

First Baptist Church

www.firstbaptistregina.ca



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Now the seasons begin to turn again from summer to fall. All life in between the beginning and the end of creation continues to move through the cycle of creation - sin - recreation. Few of us escape heartache or pain caught as we are in this cycle. Jesus revealed to John that his disciples are wearing robes washed white in suffering.

Why it must be this way isn't always clear. God has put a sense of past and future into our minds but understanding all that God has done from the beginning to the end continues to elude us (Eccles. 3.11). Whatever you are facing, may the Holy Spirit show you deep down fresh sources of joy in your life and work.

With love, Pastor Joel

Kick-off Sunday

September 9th, 11 a.m.

- The choir and the organ return to lead us in worship
- BBQ following the service
- Invite someone to come along!

Mino-maawanji-itiwag: “Coming Together in a Good Way”

Join Indigenous Christian leaders from across Canada for two days of training and discussion meant for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people together. What does it mean to be both Indigenous and Christian? What could it look like serve and minister to Indigenous people? What steps can the church take to further reconciliation?

YFC, First Baptist, and other local churches are working together to bring about this major event.

November 2 and 3 at Living Hope Alliance church.

\$75 General Admission, includes admission and four meals.

For more information, visit the event website:

<https://housingdirector.wixsite.com/mysite>

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” - Matthew 18:20

Youth

Sept 14 Kick off event with other youth groups
Sept 21 BBQ at Senger House
Sept 28 Bible Study at FBC - 7:00-9:00

Achievers

Are you looking for warm and friendly faces to meet, greet, and eat with, while enjoying a tantalizing meal? If you are 55 years and up, consider the Achievers' Luncheons- 4th Thursday noon through Sept-Nov./Jan.-May. Here you will experience fabulous fellowship, fantastic food, and sensational speakers. Become an important member of this JOY filled group- Just Older Youth.

First Achievers' Luncheon:

Thursday, September 27- Cost is \$10, David Kaiser, guest speaker.

Check out our Achievers' website for more information. www.achieversregina.ca

*Schedule of Future Guest Speakers:

October 25- Alicyn Miller
November 22- Henry Friesen
January 24- Dianne Campeau
February 28- Marilyn Braun-Pollon
March 28- Merv Tippe
April 25- John Robinson
May 23- Reade Holstlander

Achievers Bible Study

The Bible study meets Wednesdays in the church boardroom from 10:00 to 11:00 am.

For Such a Time as This: Notes on our Fall Sermon Series

Mordecai: Go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for your people.

Esther: Any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned, the king has but one law: that they be put to death.

Mordecai: Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? (*Esther 4.8-14*)

This moving scene reminds me of a conversation from Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*:

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo.

"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

What sort of a time do we live in? What is God calling us to do in this time? Where is your faith pushing you to be courageous? Do we wish we lived in a time when faith and Christian values were more widespread? When social issues were not as complex? What does it mean that God has call us to this time?

From June to August, we read scripture lessons of legendary events told on a cosmic scale with fantastic images: angels and visions, God speaking, and Jesus visibly arriving on earth to confront and defeat evil once and for all. Exciting stuff!

As for our own lives, not many hear God speak. Not many are sent angels or visions. In fact, for most of us, for much of life, God seems

hidden. We must make our choices, we live and love and deal with loss as best we can. We trust in God's presence and God's goodness even if God does not appear or speak to us.

If believers struggle with these questions, though they may have Christian family and friends and church and scripture, how much more might other people struggle to find God, to do what's right, and to find meaning in life? It seems to me that Christians can understand only too well another person's reasons for doubt.

The scripture passages we will be listening to this fall come from that common human experience. Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Ruth, and Song of Songs are grouped together in the Hebrew bible and at times have been read annually in some Jewish Synagogues.

These books make little mention to no mention of God. Instead, God's goodness is primarily found in work, nature, and love. God's work is carried out by good people behaving decently in everyday ways. God's hiddenness is experienced in fear, hunger, horror and tragedy, uncertainty and vulnerability.

These books are also a glimpse into the lives of women in a patriarchal society. Courageous woman of faith and virtue play lead roles in several of these books, possibly authored by women.

Take some time this fall to read through these short books prayerfully. Ask someone you know outside the church where they have encountered God in their lives. What do they find hardest about life? What gives life meaning? Where do they see people working well together? How would you answer these questions?

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Sept.22, 8:30 a.m.
at Nicky's Cafe. Let Pastor Joel if
you plan on attending. Mark your
calendars and invite someone to join
you. All ages welcome.



Prayer Breakfast

Prayer Breakfast returns to the library in September after letting Open Door use our lower hall all summer for their children's camp. Join a supportive small group at 8:00 Wednesday mornings for a simple breakfast, short scripture study, and communal prayer for members of our church, our city and our world.

Prayer Times at First Baptist

Morning Prayer 7:15 am, Monday to Friday
(Friday's prayers are chanted)
Wednesday, 12:15 noon

Everyone is welcome. Each prayer time will include psalms, scripture reading, and prayer for our world, our church, and the people in our lives. "Where two or three are gathered" Jesus said - so we would love company!

VOICE!

Voice will begin on the 19th of September at 77 Motherwell Cresc. starting at 7:00 p.m. We will begin with a Bible study, using material written by Faye Reynolds of Women In Focus. We will use part of the first meeting discussing possibilities for further study material. Please come, no preparation required!

Voice is open to any woman who enjoys reading and discussing the material we've read. We are a small group study, meeting every other Wednesday evening, meetings usually run from 7 till 9. We focus on spiritual growth and prayer. Call 306 586 7015 for more information.

someone to join you. All ages welcome.

Praise in the Park

Victoria Park downtown, Saturday, Sept. 8, 10 am until 10 pm. Free everything! Christian music bands all day, Children's Fair, Art Fair, Ministries Fair, free food all day - it's a wonderful day! Our evening



headliner is the well-known band "Building 429". Come out and spend the whole day or part of the day with us. For more info or to donate please see www.loveweekregina.ca

Learning For Life

A new season of Learning for Life begins September 16. Two classes will be offered - "A Christian perspective on Work", led by Len Pauls and Derrick Bellows, and "Basic Christianity", led by Ron Phillips.

The classes will run for 6 weeks; there will be no class on Thanksgiving weekend (October 7)

Learning for Life offers an opportunity to learn more about our faith, to grow in the company of others, and to be encouraged in the living out of the faith. We would love to have you join us!

Financial Report

Our operating income was 10% below the prorated budget to the end of July, while our expenses were under budget by 9%. We have noted that our year-to-date offerings to General Operations are 4% less than last year, which is becoming a concern. The interest rate on the loan from CBWC rose 0.25% to 5.20% as of August 1st.

Approved Operating Budget to end of July 2018: (prorated monthly)	\$226,268
Operating Revenue to end of July 2018:	\$ 204,492
Operating Expenses to end of July 2018:	\$ 204,944
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 183,463
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$ 283,336

Our church management system (ChurchTrac) has a Congregation Access feature which allows members of our church to access their own profiles and view their contribution statements.

If you have provided an email address to us for the system, you will be able to use this 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)

Diaconate Report

The Diaconate made time in a busy summer schedule to meet in July and again in August to consider the incoming applications to our expressions of interest. At the time of EOI closure date (August 15th) about a dozen solid applications have come in.

The Diaconate has planned a meeting early in September to create a short list (3 to 5 applicants) for pursuing more deeply.

We have been asking our pastors to extend themselves sacrificially over the last two years, providing the level of programming and service of 3 full time pastors with only two! This level of effort is not reasonable at any time, but with the health issues both families are facing it is also unwise. This means that we have to either substantially cut programming and service to our congregation or to pursue additional staffing. The Diaconate feels that additional staffing is our best option at the moment, otherwise, we could easily get caught in a vicious cycle of cutting, further erosion of the church, leading to more cuts, etc.

FBC had budgeted \$387,900 for operating revenue (including money for new staff) and our treasurer estimates that with our current financial trajectory we will end up around \$25K short. Meeting our budget would allow us to continue to support our current ministries (such as KLC, CBWC, CBM, etc.), hire new staff, and to pursue new opportunities and ideas. If you could kindly, consider in prayer, your willingness to invest more money (and volunteering) in FBC, that would be greatly appreciated. An immediate uptick (of 10% or more) in giving would be a strong signal to the Diaconate that we can indeed afford to pursue additional staffing and help to create a financial buffer as we move into the hiring process.

Collin Carbno
Chair of Diaconate FBC

Stepping Up

Thanks to **Roscco's Concrete and Overlays**, responsible for this transformation:



And many thanks to **Secured Weatherproofing** for these repairs!



Missions

“SENT” to Lebanon Trip!

Plans are underway for a group from First Regina to see the work in Lebanon first hand next June!

- Participate in the annual Middle East Consultation at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary
(Read about MEC 2018 here - <https://abtslebanon.org/mec2018/>)
- Visit and be involved in our partners' other ministries, including local churches and refugee relief
- Estimated Cost for a 10-12 day SENT experience, including flights from Toronto, insurance, and ground costs: \$3500/ person. Complete cost is tax deductible.

Application deadline: Application deadline: October 31, 2018

Interested? Need more info? Please speak to Pastor Joel or Marilyn Phillips. Several people have already committed to go!



Tuesday Nights Together

Tuesday Night Together (TNT) resumes in the lower hall on Tuesday, September 11 at 5 p.m. This is a pot-luck meal: bring what you want to eat and something to share. We thank Dean Gilchrist for his faithful leadership of the Adult Discussion Group for many years. There is an opportunity for someone new to lead the group at 6 p.m. This group frequently watches a short video followed by a discussion. Sometimes there is a guest speaker or special event. The first session will be a planning event to decide the direction in which the discussion group will go. Please come and add your thoughts. Participation in the meal is not mandatory; you are welcome to just come for the discussion.

Music

Sanctuary Choir Begins Anew!

So, you love to sing? YOU are invited to join our choir family this coming 2018-2019! Become a key member of the longest serving small group ministry in FBC history. You will be warmly welcomed into this caring choir community and will enrich our overall ministry together. The Sanctuary Choir is truly “A Place to Belong,” to sing and to serve. God is more concerned about our availability than our ability. For more information contact Pastor John.

First Choir rehearsal- Thursday, September 13, 7:00 p.m.- Music Room

“Second to the Word of God, music deserves highest praise.”
- Martin Luther

JuBELLation Ringers,

Are you looking for a unique ministry to join? JuBELLation offers an exciting and refreshing ministry in which to serve and is open to anyone who can read music. Join our music ministry team! Come and ring with us! (For more information contact Pastor John.)

First Handbell Rehearsal: Tuesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The Missing Lamps

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He decided to build them a church.

No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marvelled at its beauty. Then someone asked, “But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?”



The nobleman pointed to some brackets on the walls. Then he gave to each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

“Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted,” the nobleman said. “Each time you aren’t here, that area will be dark.”

This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God’s house will be dark.”

First Baptist Church Fall Retreat

We have booked Katepwa Lake Camp for October 26-28, for an all-ages, church-wide weekend retreat. Previous weekends have included a mix of reflection sessions, free time, and gathered worship in the Qu'appelle Valley. They have been great times for friendship, rest, and spiritual renewal. The suggested cost is \$50 per person (excluding younger children). Register by speaking with Pastor Joel or Ali Miller.



First Baptist Church Staff

Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor
John Nelson, Associate Pastor
George Mackenzie, Caretaker

First Baptist Church Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church office is closed on Fridays, since it is a day off for staff.

Website: firstbaptistregina.ca
Email: main_fbcregina@sasktel.net
Phone: 306-359-1450

Children

Children from 3 to 11 are invited downstairs most Sundays for their own service of worship. Speak to Pastor Joel if you can help.

Children's area clean up and set up. Next Saturday, Sept. 8, 9:30 am

Orientation Sessions for all volunteers September 16 or 23, immediately following the worship service.

Nursery

If being part of this ministry is something that you are interested in, contact Kayely Rich via email at kayelyrich@icloud.com.

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.

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 of Creation from Genesis.

Life Together

Sunday	9:30 am	Learning for Life
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Monday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
Tuesday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	5:15 pm	Tuesday Nights Together
	6:00 pm	JuBELLation Practice
Wednesday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	8:00 am	Prayer Breakfast
	10:00 am	Achievers' Bible Study
	12:15 pm	Noon Prayers
Thursday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Friday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	7:00 pm	Youth Event

September at a Glance

- Sept. 8 Praise in the Park (p.7)
- Sept. 9 Kick-off Sunday (p.2)
- Sept. 11 Tuesday Nights Together resumes (p.12)
- Sept. 11 JuBELLation resumes (p.13)
- Sept. 13 Choir Rehearsal resumes (p.12)
- Sept. 16 Learning for Life resumes (p.7)
- Sept. 19 VOICE resumes (p.6)
- Sept. 22 Men's Breakfast (p.6)
- Sept. 27 Achiever's Luncheon (p.3)
- Oct. 26 Fall Retreat at Katepwa Lake Camp (p.14)