


Upcoming Events

November 3	November 4	November 5	November 6	November 7	November 8	November 9
10:00am Worship Service Pastor Cecil Van Niejenhuis Sunday School Story Card #6 Youth @ Anthony & Lydia B's 7:00pm Bible Study @ Church	7:00 pm Friendship 2:00 pm 60+ Bible Study	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30am Coffeekbreak 7:30 pm Deacons	8:30am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts 1-2:30pm Griefshare	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 12:00pm Sr. Luncheon at Cow Lake - RSVP with Ella V.		
November 10	November 11	November 12	November 13	November 14	November 15	November 16
10:00am Warship service Baptism of Theodore L. Sunday School card #9 7:00pm Bible study @ Church	Remembrance Day No Friendship 	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30am Coffeekbreak 7:30 pm Admin	8:30am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts 1-2:30pm Griefshare 7:00pm GEMS/Cadets 7:00pm Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 9:30am Craft morning		4-5pm Family Swim at Pool

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

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



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, November 3
Numbers 22
What the Donkey Saw
Pastor Cecil Van Niejenhuis

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

Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ This is My Father's World

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We welcome one another

♪ Be Unto Your Name

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Good to Me

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Your Will Be Done

Children's Message - Joel S.

Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering - World Renew (World Hunger)

Offertory

Scripture - Numbers 22

Message - What the Donkey Saw

♪ Beautiful Savior

Blessing

♪ Go Now in Peace

HELPS

Thank you, for all you do!	November 3	November 10	November 17
	Pastor Cecil V.	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Gary V.	Anthony B.	Sheldon B.
Serving Deacon	Ken B.	Jim D.	Justin D.
Music Team	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	The Experience
Children's Message	Joel S.	Pastor Natasha	Elroy L.
Nursery	Karl & Krystal H., Colleen T., Lucas H.	Marie A., Travis A., Justin & Mikala D.	Marion R., Corinne V., Annette D., Jonah D.
Coffee Host	Sheldon & Amber B.	Joel & Corinne S.	Randy & Annette D.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Jacob & Jennifer L. Elroy & Arlene L.	Brent & Carolyn A. Jerry & Lena F.	Thomas & Alyssa D. Don & Marion R.

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 - Grade 5 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 **Immanuel Lutheran Church**.

† Today we welcome Pastor Cecil V. to lead us in worship. Pastor Ken & Sara and Pastor Natasha & John Paul are in Banff at the Pastor/Spouse retreat, may they have a great time of fellowship.

† Congratulations to **Peter D.** who is celebrating his birthday on November 7!

† **Janelle V.** continues to recuperate at home following surgery, we pray for healing.

† We pray for **Margo D.** who is resting at home following gallbladder surgery this past week.

† 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., Joan S., 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. Pray for protection. In some countries, missionaries may be exposed to the possibility of danger and personal harm. Opposition to the gospel may include hatred and violence.

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, Pastor Natasha, an elder or deacon.

Your Elders are

Anthony B., Sheldon B., Alan H., Karl H., Jessica H., Cody L., John M., Alan O., Joel S., Chris T. and Gary V.

Your Deacons are

Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., and Mark H.



*"As long as this church is still proclaiming the Gospel –
as long as God's Word is still
in the mouths and hearts of our brothers and sisters –
this church cannot be destroyed."*

~ Pastor Wang Yi - Early Rain Covenant Church ~

CHINA: Preacher of Early Rain Church Faces Harassment

Source: ChinaAid

Since December 2018, the Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, China, has been subjected to repeated raids and ongoing oppression from Communist Party authorities who seek to shut down the influential unregistered church. Though the church's pastor, Wang Yi, is serving a nine-year prison sentence, members of the church continue to boldly reach out with the Gospel message.

One church member, Preacher Wu Wuqing, has experienced persecution several times. In June 2021, he and his family were locked in their home and prevented from leaving or having any visitors. Since confining the church leader to his home had failed to dissuade him from continuing his Christian activities, the authorities blocked the family – along with numerous other church members – from entering their apartment complex in 2023. Additionally, following numerous raids on his church gatherings, Preacher Wu has been repeatedly detained. After a 14-day detention in February 2024, his wife simply stated: "14 days is nothing. We are so happy to gather today, and when [my husband] returns in 14 days, we will gather again."

More recently, Preacher Wu's family has been pressured to move out of their rental home. On July 30th, water and electricity were cut off in an effort to force the harassed Christians to move. The utilities were eventually restored in late September, only to be cut off again on October 17th. While these believers were initially able to restore the power and water (which had been turned off manually), only a few hours later, the wires to their home were then cut.

It is clear that the intention of this harassment is to force the church leader and his family to relocate. Preacher Wu has asked church members to pray for his family and remove any anger from their hearts. He wrote: "When you pray for our family, you are acknowledging that we are suffering for the sake of our faith, and you are suffering with us! May God have mercy on us and graciously help us!"

Despite the repeated harassment they have received from local governing authorities, pray that Preacher Wu and his family will maintain a forgiving and gracious attitude toward their oppressors. May the preacher's family, along with other members of the Early Rain Covenant Church, continue to minister the love of God and the wonderful hope He provides through His Word to those in their community and throughout China. Also pray for ongoing strength, encouragement and protection on behalf of Pastor Wang and the many other Christians in China who are presently serving time in prison for following the teachings of Jesus.

Church Announcements

Tickets for U of A Chaplains' Festival of Lessons & Carols are available now! Start this Christmas in reverent reflection and anticipation on **Monday, December 2, 7:30 PM**. Join in this festive tradition heralding Advent and Christmas through lessons, anthems and carols! Thrill to the music of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus and Handbell Ringers. Sing Christmas carols and hear scripture readings alongside hundreds of others - a wholesome night out, a genuine highlight. Tickets are \$25 (plus some admin fees) and can be purchased online from Winspear or by calling the Box Office at 780.428.1414

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation (May 27 - June 8, 2025) Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's First, Second, and Third Missionary Journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. Contact Dr. Weima at weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Reframe Ministries

Kids Corner: Beatitude 5: Showing Mercy Like Jesus - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. There is no better example of someone showing mercy than Jesus showing care to the people he healed and to a crowd of hungry people. We can thank him for the compassion he showed us on the cross and ask for his help to show others mercy each day. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast Jesus Feeds 5000 People.

Groundwork: Growing in Our Salvation and Recognizing Truth - Do you ever feel like God asks the impossible of us? Join Groundwork as we study 2 Peter 1 to learn from the apostle Peter who reminds us that we aren't meant to rely on ourselves to live godly lives; rather it is when we rely on God's divine power and promises that we grow in our salvation, recognize truth, and persevere in our faith. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - During this week, the global church commits to praying for resolutions to the growing problem of world hunger. The World Food Program (wfpusa.org) tells us that "up to 783 million people worldwide are facing chronic hunger. That means one in ten people are not consuming enough food to lead an active, healthy life." Each day of the coming week, pick a different country to pray for—asking that increased resources may be found, that food may be shared, and that all of God's children may flourish and thrive. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., Mark H.

Upcoming Offerings

November 3 - World Renew

Hunger Is On the Rise, But Hope is Not Lost - World hunger is worsening at an unprecedented rate. An estimated 783 million people struggle with chronic hunger, with 40 million people facing famine. But hope is not lost. Today, World Hunger Sunday, through our gifts, we can help World Renew equip vulnerable communities with the training and tools they need to achieve food security. Together we can share Christ's hope with families in food crisis. Together we can help end global hunger!

November 10 - 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.

In your mailbox today is a devotional from World Renew, for World Hunger Sunday - it contains six devotions that look at some lessons offered through fish focused readings. Thank you for joining us as we focus on World Hunger this year. We hope this devotional will provide some inspiration for you.

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.

Cheque - 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 Treasurer

A summary of all donations received up to October 25 is in your mailbox. If there are any errors or omissions, please let me know. Official donation receipts will be available in January.

Marlene O.

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)

Full Council Highlights

Full Council met on Tuesday, October 29, it was a transition meeting, we said thank you to the outgoing elders & deacons and welcomed the new ones. Chair of council is Anthony B., Vice Chair - Joel S. and Clerk - Jessica H. Updated District lists will be coming out shortly.

Classis Alberta North

Classis Alberta North is the regional assembly of all the Christian Reformed Churches from Red Deer in the south to Fairview and Fort McMurray in the north. On October 18 and 19, the Classis met in Lacombe, with the Wolf Creek Community Church serving as generous hosts.

This was a difficult meeting in which we faced the varied responses to the directives of Synod in matters relating to the Human Sexuality Report. The delegates spent considerable time in a conversation of disclosure, giving each other the opportunity to share how the decisions of Synod are affecting the life of the congregations, hearing our joys and griefs as brothers and sisters, now and as we move forward.

Classis was saddened by the release from Ministry in the Christian Reformed Church of two of our pastors, Peter Rockhold of New Life Fellowship in Red Deer, and Chad Vandervalk of Woody Nook in Lacombe. The delegates also grieved the dissolution of the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference which has in the past been a wonderful resource to our deacons.

Of course, there were also celebrations. The delegates were reminded of the important work of the Student Support Committee which provides grants and encouragement to persons studying for ministry in the churches.

Our Home Missions Committee energized the delegates with their vision for church planting.

Pastor Ken Vis and four young adult leaders from various CRCs led in a discussion about ministry to young adults. This past spring they launched a website, www.TheLinkCommunity.ca, with the hope that this can be a tool that is used Classis-wide for young adults to connect what is going on in our churches.

This is just a quick summary. Please talk to your congregation's delegates to Classis for more information.

Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk of Classis

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 10 - Baptism of Theodore L.

Sunday, November 17 - Lord's Supper

Church Announcements

Thank you for the prayers, thoughts, texts, visits and messages which I received while in the hospital and then recovering at home.
Preston D.

Updating the phone directory - if you have had a change in address or phone number (a cell number instead of a land line), or you would like to have a church mailbox, please contact Lena F. or the office.

Sixty Plus Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Bible Study** will be starting **Monday, November 4 @ 2:00pm**. We will be studying a video series called "In the Dust of the Rabbi." If you have any questions, please contact Wilma T. or Pastor Natasha.
- ⇒ **Luncheon** - You are all invited to a Seniors Luncheon on **Thursday, November 7** at the Cow Lake Restaurant at 12 noon. To finalize the reservation we will need to know how many will be coming! There is a sign up sheet on the table in the social hall or you can call or text Ella V. Hope to see you all there!

Cadets Firewood fundraiser - Thank you to all who have bought firewood from the Cadets! We are now sold out until next year. On Saturday, November 9, as the boys and many helpers are busy bucking, splitting, throwing and stacking firewood, please pray for God's blessing that we may be safe and that it may be a rewarding day.

Family Swim Night - Families are welcome to join us at the Rocky Aquatic Center for swimming fun on **Saturday, November 16 from 4 -5pm**. See you there!

Tired of cooking? GEMS are hosting a **Chili Dinner November 22, 5:00-7:00pm**. Drop by anytime throughout the 2 hours. Dinner is by donation. Feel free to contact Alyssa D. with any questions.

Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way. There are some shoeboxes and labels on the table in the foyer. Get yours today! Bring your filled box to Living Branches Community Church the week of November 18-24.

Dunamis Essentials #1: Gateways to Empowered Ministry (The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit) you are invited to learn how to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, the way that Jesus intended from the start. **November 21-23** at the Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton. Register before November 8. Brochures are on the bulletin board in the hallway.