

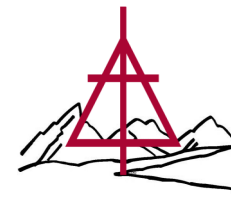
## Upcoming Events

December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
10:00am Worship service Youth Bible Study @ Mark & Carmen B.	10:00am Advent Bible study at Bettie V.  7:00pm Friendship	Office: Josephine	8:30am Prayer meeting in prayer room  1pm Grief Share	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
December 22	December 23	December 24	December 25	December 26	December 27	December 28
10:00am Worship service Lord's Supper Youth at Jos & Janneke S.	No Friendship  7:00 pm Youth Caroling at the Ravine's	Office: Cheri-Lynn	10:00am Worship service	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!	December 15	December 22	December 25
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Alan H.	John M.	Cody L.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Peter B.	Jim D.	Justin D.
<b>Music Team</b>	Mosaic	Six Track	The Experience
<b>Children's Message</b>	Pastor Natasha	No Children's Message	N/A
<b>Nursery</b>	Mark & Jessica H. Alyssa D., Chelsey B.	Justin & Courtney D., Sjoukje V., Miyah B.	N/A
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Gordon & Bettie V.	Randy & Annette D.	N/A
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Ernie & Jeanette S. Glenn & Kari M.	Bill & Marilyn S. Ray & Audrey B.	N/A



## 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

♪ It's Christmas Medley

Responsive Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We welcome One Another

♪ Hark the Herald/O Come All Ye Faithful

Advent Wreath Lighting - Pierre & Ria J.

♪ Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Preparatory for Lord's Supper

♪ O Holy Night

Children's Message - Pastor Natasha

Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering - Wycliffe

Offertory

Scripture - Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19:6-14

Message - The Gift of the Law

♪ Yet, Not I, But Through Christ in Me

Blessing

♪ Worship the King

## 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](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 **Partners in Christ** (Holy Trinity Anglican & Rocky Mtn Evangelical Lutheran Church).

† Please keep **Dirk and Sandra V.** and their family in your prayers as Sandra's mom passed away this past Monday at the Clearwater Centre. There are no plans for a service at this time.

† Congratulations to **Art T.** celebrating his birthday on December 17. Blessings to you on your special day!

† On December 18, **Cheryl T.** will be having eye surgery at the Royal Alex hospital.

† **Marilyn H.** will be having leg surgery on December 17.

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Sylvia D., Marvin W., Gus & Margaret V.** and **Joe & Lena V.** For those at the local care facilities: **Tonia T., Joan S., 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. Missionaries deal with many of the same stresses you face in life, like overwhelming workloads, conflicts in relationships and financial uncertainties. Often, however, missionaries struggle with these issues alone, without the fellowship and support of other Christians. Living and working cross-culturally adds an additional element that can challenge their emotional, spiritual and physical vitality. Pray that God will provide opportunities for missionaries in isolated areas to spend time with other believers, that God will provide times of peace and relaxation to refresh workers, 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, Pastor Natasha, an elder or deacon.

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.

Deacons are

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



While ethnic and economic elements are often important factors behind the ongoing violence in Nigeria, militant Muslims frequently target Christians specifically because of their faith

***Pray that the comforting presence of God's Holy Spirit will rest on all those who are now mourning the sudden loss of their loved ones as a result of these recent attacks. Also prayerfully uphold the many other believers throughout this West African nation who've been affected by the violence perpetrated by those opposing their Christian faith, asking the Lord to provide His followers greatly needed protection, healing and restoration. May He also grant wisdom and direction to the country's governing leaders as they strive to put an end to the ongoing brutality, so that lasting peace and stability can be achieved in this troubled nation.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**IRAN:** Twelve Christians Face Trial

Sources: Article18, Middle East Concern, Barnabas Fund

On November 26th, 12 Christian converts faced trial in Nowshahr, a northern Iranian city located along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. The believers were charged with "propagation of the religions that [conflict with] Islam" and "collaborating with foreign governments." In the indictment, the prosecutor stated that the 12 individuals had identified themselves as Christians. The indictment further explained that because the accused followers of Jesus had formed groups to teach Christianity, they were guilty of religious propagation.

These 12 believers had been among a group of more than 20 Christians who were previously detained by Ministry of Intelligence agents in Nowshahr and one of its neighbouring cities, Chalus, last Christmas. Although all 12 of these believers were later released on bail, three of them were rearrested in September and then detained for nearly two months before being freed on November 17th. While in custody, the three rearrested Christians – Jahangir Alikhani, Hamed Malamiri and Gholam Eshaghi – were subjected to torture and asked to write letters renouncing their faith in Jesus.

The same day that the three Christians were released, Javad Amini – another one of the 12 converts – was detained, along with two unnamed women. After posting bail, all three were released on November 27th, the day after the trial. The court session took place in Javad's absence and, at the time of publishing this report, no information has been released regarding the outcome of the trial

***Pray that God will intervene in the court case against these believers, working in the hearts of the country's officials so that justice would prevail. Throughout the process, may the Lord minister to each one of these accused Christians, providing them the reassuring peace and confidence they need through His abiding presence. On behalf of the many other followers of Jesus who are currently being imprisoned in Iran, pray that God's grace, strength and encouragement will also sustain them as they await their hopeful soon release. In general, may the Gospel message continue to spread throughout this Middle Eastern country, leading multitudes more to faith in Christ.***

## ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner:** Advent Week 3: The Baby - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). In Luke 2:11-14, the long-awaited Messiah has come. The prophecy from the prophet Isaiah has happened. On that blessed night, the hope God promised so many years ago was born into the world. He came as a baby - not just any baby - he was the Son of God. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible Story Podcast The Journey of the Wise Men.

**Groundwork:** Jesus: Our Everlasting Father - Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called him the "Everlasting Father." Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - This coming week marks the winter solstice—the "longest night" of the year. For many, the Christmas season can be a particularly difficult time. How might God be calling you to minister to people who struggle? How might you remind them that the dark of night will gradually give way to the light of day? Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)



*"Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love."*

~ Psalm 33:18 ESV ~

**NIGERIA:** Numerous Christians Killed in Benue State

Sources: Morning Star News, Truth

During two separate attacks on November 24th and December 1st, Fulani herdsmen killed 48 Christians in the Nigerian state of Benue, which is considered the north-central part of the country. These attacks are just two recent examples of the horrific dangers believers must deal with in this West African nation.

On November 24th, 18 Christians, including women and children, were on their way to church services in Azege village when they were suddenly gunned down by armed attackers. On the following weekend, other villages in the areas of Logo and Katsina-Ala were also attacked. During the December 1st attack, the assailants fired sporadically, killing many innocent villagers, while others died from machete wounds. By the end of the massacre, which lasted for several hours, at least 30 community members had been slain, several others injured, and the crops and properties of many were burned.

Following the violence, a local pastor highlighted the terror felt by nearby residents: "The attackers are killing innocent people at will, destroying property, and inflicting grievous injuries. We couldn't sleep yesterday; many are in hospitals, and others are fleeing. The threat is overwhelming."

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### December 15 - Wycliffe Bible Translators

Vision: A world where translated Scriptures lead to transformed lives among people of all languages.  
Mission: Ending Bible poverty by facilitating the translation of God's Word among minority language communities worldwide.

#### December 22 - Pregnancy Care Center

You are not alone. We are here to help. We are a Centre that extends grace and provides education and ongoing, compassionate support before, during and after pregnancy. Our programs and services are free, confidential, and are offered in a safe and non-judgmental environment.  
5110 50 Ave, RMH, AB (entrance is at the back)  
Mailing address: Box 2191, RMH, AB T4T 1B6 [rmh@pregnancycare.ca](mailto:rmh@pregnancycare.ca)  
24 Hour Helpline: 1.844.343.1611 Office: 1-403-871-5111  
Tuesday: 10am – 4pm Thursday: 10am – 4pm

#### December 25 - World Renew

Give the hope of Christmas with a gift for a person in need through the World Renew Gift Catalog. This year's catalog includes many great gift choices for families, congregations, schools, and groups. A goat or chicken, medicine or food, or clean water may be the powerful opportunity someone needs to take the next step out of poverty. Change a life for good this Christmas with a tangible gift from World Renew .

### From the Deacons & Treasurer

There are several ways to give to the church:

**Coupons** - see a deacon to purchase

**Cheque** - to "First Christian Reformed Church of RMH".

**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.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 22** - Lord's Supper

**Wednesday, December 25** - Christmas Day worship at 10:00am

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025** - New Year's Day Worship at 10:00am

**Tuesday, February 25** - Congregational Meeting

## 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)

## Council Notes

The District list is currently being revised and will be available in the New Year. The change in District Elders will be: John M. (District 2), Sheldon B. (District 3), Joel S. (District 5) and Cody L. (District 7).

## Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary

- DEC. 15, 2024: The last two phases of WW 2 in the Netherlands: June 1941 to June 1944: As the war intensified, Germany demanded higher contributions from occupied territories, resulting in a decline of living standards. Repression against the Jewish population intensified and thousands were deported to extermination camps. The "velvet glove" approach ended.
- June 1944 to May 1945: Conditions deteriorated further, leading to starvation and lack of fuel. The German occupation authorities gradually lost control over the situation. Nazis wanted to make a last stand and commit acts of destruction. Others tried to mitigate the situation.
- The Allies liberated most of the south of the Netherlands in the second half of 1944. The rest of the country, especially the west and north, remained under German occupation and suffered from a famine at the end of 1944, known as the "Hunger Winter"

## Church Announcements

**Thank - you** to the Sunday School children for the delicious cookies! Blessed Christmas greetings to you all!  
*Joan S.*

**Sunday School Families** - the songs the children are practicing to sing during the services on December 22 & 25 are: **He Made A Way in a Manger** - only the chorus (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGNhKdjRO8>), **We Wish You (A Merry, Peaceful, Wonderful Christmas)** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kggGVIPsIRQ>) and **He Shall Reign Forevermore** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVN2bnjBICU>)

**Friendship** has been blessed with several new friends (5 in the past few weeks) and is **REALLY** in need of more teachers. It would be wonderful if each friend had their own teacher. Please prayerfully consider helping in this outreach for our community. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, contact Corinne S. or Sjoukje V.

**Senior Bible study** for December 17, will be cancelled because of the Rocky Christian School Christmas Play. We will resume our Bible study in the New Year on **Tuesday, January 21 @ 1:00pm**.

Please join the students and staff of **Rocky Christian School** as they present the Christmas Musical, *Three Wise Men and a Baby*, **Tuesday, December 17** at the Lou Soppit Community Centre. We will have two performances for you to choose from this year - a Matinee performance at **1:30** in the afternoon or an evening performance at **7:00**. Tell your family and friends and come on out for some wonderful entertainment!

**Pregnancy Care Centre** - is hiring a Centre Manager for the Rocky Mountain House location. If you or someone you know wants to join their team, this might be the time. More information can be found on the website (<https://www.pregnancycare.ca>) or check poster on the bulletin board in the hallway.

**Warming Shelter** - In Response to a Town Council initiative, a Group of organizations including the local churches, are working to start a Warming Shelter for the homeless in our community. Sadly, there are a significant number in our area who do not have the protection of a warm home. The Shelter will operate from 10pm to 7am each night and will be located at the Foodbank. It will require 2 volunteer staff each night along with one paid staff. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving as a volunteer with this ministry, please contact Lindsay Hunt at [lhunt@mrwsa.net](mailto:lhunt@mrwsa.net). If you are interested in one of the 2 staff positions, please contact Kandis Stradecki at [Kandis.Stradecki@recoveryalberta.ca](mailto:Kandis.Stradecki@recoveryalberta.ca). Pray that sufficient funding will be made available and that staff and volunteers can be found so that we can provide a warm and safe place for people in our community this winter.

**Disaster Relief Services (DRS)** has several volunteer opportunities for individuals & couples in Florida, (Hurricane Ian reconstruction) Kentucky (Tornado reconstruction) and North Carolina (ongoing storm damage reconstruction). Group service trip dates in 2005 are available for California (flood reconstruction), Pennsylvania (Hurricane Ida reconstruction), Vermont (flood reconstruction), North Carolina (hurricane reconstruction) and Kentucky (tornado & flood reconstruction). Check out the dates and information on the Deacons bulletin board in the social hall.