

First Baptist Church

www.firstbaptistregina.ca



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“One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.” Phil. 3.13

“Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”

Alfred Tennyson wrote this poem (p.15) after the death of his sister's fiancé, a good friend of his (AH). He faced his loss directly, “Let him die..., let him go”.

But the tone is not mournful. It is defiant. While facing his own grief, Tennyson heroically denounced all evil and summoned good.

Evil will one day come to an end and be forgotten. What is good will endure forever. Therefore, every New Years', as church bells ring out, death and evil hear their fate drawing ever closer.

We, however, hear them heralding the coming heavenly dawn. Let us press on together.

With love, Pastor Joel

Week of Prayer for Church Unity

January, 18-25

City-wide service: Sunday January 25, 3 p.m. All Saints Anglican Church. Pastor Joel preaching.

Every year, churches around the world set aside a week to focus on unity and to meet together for worship as another step toward reconciliation. Mark your calendars and come out for this special event.

On Sunday, January 18, Dr Brett Salkeld, the resident theologian at the Catholic Archdiocese will be joining us for one Learning for Life session. See Learning for Life description for more information.

VOICE

In January there will be a Novel Study, preceded by a breakfast brunch at the home of Julie. Come on Saturday, January 18th, at 10:00. Bring your favorite breakfast/brunch dish to share. The voting to get a consensus on a Novel will be held during the first/second week of December. You are urged to submit your choice of a Novel to Julie so she can prepare an online voting scheme.

Wednesday evening meetings will resume in January, date TBA.

Voice is a reading group for all women who like to read. Only requirement is to read the material ahead of time! Enjoy the Holiday season. Call Martha for more information.

Mens' Breakfast

Our breakfast this month will be on Saturday, January 18, 8:30 - 10 a.m. in the church library. Let Pastor Joel if you plan on attending. Mark your calendars and invite someone to join you. All ages welcome.

Learning for Life

"Suffering and Faith Formation: A Study of the Book of Job" January 12 - March 29 2020

The theme of this class will be the role of suffering in forming our faith. Suffering can be seen as a problem for those who believe in a loving and merciful God. Yet suffering is a theme we find throughout Scripture, but perhaps nowhere as personal as in the Book of Job.

What do we do with pain, grief, and anger caused by life circumstances? How do we maintain a living faith in midst of our suffering and the silence of God? Suffering has a limiting effect on our lives, but it is in being limited that growth can come.

This 12-week study will track with the suffering of Job as we look for principles of application for suffering and faith formation.

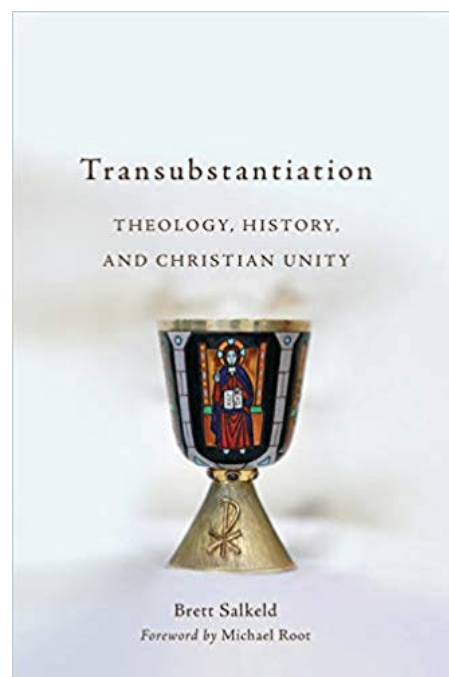
Pastor Richard Hovey will be leading this class.

Special Guest, January 18

Dr Brett Salkeld, the resident theologian at the Catholic Archdiocese will be joining us for one Learning for Life session during the week of prayer for Christian unity.

Brett recently had a book published which explored communion from both a Catholic and a Protestant perspective. We will begin with a summary of his book and then open the time for questions.

Brett is a lively, clear thinker, and friendly person with a good sense of humour. Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Brett, his wife Flannery, and their six children, live here in Regina.



FBC Website

Learning for Life will start up again in the New Year. The website posts a banner on the home page that can be clicked on to find information on current or upcoming L4L sessions. If you want information about previous sessions, there are a couple of ways to find it on the website:

- Click on the “Get Connected” tab at the top of any page, then on the link to the “Ministries and Events” on the right side of the page. The most current L4L sessions are listed at the top of this page with previous sessions listed below. Click on any of the associated links to take you to the specific L4L class information.
- Click on the “Think First” tab at the top of any page, then on the link to “Learning for Life” on the right side of the page. This will take you to the general information for L4L. There are links (in orange) throughout the page to the list of L4L sessions. Join us Sunday mornings before the service for thoughtful searching, dialogue and learning through engagement at our L4L sessions.

Katepwa Lake Camp

Staff applications open Jan. 15, 2020! We are looking to fill many positions from cabin leader, lifeguard, maintenance, kitchen manager and housekeeping. Be ready to apply online at katepwalakecamp.com. Volunteers needed! It takes an army to run camp, volunteers are essential to our ministry. Consider donating a day or a week out at camp in the kitchen, housekeeping or maintenance! <http://www.katepwalakecamp.com/volunteer>
Camp registration will open early in 2020, watch for it.

Kids@First

Nursery (ages 0-3)

Volunteers are in the nursery most Sundays to welcome your children 0-3 yrs and help them know this a place where they are cared for by our church family. Our time together includes a song, a story and play with others. While we know it is an adjustment for each wee one to leave their parents, please try leaving your cell number or location in the sanctuary with the nursery workers and see how your child settles.

On weeks where the older children are upstairs, the nursery will be unsupervised so parents are then welcome to stay in the nursery with their little ones and watch the service on the TV.

Godly Play (ages 3-6)

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction that aims 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. A volunteer leader and shepherd guide the children through the lesson each week. We are excited to have more youth involved in the leadership of Godly play this year so please encourage them as they learn their new roles.

Oasis (ages 7-11)

It takes time to soak in a story - to learn and understand it - especially when the stories are from a different culture and time. For this reason, we focus on the same story for 3-4 weeks with different activities each week to help learn the story from a unique angle. After reading from their bibles, the Oasis children explore the passage through painting, drama, quizzing, games, cooking, science experiments and any other way we dream up.

Volunteers

Thanks to the many volunteers who have stepped up to make this upcoming year possible! If you would like to volunteer, or just find out more about what volunteering involves, please speak to Pastor Joel.

Youth January

3rd: No Youth

10th: Bible study and games night at FBC.

18th: Saturday - tobogganing at *Ravine Adventures*. Check out their website or look them up on FaceBook to see pictures of their winter activities. This event will cost \$10 per person and includes all you can drink hot chocolate, a smokie roasted over the fire, and tobogganing. This will be an all afternoon event as the hill is open from 1-3. We will meet at the Senger house at 11:30 in the morning. Please make sure to dress VERY WARMLY and bring an extra set of clothes to change into for the drive home. If you are willing to help drive and participate in this event please let me know!

22nd: Bible Study @ First Baptist Place and then games/cribbage.

31st: Regina Pats Hockey Game - meet at the Brandt Center at 6:45. We will text before the 3rd period. Adults and youth are welcome. I will get 20 tickets in advance, so the first ones to confirm that they are coming will get those spots. Cost is \$5 per ticket plus whatever you want to bring for snacks.

Achievers

Achievers' Luncheons

Are you 55+ years young and enjoy fantastic food, fabulous fellowship, great guest speakers, and stimulating spiritual connection?

The first luncheon for 2020 will be held on February 27: "Sing 'n' Share", with guest speaker Marilyn Phillips. Marilyn will sing, lead us in song, and will share glimpses of her life journey. Dean Gilchrist, our chef extraordinaire, returns to provide us with a magnificent menu to tantalize your taste buds. The cost for this luncheon is \$10.

Please RSVP by Tuesday noon, February 25 by phoning the church office, dropping a note into the offering plate on Sunday morning, email Pastor John at jonel3454@hotmail.com, or sign the ACHIEVERS' LUNCHEON sheets that will be in the church foyers. Stay tuned for the exciting news as to who will be our guest speakers in the months of March 26 and April 23.

Contact Pastor John Nelson for more information or visit: www.achieversregina.ca

Achievers Bible Study

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

TNT

Tuesday Nights Together—or TNT—takes in the lower hall at 5 p.m. for potluck supper and 7 p.m. for bible study.

Prayer Together

Prayer Breakfast

Prayer Breakfast takes place Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. to about 9:15 a.m. There will be NO Prayer Breakfast on January 1. We meet in the library for a simple breakfast, a short devotion, and discussion; then we collect items for prayer. People are welcome to come by entering the Lorne St. door and coming down to the library. You may pray silently or out loud, as you are comfortable. There's space for you!

Prayer Times

Morning prayer times, Monday to Thursday, 7:15-7:45, west balcony. Use the Victoria St door.

Wednesday noon hour prayer time, 12:15-12:45, conference room. Use the Lorne St door.

Prayer Email

If you have a prayer request for yourself or someone else, simply send the request (either specific or general, telling us you'd like us to pray for you or your loved ones) to main_fbcregina@sasktel.net. We'll send requests out to people from our church who have signed up and want to pray.

In this way your prayer requests will be prayed for throughout the day as people read them and make time to pray on their own. All prayer requests will be held in confidence. If you are interested in being on our prayer list, please speak with me or with a pastor, and we can add your name. We won't share your email addresses with anyone else, and should you choose to leave the prayer group, just send me an email.

Music@FBC

The music ministry of FBC exists to enhance the worship experience. It is an exciting and diverse program that invites people of all ages, abilities and interests to make a joyful noise together in a "caring music family environment. A wide range of musical expressions is fostered, utilizing and nurturing the musical talents of its music family members.

Music at FBC is focused upon people rather than on programs. People participating in music-making, experience music as one of the great ingredients of life, health, strength and happiness. "Music is to the mind as air is to the body." Plato

Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir has a rich ministry history spanning over 120 years! This ministry is the longest serving "small group" of FBC. The choir is a faithful group of approximately 18-20 members who enjoy fellowship and musical expression together. the choir offers strong support in the worship services ten months of the year, as well as very special seasonal concerts. the choir is regularly enriched by new members who join this "caring choir community." YOU would certainly be welcome to attend the first rehearsal on Thursday, January 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m.. The choir will be singing in the worship service on the second Sunday, January 12.

JuBELLation Ringers

This enthusiastic music group will resume rehearsing on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00-7:00 p.m.. Interested ringers are encouraged to contact Pastor John. Potential ringers must be able to read music.

Easter Alleluia

Mark your calendars and plan on attending, or possibly even consider being involved in this much anticipated music ministry presentation- Sunday, April 5, 7:00 p.m..

Music Invitation

We invite you! Our music family has "much fun and fellowship". Why not join in and experience for yourself the joy of making music together with others? Whether your gift is large or small, we are interested in you as a person and what other attributes besides music you might bring to our midst. The FBC music program is open to all members on a volunteer basis. Having YOU join one of these music groups would be cause for celebration! Happy New Year!!

“Joy to the world”

(Words by Isaac Watts/Music by G. F. Handel)

Did you know that this most favorite Christmas carol was not specifically written for Christmas?

"There could be no hymn which can boast of such famous parenthood as this two-hundred-fifty year old Christmas carol. The words were penned by that master of English hymns, that giant of sacred verse, that most famous of hymn writers, Isaac Watts. The music was composed by that wonder of divine sound, that leader of choral interpretation, that most famous of song writers, George Frederick Handel (an adaption from The Messiah). Who can say which one was more responsible for the continued popularity of "Joy to the World"? But what they created together has never died, and probably never will!"

(Excerpt from, “STORIES OF THE CHRISTIAN HYMNS”, revised edition by Helen Salem-Rizk- Abingdon Press)

Finances

The 2019 year-to-date financials indicate that offerings to the end of November were 12% **above** giving for the same period in 2018. However, the forecast was that overall expenses will be close to the budgeted number at year-end, and it appears that our requirement for giving has not been keeping up with expenses. This will be reviewed after our final year-end numbers become available and we begin our yearly audit in January.

Approved Operating Budget for 2019:	\$ 408.7 K
Approved Operating Budget to end of November 2019 (prorated monthly)	\$ 374.6 K
Operating Revenue to end of November 2019:	\$ 351.1 K
Operating Expenses to end of November 2019:	\$ 367.6 K
Restricted Reserve Balance (year-end estimate): (Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)	\$ 296.7 K
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$ 252.9K

Approved Operating Budget for 2020: \$ 427.6K

The congregation approved the budget for 2020 at our Fall Business Meeting on Nov. 17, 2019. This budget will be a stretch and a challenge. But it will be required if we wish to keep offering the ministries and activities as we have been, as well as those planned for the future, and keep the general operations of our church running.

Reminders...

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

1. Place your gifts in an offering basket during any worship service or mail 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.

ChurchTrac

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:

<http://firstbaptistregina.ca/get-connected/churchtrac/>

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).

ChurchTrac also houses the church directory. If you didn't have a photo taken earlier this year, you may submit a family photo to the Church Office for inclusion in the directory.

Diaconate Report

A friend of mine, a pastor, has just had his ministry evaluated by his entire church. Everyone in the church was given an evaluation form to fill out, measuring their pastor on a variety of criteria. While many were positive, some were a bit hard on him.

It occurred to me that perhaps the pastor should have had an equal opportunity to evaluate the church! To what degree was the church reflecting God's design for the church in Scripture? What grade should be assigned? And what if the pastor were to evaluate each church member? And give them a grade on how well they appeared to be doing as followers of Jesus, growing in Jesus' likeness? A grade on what progress each had made in the past year?

I have never heard of a church inviting their pastor to do such an evaluation. What do you think we try this? Just kidding!

But seriously, how are we doing as a church, entering the year 2020? Are we reflecting God's design? Where are we doing well and where are we falling short and needing improvement? And turning the focus from the church as a community onto ourselves as individual parts of Christ's body, how are we doing? How am I doing? If our pastors were lovingly to attempt to give us each a grade, what might it be? And what might the comments be?

Your church board is made up of fellow pilgrims on the Jesus' way, sinners saved by grace. But we have been entrusted with asking these kinds of questions of ourselves and of our church and entrusted with providing leadership and a way forward, to reflect better God's heart and God's design.

(Con't, see over)

Here are the questions I am asking:

Do those outside catch a glimpse of heaven, of God's future, when they observe the way we love one another? And bear with one another, and build up one another and challenge one another?

Does our church reflect God's heart for the healing of the nations? Is the gospel proclaimed clearly in our worship, and in our daily lives?

Are people coming to Christ and growing in his likeness?

Are we giving a winsome alternative to a culture that in so many ways is lost and confused?

Do the things we do together create space for God's Spirit to work?

Are there things we need to let go of, because they are no longer helpful? Are there things we need to begin to do?

Am I growing as a follower of Jesus?

What things in my life do I need to let go of?

What do I need to begin?

Please pray for your leadership board. And please reflect on these questions. And let's invite God's Spirit to have his way with us.

Ron Phillips, Board Chair

First Baptist Church Board Members 2020

Ron Phillips, Board Chair
Laureen Snook - secretary
Kevin Rich - treasurer
Collin Carbno
Brenda Ziolkowski
Barry Lyons

Adijah Pusi
Eleanor Russell
Esther Gurnsey
Tiffany Lai
Rosemary Ward

In Memoriam, A.H.H. (Ring Out, Wild Bells)

by Alfred Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

First Baptist Church Staff

Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor

John Nelson, Associate Pastor

Kayely Rich, Associate Pastor

Richard Hovey, Associate Pastor

Norma Holtslander, First Baptist Place Chaplain Chris Senger, Youth

Website: firstbaptistregina.ca

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Phone: 306-359-1450

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

January at a Glance

Sunday, 15th	9:30	Learning for Life resumes (p.3)
Wednesday, 15th	10 am	Achievers' Bible Study (p.7)
Saturday, 18th	10 am	VOICE resumes, (p.2)
Saturday, 18th	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast (p.2)
Wednesday, 29th	10 am	Achievers' Bible Study (p.7)