

Family Memories for the 75 Anniversary

The Jarrod & Laura A. Family

At the same time, Jarrod was facing another surgery that required us to be in Alberta anyway. After a lot of prayer, we felt led to say yes.

As a family, we decided this would be our “mission trip.” Not five weeks overseas—but four months right here. We knew we could do hard things, and we committed to giving it everything we had.

Those four months changed our lives.

Mya, our teen daughter, spent her mornings making hundreds of pancakes before most of us were even out of bed. Levi, four years younger, put in countless hours washing dishes and stacking firewood, fully embracing his role as a junior leader. Jarrod hobbled around in a cast, doing whatever he could to help and support Laura. And Laura stepped into a role that stretched her in ways she never expected—and quickly grew to love.

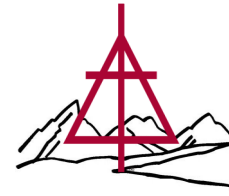
What we thought would be a short season turned into something much bigger. That four-month mission trip has now become three years—and we have no intention of leaving.

We’ve found a way to live out our faith in a real and meaningful way, serving others and pointing people to Christ. And that dream we once had of buying an acreage? God answered it in a way we never could have planned—we didn’t buy one... we were invited into one.

Today, we live at Pioneer Ranch Camp, on one of the most beautiful pieces of land, right on Crimson Lake, surrounded by God’s creation and a community we are growing to deeply love and cherish.

Looking back, it’s clear that God was at work through every twist and turn—even when things didn’t make sense, even when doors didn’t open the way we expected. He didn’t just answer our prayers... He answered them in a better way than we could have imagined.

All the glory goes to Him — Jarrod & Laura



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

♪ Low in the Grave He Lay

Call to Worship

God’s Greeting/We Welcome One Another

♪ I Serve a Risen Savior

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Assurance of Pardon

♪ King of Kings

Sunday School kids singing

Children’s Message - Elroy L.

(No Sunday School today)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Resonate Global Mission

Offertory

Scripture - 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Message - A Whole New World

♪ Because He Lives

Blessing

♪ How Great Thou Art

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!

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

www.firstcrcrocky.ca or [FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook](#)

CHURCH FAMILY

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
Ephesians 3:14-19

† As a ministerial church, each church has been asked to pray for our brothers and sisters in our community, today we are praying for **Cowboy Church**.

† Congratulations to **Bill S., Barrie B., & Gordon I.** celebrating birthdays today and **Dick W.** on April 7!

† Congratulations to **Don & Marion R.** celebrating 40 years of marriage on April 11!

† We pray for our members at the local care facilities: **Joan S.** and **Tonia T.** For those at home: **Sylvia D.** and **Joe V.**, and in the hospital: **Lena 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 Protection: *“Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer.” - 2 Thessalonians 3:2*
In some cultures or contexts, missionaries may be exposed to the possibility of danger and personal harm. Opposition to the gospel may include hatred and violence. Pray ...

- That God will keep missionaries safe.
- That God will change the hearts of those who are resistant to His Word.
- For wisdom and discernment in challenging situations.

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.

Family Memories for the 75 Anniversary

The Jarrod & Laura A. Family

Our Journey to Rocky Mountain House

For years, our life in Airdrie looked like what many would call “normal.” We were busy—growing a business, raising kids in competitive sports, and keeping up with the pace of city life. We were happy, but if we’re honest, we weren’t really thriving.

Jarrold spent much of his time on the road between shops across Alberta. Even when he was home, his phone was never far away. He did his best to be present, but work was always pulling at his attention.

Then a simple accident in our own garage changed everything.

In an instant, Jarrod went from working full-time to sitting in a chair, facing a long recovery. Life slowed down whether we wanted it to or not. And in that stillness, we started asking ourselves some hard questions—about our life, our priorities, and what we really wanted for our family.

That’s when we decided... why not do something completely different?

We sold everything—our home, our business, and most of our belongings—and moved into a 43-foot travel trailer. What followed was the adventure of a lifetime. Over the next year, we traveled across Canada from coast to coast and completed a full loop around the United States along the outer states.

After years of long work hours, constant interruptions, and time apart, we suddenly found ourselves together—really together—with no distractions. It became a season of reconnecting and, in many ways, falling in love with each other all over again.

Our plan had always been to return one day and buy an acreage—to build a different kind of life centered around faith, family, and space to grow.

Along the way, we also felt called to organize a construction mission trip to South Africa. We spent time planning, meeting with contacts overseas, and trying to build a team to go and serve by building a clinic or school. But despite all our efforts, nothing seemed to come together. It was discouraging, and eventually, we had to let that dream go.

On our way back to Canada for the summer, everything shifted again. Friends reached out and asked if Laura would consider helping at a kids’ summer camp where they worked. They were honest—it would be hard work, long hours, little pay, and a steep learning curve for the whole family.

Weekly Calendar of Events

April 5	April 6	April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11
10:00am Worship Service No Nehemiah Study No Youth	No Friendship Mtg.	Office: Cheri-Lynn 9:30am Coffeebreak 7:30pm Deacons	8:30am Prayer Meeting 10:00am Revelation Study 7:00pm GEMS Cadets Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
April 12	April 13	April 14	April 15	April 16	April 17	April 18
10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm Nehemiah Study Youth @ Siemen & Terah V.	7:00pm Friendship	Office: Fran 9:30am Coffeebreak	8:30am Prayer Meeting 10:00am Revelation Study 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 9:15am Crafting		

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!	April 5 - Easter Sunday	April 12	April 19
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha
Serving Elder	Alan H.	Karl H.	Cody L.
Serving Deacon	Jim D.	Anneleen D.	Mark H.
Music Team	Six Track	Mosaic	The Experience
Children's Message	Elroy L.	Corinne S.	Joel S.
Sunday School Helpers	No Sunday School	Jamie D., Jace H., Ryan B.	Lindsey B., Russell D., Charley T.
Nursery	No Nursery	Marisa P., Sara D., Rita B., Sophia K.	Keanna H., Margo D., Brenda B., Jace H.
Coffee Host	Mark & Jessica H.	Jerry & Lena F.	Jim & Margo D.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Dick & Rose W. Don & Marion R.	John & Judy D. Rob & Fran D.	Dave & Henriett V. John & Rina V.

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

Upcoming Offerings

April 5 - Resonate Global Mission

He has risen! Jesus overcame sin and death through the cross and resurrection. When we follow Jesus, we have an opportunity to live into that truth a little more every day. We also have a calling to work toward the kingdom transformation Jesus brought to earth. Resonate Global Mission, your CRC mission agency, walks alongside you and your church as you go out and proclaim that Christ, the Light of the world, has overcome the darkness.

April 12 - Local Church Ministries

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

Upcoming Services

Sunday, April 5

TODAY after the service, we will be gathering signatures for a **Pro-Life petition**.

In November the National Post ran a story that late term abortions (after 20 weeks) are occurring frequently in Canada, which is paid for by your tax dollars. The petition is asking Parliament to pass legislation to ban late term abortion. I would encourage you all to take some time to sign the petition which will be set up in the foyer after the service on Easter Sunday.

Sunday, April 26

GEMS & Cadet Sunday

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

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.

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.

How Shall We Respond This Week?

Feasting

- The time of fast is over, now we come to the feast of the lamb. Traditionally, Easter marks the end of times of deprivation and the beginning of a time spent celebrating and "feasting" on God's goodness. How can you "taste and see that God is good" this week?

Prayer

- In your prayers this week, pray for any missionaries you know or that your church supports. Pray that they will have the courage to share the good news of the gospel boldly and pray for opportunities to do so as well in your own life. After you pray for missionaries, pray that same prayer for yourself.

Around the Kitchen Table

- If you have been using a "Christ chair" decide whether you want to decommission it this week or leave it up during the season of Easter. If the former, talk with household members about how the chair helped keep the reminder of Christ in your midst during the Lent season. What symbolic additions to the chair were meaningful to you? If you decide to leave it up, make a plan for how you might symbolically mark the upcoming Sundays through the chair. What lessons do the stories of Jesus post-resurrection have to offer us about servanthood?

Ideas for Including Children and Teens

- At dinner time or any other time of family devotions throughout the week, ask each other "Where have you seen Jesus today?"
- Jesus taught us how to love and serve others. Think of concrete ways to love and serve those you see everyday. Check in tomorrow to see how it went. What could you do as a household/family together as an act of love and service? day.



"I fear neither death nor fire. I am prepared for both, so do your worst!"

~ William Lithgow, tortured during the Spanish inquisition ~

Report Update: **CANADA**: Faith and Public Life in Light of Bill C-9/ Source: Cardus

On March 25th, after months of committee proceedings and deliberations in the House of Commons, Canada's governing Liberal Party has forced an end to the debate – resulting in the passage of the controversial Bill C-9. The legislation has now moved to the Senate for further consideration.

The proposed bill seeks to amend the Canadian Criminal Code in areas related to propaganda and hate speech. Many religious groups have raised concerns about the removal of a clause that previously provided protection for individuals who – in good faith – expressed opinions based on religious texts.

The bill has resulted in wide-spread public reactions, with many critics claiming that the legislation "criminalizes the reading of Scripture." However, Ray Pennings from the Christian think-tank organization, Cardus, describes this as an "inaccurate description." While acknowledging the flaws in the legislation, he points to a deeper and broader issue: a growing expectation that faith should be kept separate from public life.

A similar view forms the basis for Quebec's Bill 21 on state secularism, which is presently being challenged before the Supreme Court of Canada. However, rather than treating faith as a private matter that must be excluded from public life, Ray Pennings argues that "*at its core, religious freedom is about identity and authenticity: the freedom to live in accordance with who we truly are.*" From this perspective, faith naturally and necessarily informs public engagement

- Pray for Canada's senators as they review Bill C-9 and seriously consider the expressed concerns and implications of the proposed legislation.
- In a spirit of humility, may these senators exercise wisdom and discernment, realizing that implementing this new legislation can consequently affect religious freedoms across the country.
- Also prayerfully uphold the Supreme Court justices as they carefully weigh the arguments relating to Quebec's Bill 21, recognizing the importance of safeguarding the nation's founding principles of faith among today's secular society.
- Ask the Lord to guide these judicial officials by heightening their awareness of His truth and the need to deeply respect freedom of conscience and belief.
- As Canadians, may we not take our freedoms for granted, but rather aim to steward them wisely – living out our faith with grace, courage and a heart to serve God – while diligently interceding for the protection of this great nation.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Resurrection People," at www.kidscorner.net. Early on a Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene felt very sad; in fact, she felt hopeless. Her teacher and friend had been crucified on Friday, and now, mysteriously, his tomb was empty. Read what happens next. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

Groundwork - Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection - We've reached the pinnacle moments of salvation history in our Stations of the Cross journey. Join Groundwork as we study Mark 15:33-16:8, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-42, and Matthew 27:62-28:10 to witness the thirteenth and fourteenth Stations of the Cross, which invite us to remember Jesus' suffering, death, and burial. Then linger at the tomb to witness the glory of his resurrection and celebrate his Easter victory over death. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Happy Easter! We now move from Lent into Eastertide, a season of extended celebration of Jesus' resurrection. This week spend some time reading and reflecting on 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. What part of the passage connects with you the most? Create a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection by writing a few words from this passage, such as a prayer of gratitude to God, or by drawing a picture that reflects Jesus' work on the cross. Place your reminder in plain site as a reminder throughout Eastertide to continue your Easter celebration. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Calvin University

Wisdom in the Age of AI Conference - Calvin University will host Wisdom in the Age of AI, **October 8-10**, a conference exploring how Christian faith can guide the wise and faithful use of artificial intelligence. With keynote speakers and a dedicated AI and Church track, the conference offers thoughtful conversation for pastors and lay leaders alike. It will be held in person at the Prince Conference Center. All keynote sessions will also be livestreamed for participants unable to attend onsite. Learn more at calvin.edu/faith-and-technology

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, including a link to sign up to receive daily emails throughout the 40 days with prayers written by people from across the denomination.

Church Announcements

Old Testament Bible study on Nehemiah, Sunday evenings at **7:00 pm** (next one is April 12) 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 other Wednesday evening at **7:30pm** (the next one is April 15) for a study based on the book, "*How to Pray - A Simple Guide for Normal People.*"

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 want 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.

There are moments when Jesus invites us to step deeper into His healing work—and this spring is one of those moments. **Dunamis Fellowship Canada** is hosting Dunamis Essentials #4: The Healing Ministry of Jesus, **April 16-18** at Bethel Community Church (14204 25 St NW, Edmonton). This three-day gathering is designed to help believers understand and participate in the healing ministry that Jesus modeled and entrusted to His disciples. Across the weekend, we'll explore: how Scripture frames healing ministry, how Jesus brings healing to inner life and relationships, how healing ministry can flourish in the local church and how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in practical, grounded ways. Cost: \$100. See the poster on the bulletin board for more information or contact Joanne T.

Faith in Action Workshop! Want to know how our faith move us beyond the walls of the church and into the heart of our neighborhoods? Join Cindy Stover, Justice Mobilizer, and Parry Stelter, Diaconal Ministry Coach, for an interactive workshop on how our faith calls us to justice and community transformation. Learn about what it means to move from "doing for" to "walking with" our neighbors in a way that honors God and develops our advocacy practice into a spiritual discipline. Mark your calendar **for Monday, April 20 from 7-9pm at Trinity CRC** (13427 57 St NW, Edmonton) Come for the learning, and leave with the tools to practice advocacy in many areas that you and your church are passionate about! Sign up at <https://diaconalministries.com/events/>