



## **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

♪ I Lift Your Name

Call to Worship

God's Greeting & We Welcome One Another

♪ Shout to the Lord

♪ The Goodness of God

Call to Confession

♪ I Surrender All

Assurance of Pardon

♪ He Leadeth Me

Call to Holy Living

Children's Message - Corinne S.  
(Sunday School for age 3 - Grade 5)

Congregational Prayer and Prayer for the Offering  
Offering for Wycliffe  
Offertory

Scripture - 2 Timothy 2:9-10 and Isaiah 55:10-11  
Message - Translating Scripture, Transforming Lives  
♪ Jesus, All For Jesus

Blessing

♪ Jesus, Hope of the Nations

## 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 for **Memorial Presbyterian Church**.

† Birthday congratulations to **John O. (Judy)** celebrating a birthday on May 6!

† We extend our congratulations to **Jacob and Courtney L.** on the birth of a baby girl, Claire, on April 28th!  
Congratulations also to brothers Declan and Theo, and to grandparents Dave and Henriett!

† 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. *“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.



## 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.

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday, May 3

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

### August 21-23

Church Campout at The Ranch

## Church Announcements

**Attention all youth of First CRC!** If you are in Grade 8-12 you are invited to an overnight youth retreat at Sonrise Camp starting May 22/26 at 5:00pm to May 23/26 at 3:00pm. Join us for a fun-filled time of exciting activities and meaningful learning as we explore the theme, "Why We Serve Others", and the discipline of service. If you're interested in attending please see Pastor Natasha for a permission form. The cost is \$50 per youth.

On May 24, 2026 at 7:00pm at the church we will have **Sunday Evening Bible Study**. We will begin a 4-week study, *Open and Unafraid: The Psalms as a Guide to Life*. Books are now available for those who placed an order.

**Anniversary Book** - A sample of the 75th anniversary book of activities will be available for people to look at after the service today. Anyone who would like to purchase a copy may sign the list and pay \$40.00 either today or next week.

**Church Spring Workbee** will be held on **Saturday, May 9, 9-12pm**. There are a few items (inside and out) that need to be spruced up. If you can lend a hand, see you on May 9.

**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!

## Family Memories for the 75th Anniversary

### The A. Family

The decision to emigrate was made in January 1950. Never did my parents realize that the wheels of government would work so fast! Our departure date was set for April 21. As we were the only family leaving from our town of Gieterveen, we had quite a farewell. After nine days on the waters of the Atlantic, (for some it was nice, others were very seasick) we arrived in Quebec City on the evening of April 30. The next morning we had to be inspected by the immigration board, and then we got permission to go on by train. That day was my mother's birthday (May 1) and she bought a banana for everybody in the family. Quite a treat! In Winnipeg, Bernard N., the field man for Southern Alberta had just enjoyed some days of rain, so it was quite muddy. The mud made our shoes very dirty. My mother missed the "klompen" (wooden shoes) that were easier to clean.

During the trip we found out that there were seven families going to Taber. We joined the three families already in Taber, so we had quite a group. Most were big families (a requirement for working in the sugar beets). The United Church gave us permission to use their building for a 1:00pm church service. Our transportation was a three-ton truck loaned to Mr. R. by Mr. L. Several families lived to the east of Taber so Mr. R. picked up the people on the way to town. It was quite a hoist up into the truck bed and then we stood hip to hip during the trip to town. It felt so good to worship in a church building again and to thank God for our safe journey! Afterwards there was a time to socialize. Other than in the home that was the only time in the week that we could speak Dutch!

Every week there was a lot of catching up to do, some families needed help with their farm work, while others needed work because they did not have enough to do for their own farmer. The whole group was like one big family, since we all needed each other to survive. It was a learning experience for us all. We had 50 acres of beets in one-half mile long rows. In the morning Dad had a hard time getting us out of bed because we were so stiff. We worked from sunrise to sunset, but the work was done to the farmer's satisfaction.

In the winter of '51-'52 our bunkhouse burned down. All the pictures burned plus the treasures that our family had brought from Holland. We were left with a three-room shack. Some of my brothers were working in the lumber camp, a couple of brothers slept in the basement by the farmer, and my younger sisters stayed with the O. family. In the spring we moved to Barnwell to work for Maurice B., who was not so easy to get along with but his wife was very nice. We stayed there until May '53. In December '53 my family moved on to Medicine Hat where my brothers worked in the glass factory and the family lived in Redcliff. In the spring of '55 Dad bought a farm in the coulees by Medicine Hat where the family enjoyed having their own land again.

The Lord has blessed us greatly in our new country. I want to thank Him for Godly parents who made the sacrifice to bring their family to a land of opportunity despite having to pull up their own roots and leave their family behind.

## Weekly Calendar of Events

May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9
10:00am Worship Service 1:15pm Service at Clearwater Centre 2:30pm Service at Westview Lodge Youth at Karl & Krystal H.- dress for outside activity 7:00pm Nehemiah Study (last one)	7:00pm Friendship	Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30pm Deacons	8:30am Prayer Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		9:00am - 12:00pm CRC Spring Workbee
May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16
10:00am Worship Service Happy Mother's Day!		Office: Fran 7:30pm Admin.	8:30am Prayer Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		

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!	May 3 Wycliffe	May 10 Pastor Ken	May 17 Pastor Natasha
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Nancy D.	Richard D.	Ernie S.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Lorraine A.	Ken B.	Jim D.
<b>Music Team</b>	Lifted Hearts	Six Track	The Experience
<b>Children's Message</b>	Corinne S.	Pastor Ken	No Sunday School
<b>Sunday School Helpers</b>	Jamie D., Jace H., Ryan B.	Lindsey B., Russell D., Charley T.	No Sunday School
<b>Nursery</b>	Kelsey D., Annette D., Marie A., Jonah D.	Justin & Courtney D. Alissa L., Jamie D.	Alan H., Sjoukje V. Colleen T., Teslynn A.
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Ernie & Jeannette S.	Alan & Jacqueline H.	Justin & Mikala D.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Larry & Debbie S. Geoff & Kendra S.	Richard & Marlene D. John & Nancy D.	Josh & Kristen M. Glenn & Kari M.

## Church Announcements (cont'd)

**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.

**Sonrise Camp Workbee** - Our annual camp workbee will be on Saturday, May 16th. We have some big jobs to take care of this year, so if you can come out and lend a hand that would be great!



HEARTS EXCHANGED

**Hearts Exchanged** is a learning and action journey designed to prepare Christians to build reconciling relationships alongside Indigenous people as mutual image bearers in Christ. Hearts Exchanged is intended to create a ripple effect. Joining together in Jesus' call to the reconciliation of all things, including people and creation, results in vibrant harmony. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Natasha.

You are invited to join Woody Nook CRC for an **Ascension Day Hymn Sing**, Thursday May 14, 7:30-8:30 PM. Let's join in celebrating Christ's reign and His imminent return!

**March for Life** at the Edmonton Legislature grounds on **Thursday, May 24, 12-2:30 pm**. The March for Life makes viable the size, strength, and solidarity of the prolife movement to the public and government. All human life is Precious! Gather your children, grandchildren, parents and friends... maybe carpool, and be a voice for the voiceless. For more info go to Alberta March for Life or call Wilma 403 318 4843.

**Rehoboth Christian Ministries** - The April "Flourish" newsletter is now available in the back foyer or online and can be accessed at [www.Rcmflourish.ca](http://www.Rcmflourish.ca) <https://rcmflourish.ca/who-we-are/flourish-newsletter> Keep yourself up to date with the upcoming 50th Anniversary celebrations for Rehoboth Christian Ministries. Read our success stories and learn about our services.

Join us on **June 19th**, in Acheson, for a joyful evening as **Rehoboth Christian Ministries** celebrates 50 years of God's faithfulness through service, inclusion, advocacy, empowerment, and community building across Alberta. This meaningful anniversary gathering will include warm fellowship, a delicious dinner by Bridgespan Café & Grill, heartfelt testimonials, and our Annual General Meeting as we reflect with gratitude and look ahead with hope. Doors Open: 5:00pm | Dinner: 6:00pm | Program: 7:00pm | Spots are limited. Guests must **RSVP by June 12** to secure their place. **\*\*Register at: [rcmflourish.ca/event/50th-anniversary](http://rcmflourish.ca/event/50th-anniversary)** We would be honoured to celebrate this milestone with you - together, as the Rehoboth community.

**Job Opportunity:** Do you have a passion for reaching and working with children and youth in our community. **Bethel Community Church in Edmonton** is seeking two summer ministry interns to help plan and run our community events and programs for children and youth. These positions are 35 hours a week, for a minimum of 10 consecutive weeks between June and August. Positions are part of the Canada Summer Jobs Program, open to applicants age 18-30. Applications can be sent to [hr@discoverbethel.com](mailto:hr@discoverbethel.com). For more information, go to [discoverbethel.com/jobs](http://discoverbethel.com/jobs).

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner Devotions: Why Compare When You're Already You?** - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Why Compare When You're Already You?" at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). God made every kid one-of-a-kind, and that's something to celebrate! When we remember that God loves us just as we are, we can use our special gifts to share His love with others. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible Story coloring pages available on the KC activities page.

**Groundwork: How to Live in Christ** - Keeping laws and customs won't benefit our salvation at all, but that doesn't mean our actions don't matter. Join Groundwork as we study Galatians 5-6 to examine Paul's description of how we should live in Christ. Together, we'll discuss the Fruits of the Spirit and what grateful Christian living looks like as we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## Thrive

**Thank You for Giving to Thrive** - Thank you for giving to Thrive! If you missed this opportunity, you can still give directly online to support this empowering ministry at [crcna.org/thrive/donate](http://crcna.org/thrive/donate)

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - This week marks Teacher Appreciation Week in the United States and Canada. One of the most significant glimpses of Jesus' teaching that we have in the Bible can be found in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). This week spend some time reading and reflecting on this important message as you sit under the teaching of Jesus. Then think of people in your life who have taught you about Jesus. Send them a quick note of thanks for helping you to learn about God. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

## World Renew

**Next Week: The First 1,000 Days with World Renew** - The first 1,000 days of a child's life are the most important. But in many countries, pregnant mothers and their babies don't get the care they need. That's why World Renew equips local communities around the world to deliver life-saving care. Join World Renew next week for the "First 1,000 Days" Sunday to share God's love and help babies grow up healthy and strong in the first 1,000 days. Learn more or give online at [worldrenew.ca/first1000days](http://worldrenew.ca/first1000days)



*"It was in prison that we found the hope of salvation for the Communists. It was there that we developed a sense of responsibility toward them. It was in being tortured by them that we learned to love them." ~ Pastor Richard Wurmbrand*

### **NIGERIA: Hundreds of Militants Convicted**

Sources: Associated Press, Deutsche Welle, International Christian Concern, Open Doors

In early April, more than 500 individuals who had committed terrorism-related crimes were brought before a federal court in Nigeria. The proceedings, which took place in the nation's capital of Abuja, were heard by a panel of 10 judges. Many of the accused submitted guilty pleas. In the end, 386 individuals were convicted, receiving sentences ranging from five years to life imprisonment. Over 100 other cases were adjourned to a later date.

Those convicted were affiliates of the Islamic State West Africa Province or Boko Haram terrorist groups. For years, members of these militant groups have committed horrific acts of brutal violence, particularly in the northern part of the country. While the Nigerian government insists that religion is not a motivating factor behind the attacks, it is clear that churches and predominantly Christian communities have been specifically targeted. Groups seeking to establish an Islamic state consider Christianity a significant obstacle to their goals.

- *Pray that Nigeria's judicial authorities will continue to pursue and legally prosecute those who have committed such horrific crimes of violence against innocent victims in Nigeria.*
- *Ask the Lord to strengthen, sustain and comfort His suffering people as they now recover from the aftermath of the attacks – including the resulting loss and trauma.*
- *May He also minister within the hearts of the perpetrators responsible for carrying out these acts of violence, leading them to true repentance and transformation through the redeeming power of Jesus Christ.*