

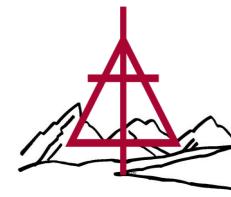
Upcoming Events

June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6
10:00am Worship Service Youth Bible study @ Trevor & Sharlea's		Office: Josephine 9:00am WPC meeting	8:00am Prayer walk with Pastor Natasha meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13
10:00am Worship Service Sonrise Camp Week 1 begins		Office: Cheri-Lynn	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 3:00pm Senior Event at Peter & Trudy's - RSVP by July 8		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

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

HELPLINGS HANDS	Thank you, for all you do!	June 30	July 7	July 14
		Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
	Serving Elder	Alan H.	Karl H.	Jessica H.
	Serving Deacon	Ken B.	Lowell S.	Lorraine A.
	Music Team	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	The Experience
	Children's Message	Pastor Ken	Corinne S.	Pastor Natasha
	Nursery	Justin & Mikala D., Isabelle D., Lucas H.	Corinne V., Marie A., Rita B., Jonah D.	Justin & Courtney D., Teslynn A., Marion R.
	Summer Sunday School	Esme D, Zoe/Jazmin D.	Alissa L. HELPER NEEDED	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED
	Coffee Host	Bob & Marie A.	Rob & Fran D.	Alan & Kelsey D.
	Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Pierre & Ria J. Erika W. & Rita B.	Andrew & Delanea D. Justin & Courtney D.	John & Anita M. Art & Karen T.



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

Sunday, June 30

Exodus 3:1-20

Names of God – Yahweh - The LORD

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

HELLO

MY NAME IS

Morning Worship Service

Welcome
 🎵 With Every Breath
 Call to Worship

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another
 🎵 I Lift Your Name

Call to Confession & prayer
 🎵 You are My Hiding Place
 Assurance of Pardon
 🎵 Ancient Words

Children's Message - Pastor Ken
 (Sunday School for ages 3 & 4)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer
 Offering for Local Church Ministries
 Offertory

Scripture - Exodus 3:1-20
 Message - Names of God - Yahweh - The LORD
 🎵 My God How Wonderful You Are

Blessing
 🎵 O Canada

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 Ages 3 and 4 during the service.
Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

For more Information view: www.firstercrocky.ca or [FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse)

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 **Withrow Gospel Mission**.

† We lift **Rita B.** in prayer, as she is at home recovering from surgery, praying for healing and patience.

† Congratulations to **Sandra V.** who celebrates a birthday on July 2! May your day be blessed!

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Sylvia D., Gus & Margaret V. and Joe & Lena V.** For those at the local care facilities: **Tonia T., Elly O. 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. Join us in praying that: God will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships, for strength and stamina, that the Holy Spirit will provide them with words that communicate effectively in other cultures and languages, that God will keep them safe, for an abundant harvest that will be produced as more people learn about the love of Christ, and for restoration — physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually — that can only be found in Jesus.

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, an elder or deacon.

Your *Elders* are Anthony B., Randy D., Alan H., Karl H., Jessica H.,
Alan O., John O., Dave S., Chris T. and Albert V.

Your *Deacons* are Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Doug D., Justin D. and Lowell S.

Upcoming Services

July 21 - Profession of Faith & Baptisms



IRAN: Armenian Christian Faces Ten-Year Sentence

Sources: Article18, Barnabas Aid, Church in Chains

Hakop Gochumyan and his wife Elisa are citizens of Armenia who went to Iran for vacation in August 2023. While the Christian couple and their two children were having dinner at a friend's house, agents from the Ministry of Intelligence raided the property. The authorities took the Christian family to the home of Elisa's grandmother, where the believers had been staying, and proceeded to search the residence. During the raid, Christian books and other personal belongings were confiscated. The couple was then taken to Evin Prison where they faced interrogation and intense psychological torture.

Elisa was released on bail as of October 19th, allowing her to return to Armenia with the children. Hakop, however, remained in prison and was charged with "engaging in deviant proselytising activity." The only pieces of evidence against him were seven Farsi New Testaments that had been found in his possession, along with the fact that he had visited two Armenian churches and a Farsi-speaking house church while in Iran.

The Iranian penal code allows judges to use "personal intuition" when evidence is lacking. According to Hakop's lawyer, this was the case in the trial against the Armenian Christian visitor. As a result, Hakop was sentenced to ten years in prison this February, but the verdict was not publicly reported at the time. In early June, it had been announced that his appeal was unsuccessful and that he would be forced to serve the imposed sentence.

While Armenian and Assyrian Christian minorities are officially allowed to practise their faith in Iran, evangelism among the country's Muslims and Farsi-speaking majority is forbidden. Elisa happens to be the daughter of Rafi Shahverdian, a well-known Armenian-Iranian pastor who had left Iran in 1993 and led a church in Armenia until his death last year

Prayerfully uphold Hakop as he faces the prospect of extended time in a notoriously known Iranian prison. May this brother in Christ receive greatly needed strength and encouragement through the ministry of God's Holy Spirit. Pray also for Elisa and the couple's two children, asking that they would tangibly experience the Lord's love, comfort and provision during this time of separation as a family. Continue to pray on behalf of the many other believers who are currently imprisoned or facing various forms of persecution in Iran because of their Christian faith. May the Lord also empower them spiritually, emotionally and physically so they may persevere and serve as effective witnesses of His great compassion for the spiritually lost and those in need of His abiding presence.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: The Power of Prayer - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. When kids pray, it makes a difference! Sometimes, we might think that God only hears grown-up prayers, but God also wants kids to care about and pray for our families and friends. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

Groundwork: Adopt the Mindset of Christ - As Christians, many of us long to make the world a better place. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 22:15-45, 1 Peter 2:21-23, and Matthew 20:24-28 to study the servant mindset Jesus modeled. Together we'll glean biblical wisdom for discerning the relationship between faith and power and we'll discuss the importance of developing Christlikeness. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.



"What should a church glory in? It should glory in its suffering for Christ."
~ Pastor Wang Yi, Early Rain Covenant Church ~

***** **REPORT UPDATES** *****

OCCUPIED UKRAINE: Verdict Expected for Priest Charged with Espionage
Source: Forum18

When Father Kostiantyn Maksimov was taken captive by Russian occupation forces in May 2023, little was known about the whereabouts of the Ukrainian Orthodox priest. In late March 2024, the Russian prosecutor for the Zaporizhzhia Region announced that Father Kostiantyn would be facing espionage charges.

Reports indicate that the criminal trial began on June 6th and was held at the Zaporizhzhia Regional Court in the city of Melitopol. However, Russian officials have refused to announce the identity of the judge hearing the case. Final judicial arguments are scheduled to be heard on July 31st, with a verdict to be announced on August 2nd. If convicted, Father Kostiantyn will likely be transferred to a prison in Russia, where he could be forced to serve up to 12 years.

Please remember to pray for Father Kostiantyn, along with all those who have been detained by Russian forces in the occupied territories of Ukraine because they are not associated with the Russian-approved churches. May these imprisoned believers continue to stand firm on the promises of God, relying on Him for needed provision, encouragement and strength. Pray that peace will soon come to this war-torn nation and that justice will prevail for our Christian brothers and sisters who have been affected by the ongoing violence.

Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Doug D., Justin D., Lowell S.

Upcoming Offerings

June 30 - Local Church Ministries

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

July 7 - ReFrame Ministries

In Matthew 11:38, Jesus invites us to rest in him. With the Today daily devotional, hundreds of thousands of people are taking up that invitation and being renewed in their daily time of meditation with Christ. The devotional is a gift written by CRC pastors that reaches prisoners, hospitals, churches, and other community gathering spaces with the good news of the gospel. Please support the media mission of ReFrame and the Today devotions.

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. You will be receipted for the amount of coupons you purchase. Coupons can be directly purchased from a Deacon, in the Council room on Sunday morning, after the service. They expire at the end of each year.

Budget/Local Church Ministries - Write 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.

From the Finance Committee

Janitor job opportunity - Our janitor, Jaylene, has informed us she would like to step away from the cleaning duties effective Sept. 1. This is an hourly position, with flexible hours and could be split between 2 or 3 people. If anyone is interested please contact Tom S. or the church office.

Prayer Ministry

There are times in life when everything seems overwhelming- times when you can't find answers or you don't know where to turn. But in every season of life the Spirit invites us into a relationship with God through prayer.

This is how we align our hearts with His. It is reassuring to know He is there and is listening.

Whatever you are going through-times of beauty or ones of trouble - we'd love to pray with you. Contact the team through email, the church office, phone call or through the website anonymously.

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

Full Council Meeting Highlights - June 25

- Council approved sending our Pastors and their spouses to the Pastor/Spouse Renewal Retreat November 1-3 in Banff.
- Approved the idea of having regular Hospitality families to intentionally welcome guests and increase relationships within our congregation. (see bulletin announcement for more details)
- Pastor Ken reported on Synod was and some of the difficult decisions made there that will have significant implications for the denomination and our Classis.
- Our pastors will be focusing on preparing for camp in the next couple of weeks.
- The Faith Formation video course wrapped up and Pastor Natasha and the other leaders are considering another course for Sunday nights in the fall as there was a good response.
- The Grief Share ministry will be moving forward in the fall. Pastor Natasha is still looking for 2 more leaders to help co-lead this ministry.
- Pastor Ken led a session to help families prepare to have children participate in the Lord's Supper. There will be another session in the fall for those who missed it.

Church Announcements

Synod 2024 - There is a summary, on the back foyer tables, of what happened at Synod when it came to decisions made along with a few observations. It also gives opportunity to forward in whole or in part this information to others, rather than waiting until August for the denominational summary.

For the Classis Alberta North delegates, Henry K.

Do you enjoy Hospitality? Our church has been growing and council would like to help us welcome new members and deepen existing relationships in our church. We are looking for people to sign up as Weekly Hosts who be prepared to invite guests and/or others over for lunch after Church. We are hoping to have enough people sign up that your turn would only come up ever few months. Please sign up on the bulletin board as you enter the fellowship hall. This would begin in the fall, but in the meantime, we encourage everyone to take time this summer to get to know our new members and to spend time deepening the relationships we have with each other.

Church Announcements

Invitation to anyone 60 years of age and older to join Peter & Trudy on **Thursday, July 11** for an afternoon and evening get together. Events are: 3:00pm Nature hike, 4:30pm Museum Tours, 6:00pm dinner and campfire. All you need to bring is a lawn chair. Please *RSVP by July 8* so we will be sure to have enough food. Text or phone Trudy D.

Early Morning Prayer Walk with Pastor Natasha. Come for a time of walking and prayer on **Wednesday, July 3 at 8:00 am**, meet at the tennis courts. All are welcome!

Summer Sunday School teachers & helpers are needed for the 3 & 4 year olds. There is a sign up sheet outside the classroom. Any questions, contact Bettie V. or Sandra S.

Registration forms for **Vacation Bible Camp** are on the table in the foyer and on the church website.

Youth Coming Events - June 30: Bible study @ Trevor & Sharlea L. Mark your calendars for the upcoming service project at the **Medicine Hat Gleaners August 22-24**.

Badlands Passion Play - July 6 -21 - Each summer, in the heart of the Canadian Badlands, a group of actors, crew, and volunteers perform the story of the life of Christ on Canada's largest outdoor stage. Now in its 29th seasons, over 300,000 guests have experienced the Badlands Passion Play . The play is performed on over 6 acres of playing space in the spectacular Badlands Amphitheatre. Check out the poster and coupons that are on the bulletin board in the hallway. Get tickets online or by calling 403.823.2001

Rocky Christian School requires a Full-Time Grade One teacher - Preferred candidates will have training and/or experience in Christian education. Duties are expected to commence August 27. A complete package will include a cover letter, resume, names and contact information for three references, a statement of Christian educational philosophy, a pastoral reference, and a statement describing your Christian faith journey. Applicants will possess, or be eligible for, Alberta teaching certification. The successful applicant will be required to provide original, satisfactory, and recent (within six months) criminal record and intervention record checks as a condition of employment. The Posting will remain open until the position has been filled. Please visit the Wild Rose School Division careers page to see "Competition No. T-24-25-44-RCS" at <https://www.wrsd.ca/our-division/careers/competition/17842>.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - The faith practice of remembering centers our attention on what God has done in our lives, deepening our assurance that God is with us here and now, and expanding our hope and anticipation for what God will yet do. Take some time this week to make a "faith timeline" to remember what God has done in your life and in the lives of people you love. Learn more at crna.org/FaithPracticesProject