

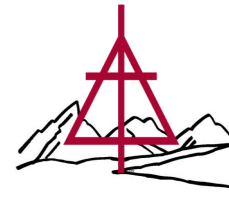
## Upcoming Events

August 4	August 5	August 6	August 7	August 8	August 9	August 10
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30 pm Deacons	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
August 11	August 12	August 13	August 14	August 15	August 16	August 17
10:00am Worship Service Guest Pastor- Roy Berkenbosch		Office: Josephine 7:30 pm Admin	8:00am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		

All bulletins can be found online [www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca)

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website ([firstcrocky.ca](http://firstcrocky.ca)) for links to sermons.

Thank you, for all you do!	August 4	August 11	August 18
	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Roy B.	Rob D.
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Gary V.	Chris T.	Dave S.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Justin D.	Ken B.	Lorraine A.
<b>Music Team</b>	Mosaic	The Experience	Six Track
<b>Children's Message</b>	Pastor Natasha	Elroy L.	Joel S.
<b>Nursery</b>	Stephanie C., Miyah B. Mark & Keanna H.	Cody & Teagan L. Kelsey D., Ruth D.	Sjoukje V., Allison B. Justin & Mikala D.
<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	Cheryl D. Russel D. & Ryan B.	Krystal H. HELPER NEEDED	Gailyn B. Miyah B. & Cadence B.
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Mark & Jessica H.	Anthony & Lydia B.	Bryan & Cheryl D.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Shaun & Maeghan M. Ken & Cheri-Lynn B.	Chris & Regan T. Dick & Rose W.	John & Rina V. Dustin & Jeffrey D.



## 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](mailto:kgdouma@gmail.com) 780.728.8148

Pastor Natasha Specht- [pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca](mailto:pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca) (Monday -Thursday)

Church Office: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm [office@rockycrc.ca](mailto:office@rockycrc.ca)



### Morning Worship Service

Welcome

🎵 10,000 Reasons

Responsive Call to Worship  
God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

🎵 Jesus Messiah

Call to Confession & prayer/Prayer of Confession  
🎵 The River

Assurance of Pardon

🎵 Jesus Strong and Kind

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

Announcements & Congregational Prayer  
Offering for Local Church Ministries  
Offertory

Scripture - Philippians 2:1-11  
Message - Names of Jesus: Servant of God

🎵 How Deep the Fathers Love For Us

Blessing  
🎵 Living Hope

## 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](http://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 **Covenant Christian Reformed Church**.

† Congratulations go out to **Randy & Anette D.** who will celebrate their **30th** wedding anniversary Aug. 6. May 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.



### PAKISTAN: Hope and Faith Demonstrated on Death Row

A Christian who was sentenced to death for blasphemy in May 2023 has demonstrated that, even while in prison, he has been able to maintain hope for the future. Noman Masih was convicted on trumped-up charges of blasphemy for allegedly distributing sketches of Muhammad in 2019 ([read more](#)). In a display of endurance and strength, despite this terrible situation, the young Christian man was recently able to pass his high school board examinations with a very high score.

Speaking of this achievement, the imprisoned believer's lawyer, Lazar Allah Rakha, stated, "I'm very happy that instead of descending into depression after being put on death row, Masih put his faith in the Lord and has kept his hope for freedom alive despite the dismal circumstances." Noman plans to continue his education in the future and has registered to write his intermediate examination within the next two years.

Noman's father, Asghar, has likewise expressed pride in his son, thanking God for this recent accomplishment: "[Noman] has remained steadfast in his faith; he has been reading the Bible and praying regularly since the day he was sent to prison. Other than that, he has focussed only on his studies." Asghar also gives credit to Noman's lawyer, Lazar, who has motivated the young man to pursue his education while in custody.

The president of the Church of Pakistan, Bishop Azad Marshall, has also offered his support and encouragement. Speaking of Noman, he affirmed: "In a nation grappling with complex issues of faith, freedom and justice, this young man's story stands as a testament to the indomitable human spirit. Against all odds, he has become a beacon of hope, challenging the very system that seeks to silence him."

***Praise God for the ever-present empowerment, strength and joy He provides to His children, as demonstrated through the resilient faith of this young Christian man. May Noman serve as a powerful testimony of the hope that is available to all who place their faith in Jesus, so that those with him in prison will likewise surrender their lives to the Lord. Pray that Noman's verdict will soon be overturned, allowing this young man to be cleared of all charges and safely released from custody***

**"Our Lord, for our sake, came to the world He created and was deprived of everything. The path He walked, shall we not walk it? The cup He drank, shall we refuse it?"**

~ Preacher Zhang Jiale

### **TÜRKIYE: Authorities Prevent Church from Obtaining Land**

The Diyarbakir Protestant Church Foundation began with members gathering in a home more than 20 years ago. In 2019, the congregants moved into a dedicated church building and became a legally recognized organization. Over the years, the ministry has grown to encompass more than 100 people – a number far too large for the limited space of the premises where they are currently meeting. As a result, these believers have been seeking suitable land so they can build a larger facility that will better accommodate their growing needs. Unfortunately, their efforts to obtain a potential property have been continually ignored or turned down by governing officials.

In Türkiye, religious buildings must be built on land specifically designated for religious purposes. Although such land is available in Diyarbakir, the church members have been repeatedly prevented from getting the space needed. As a result, the church leaders initiated a court challenge, but the lawsuit was recently struck down. They are now appealing this decision.

During the ruling, court officials told the believers that they could simply purchase undesignated land and then apply afterwards for a "religious use" designation. However, this type of request has never been granted in Türkiye. Religious rights activists argue that the recent court ruling is "a troubling display of blatant faith-based discrimination against Christians." To view a recently published video in which the church's pastor, Ahmet Güvener, addresses this situation.

While Türkiye is officially a secular nation, the government has increasingly been adopting policies that are specifically favourable to the country's predominant religion of Islam. Additionally, several Protestant seminaries in the country were mandated to shut down, forcing churches to rely on foreign-trained ministers. However, officials have deported approximately 185 foreign church leaders from the country since 2018, and those seeking entry are being denied under the auspices of "national security."

***Praise God for the church growth this congregation in Diyarbakir has experienced. Please prayerfully uphold Pastor Ahmet Güvener and the rest of the church members as they now seek a resolution to the repeated challenges they have encountered while trying to obtain suitable land. May their appeal be successful so they can proceed with their plans of expansion. Pray that the Lord will not only bless this congregation, but also all the other ministries that are faithfully endeavouring to proclaim the Gospel in this Middle Eastern nation, so that many more Turkish people will come to faith in Jesus Christ.***

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

### **Upcoming Offerings**

#### **August 4 - Local Church Ministries**

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 July 21- July 28**

**Local Church Ministries- 6,111.00, Canadian Food Grains Bank 1,982.00**

### **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](mailto: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.

**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](http://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 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.**

### **To our friends at First CRC**

Thank you for participating in the 2024 Baby Bottle Campaign for the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre. Your support has a tremendous impact on our community. Over \$40,000 has been raised for this Campaign so far this year. Your congregation contributed \$398.70 towards this amount. We thank you for the generosity of your church members. It is incredible how much it all adds up to! If you still have bottles or envelopes to drop off, please come and visit us. We will happily accept these items!

Thank you again for your support.

Blessings.

**Pastor Natasha** will be on holidays starting August 9- August 24. If you have any needs or emergencies, please contact your Elder or the office. They will be able to help you.

## Church Announcements Cont.

This coming weekend, August 9-12 cadets, counselors and horses pulling wagons with drivers are heading out west of Cutoff Creek for a camping weekend. Not only is it a time to test their skills and enjoy God's creation but also a time to reflect on some Bible verses looking at Who is this God we serve and who are we that He stoops down to love us. As we spend this weekend together we appreciate your prayers for safety and a renewed sense of how we fit into God's story.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: Words of Love** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Words can change the way we think about ourselves. When you choose your words wisely, it helps your friends remember that God loves them and that you also love them. And that helps your friends feel good about themselves. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Faith Practices for Families Ebook Collection.

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Look for service opportunities that allow you to serve "with" people in need, rather than doing things "to" or "for" them. And always remember to look for things you can learn from people you serve. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)