

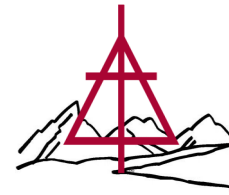
Upcoming Events

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 Sonrise Camp Week 2 begins	Vacation Bible Camp begins 9:30am 1:30pm	Office: <i>Cheri-Lynn</i>	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
July 28	July 29	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27
10:00am Worship Service		Office: <i>Josephine</i>	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.

Thank you, for all you do!	July 21	July 28	Aug. 4
	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha
Serving Elder	Karl H.	John D.	Dave S.
Serving Deacon	Peter B.	Doug D.	Justin D.
Music Team	The Experience	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic
Children's Message	Joel S.	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha
Nursery	Brenda B., Sara D. Marisa P., Chelsey B.	Marlene D., Alyssa D. Margo D., Arieanna V.	Stephanie C., Miyah B., Mark & Keanna H.
Summer Sunday School	Keanna H. Jaylene V.	TEACHER NEEDED TEACHER NEEDED	TEACHER NEEDED TEACHER NEEDED
Coffee Host	Zachary & Cailyn B..	Glen & Anneleen D.	Mark & Jessica H.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Jason & Tanya P. Harold & Bevin S.	Karl & Krystal H. Doug & Penny B.	Shaun & Maeghan M. Ken & Cheri- Lynn 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

♪ What a Beautiful Name

Call to Worship

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

♪ Come Thou Fount

Call to Confession & prayer

♪ To the River

Assurance of Pardon

♪ In Christ Alone

Children's Message - Joel S.
(Sunday School for ages 3 & 4)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Local Church Ministries

Offertory

Scripture - John 8:12-20

Message - Names of Jesus: Light of the World

♪ O Praise the Name of the Lord our God

Baptism and Professions of Faith - Justin and Courtney D. and Jennifer and Jacob L. Lorelei C.

Blessing

♪ All is Well

Please join us for the Baptisms to follow after the service at the sandbar across from the rodeo grounds. See bulletin for directions.

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](https://www.facebook.com/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 the **Church of the Nazarene**.

† **VBC starts tomorrow, 9:30 am-1:30pm**. We pray that the little ones 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 children, sharing Christ's love.

† Today 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. & family, Lorelei C.** 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). 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!

† Congratulations to **Trudy D.** as she celebrates her birthday today. May God bless you in the year ahead.

† 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.



Please prayerfully uphold all those who have been affected by the ongoing violence in Nigeria. For those mourning the loss of their loved ones, may God's Spirit bring greatly needed comfort. For those who have been kidnapped, pray that they will be safely released from captivity. In the meantime, may the captives and their anxious family members be filled with God's peace which is beyond all comprehension (Philippians 4:7). Also intercede for the many followers of Jesus who have lost their homes, businesses and churches in the destruction. Despite the violence, may the Gospel message of eternal life spread throughout communities across Nigeria, bringing peace, hope and harmony to this beleaguered nation.

With the ongoing trauma experienced by our Nigerian family in Christ – along with the constant risk of further attacks – church leaders in the country are seeking ways to effectively help their congregations. Recently, VOMC's Greg Musselman travelled to Nigeria, along with one of our credible ministry partners, to present the *Theology of Persecution and Discipleship* course to pastors in affected areas. You may view the June 2024 *Closer to the Fire* podcast episode to hear about this training opportunity at [this page](#). To read more about the violence committed against Christians in Nigeria, and to access other informative video reports, see our [country profile](#).

UZBEKISTAN: Proposed Law Introduces New Punishments for Religious Education

A draft law, which is purported to "further strengthen the rights of children," recently passed its first reading in Uzbek parliament. However, the proposed legislation seeks to punish parents or guardians who allow their children to receive "illegal" religious education before reaching the age of 18. Religious education already faces several restrictions in Uzbekistan, but existing laws presently only target those who teach religion to children. Under the new law, however, parents would be subjected to fines and up to 15 days in jail for allowing such teaching. The government's Interior Ministry claims that the legislation aims to prevent children from falling under the influence of terrorist groups.

On June 26th, the Legislative Chamber published the draft law on its website. The posting has led to strong opposition from members of the public. One commenter stated, "What kind of parents...do not give religious education to their children?" A social media post by another concerned individual questioned the government's methodology: "What we found is that religious radicalism and fanaticism are on the rise. If [they are] on the rise, shouldn't religion be taught more deeply? Can bans work?"

While the law is publicly being promoted as a means of restricting militant Islamic training, it's evident that the repercussions of the new proposed law will affect all faith groups. Many Uzbek citizens have expressed concerns that their right to 'freedom of religion or belief' will be further restricted as a result. More details on the challenges facing Christians in Uzbekistan are available at our [country report](#).

Pray that the governing leaders of Uzbekistan will come to fully respect the religious rights of all citizens. Ask our Heavenly Father to work powerfully in the hearts and minds of the country's legislators so that this proposed law will either not be passed or that it will be amended to allow parents to continue providing religious instruction to their children. May the youth throughout this Central Asian nation have opportunities to hear the message of God's saving grace and, as a result, become instrumental in leading many others to faith in Christ as well.

"Christ died for our sins; now He has forgiven all our sins. He loves us. That's why we must show love to the people who hate us."

~ Habila Adamu, a Nigerian believer who was shot by a Boko Haram terrorist in 2012

NIGERIA: Ongoing Violence Leads to Church Closures

Nigeria is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian. One estimate states that, on average, every two hours there is a Christian in Nigeria who dies. The ongoing brutality comes from numerous directions, and news reports only reflect a small portion of the violent incidents that take place – whether they involve fatalities, abductions or the destruction of properties. In many cases, multiple atrocities take place during a terrorist attack.

In addition to the physical effects of the violence, the psychological impacts on communities are extreme. Survivors often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety. Furthermore, the constant threat of attacks makes it very difficult for communities to rebuild and thrive.

In one recent incident, Islamic Fulani militants ambushed the village of Maiyanga in Plateau State on July 7th. Three Christians had been killed in the raid and two others were injured. During a previous attack in Plateau State that took place on June 2nd, Pastor Dauda Dalyop from the hamlet of Ari Songo was killed alongside his wife Chummy Dauda, in addition to three other slain victims: Chwe Ajuhs, Joshua Kusa and Rikwe Doro.

For one denomination, continued attacks have forced 70 churches to close in northeastern Nigeria. Pastor Amos Mohzo, who serves as president for the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), reported: "All our worship church buildings in these communities were burned down by terrorists. Christians are still living in camps outside their communities." According to Pastor Amos, while the church desires to continue reaching out to others with the Gospel message, the ongoing attacks are preventing their evangelistic activities. "How can we deliberately jeopardize and endanger the lives of those called to ministry when we know that they'll become targets of terrorist attacks?"

For Christians in Nigeria who suffer kidnappings, such attacks cause severe trauma and heartache to the victims, as well as those who love them. In March 2023, Pastor Paul Musa and his wife were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists. Often, the militants behind these attacks make exorbitant ransom demands which are impossible to pay. Pastor Amos recently visited the children of the kidnapped couple, who pled on behalf of their parents. "The children are always crying...always in tears for their parents. It pains my heart to see these children in this way," he lamented.

In the midst of the pain, there are also occasions for joy. On July 7th, a Roman Catholic priest, Mikah Suleiman, was safely released from captivity. No details have been announced concerning the identities of his kidnappers nor the terms for his release. In a video-recorded message released shortly after Father Mikah's homecoming, the priest said: "I want to thank you for your prayers and support towards my rescue. By the grace of God, I'm out from the hands of the bandits."

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

Upcoming Offerings

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.

July 28 – Canadian Food Grains Bank

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of Canadian Christian churches and church-based agencies working to end global hunger.

Gratefully Received July 7-14

Indigenous Ministries 843, Lomavatu's 250, World Renew 100, Reframe Ministries 975
Pregnancy Care 1096, Local Ministries 5640

E-Transfers Received for June

Local Budget 5,400 Pregnancy Care Centre 100 Canadian Food Grains Bank 150 Brazil Flood Relief 200

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 Smid 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 every 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.

Directions to River Baptism site. Take highway 11A west cross the bridge, take a right turn at West End Husky and follow the road until you see the rodeo grounds and look for the sandbar on your right.

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

World Renew Malawi and Zambia Discovery Tour - Two countries, one trip! Embark on a journey across Southern Africa from November 8-17, 2024 as World Renew unveils the inspiring work in both Malawi and Zambia. This exclusive opportunity invites you to immerse yourself in the rich cultures and breathtaking landscapes of these nations while witnessing the transformative impact of World Renew's initiatives. Delve into the heart of our programs, build connections with our dedicated partners, and experience firsthand the profound change taking root in these communities, by the power of God. For more information and for registration, visit: <https://bit.ly/mztour2024>

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Telling our faith stories to other generations is a deeply meaningful way to help us remember together what God has done. Check out our intergenerational story-starter questions at tinyurl.com/StoryStarterQuestions. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Devoted - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Is there something you are really devoted to? When we are devoted to something, we give all our time and energy to it - that's why reading our Bible and praying is called "devotions." Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

Groundwork: The Trinity in Worship, Prayer, and Daily Life - The Christian belief in the Holy Trinity significantly influences our worship, prayer, and daily living. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Hebrews 4:14-16, Romans 8:26-35, and Acts 2:42 to see how these biblical truths shape and inform how we glorify God and touch every aspect of our lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Deaconal Ministries

Deacon Training is Available - Does your team of deacons need support and encouragement right now? Would you like some training or resources in the areas of community engagement, stewardship, justice, or benevolence? Contact Diaconal Ministries Canada today - our staff and Diaconal Coaches are willing and ready to serve you and your church and equip your deacons as they lead in your church and local communities! Call 1-800-730-3490, e-mail dmc@crcna.org, or visit our website for more information: diaconalministries.com.