

Upcoming Events

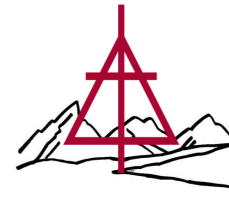
July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	August 1	August 2	August 3
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Josephine	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
August 4	August 5	August 6	August 7	August 8	August 9	August 10
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30pm Deacons	8:00am 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.

HELPI NGS HANDS

Thank you, for all you do!	July 28	August 4	August 11
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Roy Berkenbosch
Serving Elder	John D.	Dave S.	Chris T.
Serving Deacon	Doug D.	Justin D.	Ken B.
Music Team	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	The Experience
Children's Message	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha	Elroy L.
Nursery	Marlene D., Alyssa D. Margo D., Arieanna V.	Stephanie C., Miyah B., Mark & Keanna H.	Cody & Teagan L., Kelsey D., Ruth D.
Summer Sunday School	Jessica H. Lucas H.	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED	Krystal H. HELPER NEEDED
Coffee Host	Glen & Anneleen D.	Mark & Jessica H.	Anthony & Lydia B.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Karl & Krystal H. Doug & Penny B.	Shaun & Maeghan M. Ken & Cheri- Lynn B.	Chris & Regan T. Dick & Rose W.



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

♪ Awesome God

Call to Worship

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

♪ You Shine

Call to Confession & prayer

♪ Thy Word

Assurance of Pardon

♪ His Name is Wonderful

Children's Message - Pastor Ken

(Sunday School for ages 3 & 4)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Offertory

Scripture - Jeremiah 10:1-16

Message - Names of God - El Chay - the Living God

♪ As the Deer

Blessing

♪ Let All Things Now Living

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](#)

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 **Cornerstone Christian Fellowship**.

† Birthday congratulations go out to **Tom S.** who celebrates a birthday today, and to those celebrating this week: **Norah B.** (29), **Larry S.** (29), **Rita B.** (30), **Elly O.** (30) and **Jerry F.** (August 2)! May all your special day be filled with many blessings!

† **Pastor Ken, Sara and the girls** will be leaving for 4 weeks of holidays after the service. He will be back in the office on August 27th. Please contact your elder, Pastor Natasha or the office regarding any pastoral needs while he is away.

† 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.



If implemented, Rajasthan would become the 11th of the country's 28 states to implement such legislation. A lawyer representing the state claims that the government intends to take "stringent steps to control fraudulent religious conversion and religious conversion by intimidation, threatening, and deceptively luring through gifts and monetary benefits." Unfortunately, such laws have shown to be overbroad and frequently abused by militant Hindus in order to specifically target Christians.

After state elections last year in Karnataka, the victory of the Indian National Congress party resulted in the repeal of similar legislation in June 2023, only a year after it had been passed. For more details, see this report.

Pray for guidance on behalf of Christians in Rajasthan and the country's other states where the widely abused anti-conversion laws have already been enacted. May our Indian brothers and sisters in Christ receive greatly needed wisdom, discernment and courage, especially as they endeavor to share the message of the Gospel to the spiritually impoverished all around them, so that multitudes more will come to faith in Jesus. Further, pray that as the anti-conversion laws are being debated, God will sovereignly guide the legislative decisions of the country's governing leaders – resulting in religious freedom and the protection of human rights for all citizens.

PAKISTAN: New Law Enacted to Protect Christian Girls Under 18

Sources: Agenzia Fides, Zenit, National Catholic Register, Christian Daily, Morning Star News

In a decision referred to as "a step forward" by Christian leaders, the National Assembly of Pakistan recently passed an amendment to an act governing Christian marriages, banning matrimony for Christians under the age of 18. After the law was enacted on July 10th, Naveed Amir Jeeva, a Christian member of the National Assembly, stated, "The legislation aims to protect young girls from early and forced marriages, ensuring their access to education and health."

The legislation is limited in that it only applies to the Islamabad Capital Territory – a federal region centered around the nation's capital city. However, there are hopes that it will be used as a template to expand such policies throughout Pakistan. A similar law was introduced in the province of Punjab in April but has not yet been passed. Christian girls in Pakistan are frequently kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam, and then married to their kidnapers.

Prayerfully uphold Alina's family members as they seek to recover this young teenage girl from her kidnapper. While awaiting deliverance from captivity, pray that Alina will also be filled with divine strength, courage and hope, placing her trust in the Lord to rescue her from this horrific situation. In the midst of the ongoing violence against vulnerable victims like Alina, we can be thankful for the recent legislation that was passed by the Pakistani national government in order to prevent such cases from occurring in the future. May the legislation in Punjab likewise be passed, leading to the enactment of similar laws throughout the nation. Moreover, may policies be established and enforced to stop the forcible conversions of Christians at any age. In the meantime, please continue to pray for the safe return of the many innocent Pakistani girls and young women who have previously been kidnapped and presently remain in difficult and forced relationships.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience,
but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."
~ C.S. Lewis ~

PAKISTAN: Christian Killed After Advocating for Harassed Victims

Marshall Masih, a Christian father of four, was gunned down by four men from his neighbourhood in the city of Lahore during the early hours of July 10th. Marshall (who was also known as Bunty) had previously filed a police complaint against two Muslim neighbours, named Shani and Azam, because they had been harassing Christian women in the area and shooting their guns into the air. In retaliation, the two men broke into Marshall's home with the help of two other local Muslims and shot the young father 15 times.

The killing has left an entire family without support, as Marshall was the sole provider for his wife and children, as well as his elderly parents. Following the devastating attack, his sister Goshi stated, "The Muslims were offended that a Christian had taken a stance against their criminal activities and, by killing him in cold blood, they have shown that our lives do not matter."

While police are presently investigating the incident, no arrests have been made at the time of publishing this report. Christians in the community have protested the lack of response from the authorities, stating that the attackers are known drug dealers who had recently been released from jail. Investigations for crimes against followers of Jesus in Pakistan are frequently delayed or dismissed due to pressure from militant Muslim community members.

Please prayerfully uphold Marshall's wife, Mehdi, along with his children, sisters and parents as they deal with the sudden loss of this young man, asking the Lord to minister peace, protection and comfort in each of their lives. May the local authorities actively pursue justice against those responsible for this senseless tragedy. As for the difficult financial situation the victim's loved ones are now experiencing, pray that our Heavenly Father will abundantly provide for their daily practical needs, as well as provisions of spiritual strength, healing and the grace to forgive the perpetrators of the crime.

INDIA: Rajasthan State to Introduce Anti-Conversion Legislation

Sources: International Christian Concern, The Indian Express, Hindustan Times, VOM Australia

In an affidavit filed earlier this month before India's Supreme Court, officials from the Indian state of Rajasthan announced their plans to introduce legislation that would ban so-called forced religious conversions. The proposal comes after the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took control of the state following elections in late November, unseating the more centrist Indian National Congress.

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

Upcoming Offerings

July 28 – Canadian Food Grains Bank

An international partnership to end hunger. Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. We work with locally-based organizations in developing countries to meet emergency food needs, achieve long-term solutions to hunger and work to foster informed action by Canadians and governments to support this international cause.

Gratefully Received July 7-14

Indigenous Ministries \$843 Lomavatu's \$250 World Renew \$100
Reframe Ministries \$975 Pregnancy Care Centre \$1096 Local Church Ministries \$5640

E-Transfers Received for June

Local Church Ministries \$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 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 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.

Summer Sunday School teachers & helpers are needed for the 3 & 4 year olds. (August 4 & 25 and Sept. 1) There is a sign up sheet outside the classroom. Any questions, contact Bettie V. or Sandra S.

Youth Coming Events - service project at the **Medicine Hat Gleaners August 22-24.**

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

Neglected Crisis: Help Change the Forgotten Stories Your church has probably been moved to give when the media has focused on the impacts of disaster or conflict. But what happens after the cameras leave? World Renew and our Christian partners continue to help communities in countries like South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Madagascar, where extreme weather challenges or ongoing conflict can keep families in a state of hopelessness. As a member of the Integral Alliance, World Renew is working to draw attention to neglected crises. Your gift can help World Renew continue to work to share Christ's hope with communities forgotten by the media. To learn more, visit: worldrenew.ca/globalfoodcrisis

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Pass It On! - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Daily devotions in our families help us deepen our understanding of God's big story. And it can be fun, too. We can listen, look at pictures, act out the stories, and ask our wondering questions. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

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.

Groundwork: God Creates - The theme of creation echoes throughout the Bible. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Genesis 1, Revelation 21:22-24, Psalm 139:13-14, Hebrews 1:1-3, and Colossians 1:15-17 to discuss what this theme reveals to us about God's character, love, and intentions. Then we'll consider our call to reflect God's creativity with our own as bearers of his image. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Resonate Global Mission

Thank you for joining God's story of transforming lives through your partnership with Resonate! Your church's gifts and prayers equip your missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers with the resources they need to flourish. Together with you, we work to encourage them, equip them, and send them to live and share the gospel to the ends of the earth. It's only through working together that we can faithfully proclaim and live out the hope that Jesus provides. You are a vital partner in growing God's Kingdom—and your church's faithful giving is helping to fuel ministry happening both at home and overseas. Thank you for empowering leaders to share the gospel to the ends of the earth! And thank you for all you do to shine the light of Christ—in your own church, and through your support of your Resonate missionaries and ministry leaders. We couldn't do it without your partnership and support!

In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Director of Resonate Global Mission

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - In Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God." How might we prepare ourselves to recognize interruptions as opportunities to serve? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

The Banner

Support The Banner! - We need your help to reach our annual goal of raising \$500,000 by July 31. Your partnership will enable The Banner to continue reaching North Americans with inspiring and insightful Christian content for another full year. Please donate now at TheBanner.org/Give