

Upcoming Events

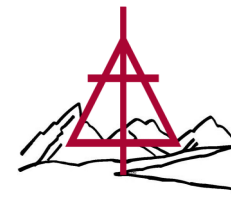
July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20
10:00am Worship Service Sunrise Camp Week 2 begins		Office: Josephine	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27
10:00am Worship Service Profession of faiths & Baptisms (at the river following the service) - coffee time to follow	Vacation Bible Camp begins 9:30am 1:30pm	Office: Cheri-Lynn	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

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

HELPLING HANDS

Thank you, for all you do!	July 14	July 21	July 28
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Jessica H.	Karl H.	John D.
Serving Deacon	Lorraine A.	Peter B.	Doug D.
Music Team	The Experience	Six Track	Lifted Hearts
Children's Message	Pastor Natasha	Joel S.	Pastor Ken
Nursery	Justin & Courtney D., Teslynn A., Marion R.	Brenda B., Sara D., Marisa P., Chelsey B.	Marlene D., Alyssa D., Margo D., Arieanna V.
Summer Sunday School	Stephanie C. HELPER NEEDED	Keanna H. Jaylene V.	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED
Coffee Host	Alan & Kelsey D.	Zachary & Gailyn B.	Glen & Anneleen D.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	John & Anita M. Art & Karen T.	Jason & Tanya P. Harold & Bevin S.	Karl & Krystal H. Doug & Penny B.



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

♪ Come Now is the Time to Worship

Call to Worship

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

♪ Great is Thy Faithfulness

Call to Confession & prayer

♪ Lord I Need You

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Christ is Mine Forevermore

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

Announcements & Congregational Prayer
Offering for Indigenous Ministry
Offertory video from Indigenous Ministry

Scripture - Psalm 62

Message - Names of God: The Rock

♪ Rock of Ages

Blessing

♪ Jesus Strong and Kind

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.firstcrocky.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 the **Church of God of Prophecy**.

† **Sonrise Camp** (ages 13-15 year olds) begins this afternoon. We pray that the campers have a great and safe week learning more about Jesus. We also pray for the staff, cooks and all the other volunteers as they spend time with the campers, sharing Christ's love.

† Next Sunday, July 21, we get to be part of something very unique for our church as we get to witness the Professions of faith and baptisms of **Justin, Courtney D. & family and Jacob & Jennifer L.** To honour their desire to be immersed, immediately after the service, we are all encouraged to come to the large sandbar at the river opposite the rodeo grounds. (You can drive right up to the river and there will be directions in the bulletin next week.) We will do the baptisms there and will have coffee at the river to celebrate with them rather than doing it at the church. We hope you will be able to join us!

† 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.



Pastor Mum came to faith in Christ during 2019 and, since then, Christians have gathered freely in his home for prayer and worship. Until recent months, they were able to meet without interference from village officials, and the number of believers gathering on a regular basis had grown to more than 40. However, since the election of the new village chief (whose name is Lang) took place this past May, a crackdown on Christian belief and practices was instituted in the area.

As a Communist country with close ties to Vietnam and China, the Laotian government endeavours to exercise control over all churches within the nation. Further opposition against Christianity arises because of disapproving Buddhist influences throughout society.

Pray for the recently arrested church members, as well as the other Christians in this village who are now experiencing opposition from local leaders because of their faith in Jesus. May each one of these Christian brothers and sisters look to Christ as their ultimate source of unwavering hope, strength and perseverance. In addition, pray that Pastor Mum and the five other detained believers will soon be released from custody without any further repercussions from the authorities.

VIETNAM: Location of 11 Christian Prisoners Unknown

Sources: International Christian Concern, The Christian Post

Human rights organizations around the world are raising concerns about the fate of 11 Christian prisoners in Vietnam. The Christian men were all sentenced to prison at different times between 2011 and 2016. It has recently come to light that their whereabouts remain a mystery, and that the believers who should have completed their sentences by now were not yet released to return home.

Among the 11 missing prisoners, six are members of the Degar Protestant Church – a religious movement that does not have government approval. The Degar people (also known as the Montagnards, an indigenous tribal group) are subjected to both ethnic and religious discrimination.

The six Christians were sentenced for a variety of charges, which ranged from "undermining national unity policy" to cutting down trees without permission. The remaining five men are members of the Ha Mon Catholic Church – another religious group that operates without official approval from the government. These church members were also accused of "undermining national unity policy."

In addition to raising awareness of the missing men, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has published reports describing the alleged torture and mistreatment of four other imprisoned Christians. In the most recent report, USCIRF warns of persistent religious freedom violations being committed by the authorities in Vietnam, particularly against ethno-religious minorities.

As the families of the missing prisoners anxiously await news about their loved ones, please join with them in prayer for the safe return of these 11 men. May information regarding the whereabouts and well-being of each one soon come to light. Also intercede for the many other Christians throughout Vietnam who are encountering opposition for their faith in Christ, asking our Heavenly Father to sustain them daily with His protection, strength and courage.

*"Once we serve God, surely we must go the way of the cross.
So I will not quarrel against the Lord for what has happened."
~ Pastor Quang - A church leader in Vietnam ~*

PAKISTAN: Blasphemy Conviction for Online Posts

Sources: Morning Star News, International Christian Concern, The Christian Post, ABC News

In August 2023, the Christian colony of Jaranwala was filled with violence after allegations of blasphemy were made against two brothers. During the rampage, as many as 400 homes and 26 church buildings were damaged or destroyed.

In the aftermath of the violence, a 28-year-old Christian man, named Ehsaan "Shan" Masih, allegedly shared content on his TikTok account in support of the accused Christian brothers. Additionally, claims were made that his posts included defaced pages of the Quran. As a result, Shan was arrested and charged with blasphemy.

On June 29th of this year, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan convicted the young man of blasphemy. Even though Pakistani authorities have never yet carried out a death sentence for blasphemy, by default, this crime is punishable by death. Shan categorically denies creating or posting any blasphemous content on social media, and therefore intends to appeal the verdict. On July 2nd, a rally was held in Karachi by supporters of the convicted Christian in protest of the sentence against him.

Remember to uphold Shan in your prayers as he faces the possibility of spending numerous years in prison – along with the risk of the death penalty – asking that this young man will receive greatly needed peace, comfort and assurance through the presence of God's Holy Spirit. May justice and mercy prevail in this believer's case, allowing him to be freed of all charges. Also, please continue to pray for the Lord's sustaining grace and provision on behalf of the many other followers of Jesus in Pakistan who are presently imprisoned or facing blasphemy charges, often for no valid reason.

LAOS: Six Christians Arrested by Village Chief

Sources: Human Rights Watcher for Lao Religious Freedom, International Christian Concern

On June 22nd, believers from the village of Tahae gathered at the home of Pastor Mum for a time of prayer in preparation for their Sunday worship service the next day. While the followers of Jesus were praying, the village chief – along with four other community officials – suddenly entered the home before arresting the pastor and five believers because of their Christian faith.

Those arrested along with Pastor Mum have been identified as two men named Liang and Pa, and three women named Laen, Lan and Khoon. At last report, these Christians were imprisoned in the Xaibouathong district prison.

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

Upcoming Offerings

July 14 - Indigenous Ministry

The upcoming Indigenous Ministry Sunday resources highlight the experiencing reconciliation through doughnuts! Indigenous Ministry Sunday provides an opportunity for everyone in Canada to learn more about Indigenous peoples, their cultures and to celebrate the gifts and richness that Indigenous people bring to life in Canada. The CRC dedicates one Sunday every year to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day and to celebrate the Indigenous Ministry of the CRC.

July 21 - 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.

Gratefully Received June 23 & 30

Centerpoint (Brazil Flooding Relief) \$1,086 Benevolence \$50
Pregnancy Care Center \$100 Local Church Ministries \$7,338

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)

Church Announcements

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.

Early Morning Prayer Walk with Pastor Natasha. Come for a time of walking and prayer on **Wednesday mornings 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. (July 28, August 4, 11, 25 and September 1) 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 - service project at the **Medicine Hat Gleaners August 22-24**.

GEMS Camp needs you! We are still in need of 1 **cabin leader** and 1-2 **cooks**. Camp is scheduled for July 29 - August 2 at Camp Rehoboth by Gull Lake. If you are interested in joining us for a week of fun and fellowship please speak to Bonnie 403.652.1078. Thank you!

Burden Bearers Golf Tournament - **Thursday, August 1** at the Sundre Golf Club. The mission of Burden Bearers has been to provide dedicated counseling services to the people in our community who need them most, even when they are unable to contribute financially. Due to our deep commitment and desire to continue offering these services, we come to you looking for golfers and tournament sponsors. Last year \$3500 was raised and this year they hope to raise \$5000 for continued affordable counseling services, with your help. See the poster on the bulletin board by the social hall or call Mari Lee 403.804.8589 or Darrin 403.638.3191 for more information.

World Renew

Make an Impact by Volunteering with World Renew - This fall, World Renew has volunteer openings for individual adults, couples, or church groups to help in areas impacted by disasters. These one-week trips include home repair and cleanup projects that give vulnerable homeowners a chance to rebuild their lives. No matter your skillset, lending your time and talents as a volunteer with World Renew will have lasting reach. Learn more and sign up at worldrenew.net/volunteer.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In the sacrament of The Lord's Supper we remember both the great sacrifice and the wonderful gift of Jesus' death and resurrection. Think and talk about how you might more fully enter into both the sorrow and the joy as you celebrate communion. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

ReFrame Ministries

Family Fire - Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Kids Corner: Light for Your Path - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Make devotions a habit. Pick a time and try to be consistent. Before bed is an excellent time for this, but it can be anytime during the day. Spending time with God's Word and in prayer is the lamp for your path you need! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

Groundwork: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - Scripture helps us to better understand the nature of each person of the Trinity and the awesome phenomena of their unity as One. Join Groundwork as we study Deuteronomy 1:31, Psalm 103, Matthew 6:9-14, 25-34, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 4:15-16, Philippians 2:5-8, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Genesis 1:2, and John 14:16-17 to discuss the unique attributes and work of each person of our triune God. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.