he and his message have already been introduced to the people. Tribal Trails has opened the way for missionaries to settle in new communities. In addition to telecasts, the distribution of Tribal Trails DVD videos have proven to be an effective ministry tool.

#### Gratefully Received January 1-12

The Lord's Food Bank \$940      Local Church Ministries \$8900  
ReFrame Ministries \$880      Pregnancy Care Centre \$50

### 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.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 26** - Worship Services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30pm)

Today, Pastor Natasha is hosting a lunch of soup and buns at her house for those helping with the Clearwater and Lodge services. If you are available to join her at these 2 services to help with singing and would like to join her 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

**Sunday, February 23** - Friendship Service

**Sunday, February 23** - Baptism of Lochlan S.

**Tuesday, February 25** - Congregational Meeting (7:30pm)

## 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

This week we'll be starting to tell the stories of families in our church; why they left Holland and what they found when they arrived. Since this afternoon is the first official celebration of the church's 75th anniversary celebration, it seemed appropriate to give the spot to the V. family. Ella has been a longtime very generous supporter of the music in our church throughout the years.

## 75th Anniversary Upcoming Events

**The 75th Anniversary Musical Celebration** is **TODAY at 4:00 pm**. Join us for a program of singing, special music which will include the organ as well as other instruments, special guests and sharing of memories. Stay for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Social Hall following the event. Everyone is welcome!

**Fellowship afternoon** on **Sunday, February 23 (2:00-6:00pm)**. Come to Arbutus hall for an afternoon of skating, board games, food and fellowship! There will be a fire, so if you bring your own buns and hotdogs, we will supply the condiments, coffee and hot chocolate. Hope to see you all there!

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

**Parade Float** - is being organized for June. Contact Ken B. if you are able to assist with this.

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

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



**IRAN:** Large Increase in Christian Prison Sentences Last Year

Source: Article18

According to a recently published report by Article18, at least 96 Christians were sentenced to prison in Iran during 2024 for a combined total of 263 years' imprisonment. This statistic indicates a sixfold increase from the previous year, in which 22 Christians were arrested for a combined total of 43.5 years.

While the report demonstrates a significant increase in the total number of Christians arrested annually, it also reveals a notable increase in the length of their prison terms. This informative report can be downloaded from Article Eighteen.

As the new year commences, the situation facing Iranian Christians has not improved. More than 40 followers of Jesus were arrested just this past December for participating in Christmas celebrations. Since the detained Christians have not yet received their prison sentences, this latest number of arrested believers was not included when calculating the statistics for 2024.

The recently occurring arrests took place while the members of Iran's judiciary were boasting that Christian prisoners had been given a five-day leave from prison over the Christmas season. However, this brief furlough was not permitted for those whose convictions related to "acting against national security" – a charge commonly imposed on the country's Christians.

- Prayerfully remember the recently arrested believers, along with the many other Iranian Christians who are currently serving prison sentences because of their faith in Christ.
- Pray that international leaders would call attention to the persecution of Christian converts in Iran and thus put pressure on the country's governing officials to enact positive changes.
- In the midst of the government's attempts to suppress the Christian faith, praise God for the resilient advancements made by His church in Iran. May this continued growth in numbers also reflect the greater spiritual depth that's taking place within the lives of all those who have chosen to faithfully follow in the ways of Christ.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner:** Faith and Action - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). In James 2:14-16, God tells us that if we truly have faith, we can't help but also do good things! How can you show your faith every day this week? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Valentine Cards.

**Groundwork:** Jesus Prays for His Disciples - As Jesus prays his high priestly prayer, he intercedes on behalf of his disciples. Join Groundwork as we study John 17:6-19 to learn what Jesus desires for them and how his prayer for protection, unity, joy, and sanctification helps us live as sanctified people in a world that isn't always welcoming to our faith. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



"This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life."  
~ Psalm 119:50 ESV ~

**ERITREA:** 44 Christians Imprisoned, Including 27 Students

Sources: Release Eritrea, Church in Chains

In early December, Eritrean security forces raided a house where 27 secondary school students had gathered together for prayer and worship. The Christian students – most of whom ranged in age from 14 to 16 years old – were taken to a police station and held in custody for a few days before being transferred to the Mai Serwa prison which is located along the outskirts of Asmara.

In a separate case, another 17 Christians were also recently arrested and sent to the Mai Serwa prison. At the time of publishing this report, no further information on this case was available. The Mai Serwa prison is the same facility where several members of a Christian musical group, known as the Mahalians, continue to be detained.

Dr. Berhane Asmelash from Release Eritrea believes that the recently occurring large-scale arrests of believers – and particularly Christian young people – reflect the Eritrean government's "desperate attempt to control the growth of the evangelical population in the country." Based on exponential increases in incidents of Christian persecution over the past 20 years, Dr. Berhane is concerned about the possibility that higher levels of opposition may take place in the coming year – including more arrests and harsher treatment towards believers.

- Please pray for the strength and endurance of these recently arrested Christians.
- May all of our Christian brothers and sisters who are presently being detained in prisons throughout Eritrea receive peace, comfort, courage and hope from the reassuring presence of the Holy Spirit.
- In spite of ongoing opposition from the government, pray for the continued growth of God's church in this nation, resulting in multitudes accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord.

## Church Announcements

**Thank you** to all who have enjoyed the stories from the Netherlands during WW2 and let me know about it. I know I learned a lot and hope you did too!  
*Marilyn H.*

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 book 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.

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

**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@pregnancare.ca](mailto:director@pregnancare.ca)

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 government 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](mailto:lhunt@mrwsa.net).

**KAMP LONGVIEW 2026** - Central Alberta Cadet Council is excited to host another camporee in Alberta! This time in the foothills west of the town of Longview, south west of Calgary. The property is secluded with a beautiful view of the mountains. For sure, many boys and counselors are looking forward to this event being held **July 15 – 22, 2026**. Many volunteers are spending endless hours exploring and planning. Currently we are in the budget stage and soon we have to set the fee for the registration. In order to keep the fee affordable for many families we are seeking your help. For this camp many supplies have to be purchased and equipment rented. A list of all these items has been made and is available online at [www.sonriseponoka.com](http://www.sonriseponoka.com). Look for the logo of Kamp Longview. If you are able to pledge any of the items, we ask you to email to [kamplongview@gmail.com](mailto:kamplongview@gmail.com) or fill in the form at the bottom of the pledge page on the website. If requested, charitable donation receipts will be arranged. Alternatively you can contact your Cadet counselors.