



## ***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

**LEAD THE WAY**

CADETS 2024 • 2025 • 1 TIMOTHY 4:12

*Sunday, April 27*

1 Timothy 4:1-2, 7-12, 15  
**Lead the Way**

www.firstcrocky.ca  
@FirstCRC.Rocky Mtn House on Facebook

### **Morning Worship Service**

Welcome & prayer

♪ Open the Eyes of My Heart

Responsive Call to Worship & Prayer

God's Greeting/We Welcome One Another

♪ Ten Thousand Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Responsive Cadet Litany

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Children's Message - Joel S.

(Sunday School for Age 3 - Grade 5)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for GEMS & Cadets

Offertory

Scripture - 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 7-12, 15

Message - Lead the Way

♪ God is Good

Blessing

♪ My Lighthouse

## 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 age 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 **Withrow Gospel Mission**.

† Belated birthday congratulations to **Irene K** who celebrated her special day on April 23.

† Congratulations to **Nic & Shianne V** on the birth of Kaysen Gerrit on April 10, a little brother for Wren and Wade.

† Continue to keep **Tonia T** in your prayers while she is in the Rocky hospital.

† We pray for those at home: **Sylvia D, Marvin W** 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. Every prayer you offer strengthens missionaries, opens doors for the gospel and brings Scripture into the hands of those still waiting. Perhaps God has placed a specific missionary, people group or Bible translation project on your heart. However He leads you, know that your prayers are vital to His work around the world. But prayer is just the beginning. You can also engage by learning about ongoing Bible translation projects, supporting missionaries financially or advocating for the need for Scripture in every language.

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

### H. Family

Dirk (Dick) H. was 14 when the Germans invaded Holland. Since the Germans were picking up boys to work for them, Dick and his brothers hid when they heard that the soldiers were in the area. Dirk H. Sr. would hide his boys in the walls of the house or in the haystack. Dick recalled having to be very quiet and having rats crawling on them and nibbling him.

Jacoba (Coby) V. was 12 when the Germans invaded Holland. Coby recalled being put on a train with her older siblings and feeling scared as they headed to another part of Holland while her parents along with the newborn baby and toddler were going in a truck. Her father owned his own boat and had to hide it from the Germans. Because of this he had a hard time finding work and worked for different farmers just to get enough to feed his family. Coby talked about him coming home one day with just a little bag of barley which was all they had to cook up. They soon after met Dirk H. Sr. and were able to get milk from him.

After the war Dick joined the navy and started dating Coby. He was considering a career in the navy but Coby wasn't in favour of that as her father being a boat captain was never around and she didn't want that for her or for her children. Dick then became a milk inspector and started thinking about moving to Canada as he would have a better opportunity of owning his own farm. The entire Hoetmer family was looking at moving to Canada however because of some health issues not all would be allowed to immigrate to Canada and so Dirk H. Sr., Anna H. and some of the children stayed in Holland, while six of the children headed to Canada in the next few years.

Dick and Coby were married in 1951 in a double ceremony with Dick's sister marrying Coby's brother. The two couples left 6 weeks later taking a boat to Canada and then a train to Alberta where Dick was employed by a rancher in the Pekisko area (who had sponsored them). Coby talked about how home sick she was and would have crawled back to Holland if she could. Coby helped the ranch cook and learned how to bake bread and other cooking skills. They didn't have a vehicle and so were unable to attend church in High River. On Sundays (Dick's one day off a week) they read copies of sermons they had brought with them. After a few years the rancher asked Dick to manage his dairy farm which was closer to High River. There they had a vehicle to use and later bought their own. This allowed them to attend church regularly and became members the High River Christian Reformed Church.

After that farm was sold Dick managed another farm and was able to purchase a few cows and some chickens, selling cream to the creamery in Okotoks and eggs through the boss' store. After finally having enough saved for a downpayment they started looking at buying their own farm. Herman K. (Dick's uncle) talked Dick into checking out some farms around Rocky Mountain House and went with.

Dick and Coby finally reached their goal of owning their own farm when they purchased a half section farm by Alhambra (where their son Garry still resides). They moved to the farm July 1, 1963 with 4 children. The first few years Dick worked at a lumber mill in the winter as they built up their dairy farm. After moving to Rocky they had their memberships transferred to First Christian Reformed Church of Rocky Mountain House and attended until their passings. Dick and Coby were blessed with 5 children, Ann, Garry, Mary, Jackie and Shirley and with 20 grandchildren.

## Upcoming Events

| April 27   | April 28                  | April 29   | April 30              | May 1   | May 2  | May 3                      |
|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 9:00am Prayer meeting<br>10:00am Worship Service<br>GEMS & Cadet Sunday<br>Sunday School story card #42<br>7:00pm Mere Christianity Study<br>7:30pm Youth at Joel & Corinne S. | 5:30pm Friendship Potluck | Office: Cheri-Lynn<br>9:30am Coffeebreak   | 8:30am Prayer Meeting | 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline<br>9:30am Craft Morning<br>1:30pm WPC Meeting | 7:00pm Country Gospel Evening-75th anniversary event |                            |
| May 4  | May 5                     | May 6  | May 7                 | May 8   | May 9  | May 10                     |
| 9:00am Prayer meeting<br>10:00am Worship Service<br>Prayer Chain Potluck<br>7:00pm Mere Christianity Study<br>7:30pm Youth at Albert & Sjoukje V.                              |                           | Office: Fran<br>1:00pm Revelation Bible Study<br>7:30pm Deacons<br>7:30pm Camp Committee Meeting | 8:30am Prayer Meeting | 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline   |  | Youth swimming at the pool |

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.

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| Thank you, for all you do!     | April 27<br>Pastor Ken                             | May 4<br>Pastor Natasha                        | May 11<br>Pastor Ken                    |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Serving Elder</b>           | Jessica H.   | Cody L.  | John M.                                 |
| <b>Serving Deacon</b>          | Mark H.  | Lorraine A.                                    | Peter B.                                |
| <b>Music Team</b>              | Mosaic   | The Experience                                 | Lifted Hearts                           |
| <b>Children's Message</b>      | Joel S.  | Corinne S.                                     | Pastor Ken                              |
| <b>Nursery</b>                 | Marisa P., Brenda B.,<br>Stephanie C., Shanelle T. | Jacob & Jennifer L.,<br>Marlene O., Teslynn A. | Mark & Keanna H.,<br>Margo D., Caleb O. |
| <b>Coffee Host</b>             | Dirk & Sandy V.                                    | Ernie & Jeannette S.                           | Dave & Henriett V.                      |
| <b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b> | Rennie & Tina K.<br>Peter & Josephine B.           | Dave & Sandra S.<br>Randy & Annette D.         | John & Rina V.<br>Rob & Fran D.         |

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### April 27 - GEMS & Cadets

**GEMS** (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour) Our vision is to see girls around the world actively and enthusiastically expressing love for God and others—girls equipped, motivated, and passionately engaged in living out their faith. Our mission is to bring girls everywhere into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. Through club programs and one-on-one mentoring resources, moms, mentors, and ministry leaders can help guide girls into a relationship with Jesus.

**Cadets** is a weeknight program that meets bi-weekly and helps boys become more Christ-like in all areas of life. Each meeting includes assembling with the entire club for the landmarks, breaking up into small groups (called "cadres") for Bible study and working on badges, and a time of games or other physical activity.

#### May 4 - 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 April 13-20

Calvin Theological Seminary \$1019    Resonate Global Mission \$1185  
Local Church Ministries \$8150

### 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

**Friday, May 2** - Country Gospel Music, Cowboy Poetry & Fellowship Evening (7:00pm)

**Sunday, May 25** - Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30)

**Saturday, May 31** - Church Workbee

## 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 would 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)

## 75th Anniversary Upcoming Events

**Country Gospel Music, Cowboy Poetry and Fellowship** evening on **Friday, May 2 at 7:00 pm** at the church.

Please invite friends and any former members that would enjoy visiting our church again.

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

**Rocky Parade** - We are putting a float in the rodeo parade on June 7. Contact Ken B. to help.

**A Church Campout** - Planning continues for the 75th anniversary campout at the Vandenbrink Ranch on August 22-24. Please RSVP by *completing the survey* sent to your email. If you require a paper copy, there are some on the back table in the foyer. Please put your completed survey in mailbox 102. The cost for camping is \$50 for the weekend. If you have any questions contact Cailyn B. or Lydia B.

## Church Announcements

**Prayer Chain Potluck - Sunday, May 4th**, after church in the Social Hall, the Prayer Chain volunteers will be hosting a potluck. You are invited if you are currently on the prayer chain list or if you are wondering what might be involved in being on the prayer chain. The requirement is that you feel called to pray. If you would like more info, please join us for lunch on May 4 or talk to Anita M. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Seniors Luncheon** - We are planning to go out for lunch at the Pine Hills Golf Course Restaurant on Wednesday, May 7th at 12:00 noon. Hope that's a good date for everyone! If not, please let me know. There's a sign-up sheet on the Seniors Table in the Social Hall and you can also text Ella. Everyone welcome!

**March for Life** at the Edmonton Legislature grounds. May 8, 12-2:30 pm. Human life is sacred, from conception to natural death. Speak up to help gain legal protection for those most vulnerable: pre-born, aged, infirmed. "All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Edmon Burke. Gather some people and speak for the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves.  
*Red Deer Pro Life*

**Please join us for Grandparents Day 2025 at Rocky Christian School on Tues., April 29.** You are invited to come to the school from 1:00-3:00 pm for a tour of your grandchild(ren)'s classroom, participate in some activities, and then enjoy a light snack and tea while the students present a short program for your entertainment. If you do not have grandchildren in our school, but would like to be a grandfriend for a student whose grandparents are not able to attend, please contact the school office at 403-845-3516, and we will pair you up with a student.



**"Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up Your hand;  
forget not the afflicted."  
~ Psalm 10:12 ESV**

**PAKISTAN:** Christian Couple Attacked at Gunpoint

Sources: [British Asian Christian Association](#), [Morning Star News](#)

On the night of March 25th, Adnan Masih and his wife Shumaila were heading home from work on their motorcycle when they were suddenly intercepted by two armed gunmen. After seizing the married couple's cell phone and the small amount of cash they were carrying, the thieves physically beat the Christians and demanded more money. Adnan told the gunmen that he and his wife were poor Christians who had nothing more to give. It was then that the attack became more violent.

Whispering between themselves, the assailants phoned a third man who later arrived on a motorcycle. Pulling the drawstring from Adnan's trousers, they tied him up with it. The men then dragged Shumaila to a nearby sugarcane field where they each violently assaulted her. As they left, the men threatened to kill them both if they ever spoke of the attack.

With their motorcycle left damaged by the attack, Adnan and Shumaila walked the rest of the way home, saying nothing to family members who had been worried about them. By the next morning, after praying and talking together, the couple gained the courage to report the incident to the authorities. As a result of the police investigation, the perpetrators – Rana Sher Ali, Muhammad Faisal and Hadayat Ali – were arrested, and all three men presently remain in custody while awaiting trial. Financial and legal support has been provided to the assaulted victims.

Regarded within Pakistani society as lesser citizens, Christians frequently face discrimination and violence. As a result of this systemic bias, followers of Jesus – and other non-Muslim citizens – are often treated unfairly by the country's court system, though some recent rulings suggest that such bias may be waning. For previously published reports that further address the many challenges facing Pakistan's Christians, see our country profile.

- **Pray that our merciful Heavenly Father will provide greatly needed physical and emotional healing to this Christian couple – filling them with His abounding hope, comfort and love.**
- **Also pray that the three men responsible for this brutal attack will be held accountable for their horrific actions so that justice will be upheld.**
- **Pray for God's protecting hand upon His people in Pakistan, asking Him to draw near to each one of our Christian brothers and sisters and remind them of the fact that they are very precious in His sight.**

## Reframe Ministries

**Kids Corner: Needed: Grand Friendships** - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Needed: Grand Friendships," at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Spending time with mentors helps us grow in faith, share love, and remember that God is always with us. We can learn to see God's goodness and share it with others, whatever their age. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Earth Day Collection.

**Groundwork: Christian Civility: Defending Our Faith without Being Defensive** - How do we disagree without being disagreeable, or handle conflicts when people slander or talk against us? Join Groundwork as we study 1 Peter 3:8-17 and Titus 3:1-11 to seek biblical wisdom for responding to and navigating a divisive culture in faithful and Christ-like ways. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails

## CRC Communications

**40 Days of Prayer for Synod 2025** - 40 Days of Prayer are written prayers representing the diversity of CRC members that will guide us for the 40 days leading up to synod. Sign up to receive an email with the prayer for the day, or a PDF with each week's prayers. The 40 Days of Prayer will begin next Sunday, May 4, and will conclude as Synod 2025 delegates gather on June 12. [crcna.org/synod/prayer](http://crcna.org/synod/prayer) for future episodes.

## Calvin University

**Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece - October 13-24, 2025** - Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or [weimje@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:weimje@calvinseminary.edu)

## Thrive

**Today is Abuse Awareness Sunday** - On this special Sunday, Thrive invites our congregation to imagine a more holistic approach to nurturing a safe and healthy church community where abuse itself becomes unthinkable and where survivors feel supported and safe. Please support this valuable ministry that empowers all CRCs by giving now at their website: [crcna.org/SafeChurch/Donate](http://crcna.org/SafeChurch/Donate)

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Abuse Awareness Sunday** - Today is a day when the church acknowledges the sad reality of abuse in our world and in our communities. Abuse happens when one person treats another with cruelty and violence, hurting them physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. Jesus came to put an end to such suffering and to the cruelty that causes it. Consider how the church can follow in Jesus' footsteps. How can the church support people who are abused? How can the church help to put an end to abuse? If you're looking for a helpful starting point, check out [crcna.org/SafeChurch](http://crcna.org/SafeChurch). Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

## Church Announcements

**New Members Class** Do you ever wonder what it means to become a member of First CRC? Beginning in May, we will be offering "A New Members Course." This course is for you if you are:

- New to the First Christian Reformed Church in Rocky Mtn. House
- New to the Christian Reformed Church denomination
- New to the whole Christianity ... everything
- Preparing for your profession of faith
- Or just curious

This is a 4-week commitment. If you are interested, please talk to or email Pastor Natasha [pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca](mailto:pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca)

**Sonrise Camp** (July 6-11 and July 13-18) has several opportunities to serve including: cook helpers, counselors, worship band/musicians, games person, craft person and bus drivers. If you are interested or want more information please talk to Marie A., Zachary B., Lydia B., Sheldon B., Cody L. or Cheri-Lynn B. or sign up on the bulletin board.

**Vacation Bible Camp** (July 21-24) Ages 5-9 can join us for this 4-day camp as we focus on some amazing real-life encounters with Jesus. Volunteers needed are: head cook and kitchen helpers. Contact Cailyn Boodt for more information to volunteer or sign up on the bulletin board.

**Calling All Girls!** Plans are underway for Wildrose GEMS Camp on July 28 - Aug. 1 at the Rehoboth facility on Gull Lake. Registration forms are available from your GEMS leader. The deadline is May 31, but register early so you don't miss out! Come and enjoy fun, fellowship, crafts, activities, great food, singing, campfire, worship, and sharing the love of Christ together. If you are entering grades 5-8 in the fall of 2025 and wish to have a great summer experience, this is for you! Girls entering grade 9 who wish to learn leadership skills and discover their gifts for serving at camp can register for our Transition Year. Girls entering grades 10-12 are eligible to register as a CIT (Counselor in Training). Interested in volunteering as a camp cook or cabin counselor? Questions? Contact Bonnie Bennik at 403.652.1078 or [wildrosegemscomp@gmail.com](mailto:wildrosegemscomp@gmail.com).

**Rocky Christian School requires a Full-Time Grade Two Teacher and a Part-Time (75%) Middle Grades and/or Pre-K to Grade 5 Music Teacher.** Preferred candidates will have training and/or experience in Christian education. Duties are expected to commence August 25, 2025. A complete package will include a cover letter, resume, names and contact information for three references, a statement of Christian educational philosophy, a pastoral reference, and a statement describing your Christian faith journey. Applicants will possess, or be eligible for, Alberta teaching certification. The successful applicant will be required to provide original, satisfactory, and recent (within six months) criminal record and intervention record checks as a condition of employment. Please apply on or before May 2, 2025. Visit the Wild Rose School Division careers page at [WRSD.ca](http://WRSD.ca) to see "Competition No. T-25-26-07-RCS" and "Competition No. T-25-26-08-RCS."