

## Weekly Calendar of Events

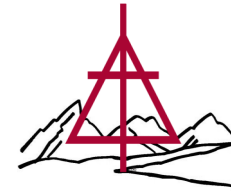
April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25
10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm Nehemiah Study	7:00pm Friendship 1:00pm Memorial Service for Lena V.	Office: Cheri-Lynn 9:30am Coffeebreak 7:30pm Admin	8:30am Prayer Meeting 10:00am Revelation Study 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
April 26	April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2
10:00am Worship Service GEMS/Cadet Sunday 7:00pm Nehemiah Study	7:00pm Friendship	Office: Fran 9:30am Coffeebreak 1:30pm WPC Meeting	8:30am Prayer Meeting 10:00am Revelation Study 7:30pm Men's Bible Study (last one)	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 9:15 - 3:00pm Crafting		12:00-4:00pm Social Hall Private Booking

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.

HELPS HANDS

Thank you, for all you do!	April 19 Pastor Natasha	April 26 Pastor Ken	May 3
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Cody L.	John M.	Nancy O.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Mark H.	Jacob L.	Lorraine
<b>Music Team</b>	The Experience	Youth Band	Lifted Hearts
<b>Children's Message</b>	Joel S.	Pastor Natasha	Corinne S.
<b>Sunday School Helpers</b>	Lindsey B., Russell, Charley T.	Reid O., Cadence B., Debbie S.	Jamie D., Jace H., Ryan B.
<b>Nursery</b>	Rita B., Margo D., Brenda B., Jace H.	Jacob & Jennifer L., Alyssa D., Miyah B.	Kelsey O., Annette D., Marie A., Jonah O.
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Jim & Margo D.	Dave & Sandra S.	Ernie & Jeannette S.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Dave & Henriett V. John & Rina V.	Dirk & Sandra V. Aaron & Cheryl T.	Larry & Debbie S. Geoff & Kendra S.



## **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](mailto:kgdouma@gmail.com) 780.728.8148

Pastor Natasha Specht - [pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca](mailto:pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca) (Monday -Thursday)

Church Office: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm [office@rockycrc.ca](mailto:office@rockycrc.ca)



### Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♫ Shout to the Lord

Call to Worship

God's Greeting & We Welcome One Another

♫ Boldly I Approach

Call to Confession & Prayer

♫ Heart of Worship

Assurance of Pardon

♫ Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Children's Message - Joel S.

(Sunday School for age 3 - Grade 5)

SA Foundation Presentation Nepal - Nancy O.

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Local Church Ministries

Offertory

Scripture - Romans 6:15-23

Message - Then and Now

♫ Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Blessing

♫ Benediction (My Friends May You Grow)

## 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](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 **Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church**.

† We celebrate birthdays with **Irene K.** (April 23) and **Frank D.** (April 26). We also congratulate **Bill and Wilma T.** with their 55th anniversary on April 23!

† We keep **Joe V. and family** in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time after the loss of their wife, mother and grandmother, **Lena**. The funeral will be held Monday, April 20 at 1:00pm.

† We pray for our members at the local care facilities: **Joan S.** and **Tonia T.** For those at home: **Sylvia D.** and **Joe V.** We pray for all 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. Pray for Effective Ministry.  
*“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” — John 15:5 (NLT)* It’s important to rely on God for all aspects of ministry — especially during times of great difficulty, so that efforts will produce fruit and ultimately a harvest will be gathered. Pray ...

- That God will provide strength and perseverance to missionaries when their ministries seem to be fruitless.
- That seeds will be planted and that missionaries would be able to see the fruits of their labor.
- That an abundant harvest will be produced as more people learn about the love of Christ.

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.



**BELARUS:** Another Church Leader Arrested/Source: Forum18

On March 16th, masked security officials arrested Anatol Parakhnevich, a 65-year-old Catholic priest, at his parish in Alkovichi, Minsk Region. During the arrest, officers searched his home as well as the church building. Following the raid, both premises were sealed, with the keys being returned one week later.

While it has been confirmed that Father Anatol was taken into custody, it remains unclear which agency conducted the arrest, where the church leader is currently being held, and whether any formal accusations have been made against him. When contacted, a spokesperson for the Belarusian religious affairs office claimed to have no information on the arrest, and police officials refused to provide any comment.

This arrest comes four months after the regime freed two other Catholic priests who had been sentenced to lengthy prison terms. (See this report for details.) Following their releases, both priests were sent to Rome where they remain today. Latest reports confirm that Belarusian officials are not permitting them to return and resume their ministry.

Although strict constraints have been placed on foreign religious workers, Father Anatol was born in Belarus where he grew up in an orphanage. He has faithfully served the church in Alkovichi for almost 20 years.

- **May the authorities provide clear and accurate information regarding the detention of this most recently arrested church leader.**
- **In addition to interceding for Father Anatol's release, ask the Lord to sustain him with peace, strength and protection – physically, emotionally and spiritually – during this present time of incarceration.**
- **Also remember the many other Christians in Belarus who continue to face severe limitations and regulations, praying that they too will experience spiritual endurance amid opposition; divine protection; and, ultimately, the freedom to worship the Lord both privately and corporately.**

## CRC Communications

**Pray for Synod 2026** - Starting May 3, and for 40 days leading up to Synod 2026, pray with CRC members, leaders, and friends for God's presence and guidance for the CRC and this year's synod gathering. Learn more and find prayer resources at [network.crcna.org/topic/spiritual-formation/prayer/40-days-prayer-synod-2026](http://network.crcna.org/topic/spiritual-formation/prayer/40-days-prayer-synod-2026), including a link to sign up to receive daily emails throughout the 40 days with prayers written by people from across the denomination.



*"I am His wheat, ground fine by the lions' teeth to be made purest bread for Christ."  
~ Ignatius of Antioch ~*

**REPORT UPDATE MALAYSIA:** Government Appeal Withdrawn in Missing Pastor's Case  
Sources: Mission Network News, Open Doors, South China Morning Post, Aliran

In November 2025, the Malaysian High Court ruled that the government was complicit in the 2017 disappearance of Pastor Raymond Koh and ordered that his wife, Susanna, receive significant financial compensation. The court also directed the release of a government report containing information about the disappearance, despite authorities' insistence that the document was classified as "top secret."

Following the court decision, the government filed an appeal, and a stay was granted pending its outcome. Susanna expressed concern that the appeal process could take up to five years to conclude.

However, in an unexpected turnabout, the Malaysian government withdrew its appeal on April 1st. Pastor Raymond's family is now expected to gain access to the previously classified report, and the investigation into his disappearance is set to recommence.

In response to this decision, Amnesty International Malaysia has called for concrete and transparent action by the authorities: "If the government is truly committed to ensuring accountability and preventing future enforced disappearances, it must swiftly conduct independent, transparent and effective investigations followed by the prosecution of all those suspected of criminal responsibility."

In light of this latest development, pray that the full truth surrounding Pastor Raymond's mysterious disappearance would be revealed, and that justice will ultimately prevail.

- ***Having lived with uncertainty and anguish for nearly 10 years since his abduction, may Susanna, along with her family and friends, experience God's sustaining presence, reassuring comfort and overflowing peace.***
- ***Prayerfully uphold all believers throughout this Southeast Asian country, asking the Lord to help them remain steadfast in their faith and further embolden their Christian witness so they can compassionately reach others with the Gospel in their Malaysian communities.***

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### **April 19 - Local Church Ministries**

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

#### **April 26 - GEMS & Cadets**

*GEMS* is an acronym for 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 Christlike 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.

### Upcoming Services

#### **Sunday, April 26**

GEMS & Cadet Sunday

#### **Sunday, May 3**

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

### 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](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.

## 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.firstcrcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrcrocky.ca) (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link) to submit a request online.

## Church Announcements

**Old Testament Bible study on Nehemiah**, Sunday evenings at **7:00 pm** here at First CRC. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to speak with Pastor Natasha or John M.

If anyone is interested in being part of a **New Members Class** this Spring, please talk to Pastor Ken or Pastor Natasha.

**Men's Bible Study** - All men are invited to come to the church every Wednesday evening at **7:30pm** for a study based on the book, "*How to Pray - A Simple Guide for Normal People.*" Last study will be on April 29.

**Men's Bowling Night** - On **Friday, May 1**, all men and boys (grades 7 and up) are invited to Crazy Lanes for an evening of pizza and bowling from **7:30-9:00pm**. The cost is \$20/person.

**Men's Campout** - All men and boys (grade 9 and up) are invited to the Men's Campout from **May 29-30** at Kelly's campground. Mark the date and plan to attend! Friends welcome! More info to come!

**Sonrise Camps** (July 5 -10 and July 12-17) and **Vacation Bible Camp** (VBC) (July 20 -23) - The planning has begun and there are several opportunities to serve: Cooks, cook helpers, counselors, worship band, games person, craft person, bus drivers and laundry. If you are interested (sign up sheet on the bulletin board) or if you want more information please talk to Marie A., Zachary B., Lydia B., Sheldon B., Albert V., Kelly B. or Cody L.

**Church Campout** - after a great turnout last year, we are going to plan another campout this summer for the weekend of **August 21-23rd**. The Vandenbrink family has graciously offered to host us out at the ranch once again. More details to follow. Any questions, talk to Lydia B. or Cailyn B.

## Church Announcements

**Rehoboth Christian Ministries** - The April "Flourish" newsletter is now available online and can be accessed by the below link or go directly to the Rehoboth website: [www.Rcmflourish.ca](http://www.Rcmflourish.ca)  
<https://rcmflourish.ca/who-we-are/flourish-newsletter/>

**Step forward. Help lead.** Classis Alberta North is seeking a general member for the Classis Interim Committee. We are looking for someone with a working knowledge of the Christian Reformed Church and its polity, wise judgement, and the ability to make timely decisions. This is a key, behind-the-scenes role that helps guide Classis between meetings. The CIC meets monthly (first Tuesday, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM), with three extended meetings each year (until approximately 3:00 PM). If you are willing to serve—or know someone who is—please prayerfully consider putting a name forward. Please contact the Stated Clerk - Dan Wildeboer at [classisstatedclerk@gmail.com](mailto:classisstatedclerk@gmail.com) or phone/text 780.984.8216.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner Devotions** - Go On a Microadventure - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Go on a Microadventure," at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Big adventures don't have to be far away—exciting discoveries are waiting right outside your door! Grab your family, explore nearby paths and places, and see how much fun a little adventure can be. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's Earth Day collection.

**Groundwork** - The Cross of Jesus is the Only Way - As Galatians continues, Paul continues to emphasize that the cross of Jesus is the only way to salvation and he confronts Peter's hypocritical behaviour. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Galatians 2 to explore the struggle the apostles faced as the Christian faith spread, and along the way find the courage to embody the truth of salvation in your relationships and daily life. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Groundwork 15th Anniversary** - Groundwork is celebrating its 15th anniversary! For more than 15 years now, this radio show and podcast has been digging into the richness of God's Word as the foundation for our lives. Come celebrate God's faithfulness with us! Register online at [reframeministries.org/events](http://reframeministries.org/events)

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - As you continue to celebrate Eastertide—50 days of practicing resurrection living—pick one area of your life in which you want to live more fully into resurrection hope. Perhaps it's in how you handle conflict, care for your body, or serve your community. Invite Jesus into that space, recognizing His risen presence. Brought to you by Thrive [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive) [frameministries.org/events](http://frameministries.org/events)