



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



February 22

Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

The Call of a Servant

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

Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ Be Unto Your Name

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We Welcome One Another

♪ Take Us To The River

Preparatory for the Lord's Supper

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Man of Sorrows

Assurance of Pardon

♪ I Stand Amazed

Children's Message - Joel S.

(Sunday School for Age 3 - Grade 5)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Canadian Justice Ministries

Offertory

Scripture - Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

Message - The Call of a Servant

♪ Take My Life and Let It Be

Blessing

♪ Be Thou My Vision

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

www.firstcrocky.ca or [FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse)

CHURCH FAMILY

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.”
Philippians 1:9-11

† 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**.

† Congratulations to **Dina H.** celebrating a birthday on February 27! Blessings to you on your special day!

† We pray for those at home **Sylvia D.** and **Joe & Lena V.** We also pray for our members at the local care facilities: **Joan S.** and **Tonia T.** We pray 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. Translation is in progress for hundreds of language groups whose homelands are in “sensitive” areas. A sensitive area is a part of the world where the political, religious or cultural context increases the risk of attack or persecution for those involved in Christian ministry. Work may take place within the language community, in a neighbouring region or among a diaspora community. In order to reduce the risk for the ministry and the people involved, limited details are shared and often pseudonyms are used for people and places. Your prayers for people working in sensitive areas are essential for overcoming strongholds and barriers and seeing God’s Word bring truth and hope to people of all languages. Lift up the Mother-tongue language workers: Pray that God will raise up and protect mother-tongue language workers. Education, economic, religious, cultural and political issues often make it hard to find people within a language community who are able and willing to become language development helpers, literacy workers or translators for their own language.

“So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” (Luke 10:2 NLT)

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 a deacon.

Elders are: Brenda B., Sheldon B., Alan H., Karl H., Cody L., John M., Nancy O., Richard O., Ernie S., Joel S. and Gary V.

Deacons are: Lorraine A., Ken B., Anneleen D., Jim D., Mark H. and Jacob L.

Having the Identity of a Servant

First Sunday of Lent

HOW SHALL WE RESPOND THIS WEEK?

Fasting

- What is something you can give up during Lent (and maybe longer) to make room for sustained silence, reflection, and prayer? How might you make space for the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Prayer

- Pray for God to use your times of wilderness for God's glory. Ask how God might use you.

Around the Kitchen Table

- Where have you seen or felt God's call on your life? Share your own sense of calling with someone else.

- Have you ever experienced a time in a spiritual wilderness? How did that time stretch you and provide clarity about your calling?

- We often think of our calling from an individual perspective, but having a godly purpose also applies collectively — to families, to households, to small groups, and to churches. If you had to articulate

God's purpose or call for one of those communities, what would you say?

- Share baptism stories. See if you can find the date and place of your baptism if you don't already know them. How do you see your baptism as an ordination to a life of service?

Ideas for Including Children and Teens

- Children and teens can also experience and live out God's call. Have a conversation about what God might have placed on their heart, and help them to fulfill those callings.

Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Ken B., Anneleen D., Jim D., Mark H., Jacob L.

Upcoming Offerings

February 22 - Canadian Justice Ministries - Justice and Hope Sunday

Justice and Hope Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent each year. As justice-seekers whose ears are attuned to the voices of marginalized people, where is our hope when the poor are trampled underfoot and it seems that the powerful take the day every time? Where is our hope when even our churches too often turn their faces away? We have hope because we are not saving the world, Christ is. Please support the Centre for Public Dialogue and their work during this Lenten season as we all walk together toward the cross with Christ and our marginalized neighbors. We journey together in confidence knowing that after the cross comes the empty tomb.

March 1 - 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.

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's following the service.

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.

Prayer Ministry

Would you like prayer, but are unsure how or who to ask?

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

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.firstcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link) to submit a request online.

Upcoming Services

TODAY

Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) and Westview Lodge (2:30pm)

Pastor Natasha is hosting a light lunch 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.

TUESDAY, February 24 - 7:30pm

Congregational Meeting

Church Announcements

Men's Bible Study - All men are invited to come to the church every other Wednesday evening (please check the calendar for dates) at **7:30pm** for a study based on the book, "*How to Pray - A Simple Guide for Normal People.*"

Church Janitor required - We are looking to fill a shared part-time janitor position. The position is quarter-time with Alissa. For more information or to apply please contact Tom Smid.

Devotional Idea for Lent: Most people think about fasting from something for Lent which can be a helpful practice; but consider being intentional about adding something this year to help you draw closer to God. That could be any number of things, one helpful tool you may want to consider is the *Lectio 365 App* that leads through 3 times of prayer and scripture reading each day. Our men's Bible study is going through a book on Prayer by Pete Greig and this is a tool he and others have put together to practice the *P.R.A.Y* acronym we've been looking at (*Pause, Rejoice, Ask, Yield*). You can read or listen as the app guides you through a time of prayer and there are also some videos available this Lent you can watch as well.

CRC Funeral Fund - The AGM was held and members voted on increasing the annual fee to \$80/person. Please pay **BEFORE MARCH 8** to avoid a \$10 late fee. Please make cheques payable to *CRC Funeral Fund*. Place payment in mailbox #79 or give to Marlene K. If you have any questions please call 403.844.6340

Family Memories for the 75th Anniversary

The B. Family

The B. family history begins with Willem F B. who was born in Tubbergen Overijssel the Netherlands in 1893. After serving in the First World War, Willem worked for an electrical company, but he longed to be a farmer, like his father before him. In 1920 he came to Canada to see if there was a future for him here. Three years later Willem travelled back to the Netherlands to marry Anna C. Toebees, who was born in Winterswijk, Gelderland in 1899. Two days after their wedding on June 1, 1923, the young couple set sail for Canada aboard a Cunard Liner.

Willem and Anna settled in the Riverdale area of Edmonton where he worked for Edmonton City Waterworks Division. Two sons, Henry and Ben were born in Edmonton and in 1929 the family moved to Neerlandia where Willem could start farming. Two more children, Grace and John were born to the family in Neerlandia. After many years of hard work and saving money, they decided to sell the farm in the spring of 1950 and move to Rocky Mtn House. Willem and Anna purchased two adjoining quarters along Highway 11 for \$8200.00; one for Willem and the other for his son Ben. The B.'s were one of eleven charter families who started First CRC and Willem was one of the first elders to serve here.

Son Ben, had earlier met a young lady from southern Alberta at the Gull Lake Bible Camp. Seenie (Gezina) K. was born to HH K. and Dena (W.) on the family farm in Nobleford, AB. She had one sister Fanny and two brothers, Bert and Herman.

In June 1952, Ben and Seenie were married in the Nobleford CRC in a double wedding ceremony with the men being cousins to each other who married two girls who were also cousins to each other. After a double honeymoon Ben and Seenie moved into a small log house on their property in Rocky Mtn House.

After helping on his dad's farm, and doing several other jobs, Ben began working for Boyden Plumbing, attended SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) and started his career as a plumber. Ben partnered with the B. brothers to start Bee & Bee Plumbing and Heating in 1958. Later a furniture store was added to the business. As time went along, B. and B. parted ways. Ben operated the plumbing business and B.'s operated the furniture department.

Those years were busy years for Ben and Seenie. Ben operated the plumbing business from 1958-1975 when he sold the business due to ill health. Son Barrie also became a plumber, as he worked alongside his dad. In 1979 he established his own plumbing business with his wife Margaret. Their two sons and a daughter-in-law are also involved in the family business known as BW Bouwman Plumbing in Rocky Mtn House.

Ben and Seenie raised a family of five children. Barrie (Margaret O.), Kathy (Tom S.) remained in Rocky, and are members of the First CRC. Wendy (G. B.), Kevin (E. H.) and families live in BC. Yvonne (R. V.) USA.

Ben and Seenie were both actively involved in the CRC, both serving in different roles. Ben could fluently speak English so he was often reading sermons in church in the early years of church development. They both believed in involving themselves in community activities as well. Hospitality was a common practice with them. They acknowledged God's love and grace and His guidance through the years, especially after the death of their first-born son.

Ben passed away suddenly in September 2001. Seenie continued living on the family farm for 2 years. She then moved into Rocky Mtn House and enjoyed 20 years of living in a condo. In 2019, when she needed extra help, she moved to Park Avenue assisted living in Rocky Mtn House where she resided until her passing June 12, 2025.

Weekly Calendar of Events

February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28
10:00am Worship Service - First Sunday of Lent 1:30pm Clearwater Centre Service 2:30pm Westview Lodge Service 7:00pm Colossians Bible Study Youth at Arnold/Alida V.	7:00pm Friendship	Office: Cheri-Lynn 9:30am Coffeebreak 1:30pm WPC Meeting 7:30pm Congregational Meeting	8:30am Prayer Meeting 7:00pm GEMS Cadets Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline		
March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7
10:00am Worship Service Communion 7:00pm Colossians Bible Study Youth @ Mark/Jessica H.	7:00pm Friendship	Office: Fran 9:30am Coffeebreak 7:30pm Deacons	8:30am Prayer Meeting 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline Crafting - All Day Quilt 'til You Wilt	Crafting - All Day Quilt 'til You Wilt Classis Alberta North Meets - Edmonton	Classis Alberta North Meets - Edmonton

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!	February 22	March 1	March 8
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha
Serving Elder	Richard D.	Ernie S.	Joel S.
Serving Deacon	Jim D.	Anneleen D.	Mark H.
Music Team	Six Track	Mosaic	Lifted Hearts
Children's Message	Joel S.	Pastor Natasha	Corinne S.
Sunday School Helpers	Reid D., Cadence B., Ryan B.	Allison B., Jace H., Charley T.	Jamie D., Cadence B., Deb S.
Nursery	Brenda B., Marie A., Sjoukje V., Allison B.	Justin & Courtney D., Alan H., Chelsey B.	Colleen T., Reid D., Karl & Krystal H.
Coffee Host	Jason & Tanya P.	Karl & Krystal H.	John & Anita M.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Bill & Marilyn S., Ken & Cheri-Lynn B.	Harold & Bevin S., Art & Karen T.	Doug & Penny B., Kelly B.

Church Announcements

Donations for Nepal, March 2026 - As most of you know, I will be going with the SA Foundation to Nepal in March. I am looking for donations of combs, hand and body creams, educational toys, soft toys (stuffies), deflated balls and baby Tylenol. If you are able to help with this please contact me.

Nancy O. (403.846.9911)

You are invited - for a time of **swimming fun and fellowship** at the Rocky Pool on **March 28 from 4-5pm**. No need to sign up, just show up! Any questions, you can talk to Krystal H. or Cailyn B.

Rocky & District Ministerial Community Prayer Breakfast - You are invited to come to the Lou Soppit Centre and join Christians from a variety of churches on **March 11, from 7-8:30am** for our annual community prayer breakfast. Tickets are \$30.00 and are available from the office. Come and pray for various leaders and servants in our community.

The Lord's Food Bank is looking for volunteers: Are you looking to make a difference in the lives of your neighbours? Are you looking for a way to impact the spiritual health of our community? Have you considered becoming a member of The Lord's Food Bank Society? The Lord's Food Bank is looking for new members of the community to step into the role of society membership, as well as we are looking for 3 members to fill upcoming Board positions. If this is something you would like more information on, please reach out to The Lord's Food Bank.

Have you been heard? Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the **2026 CRC denominational survey**. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please [visit *visit.crcna.org/survey/396*](http://visit.crcna.org/survey/396) to answer the survey questions by March 31.

Partners Worldwide Liberia Update: With access to technical training and new rice varieties some small farmers have increased their rice yield from under 2 tonnes per hectare to close to 3.5 tonnes. On the missions bulletin board in the social hall is a write up about one farmer, Ma Sorsor. Take a look at the picture of her posing proudly by her truckload full of bags of rice. Those bags of rice represent food security for her and her family. When you look at the picture do you think the truck is overweight just a bit? Thank you for supporting Partners Worldwide in Liberia.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Faithfulness: Never Give Up - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Faithfulness: Never Give Up," at www.kidscorner.net. God is always with us and shows us what true loyalty looks like, no matter what we face. Discover how his never-ending love can help us become faithful, kind, and trustworthy friends to others! Prepare for Easter with all the great content at kidscorner.net, like Kids Corner's Lent Devotional.

Focus on the Cross - Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the ebook! Subscribe at todaydevotional.com/lent.

Groundwork: In the Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus Prays, Judas Betrays, and Jesus is Arrested - As Lent begins, let's prepare our hearts in this season by following Jesus to Golgotha and studying the biblical events that comprise the traditional stations of the cross. Join Groundwork as we begin our journey by studying Matthew 26:31-56 to reflect on what happened to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and consider the effects of his prayer, betrayal, and arrest for Jesus and for us. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Today is the first Sunday of Lent. The forty days of Lent bring to mind the forty years of Israel's sojourn in the wilderness and the forty days of fasting that preceded Jesus' public ministry. During Lent, Christians around the world reflect on the weight of sin, the cost of salvation, and the love that motivated Jesus' earthly sojourn and sacrificial death. This year during Lent, find an object that reminds you of the wilderness (like a small stone or a container of sand) and place it in plain sight. Whenever you see it, pause and remember the depth of Jesus' love and how far he went to rescue you from sin and death.

World Renew

Thank You For Your Gift to Help End Global Hunger - Last week, congregations across Canada gave generously to help World Renew share Christ's hope with families around the world struggling with hunger. Gifts like yours help World Renew and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food vouchers to survivors of disasters, training to farmers grappling with the impacts of extreme weather, and vulnerable families with the tools needed to sustainably overcome food insecurity. Thank you for your generosity and compassion. To learn more about how World Renew is working to renew hope for communities facing hunger, poverty and injustice, visit: worldrenew.ca



**"The only way to learn strong faith is to endure great trials."
~ George Müller**

YEMEN: Dozens Detained in Campaign Against Christians

Sources: Open Doors, Human Rights Watch, Mission Network News, Christian Aid Mission, Premier Christian News

In many parts of the world, opposition is expected for those who commit their lives to Christ. Unfortunately, obtaining reliable information from some of these regions is often difficult – and Yemen is no exception. Late last year, Houthi rebels, who control approximately one-third of the country, launched a campaign of arbitrary detentions specifically targeting Christians. In January 2026 alone, more than 50 followers of Jesus were arrested, while another 43 had been abducted.

One believer in Yemen realized that he could potentially be apprehended during the rebels' campaign. In preparation, he devoted himself to the memorization of Scripture, explaining, "I want to be a 'walking Bible,' so that wherever I'm taken, I can share about Jesus." These words proved to be part of the Christian man's final conversation before his sudden disappearance. Most of the recently detained individuals have been prevented from communicating with any of their family members or legal representatives, and officials refuse to mention whether the believers are being held in custody.

Despite growing opposition, Yemen's underground church continues to expand – and it urgently needs prayer. Commenting on the recent arrests of these Christians, VOMC's CEO, Floyd Brobbel, urges: "Pray that they would be 'wise as serpents' and 'innocent as doves.' Pray that they would be effective in reaching their enemies for Christ." He further adds, "With opposition comes opportunity."

- Prayerfully uphold our detained brothers and sisters in Christ, asking the Lord to ensure their safety and well-being, and provide needed comfort and strength to their concerned loved ones.
- In general, pray that all Christians living in Yemen, who are striving to shine Christ's light amid deep spiritual darkness, will receive guidance from the Holy Spirit and the empowerment to remain faithful witnesses of God's grace.
- Despite possible threats of danger, may the Lord bring about many open doors of opportunity for His followers to effectively reach others in their communities with the 'Good News of the Gospel' – including those who oppose them – using these challenging times to further advance His Kingdom.