

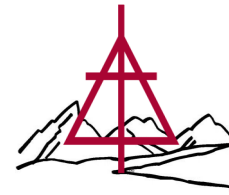
Upcoming Events

August 11	August 12	August 13	August 14	August 15	August 16	August 17
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Josephine 7:30 pm Admin	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23	August 24
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Cheri-Lynn	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline Youth Service Project to Medicine Hat Gleaners →		

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!	August 11	August 18	August 25
	Pastor Roy B.	Rob D.	Pastor Cecil V.
Serving Elder	Chris T.	Dave S.	Albert V.
Serving Deacon	Lorraine A.	Ken B.	Peter B.
Music Team	The Experience	Six Track	Lifted Hearts
Children's Message	Elroy L.	Joel S.	Corinne S.
Nursery	Cody & Teagan L. Kelsey D., Ruth D.	Sjoukje V., Allison B., Justin & Mikala D.	Karl & Krystal H., Isabelle D., Travis A.
Summer Sunday School	Krystal H. Ben D.	Gailyn B. Miyah B. & Cadence B.	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED
Coffee Host	Anthony & Lydia B.	Bryan & Cheryl D.	Edward & Janelle V.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Chris & Regan T. Dick & Rose W.	John & Rina V. Dustin D. & Jeffrey D.	Neels & Dina H. Ryan & Alissa L.



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, August 11

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Body of Evidence

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

Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ Your Name

Call to Worship

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

♪ Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

♪ Boldly I Approach

Call to Confession & prayer

Assurance of Pardon

♪ In Christ Alone

Children's Message - Elroy

(Sunday School for ages 3 & 4)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Bible League

Offertory

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Message - Body of Evidence

♪ We are One Body

Blessing

♪ How Great is Our God

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 **Coyote Creek Chapel (Sunchild Reserve)**.

† Congratulations to **Ella V.** (16) and **Joe V.** (16) who will be celebrating birthdays this coming week! Blessings to you on your special day!

† Congratulations to **Nolan & Anna V.** on the birth of a son, Nash Cohen (July 31). A little brother for Maci & Lincoln and grandson for Gary & Shirley.

† August 9-12 the **Cadets, counselors and horses pulling wagons with drivers** are heading out west of Cutoff Creek for a camping weekend. As we spend this weekend together, we appreciate your prayers for safety and a renewed sense of how we fit into God's story.

† Pastor Ken & Pastor Natasha are on holidays until the last week of August, if there is a pastoral need, please contact your Elder.

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Sylvia D., Gus & Margaret V.** and **Joe & Lena.** 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.



REPORT UPDATES

OCCUPIED UKRAINE: Priest Sentenced to 14 Years in Labour Camp
Source: Forum18

In May 2023, Father Kostiantyn Maksimov was taken captive by Russian occupation forces from his home in the Zaporizhzhia area of Ukraine. In March 2024, it was announced that he was accused of reporting the location of Russian air defenses and consequently charged with espionage.

On August 2nd, Father Kostiantyn was found guilty by the Russian-controlled court and sentenced to 14 years in a forced labour camp. This verdict was announced despite the fact that, according to international law, Russian legislation cannot be enforced in occupied territory.

The Orthodox priest's mother, Svetlana Maksimova, was in shock, since she had been hoping for a lesser sentence. "We will appeal against the sentence, though I don't think it will be changed," she stated. Svetlana hopes that her son will be included in a future prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine. In the meantime, it is expected that Father Kostiantyn will remain incarcerated in occupied Ukrainian territory until his appeal has been heard. If the hearing is unsuccessful, he will likely be transferred to a prison camp in Russia.

Pray for the success of Father Kostiantyn's appeal and that this imprisoned church leader will be released from custody. As he awaits the appeal hearing, may Father Kostiantyn receive divine strength, provision and protection. Please also pray for greatly needed comfort and peace on behalf of the detained Christian leader's concerned family members, friends and congregants during this time of uncertainty. Continue to pray for peace in this war-torn nation and for the Lord's protection over our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ – as well as the many other innocent people living in occupied regions of the country.

OCCUPIED UKRAINE: Priest Sentenced to 14 Years in Labour Camp
Source: Forum18

In 2023, Reverend Dr. Hkalam Samson was sentenced to six years in prison under the country's anti-terrorism laws. See this page for an earlier report on the charges against this prominent Christian leader. Although Dr. Samson was released under a general amnesty on April 17th of this year, later that evening, the authorities came to his home and detained him again, allegedly for questioning.

For the next three months, the Christian man was kept as a "guest" of the police in the visitor facility of Myitkyina Prison. While Dr. Samson's family members were able to visit him during this time, the pastor was not allowed to leave the prison. With thanksgiving, it has now been reported by multiple sources that Dr. Samson was finally released on the morning of July 22nd. Few additional details are available at the time of publishing this report.

Praise God that Dr. Samson has been allowed to return home after such a lengthy ordeal. May this Christian leader now be free to resume his life and ministry activities without encountering any further interference from the authorities. Pray for the ongoing ministry of the Gospel throughout the nation of Myanmar, asking that – in spite of experiencing persecution and opposition from governing officials – believers will remain resilient and strong in their faith as they endeavour to lead many more Burmese people to Christ.

*"I never realized what a great privilege it is to be able to use the voice for Christ until I was deprived of it."
~ Adoniram Judson ~ Early missionary to Myanmar (Burma) ~*

LAOS: Pastor Fatally Shot in His Home

Sources: VOM USA, International Christian Concern, Radio Free Asia, Morning Star News

Thongkham Philavanh was a pastor among the Khmu people of northern Laos, where he also served as the provincial head of the Lao Evangelical Church. Actively involved in ministry throughout the province of Oudomxai, he was closely monitored by authorities and had been repeatedly warned to stop his Christian activities.

On the evening of July 22nd, two masked gunmen came to Pastor Thongkham's home in Chang Village. After a brief altercation, the church leader was shot twice. Despite being rushed to a local hospital, he died on arrival. The 40-year-old Christian leaves behind a wife and two children, along with numerous foster children who received refuge in their loving home.

This incident is the latest in a series of attacks on Christians in Laos, including the unsolved murder of Pastor Sy Seng Manee in October 2022 (read more), along with numerous other acts of violence.

As the Lord brings them to your mind, please remember to pray for the families of Pastor Thongkham and Pastor Sy as they mourn the loss of these dear Christian leaders, asking our Heavenly Father to minister His abounding comfort, love and peace to each one. Also pray for Pastor Thongkham's church and community members who are deeply missing their leader who was known for his "profound wisdom, unwavering faith and boundless compassion." Pray for the ongoing ministry efforts of our Christian brothers and sisters in Laos, asking for increased opportunities to spread the hope of the Gospel message throughout this Communist nation.

REPORT UPDATES

IRAN: Christian Woman Threatened with Second Conviction

Sources: Human Rights in Iran, Article18

After living abroad for a period of time, Laleh Saati returned to her home country of Iran in 2017 to care for her elderly parents. However, in February 2024, Laleh was arrested because she had converted to Christianity while living in Malaysia. This Iranian follower of Jesus was sentenced to two years in prison for "acting against national security by connecting with 'Zionist' Christian organizations."

It has recently come to light that Laleh has been experiencing increased interrogation in prison. Her mother was also interrogated and warned that Laleh may face a second conviction because the case has been publicized to foreign media. While serving time in the notorious Evin Prison, the young Christian woman was also denied psychological treatment which she required due to the duress of her imprisonment.

Remember Laleh in your prayers as she withstands harsh treatment in prison because of her faith, praying that this sister in Christ will be divinely protected, strengthened and comforted – knowing that God assuredly promises to never leave nor forsake His children (Deuteronomy 31:6). Pray that this believer will also receive the psychological care she needs, and that threats of further charges against her would not come to fruition. Additionally, please pray for the protection and courage of Laleh's mother, who has likewise suffered mistreatment because of her daughter's conversion to Christ, asking that this dear elderly woman would be kept safe from harm and harassment as well.

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

Upcoming Offerings

August 11 - Bible League

We partner with Christian Ministry Organizations to reach people in nearly 50 countries worldwide.

This work falls into four categories of programs: Children's Ministry, Starting New Churches, Adult Bible-Based Literacy, and work within the Persecuted Church.

We equip local champions to bring God's Word to people living in spiritual and physical poverty.

The power of the Holy Spirit is working to transform communities, and even entire nations, from the inside out.

August 18 - Rocky Christian School

Motto: Learning, Loving, and Living for our Lord

Mission: Rocky Christian school is a non-denominational community of Christian believers, dedicated to developing and pursuing excellence in Christ-centered education.

Beliefs: Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the home, the church and the school will work together to equip students to live lives that honour God and contribute to society in positive ways.

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

Second quarter financial statements are available on the table in the foyer.

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

Thank you - The family of Dick O. would like to thank Pastor Ken and the congregation for all your visits, thoughts and prayers. The last months have been hard but knowing that we are not alone in this journey, this helps us to be able to go forward. We know that we will see Dick again. To God be the glory.

Jo-Ann, Jessie, Arlyn Raph and Sean

New Address - Please note a new address for Lowell & Chris S.

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 will 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 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.**

Lost and Found - items that have been left at church or from summer ministries are on the table by the mailboxes. Please take a look to see if you are missing something.

Church Announcements

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (March 28 - April 8, 2025): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information contact Dr. Weima at 616.328.3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Remember Who You Are - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net.

There is no more incredible blessing than knowing we are God's children. God delights in us and knows our names. He calls us and walks with us always. God helps us always to remember who we are. 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 Redeems - The biblical theme of redemption is unique to Christian theology and sets Christianity apart from other religions. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 12:1-5, Ephesians 1:3-11, Galatians 2:20-21, and Ephesians 2:1-5 to trace God's story of redemption from Genesis to the ultimate sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ and talk about living redeemed lives as we go about our daily lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Jesus is our model for true servanthood. What characteristics and practices of Jesus could each of us emulate to help us develop a servant heart? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

World Renew

World Renew Malawi and Zambia Discovery Tour - Two countries, one trip! Embark on a journey across Southern Africa from November 8-18, 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>