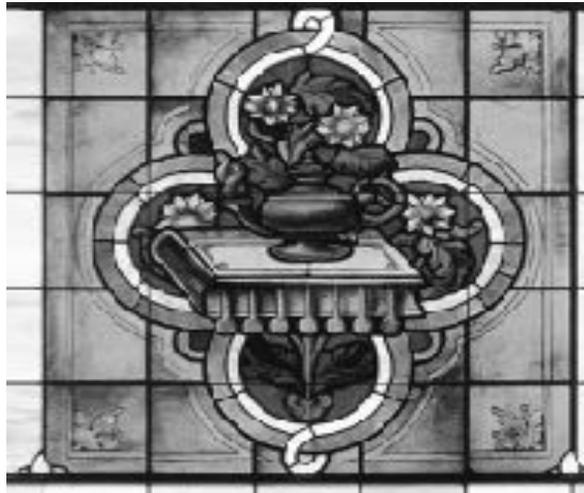


# First Baptist Church

[www.firstbaptistregina.ca](http://www.firstbaptistregina.ca)



*Photo courtesy of Merv Hepting*

## ***Inside the newsletter:***

Prayer

TNT

Congregational Care

Missions

Children and Youth

Church Picnic

Friesen Bridal Shower

VOICE

Men's Breakfast

Learning for Life

Achievers Bible Study

Katepwa Lake Camp

CBWC Online Assembly

Church Library Corner

Interview: FBC Youth

Worship on Your Phone

Diaconate Report

Financial Report

Churchtrac

May at a Glance

## Approaching Trinity Sunday

Christians prefer Trinity over the generic word “god” as they pray, sing, and think. Christians worship the Trinity because this is the God we see at work creating, saving, renewing: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the story of Israel and the Church. Take away the Trinity and you have something other than Christianity.

I often pray that we would be grow in awareness of God's presence in our lives. But Trinity Sunday reminds us that the God of creation and salvation hasn't been discovered through reason or spiritual practices - that's idolatry. Knowing God is a gift from the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit. Let's honour the triune God in all we say and do.

With love, Pastor Joel

## Prayer

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### New Prayer Chain

Good morning, my name is Bryden Yeo and I am starting up a prayer email line for our church. It's something First Baptist Red Deer Church did and it really blessed my family and prayer life. A lot of the time I feel a bit disconnected by life and things going on that I am not sure how I can pray for my church family. Well this is something that can help with that, and it can help to connect with your church family as well.

Here is how it works. If you have a prayer request simply send the request to <<mailto:fbcreginaprayertime@gmail.com>> or contact a pastor. The request can be either specific or simple for privacy reasons - however you'd like us to pray. I will send them out to people from our church who would like to pray. I will only send the requests to people who have asked to be on the prayer line. And from there your prayer requests will be prayed for throughout the day as people read them and make time to pray on their own time.

If you are interested in being a prayer warrior on our prayer list, please speak with me or with a pastor and I can add you. I will not share your email addresses with anyone else and should you choose to leave the prayer group, just send me an email and I will be sure to remove you from the list as soon as I can. Thanks!

### Prayer Breakfast

We meet at 8 am Wednesday mornings in the library. Please join us.

### Prayer Times at First Baptist

Morning Prayer 7:15 am, Monday to Thursday

Wednesday 12:15 noon

## **TNT Summer Bible Study**

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A 3:16 Slice Journey through the Bible

When: Tuesdays, May to August: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: FBC Library.

Topic: John 3:16 is one of the best-known verses of the Bible. This summer study will journey through the forty-nine (3:14-3:18) sections in the Bible. One might expect that most of these sections of the Bible would have nothing to do with John 3:16. However, I've found mysteriously deep connections to John 3:16 in these 49 sections that I would love to share with you. At three or four sections per week, we will easily fill the summer. The first two weeks of May will be used to complete the study of the Gospel of John (chapters 18- 21), which we began last summer.

Supper Option: In past summers, some of us met in Wascana Park, or in homes that people have offered for BYO picnic suppers from 5:00-6:30 pm. Plans for this summer will be discussed at the Bible Study.

## **Congregational Care/Visitation Ministry Team**

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*Carol Hepting, John Nelson, Martha Pauls, Ron Phillips, and Eleanor Russell*

We have several people who visit members of our church family on a regular basis, but we could always use more volunteers. If you would like to offer friendship and brighten someone's day, please call John Nelson or Carol Hepting.

## Missions

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### Lunch for Lebanon!!

Sunday, May 27, 2018-12:15 pm.

Come & enjoy an international “Meal With A-Peel” :)

Baked potatoes, lots of toppings, samosas, rice & beans, salads, fruit, tarts.

Live chat with Emad & Almess Butros, our new mission partners at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Beirut. If you have a question you wish to ask them please email it to Mariyln Phillips (address below).

Hear more about our new 3-year Lebanese partnership, with 3 foci:

- get to know the Butroses, and support their ministry at ABTS;
- sponsor church leaders for annual Middle East Consultation at ABTS;
- help Syrian refugee children go to camp.

Also, hear about a short-term “SENT” trip to Lebanon that you could be part of!

Fundraiser goal: match our 2018 CBM budget of \$7,500! (Our 2017 missions lunch raised \$7,015.)

Please email Marilyn Phillips by May 22, if you plan to attend: [phillimarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:phillimarilyn@gmail.com)

## **Children and Youth**

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Children from 3 to 11 are invited downstairs most Sundays for their own service of worship.

### **Nursery**

If being part of this ministry is something that you are interested in, contact Lynette Wollbaum via email at [lynjrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:lynjrussell@hotmail.com) or at 306-520-4474. It's not a hard job, and it's well worth it!

### **Godly Play (ages 3-6)**

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction offered by First Baptist Church. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language, parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence around them and in their lives.

We are in need of leaders and shepherds! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Esther Maeers at [emaegers@yahoo.ca](mailto:emaegers@yahoo.ca).

### **Oasis (ages 7-11)**

Our students spend 3 to 4 weeks reading through one Bible story. Every Sunday is different: after reading from their Bibles, the children explore the passage through painting, drama, quizzing games, cooking, science experiments, and any other way we dream up.

This month the young people are reading the stories about Peter from *The Acts of the Apostles*.

## Youth

<b>May</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study at FBC: 7:00 - 9:00.
12 <sup>th</sup>	NO YOUTH FRIDAY. We will take a trip out to Moose Jaw to see a collection of Star Wars models and paraphernalia Saturday afternoon.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Long Weekend - No Youth this weekend.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Hang out at Senger's

## Annual Church Picnic

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Willow Island, Sunday, June 11th, 3:30-6:30

Join us for a great afternoon of games, music, food, fun and prizes!

Salad and dessert potluck.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, beverages provided.

Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, plates and flatware.

Freewill offering to defray costs

All ages welcome.

Wheelchair access available, please contact Pastor Joel to arrange.

Sign up sheets will be in the foyer in mid-May

## Bridal Shower

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Please join us for a bridal shower honouring Christan Friesen, Saturday, June 9th from 2-4 PM, at First Baptist Church. If you are planning to join us, kindly RSVP to Rebecca Haugen at (306) 525-1535 or haugen\_r@hotmail.com.

Christan and Neil are registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond.

## VOICE

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Voice had the last biweekly meeting on April 18th, completing the book, *GRACE*, by Max Lucado. We also sponsored a potluck breakfast/brunch at 10 o'clock, April 28, at Annabel's house. The book was, *I Am Hutterite* by Mary Ann Kirkby. We will announce new plans in August for start up in September. Keep posted. Martha

## Men's Breakfast

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Our breakfast this month will be on Saturday, May 26, 8:30 - 10 a.m., at the church. Let Pastor Joel if you plan on attending. Mark your calendars and invite someone to join you. All ages welcome.

## Learning for Life

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9:30 on Sundays in the Library

*The Lost World of Scripture*: Reading the Old Testament for God's revelation of himself.

This class, based partly on John Walton's book, *The Lost World of Scripture*, will offer a background to the Old Testament, a plan for reading it (optional), and a discussion of some of its great themes.

Facilitated by Annabel Robinson.

## Achievers Bible Study

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This group will meet in the church boardroom on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 am. We are continuing to study the book of Acts. We will not meet through June, July or August but will start again on Wednesday, September 12.

## Katepwa Lake Camp

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Summer camp dates are open for all ages.

Visit [www.katepwalakecamp.com](http://www.katepwalakecamp.com) for dates and registration.

### Sponsorships

This year, the camp is hoping to sponsor 100 young people who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend. Contact Tim and Shelly Keizer, Katepwa Lake directors, if you wish to help support this initiative: 306.332.4727.

Our KLC AGM on April 15 raised \$7K+ towards our septic tank project. We learned the Tuesday after the AGM, that CBWC forgave us an outstanding loan of \$6K, and gave us a \$6K grant. And with some help from a person at FBC, Social Services is now sending us a check for \$1K. With this money we have now purchased the needed septic tanks, and low-flush toilets. Also, we have a donor for the LED lighting, and we are in the process of ordering the needed new flooring for the lodge. Definitely a huge answer to prayer!

Thanks again FBC! Collin Carbno KLC board member.

### Note from the Keizers

Thank you for the making our AGM a huge success! We are now focusing on how to make this summer the best one yet. Here are a few ways you can help make this happen.

**Kitchen Head Cook.** If you love Jesus, have a great attitude, and can follow a recipe, would you consider volunteering for a week in the kitchen? We still need a head cook for 5 weeks. You can email us at [katepwalakecamp@gmail.com](mailto:katepwalakecamp@gmail.com), if you are interested.

**Work Day May 5<sup>th</sup>.** We are holding our spring work day between 9am to 4pm. An amazing lunch will be provided. We plan to work on landscaping, cleaning, painting, plumbing, and possibly putting in a new floor. We hope to see you there!

**Camp Matters.** We are still working on our goal to send 100 kids to camp this summer. If you know of a family who would benefit from this, please direct them to our website at [www.katepwalakecamp.com](http://www.katepwalakecamp.com). If you are interested in supporting a camper, please email Tim at [katepwalakecamp@gmail.com](mailto:katepwalakecamp@gmail.com).

**PRAY.PRAY.PRAY.** Please pray for God's blessing on this summer. We are hoping for many first-time campers, and we want to make it their best week ever! Also, please pray that we represent Jesus well as we introduce Him to campers.

Thanks, First Baptist!

*Tim and Shelley Keizer*  
Executive Director Team  
Katepwa Lake Camp

## **CBWC Online Assembly**

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The church boardroom will be available on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:15-8:30 pm for anyone who wants to be an observer at the online assembly of CBWC. Executive Minister Rob Ogilvie will share about our new ministry priorities in response to the prayer and discernment we took part in last fall.

CBWC alternates between in person and online assemblies. Our church will have a pastor and two delegates present at the assembly, but all others are welcome to be at the online viewing.

## Church Library Corner

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### *A Guide for Old Testament Study* by William W. Stevens (221)

In his first chapter, William Stevens looks briefly at nine significant and important archaeological finds. In this way he makes the OT story come alive. Briefly, three of the finds are:

(1) *The Code of Hammurabi*, uncovered in 1901-1902 at Susa, a city of ancient Persia. It was written in Babylonian cuneiform and contains 247 laws of King Hammurabi, who lived about 1900 BC--the approximate date of Abraham. These laws are very similar to the laws of Moses.

(2) The Moabite stone was found in 1868 in ancient Dibon and correlates with the story of 2 Kings 3. Here is an excerpt from the Moabite text: "I am Mesha, son of Chemosh ... King of Moab, the Dibonite. ... Omri, King of Israel, oppressed Moab many days because Chemosh was angry with his land; and his son succeeded him, and he also said, 'I will oppress Moab.' ... And Chemosh said to me, 'Go, take Nebo against Israel.' And I went by night and fought against it from the break of dawn until noon, and I took it and slew all that were in it, seven thousand men and boys and women and girls and maid servants; for to Ashtor-Chemosh I had devoted it. And I took from there the vessels of YHWH [Yahweh] and brought them before Chemosh."

(3) The Siloam Inscription discovered in 1880 in the ancient passage deep under the walls of old Jerusalem tells how the workman cut the tunnel in the days of Hezekiah. This correlates well with 2 Kings 20.



## Interview with the Youth Group by Esther Wiens

### **Interview of Celine Uwera, Ben Sentis and Louise Kumungu**

**Esther:** Tell me something about yourself, your age, favourite subject at school and perhaps why you like it.

**Ben:** I'm fourteen. I am homeschooled, which means that I get my work done faster and get free time. My favourite subject might be math.

**Louise:** I'm 15 in grade ten at O'Neil High School. My favourite subject is Catholic Studies.

**Celine:** I'm 17 in grade 11 and I go to Luther College High School. My favourite subject is French.

**E:** What do you do for fun when you have spare time?

**L:** I like to hang with friends or go to a movie. Or we go to watch games at places like the U. of R.

**B:** I do some Lego. I play outside with my brothers, building treehouses and stuff like that, and playing soccer and hockey when there's ice.

C: I sing sometimes or talk to friends, whether it's in real life or on social media or calling them.

**E. Do you have a favourite sports team?**

L: I like the Cleveland basketball team. I don't watch a lot of sports but if they're playing, I watch.

**E: I understand the youth group is doing well. What activities do you enjoy or find meaningful?**

B: I like it when there's physical activity that lets you get some exercise and have fun with other athletic people.

L: Just youth meetings in general. Every Friday, if you don't have anything planned, you have "Youth" to look forward to. Just coming to "Youth" and hanging with everybody is my favourite part. It doesn't matter what we're doing, just coming together.

C: I really like that we do different things like going bowling, go out to get air, and doing things outside. Sometimes we don't get opportunities to do those things on our own time. It's too expensive; here we can have fun for free.

**E: First Baptist Church is known as a "place to belong." Do you feel you belong: if so, why, and if not, why not? What could we do to make things better for you?**

B: Yes, I do. Well, I know pretty much all of the kids and I'm good friends with every single person here who is my age or close. I also know quite a few of the older people and just feel comfortable talking to them. I think it would be kind of fun if we could do a slightly different kind of worship music occasionally, like a worship band. Although, I get to do that other places like at camp and lots of other places.

L: Yes, because I know my way around the church, where everything is. I know who most people are. I talk to a lot of people

and everyone is polite. If I'm asked, what church do you belong to, I can just say, First Baptist. It just rolls off the tongue nicely.

C: Yea, this is the place that I feel like I belong. Sometimes I feel the relationships in this church should go beyond church. People should be able to visit each other, actually form relationships outside of church. It shouldn't be like, "I love you at church but after church I'm going to forget about you." There should be friendships outside of our church.

**E: We are a Christian Church. This can refer to our building, but the word "church" has another meaning. Some churches don't have a building: they may, for example, meet in a school. What does "church" mean in such a case?**

L. I think the togetherness and our faith. Because even though you might not have a church, you still have your faith and you still have beliefs and your views. You don't need a building; you just need a section of the Bible, bring people together and you talk about it and that's church.

Celine: I've read the church is within you. You don't need a church building. You yourself, you're the church.

**E: Yes, Christ calls us to be his body.**

B: That's a good question. I think, yes, we would still be a Church. The church we used to go to closed down, the pastor was tired and wasn't getting paid quite well enough. Everyone felt that God was telling us to go different ways. We still get together and we still feel like a church family, still worship together. Even if we didn't meet together, we could communicate with each other and support each other that way.

**E: We preach the gospel at our church. What does the word “gospel” mean to you?**

C: Preaching the gospel is spreading love, how God showed love to people. He died for us.

B: The gospel is the story of what Jesus did for us. And I think that is exactly what we do teach most of the time. Some of the sermons are very good at that, and others can get a little confusing if you aren't a good thinker. But that is what we focus on.

L: The words of God, the things that he said or the things that are in the Bible. Preaching the words that Jesus said.

**E. In referring to Jesus we sometimes say, “He is our “Saviour” and sometimes we say, “He is Lord.” What do these words mean? Let's start with “Saviour.”**

L: I think you mean he's the one that's going to save us all, the sins of the world, indulgences. He died for our sins to save us.

B: Well it means someone who saves you, and he did save the world when he died, from sin, and death, and Satan, and all the other stuff.

**E. What about “Lord?”**

C: He is our guide, protector, and counselor.

L: I second that.

B: I think that means: do we treat Jesus as our Lord and do we do everything to glorify him and to help other people. Or, do we live selfishly for our own selves?

**E:** When you think about your future, you may have a dream about what you'd like to become. Or maybe you just think about a profession/job that seems “neat” to you. Do you feel comfortable telling us what that is? I realize that you may change your mind a dozen or more times by the time you are ready to decide.

**C:** I want to do something in the dentistry field. Not a dentist, but something like a dental hygienist.

**B:** I'd like to start as a police officer and work my way either into an anti hacker who is really sophisticated in computers. Or go into law. And I feel being a police officer would be a good way to start going in either of those directions. I want to do something that requires a lot of thinking, that you can get good at, and pays really well, and that you can help other people.

**L:** I think I'd be good at law. Maybe a judge or something. Or, I could be a lawyer; it sounds really fun and interesting. If you're a lawyer, you carry justice in your hands. And you have the power to get an innocent person out of dying their life away in prison. Not a cop though, because you could get shot. I read about Thurgood Marshall: he was the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. He stopped the segregation of the U.S. schools.

**E:** Is there something you would like to say that I haven't asked?

**C:** You have a pretty smile.

**E:** Thank you. And thanks to all three of you for your cooperation.

(Thanks also to Chris Senger for making the interviewing process possible.)

## Worship on your Phone

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Are you at a loss for words when it comes to new Christian music?

While we're blessed to have so many excellent worship songs written in the recent two decades, our hymn books just can't keep up.



Now you can have the best of these songs at your fingertips. Just point your smart phone or tablet browser to <http://firstbaptistregina.ca/songs>. Then bookmark the spot or set up a tab so that you go back there in an instant.

We've included 60+ songs to start with. Several have audio and video clips with them in case you need a reminder of the tune.

If you miss some of your favourite songs, let us know what you'd like to see added, and we'll do it. Email your webmaster at [mhepting@sasktel.net](mailto:mhepting@sasktel.net).

## Church Keys

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To our friends who hold keys to the church:

In checking our keys and key loan registry, we have learned that a few keys have been identified as not in use or as possibly missing. If you have keys to the church which you no longer need, please return them to the church office. If you have keys that you are presently using, please inform Joel or John of this, so that this can be recorded. Your cooperation in this matter is most appreciated.

## **Diaconate Report**

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During the second week of April, the diaconate put in a couple of long evenings thinking about the best process in going forward with our church. We asked, “What are the issues facing us as a church?” And, “How might the church best respond to them?” In particular, we were struggling with the best way to move forward from the Sam Breakey questionnaire to the practical issues of hiring or not hiring another staff member and setting a path of new actions. With some leadership from Joel, we are coming up with a number of scenarios which we see as viable possibilities of going forward. Each of these approaches has various plus and minus aspects. Either in May or early June, we hope to present these at a church townhall session to facilitate a really deep discussion about these options with the hope of capturing people's excitement, hopes, and dreams for a church going forward. Before the townhall, we are also planning a couple of informal discussion sessions on the survey results, where folks can talk about the survey and/or anything relating to the direction of our church. As an aside, I've also been working on an idea file capturing current suggestions and mining past efforts (borderland, values, etc.) for ideas that could move us towards a vision of: 1. Unity 2. Discipleship 3. Outreach. I invite any of our congregation to send me ideas or suggestions at [collin.carbno@sasktel.net](mailto:collin.carbno@sasktel.net).

## **First Baptist Church Staff and Deacons**

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Collin Carbno, Chair

Ron Phillips, Vice Chair

Laureen Snook, Secretary

Barry Lyons

Eleanor Russell

Tiffany Lai

Brenda Ziolkowski

Rosemary Ward

Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor

John Nelson, Associate Pastor

George McKenzie, Caretaker

## Financial Report

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Our operating income was 18% below the prorated budget to the end of March, while our expenses were under budget by 13%. This indicates a shortfall in giving in relation to our expenses. Part of the increase in expenses over the previous month is related to corrections in the EPP (Equalized Payment Plan) for our natural gas bill, annual bank charges, expenses for Easter Alleluia, and contractual services. Historically, we have lower income in Q1 of the year, and higher income in Q4. Each month will have unique expenses that will cause deviations from the projected budgeted expenses, but this should average out over time.

The Restricted Reserve funds balance decreased slightly due to some expenses on the organ. We have also begun to allocate the payment of the contract for our organist from the Organ Fund.

Approved Operating Budget to end of March 2018: (prorated monthly)	\$96,972
Operating Revenue to end of March 2018:	\$79,800
Operating Expenses to end of March 2018:	\$84,150
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$182,830
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$284,909

Also, be reminded that our church has an option for regular donations and tithing through a Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) function. The Finance Committee recommends this as a preferred way to contribute to the ongoing finances of the church. If you are interested in “PAR-ticipating,” let us know and someone from our Finance Committee will be in touch with you.

## ChurchTrac

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Our Church management software (ChMS) called ChurchTrac has been implemented over the past month to streamline common administrative tasks, track and manage resources, foster communication, and monitor growth of the congregation. The first efforts have been toward replacement of our teller database and membership directory, both of which are now being utilized on the new system.

There is a Congregation Access feature which allows members of our church to access their own profiles. Members can access their own contribution statements, member lists and picture directories, and update their personal and family profile. Only those names that have been entered in the database with an email address will be able to access and use the Congregation Access feature. In order to view your personal profile, please use the following link:

[https://churchtraconline.com/member\\_access.php?church=3063591450](https://churchtraconline.com/member_access.php?church=3063591450)

When a person initially visits the Congregation Access link, they will be asked:

1. to provide their email address and access code. The member must enter their email address, and that address must match the email address which we have in the database.
2. You will then need to click on the link: “I do not know my Passcode, or I do not have a Passcode”
3. You will be sent a secure access code at that email address to complete the log-in process.
4. You can change this access code after you log in to something you can remember by clicking the “gear” link. 

Please note that it is very important that we are provided with current email addresses in order to utilize some of the more useful benefits of the system.

## May at a Glance

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- May 2     Achievers' Bible Study (p. 15)
- May 5     Camp Work Day (p. 7-8)
- May 12    Youth Group Trip to Moose Jaw (p. 5)
- May 16    Achievers' Bible Study (p. 15)
- May 24    CBWC Assembly (p. 8)
- May 26    Men's Breakfast (p. 5)
- May 27    Lunch for Lebanon (p. 3)
- May 30    Achievers' Bible Study (p. 15)

## Life Together

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<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 am	Learning for Life
	11:00 am	Worship Service
<b>Monday</b>	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	7:00 pm	3:16 Slice Journey through the Bible
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	8:00 am	Prayer Breakfast
	12:15 pm	Noon Prayers
<b>Thursday</b>	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
<b>Friday</b>	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	7:00 pm	Youth Event

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