

First Baptist Church

www.firstbaptistregina.ca



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Everything begins and ends with Jesus.

We've listened to five different stories and songs this fall from the Old Testament. They are beautiful artifacts from lives of faith in the midst of love, work, grief, war, and death. But I've had a growing longing to hear the stories of Jesus again.

Into the silence of God, into beauty and love, into suffering, into a "sin soaked world", and into death, Jesus was born. Advent reminds us to welcome Jesus to come into our lives today. He is our hope, our light, our comfort, and our strength. Let us prepare our lives for him. May the Lord Jesus be near you day by day.

With love, Pastor Joel

Congregational Care



Christmas Together

Sunday, Dec 9

12:15 (immediately after the service)

Join your church family and friends in the lower hall for a Christmas Brunch! Invite your friends and family to come for the whole morning.

RSVP Heather Russell-MacLean 306-531-5634

Men's Christmas Dinner



Let Merv, Joel, or the church know if you, sons, or friends are coming. Friends and sons are welcome.

Merv: 306-527-7951

Joel and church:

main_fbcregina@sasktel.net,

Monday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.

Home of Merv Hepting, 2244 Smith St, Suite 110

Welcome to a fine evening of fun, food, and fellowship

Bring one of the following to share with a large group, along with serving spoons as needed.

- main course – home-cooked or purchased
- salad, or raw or cooked vegetables
- desert or snacks
- non-alcoholic beverage

Music

It's beginning to look a lot like
Christmas everywhere you go;
Take a look in the five and ten
glistening once again
with candy canes and silver lanes
aglow.
It's beginning to look a lot like
Christmas toys in every store
but the prettiest sight to see is the
holly that will be on your own front
door. (Meredith Wilson, 1951)



Mark your calendars and plan on attending any of these and other wonderful Christmas presentations.

Christmas presentations of Note

Dec. 3-6: Rotary Carol Festival at 7:00 p.m. Knox Met United Church. Free Will Offering. (Local church, school, and community choirs will present a program of familiar, as well as new, Christmas music each night).

Dec. 9: Luther College High School Candlelight Services at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Free Will Offering.

(Two traditional candlelight services featuring bells, carol singing, choirs, orchestra, special readings, string ensemble, plus more).

Dec. 14: Cantate Youth Choirs Concert at 7:30 p.m. First Baptist Church. Free Will Offering.

(Apprentice & Senior choirs, featuring over 90 children and youth in concert).

Dec. 15: Vivace Choral Ensemble Concert at 7:00 p.m. First Baptist Church. Tickets required.

(A 60 mixed voice community choir featuring traditional carols and songs of the season).

Dec. 16: Christmas Glory Concert at 7:00 p.m. First Baptist Church. Free Will Offering.

(N.B., Bells, Carols, Choirs, Narration, Organ, Piano, Violin, Trumpet, and Vocal solos).

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m. First Baptist Church. Free Will Offering.

(A family service featuring candlelight, carol singing, communion, special music & readings).

Achievers 55+



Achievers' Luncheons and Guest Speakers for Winter 2019

An exciting small group opportunity for those 55+ years of age.

Check out www.achieversregina.ca for more information on both the guest speakers and the Achievers group. Cost of the tantalizing luncheon meal is \$10.00.

Jan. 24- Diane Campeau

Feb. 28- Marilyn Pollon Braun

Mar. 28- Merv Tippe

Apr. 25- John Robinson

May 23- Reade Holtslander

Achievers' Bible Study

The Bible study meets every second Wednesday in the church boardroom from 10:00 to 11:00 am. The next and last meeting for 2018 will be December 12.



Learning for Life

Learning for Life offers one option, which started November 18.

“Hope!” with Annabel Robinson.

When I preached on Ecclesiastes in September, I shared something that was on my heart, and still is. I said:

As we get older we can also be gripped by another fear--not so much of death as of what may happen to us before we die: loss of memory, dementia, Alzheimer's, losing our driver's license, loss of independence, loss of ability to do the things we love doing. I speak from experience: arthritis keeps me from playing the violin; bad knees prevent me from walking; my own memory isn't what it was and I wonder at times where all this is leading.

In this class we are following up those comments. It's for people of all ages, because the more we think about these things when we're younger the better we will be able to live well when we're older, not to mention the fact that trouble may strike us at any time. It's my hope that there will be continued dynamic interaction among people who come—or lurk online.

You can start by emailing me suggestions or comments: annabel.robinson@uregina.ca

Prayer Times

Morning Prayer 7:15 a.m., 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!



Prayer Breakfast

Prayer Breakfast takes place on Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. to about 9:15 a.m. We meet in the library for a simple breakfast, Bible reading/discussion and prayer time for our church, the wider Christian church and the world. Please join us by coming in the Lorne St. door. We will be taking Boxing Day off, but otherwise will meet weekly (unless there's really inclement weather!) Please join us!

Diaconate Report

With the approval of the congregational budget, which included additional money for hiring and new staff member, the search committee will take the next steps. Please pray that God will lead the right candidate(s) to us. The board also welcomes, thanks, and congratulates two prospective deacons, Adijah Pusi and Esther Gurnsey, who have allowed their names to stand for election to the Diaconate. Their skills and knowledge will be a valuable contribution to the board, and we look forward to their help in keeping our congregation spiritually healthy. The Diaconate is also pleased that Norma Holtlander is pursuing ordination with CBWC. We look forward to the day when we can say, "Reverend Norma Holtlander."

Collin Carbno, Chair of Diaconate FBC

TNT

On Tuesday nights we get together, bring our own meal and something to share. In addition, there is an adult group that meets and discusses things from the Bible or from a DVD.

We would like some one to start a children's program on Tuesday nights, so families can come out and not worry what to do with their kids.

Also, interested persons can join the bell ringers and learn something new with John Nelson.

Missions

Lebanon

We now have 8 people on our SENT to Lebanon Team! Anne & Roger Bellows, Barb Ziolkowski, Dierdre & Ben Sentis, Heather & Xavier Russell-MacLean, and Laureen Snook.

- They will see the work in Lebanon first hand next June!
- Participate in the annual Middle East Consultation at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Visit some of our CBM partners' other ministries, including local churches and refugee relief projects.

Pray for them! Pray for our partners in mission, Emad & Almess Botros, sons Timothy & Nathaniel. Pray also for the Botros' colleagues, the students at ABTS, the churches, and the refugees in Lebanon.

MISSIONS IS ALL YEAR ROUND, but...

CHRISTMAS is a special time to give... especially to those less fortunate.

The CBM HOPEFUL GIFTS FOR CHANGE catalogue has some great gift ideas! Pick one up from the foyer or see it online: <https://hopefulgifts.ca/> (How about a gift under the tree for Jesus?)

CHANGE A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS!!

Gideons of Canada

We have received a note of thanks from the Gideons of Canada for our ongoing support. This support in 2017-2018 (\$100/mo.) was supplied jointly by the church Missions budget and the Wednesday a.m. Prayer Group and friends, and has provided hundreds of scriptures and magazines for distribution locally and globally.

Coming Together in a Good Way

Mino-maawanji'itiwag “Coming Together In a Good Way”

On November 2-3, First Baptist Regina helped to sponsor a conference with YFC and Living Hope Alliance. Over 160 people came from across the prairies. It was an ecumenical gathering with Christians from many traditions in attendance.

Dr Terry LeBlanc gave lectures on how Christian practices change as they enter a new culture and the challenges this has presented in North America among Indigenous People. There were several workshops and testimonies; Cheryl Bear and Howard Jolly provided stories and songs. The weekend ended with a round dance. Though there were tears and stories of suffering, there was a positive spirit. It was an encouraging time with new friendships being forged.

Next year is already being planned. The main speaker will be Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred. Ray began his ministry in Regina and is an excellent speaker. This is an event to look forward to.



Finances

The budget for 2019 was approved by the congregation at the Fall Business Meeting. This approved budget will allow us to hire an additional full-time staff. The budget, however, will require a greater commitment to giving from the congregation. As discussed at the meeting, we will be stepping out in faith that God is leading our church to being more than we are now.

As you can see from the numbers below, our income has generally been keeping up with our expenses. In fact, we are projecting a small surplus at the end of the year.

HOWEVER, as noted in previous monthly newsletters and at the Fall Business Meeting, we have not been meeting the budget that we set for 2018.

Approved Operating Budget to end of October: (prorated monthly)	\$ 3 2 3 , 2 4 0
Operating Revenue to end of October 2018:	\$ 285,162
Operating Expenses to end of October 2018:	\$ 284,796
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 183,628
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$ 279,500

We have several ways for you to provide your regular tithes and donations to the church:

1. Place your gifts in an offering basket during any worship service, or mail it to the Church Office.
2. Establish a **Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) Plan**. This will automatically transfer funds from your account into the FBC Regina account on a regular basis. Please email the church or contact the Treasurer if you would like to set up PAR, or change your commitment.

3. Make an online donation:

- Use **Interac e-Transfer** to donate from your phone or computer to FBCRegina@gmail.com (*no fee or cost to the church*).
- Use a credit card or PayPal via the **PayPal Giving Fund** (*no fee or cost to the church*).
- Use a credit card or PayPal via **CanadaHelps** (*a fee of 3.5% is deducted from the donation*).

PLEASE refer to more specific information on these contribution methods that is available on the church website. You may email the church or contact the Treasurer for further details.

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 for 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

If you have not provided an email yet, or are having problems accessing the system, please send a note to the Church Office (main_fbcregina@sasktel.net).

KLC Update



<http://www.katepwalakecamp.com/>

KLC November Update:

Our fall KLC Gala raised an impressive \$15K. Thank you to all our donors! The KLC board proposed a deficit budget for 2018 of \$20K, because of the significant infrastructure upgrades (\$40K+) we needed. It looks as though we will be coming in for 2018 at about \$12K below budget. The KLC Board is hopeful that we can propose a much-needed balanced budget for 2019, so that our debt levels can be reduced (a though, it looks like we need a new dishwasher costing \$15K). Rentals into spring 2019 are going very well, and we already have a few winter rentals. So a balanced budget for 2019 is not impossible. An additional \$500.00 a month in giving might be enough to balance the budget in 2019 (but don't hold me to that number). New monthly donors, or year-end contributors would still be highly appreciated. Every bit helps.

Collin Carbno
Secretary on the KLC board.

Children and Youth

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

Children's Program Orientation

Mark your calendars:

January 13, 9:30 a.m.

Orientation for everyone involved in Sunday morning children's programs. All volunteers and parents are encouraged to come. The goal will be to evaluate how we are doing in each area, and to review both policy and safety concerns.

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 (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 (7-11)

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, games, cooking, science experiments, and any other way we dream up.

This month the children are studying Jesus' birth through the prophet Isaiah as they make Advent calendars, luminaria, and play games.

Youth

December	Event
7 th	Bible Study at FBC 7:00 - 9:00.
14 th	Christmas themed progressive supper and gift exchange. Bring a gift that costs a MAXIMUM of \$10. Start time will be 6:30, and end time will be 9:00. I will text out the address where we will start, and pickup will be at the Senger house.

Please note that after the 14th of December, there will be no events for youth until January.

Give and Take

This new section of the newsletter called "**Give and Take**" is where First Baptist folks can list things to give away or things people are looking for. Please contact Marilyn Phillips (phillimarilyn@gmail.com; 306-515-1113) if you have items you wish to "Give and Take".

To Give Away:

Miscellaneous household items (shower curtain, bath mat, floor length brown drapes for large window, framed pictures, tablecloths, 2 small pots, etc. Call Marilyn Phillips: (Contact info above).

Items Needed:

Double Bed. Call Gibril Butoy: 306-737-4096.

Interview—Julie Rich

Julie, I've seen the work that you, Murray and Shirley Wolfe have done in beautifying the office area of our church. I'm referring to the painting of walls, of lending and rearranging artwork. You have made the area beautiful. How did this project begin and how was it carried out?



It began when our small (care) group met to wash the walls in the main office and hallways. Joel talked about repainting the main office and making it into a sitting area, a place to relax and enjoy. Murray and Shirley and I decided to do the job. The Wolfes had recently painted their house, so they brought equipment and supplies. We worked together and as it turned out, we made a pretty good team. Later Shirley and I hung the pictures.

I have seen your pictures at several local art shows and have admired them. I'm curious to know when you first felt the urge to draw and paint. Also, how did your gift first express itself?

I have always been interested in creative things like, drawing, colouring, doing crafts and sewing. As a kid, I liked to walk down the store aisles where the paper, pencils, and crayons were displayed.

Did you get early encouragement from anyone? How significant was this? What formal or informal training have you had?

Occasionally, I was told I could draw well, but not in a way that told me what I could do with it. I remember the yearly school supply list would always have neat art supplies we were to get, but

I was usually disappointed that we were not shown how to use them during the year.

I have no formal training other than a few classes/workshops I've taken as an adult. What really got me started was a TV show: The Jerry Yarnell School of Fine Arts Show aired on the Saskatchewan Network (SCN) in 2005. I recorded the shows on our VHS, and Kevin helped me transfer them to my laptop computer. This way I could pause and rewind easily, while I painted along and learned about technique and how to mix paint colours. Eventually, I formed my own style.

How do you do your work? Do you wait for inspiration to hit: that is, do you work when the spirit leads you? Or do you rather follow a discipline of work?

I'm more of a "when the spirit leads me" type of person. I've tried to set aside specific times, but that just doesn't seem to work for me. Although, once I've started a painting I can easily make the time to work on it until it feels done.

What is the source of your inspiration?

I'm very much a nature girl. I love how trees twist from a harsh environment. The rocks and hills in southern Saskatchewan, the flowers, the occasional bird, and the way grasses grow in the country and the wheat fields. I take my camera with me and come home with much inspiration.

I know that you are able to sell your paintings and I congratulate you. What besides monetary gain is gratifying to you in this?

Well, canvases can take up space and things start piling up, so it's always nice to have some of them go. I think mostly, though, I find

it encouraging that others like my work enough to want to own it. It helps to keep me motivated.

That's easy to understand. I particularly enjoy the trio of pictures of land and seascapes that you have lent to the church. Can you talk a bit about how they came about: were they imagined scenes, or scenes from the real world?

The winter one, Winter Sentries, was a photo I took while Kevin and I were out at Sherwood Forest doing some cross-country skiing. The other two were compilations of calendar pictures and my photos.

Our church life calls forth a variety of personal gifts like speaking, singing, playing instruments, running sound boards, teaching, etc. We seldom call on the gift of an artist. How, in your opinion, could we correct this?

I'm not sure, I suppose just letting it be known that there is a need somewhere, such as Joel did in asking for help in the office area.

While I'm writing these questions, I'm reminded of some lines of poetry by Keats:

A thing of beauty is a joy forever
Its loveliness increases. It can never
Pass into nothingness.

The Bible encourages us to bring our gifts to the altar. The gifts that you, Murray, and Shirley have brought us are deeply appreciated and will last. Thanks to all three of you.

Note: Julie: Although I've loaned these paintings to the church for décor, I would like to say if anyone is interested in purchasing one of my paintings that is hanging in the church office area, I will donate all the proceeds to the church.

Interviewer: Esther Wiens

VOICE

Voice is a reading group for women open to anyone who likes to read, and who can commit a Wednesday evening twice a month to come together and discuss what is being read. We are a support group with emphasis on prayer and spiritual growth. Call 306-586-7015 for further information.

Current read: *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, by Brennan Manning.



Schedule: Read chapters 10 and 11 for December 12th.
Ongoing schedule: Dec. 12th (the final meeting for 2018)
Place: 77 Motherwell Crescent.
Time: 7:00-9:00

Tai Chi

Tai Chi for Baptists started at First Baptist Church about 15 years ago. We have met in various venues since our beginning, and have now returned to the Lower Hall. We are an exercise group that enjoys the slow, non-combative movements of Tai Chi, but with a Baptist twist (You'll recognise that by the number of moves we have renamed which seem to emphasise food and fellowship!) Tai Chi helps to build strength and balance and is beneficial for all ages. Our oldest member just celebrated her 93rd birthday, so don't think you are too old to join us! All are welcome to join us for a short devotional after our exercise time. We don't take ourselves very seriously, so there is a lot of laughter and good-natured teasing. We meet on Saturdays at 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Because of church events, we will only be able to meet on Dec.1 this month. Because some of us are wimps, we take January off, but will start up again on February 2nd. If you are curious, come on Dec. 1 or in Feb. to see what we are up to! Enter by the elevator door, park in front of the Youth Centre or east of the church, if you can't find street parking closer. Wear comfortable clothes and non-marking shoes (runners work well). We look forward to seeing some new faces.

Hilary Ryan

Property Commission

I have a list of small jobs that need to be done before December 9th.

If anyone can find the time to do one or more, it would be great. If there are any other items to be addressed, please let me know and I'll add them to the list.

We will have Christmas Together Lunch on Sunday December 9th and will need help setting up Saturday and cleaning up Sunday afternoon. Christmas Glory is on Sunday 16th. If you can help with greeting or ushering on that night, it would be greatly appreciated.

The FBC Youth group will be cleaning the doors, windows and church pews.

The small jobs are as follows:

- clean windows ground floor
- refill containers with salt
- clean kitchen, including fridge/freezer x 2
- fill any holes and cracks in walls, etc.
- secure exit sign in rear Lorne street lobby
- fix ballast and light in nursery washroom
- fix washroom stall latches
- clean up sound room ceiling
- sort out balcony west prayer room
- fill holes in wall in balcony east side
- fix sound room step (plaster broken)
- clean front steps of bird droppings
- clear snow from drop zone and disabled parking area
- replace all coat hangers to look the same

- remove the coat rail in the lower hall north wall, for future history wall (2019)
- sort keys (2019)
- upgrade lighting
- price and change the pot lights in choir loft (par38) x 12

we are looking for items on an on-going bases :

- white plastic coat hangers
- 6 entrance matting \$124.12 each
- thank you for all your help during this transition

If you can help with even just one item, that would be great

Rob Stafford

First Baptist Church Staff

Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor

John Nelson, Associate Pastor

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

Phone: 306-359-1450

Email: main_fbcregina@sasktel.net

Life Together

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

December at a Glance

December 9	Christmas Together Brunch	12:15 p.m.
December 10	Men's Christmas Dinner	6:30 p.m.
December 15	Vivace	7:00 p.m.
December 16	Christmas Glory	7:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	6:00 p.m.