

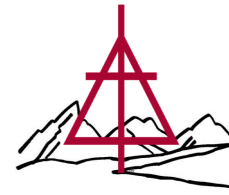
Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary George T. Family

George and Stien had two more boys, Peter and Harvey, born to them in Red Deer. George and his son Bill took a look around the Rocky Mountain House area as George had heard there was cheap land available there. He bought a quarter from Mr. V. who was moving to British Columbia. This property had farm buildings and a house. A daughter Edith was born in the Rocky Hospital.

George bought another quarter west of their house, which belonged to the government, for \$700.00. He used it to pasture yearlings and two-year-old steers and heifers. Herman K. and Henk S. also pastured a number of head there. George cleared that quarter in the sixties.

George had a heart attack and got out of the dairy business and into chickens for a while. After several more heart attacks, he and Stien sold the farm and moved to the First CRC church yard to be caretakers.

Their next move took them west of Rocky near the Luoma post plant. The acreage was large enough that it could be subdivided. Son Bill bought an acreage from his dad. George and Stien built a new house on their acreage and rented out their old house. George and Stien sold that acreage in the mid-eighties and bought a place close by in Woodland Estates. Stien continued to live there after George's death in 1990 and resided there until late 2012. Stien moved into Westview Lodge in Rocky and died in January 2015. Lives lived, grateful to God at every step.



FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

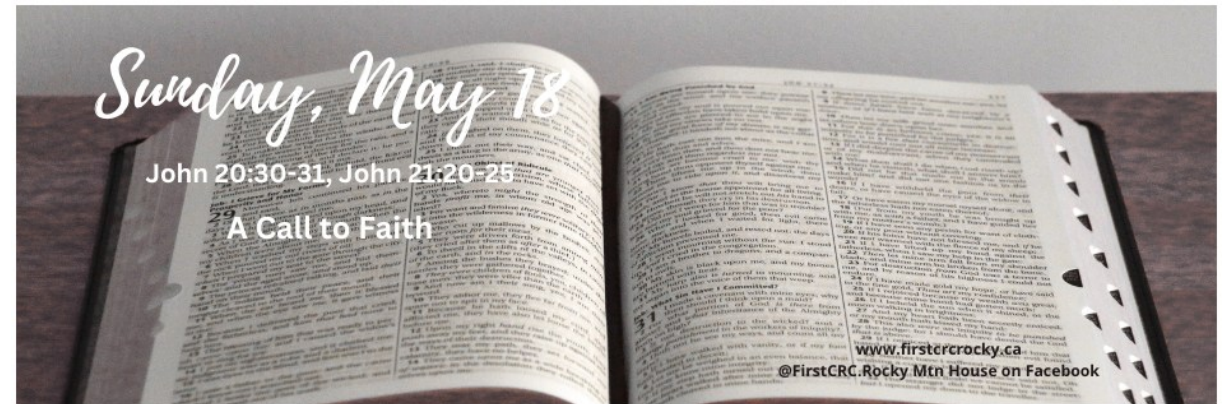
RR3 Site 4 Box 6, Rocky Mountain House, T4T 2A3 403.845.6067

*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 & prayer

♪ This is the Day

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We Welcome One Another

♪ I Lift My Eyes Up

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Create in me a Clean Heart

Assurance of Pardon

♪ I Stand Amazed

Children's Message - Elroy L. - No Sunday School

Kentucky DRS Presentation

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Local Church Ministries

Offertory

Scripture - John 20:30-31, 21:20-25

Message - A Call to Faith

♪ In Christ Alone

Blessing

♪ All My Hope is in Jesus

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. Today there is no Sunday School for age 3 - grade 5.

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

www.firstcrcrocky.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 the **Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**.

† We pray for blessings on **Isabelle D. and Shaw L.**, who will be married this Saturday, May 24th!

† Congratulations to **Ray B.** who will be celebrating a birthday on May 24!

† Continue to keep **Tonia T. and Marvin W.** in your prayers as they are in the Rocky hospital.

† We pray for those at home: **Sylvia D.** 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 within cultures and contexts that are 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.

Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary George T. Family

George T. was a single man when World War 2 broke out in the Netherlands. He was running a little country store and grocery delivery business with the nearest city being Zwolle. The area was called Berkum and eventually it got swallowed up by Zwolle. George had help running the store and delivering groceries from his younger brothers and his mother. Times were hard when Rotterdam was bombed and people from that area had to move inland. In the area where T.'s had their store, times got worse and worse as people couldn't pay their bills and the Nazis stole produce whenever they liked. The store was going downhill fast and George was an age where he could have been conscripted by the Germans, so in 1944 he went into hiding.

George got married to Stien B. in May of 1946. Their son Bill was born in 1948 followed by son Albert in 1950. With the economic and political situation what it was, George and his wife felt the best thing they could do for their family was emigrate. People at that time feared that the government could change after the war and become Fascist or even Communist. The business picked up after the war and George carried on with it until 1950 when he decided to emigrate.

He left the business in the hands of his younger brother Klaas and emigrated to Canada when their older son was two and Albert was only a few months old. Two of George's uncles came to Canada in the twenties and thirties. Two of George's younger brothers came in the late forties following World War 2. One of the uncles had bought land in Central Alberta which was very rich farmland.

George and Stien wanted to leave all the wartime memories behind and give their family a fresh start in a new country. The Canadian government and the Canadian Pacific Railway along with a field man, Mr. N. found T.'s a sponsor in Okotoks on a farm. The sponsor, Cor E. ran a hardware store and lumber yard in Okotoks but needed someone to run his farm.

What a windfall! A section of land to work! There was a beautiful house to stay in and good buildings and farm machinery to work with. Mr. Cor E. was a wonderful sponsor in every sense of the word. He arranged for a Dutch lady who worked in one of the stores to come and help Stien learn the English language. Bill remembers his mom catching on to the language quite quickly through the school readers the lady brought. Perhaps Stien was more motivated as she had no siblings or family to talk to and needed to make English friends. George had a harder time.

Bill remembers his mom saying how seasick she had been coming over to Canada. The women and children were housed in the lower part of the ship and didn't have access to fresh air. He also recently learned of a park in the Beverley section of Edmonton named after his Uncle Jacob P. who had come to Canada in the twenties. Jacob got a lot of families settled in the northern part of British Columbia - Telkwa, Houston, Smithers, etc. Jacob was credited with settling more than 800 Dutch settlers in Canada. The P. house was a real well known house in Edmonton. Jacob and his wife welcomed many people there.

The Geo. T. family stayed for two years in Okotoks then had enough money for a place of their own in Red Deer. George found work as a concrete worker in Penhold at the airbase and then in Red Deer doing curb and gutter for the city. George worked there for five years and had worked his way up to foreman. His house had a rental suite in the basement and he had his brother Klaas and family as renters as well as another brother Hank and his wife Bep and Case and Ina B.. They were all short-term rentals.

Upcoming Events						
May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24
9:00am Prayer meeting 10:00am Worship Service No Sunday School 2:00 Bridal Shower for Isabelle D. 7:30pm Youth at Jos & Janneke S.		Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30pm Elders	8:30am Prayer Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	Men's Campout - Sign up sheet on bulletin board	Men's Campout 2:00 D/L Wedding
May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31
9:00am Prayer meeting 10:00am Worship Service Sunday School story card #57 1:15pm Clearwater Centre 2:30pm Westview Lodge 7:00pm Mere Christianity 7:30pm Youth bible study at Mark & Esther L.		Office: Fran 7:30pm Full Council	8:30am Prayer Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 1:30pm Worship Prep. Committee		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website (firstcrocky.ca) for links to sermons.

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	Thank you, for all you do!	May 18	May 25	June 1
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
	Serving Elder	Alan D.	Chris T.	Joel S.
	Serving Deacon	Ken B.	Jim D.	Justin D.
	Music Team	Six Track	Mosaic	The Experience
	Children's Message	Elroy L.	Pastor Natasha	Joel S.
	Nursery	Justin & Courtney D., Alyssa D., Ruth D.	Mark & Jessica H., Kelsey D., Miyah B.	Colleen T., Amber B., Spoukje V., Cadence B.
	Coffee Host	Jim & Margo D.	Bob & Marie A.	Gordon & Bettie V.
	Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	John & Jean B.	Sheldon & Amber B.	Pierre & Ria J.
		Justin & Mikala D.	John & Nancy D.	Erika W.

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

Upcoming Offerings

May 18 - Local Church Ministries

Local Church Ministries offerings go to cover all our budget commitments: staff, office expenses, power, heat, insurance, children’s programs, mission support and ministry shares.

May 25 - ReFrame Ministries

Around the world, the CRC is working through ReFrame Ministries to share the gospel. Relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they create contextual media resources that proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen the church throughout the world in 10 major languages. Every dollar you give will provide new video recording tools for social media, airtime for television or radio stations, and follow-up discipleship for seekers or new believers.

E-transfers received April 2025

Local Church Ministries \$15,875 CFGB (Canadian Foodgrains Bank) \$200 Tribal Trails \$200

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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 25 - Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) & Westview Lodge (2:30)
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 two services to help with singing and would like to join her for lunch, you are welcome to come over to the Parsonage after Church.

Saturday, May 31 - Church Workbee (8:00am) There are several jobs to complete.
For more information contact Mark H., Ken B. or Tom S.

Prayer Ministry

Would you like prayer, but are unsure how or who to ask?
Our Prayer Ministries would like to make prayer more accessible.

In the pews there are Prayer Request envelopes.

On the outside of the envelope, you can select who you would like to pray for you, and inside there is a card for more details and contact information if needed.

In the foyer is a prayer request box for submitting these prayer requests.

Whatever you are going through - times of beauty or ones of trouble - we would love to pray with you.

Visit www.firstcrcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

75th Anniversary Upcoming Events

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 parade on **June 7**.

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

To our church family - We are excited to announce that our family will be moving this summer to be close to David's parents in Saskatchewan. We are grateful for our time at First CRC and will miss you all. Thank you for welcoming us into the fold and for everyone who has poured into our kids' lives in one way or another. David and Stephanie C.

Bridal Shower - Ladies please join us **TODAY at 2:00pm** in the social hall as we celebrate with a bridal shower for Isabelle D. (bride elect of Shaw L.). If you are able to bring a written recipe to share in a book for the bride that would be greatly appreciated.

Baby Bottle Campaign - Please take a baby bottle from the back table and save your change for the Pregnancy Care Centre. Bring back your bottle on June 15 (Father's Day). One 'bottle' holds \$30, two 'bottles' hold \$60, and three 'bottles' hold \$90. How many 'bottles' will you fill? Gifts of any amount are welcomed and appreciated.



Voice
of the
Martyrs

PERSECUTION
& PRAYER
ALERT

"It is easy to die for Christ.

It is hard to live for Him.

Dying takes only an hour
or two but to live for Christ

means to die daily."

~ Indian missionary, Sadhou Sundar Singh, who served during the early 20th century. ~

BELARUS: KGB Declares Religious Freedom Group "Extremist"

Sources: Forum18, Christian Vision for Belarus

Amidst the ongoing oppression of Christians in Belarus, an organization was established in 2020, bringing together leaders from multiple churches in an effort to monitor and publicize persecution in the country. The organization was registered in neighbouring Lithuania as "Christian Vision for Belarus."

On April 1st, the Belarusian KGB secret police ruled that Christian Vision for Belarus was "extremist," and therefore banned the organization's website and social media platforms. In the process, the KGB specifically identified three of the leaders – Natallia Vasilevich, Natallia Harkovich and Dzmitry Korneyenko – all of whom are Orthodox Christians presently residing outside of Belarus. In addition, the government's Interior Ministry department added the name of the organization to its "banned list" on April 8th.

The day after the official listing, police in the town of Orsha visited Viktor Korneyenko, the father of Dzmitry. Confused about what was happening, Viktor did not ask any questions when a DNA sample was demanded of him. On April 10th, the police then visited Dzmitry's mother-in-law in Vitebsk. Later on, Dzmitry's brother, who was contacted on April 23rd, also received an order to provide a DNA sample. When the brother asked the police why, he was told that the results would make it easier for them to hunt Dzmitry.

Christian Vision for Belarus is not the only organization that's been identified as "extremist." Other organizations include The Democratic Media Institute, which supports independent media in the region; and the independent Catholic news website, katolik.life. For many years, The New Life Full Gospel Church in Minsk experienced repeated harassment from governing officials before being officially closed and receiving the same "extremist" label. Previously published reports addressing the persecution in Belarus are available at our country profile.

- **Pray for the protection of those who are seeking to promote justice and truth in Belarus, asking that their expressed concerns will not be overlooked by the authorities but rather given due consideration.**
- **In the meantime, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide those who are sharing the message of God's salvation through Christ, blessing and multiplying their efforts to minister to the spiritual needs of fellow citizens.**
- **May the Lord also work mightily in the lives of the country's political leaders by opening their spiritual eyes of understanding, as well as their hearts, to His truths.**

Reframe Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Remembering Scripture - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion, “Remembering Scripture” at www.kidscorner.net. When we memorize Bible verses, God’s words stay in our hearts and help us when we need them. Just like practicing something over and over makes it easier to remember, reading and saying Bible verses out loud helps us keep God’s truth with us every day! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC’s Coloring Packet Collection.

Groundwork: Everything We Have is from God - Whether we have them or not, money and possessions are an inescapable fact of life. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study passages like Exodus 20:15-17, Deuteronomy 5:19-21, Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Leviticus 25:23-28; Proverbs 22:9, Ephesians 4:28, and Matthew 5:40-42 to cultivate a biblical perspective on our money and the things we own in this life. Listen now at Groundworkonline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

World Renew

World Renew is Grateful for Your Women of Hope Offering - Your gift of support to World Renew’s Maternal Newborn and Child Health program helps ensure a mother is healthy, can survive childbirth, and become a Woman of Hope. Gifts like yours are helping children eat nutritious meals and overcome malnutrition. Your generosity is helping to equip families to flourish, so they can help build resilient communities. Thank you for your gift of hope. To learn more about World Renew’s work, please visit: worldrenew.ca

World Renew Nicaragua Young Adults Trip - Young adults (18–30), join us in Nicaragua this August 9–17, 2025! Experience God in another culture while developing a perspective on poverty, missions, and community development. Scholarship available via application! Contact Maria Oliveira at moliveira@worldrenew.ca or visit <https://bit.ly/nicaragua2025info> to learn more and register.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Stories are powerful; there’s often no better way to convey deep truth, deep pain, and deep love than through a meaningful story. Sharing faith stories helps us grow in Christ as we remember that our individual stories are situated within God's greater story. This week, explore ways to share faith stories with your community. Ask a friend to share their faith story, share your own faith story with a friend, or share stories as a group during a mealtime. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Indigenous Ministry

Hearts Exchanged - It's never too early or too late to participate in a Hearts Exchanged cohort. We have cohorts starting at various times of year -- if you're interested in participating in one in your area or online please reach out at: crcna.org/hearts-exchanged

Church Announcements

Calling all Men (High School and up), Friday and Saturday (**May 23 and 24**) is a men's campout at the Brouwer campground. Come at 5pm or whenever you are able on Friday and stay until after lunch on Saturday. Chad Vandervalk (former pastor of Woodynook CRC) will be sharing a bit about work as worship on Saturday morning at 10:00am and everyone is encouraged to come and take that in, even if they aren't able to come for the entire campout. More details to come next week. Friends are welcome! All food and drinks provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Sonrise Camp (July 6-11 and July 13-18) has several opportunities to serve including: ***cook helpers, male 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. Registration forms are available on the back table and the website.

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. Registration forms are available on the back table and the website.

Camp Rehoboth (REALLY) Needs Volunteers! Help us create an unforgettable summer by sharing the love of Jesus at Camp Rehoboth! We’re looking for: Head Cook – Youth Week; Nurse & Head Cook – R&R Week; Counselors – All Weeks (especially Adult 2, Independent, and R&R) Be part of something meaningful — serve, connect, and shine His love! Learn more or sign up at rcmflourish.ca/camp

Ascension Day Service - Jesus says, “Look, I am coming soon.” (Rev. 22:7). Join us this Ascension Day, as we together reflect on Jesus’ call to “Live with Expectancy.” Woody Nook CRC invites all area CRC and Lacombe Ministerial churches to a joint church service, **Thursday, May 29 @ 7:30 PM** - 40104 Rge Rd 281, Lacombe County.

Rocky Support Services - 3rd annual Slo-Pitch Tournament - **May 30 to June 1** at the Rocky Ball Diamonds. The proceeds from the tournament will go to support local ball players of all skill levels as well as Rocky Support Services accessible housing and community development projects. Current projects include the demolition and removal of two very old buildings to redevelop affordable and accessible homes along with programs as our community garden initiative supporting independent living and aging in place. Check out the poster on the bulletin board. Call Brittany 403.845.4080 to register your team or for more information.

Classical Student Loan Assistance is available for anyone taking seminary classes intending to serve in full time ministry. These loans are forgivable for those who serve in the CRC for 5 years. An application is available on the Classis website <http://www.classisalbertanorth.ca/student-support-team.html> The deadline is May 31. May you be blessed and feel supported as you prepare for ministry!