

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of November 29th, 2020

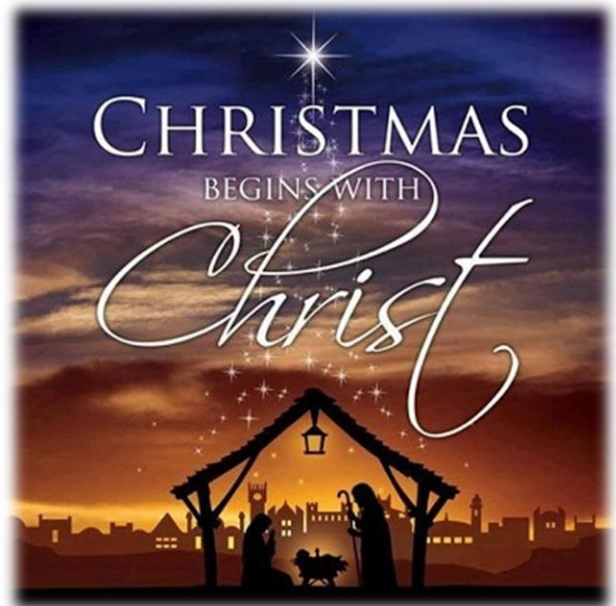
The Season of Advent Begins

*"By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79)*



Advent is meant to be a time of prayer and even fasting to help everyone slow down and reflect on the need for salvation. This year, we may not require much help. Our world is very much in need of Jesus and his way of peace.

Christmas is not simply the birth of Jesus in the world, long ago. Jesus must be born in us as well, today. When we look to Jesus, sometimes, by the mercy of God, a little light enters our hearts and minds in the midst of darkness. Invite Jesus into your life once again this advent.



And may Jesus guide us all into the way of peace.

With love,

Pastor Joel

First Baptist Regina Re-Opening

First Baptist Regina has re-opened its sanctuary for in-person worship services. If you are planning to attend this Sunday and it will be your first time back, please familiarize yourself with the [attendance guidelines](#), found on our website.

Sermon Audio by Phone

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our church and affected many of us in different ways. Those of us without the devices, computers, and knowledge to connect to the Internet are feeling even more isolated. To help address this, First Baptist Church has implemented a service called “Dial-the-Sermon”.

A recent sermon is available to listen to on your phone—any landline or cell phone—by dialing (306) 992-1912 (toll-free within the Regina area). This is an easy way for anyone who is limited to a telephone for communication, to hear the sermon from a recent worship service. This number takes you straight to the sermon recording—there are *no* menu or option choices that you will be required to make.

If you know someone who could benefit from this service, please pass this information on to them.

Dial-the-Sermon (306) 992-1912

Christmas Reflections

For the four Sundays of Advent, there will be 10 to 15 minutes of Christmas music before the worship service, beginning at 10:45 am. Featured will be both archival recordings performed in years past, plus LIVE selections from Christa W and Mark A. The archival recordings will feature Gifts of Music from the Sanctuary Choir, Exaltation, JuBELLation, instrumentalists, and soloists. If you’re joining the service via Zoom, be sure to tune in early to enjoy this special music.

Stay tuned for exciting news concerning the presentation of archival recordings of past **Christmas Glory** presentations. These will be featured once a week during Advent on Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Hilary R, Kevin R, and Music Minister, Pastor John Nelson, for the many hours of work they have put into preparing this music for our enjoyment.

November Congregational Meeting

Thank you to everyone who was able to take part in this meeting. An estimated 80 to 100 people participated in the meeting—approximately 20 in person and the rest via Zoom.

There were three main announcements.

We reviewed our finances for this year. We are currently projecting a slight deficit of \$2000 in 2020. There has been a small drop in giving this year. But thanks to your support, our bank account is healthy and we can handle a small deficit. (Our treasurer has communicated this in the weekly newsletter.) Of course we would prefer to not carry a deficit at all. As well, our property commission does have a few major projects that they have put on hold until finances improve. If you can help further this year in one of these areas, it would be much appreciated. Please feel free to contact Kevin R or Rob S if you have questions about any of this.

The proposed budget for 2021 was presented and approved after some discussion. It includes lower revenue, a slight drop in expenses, and a deficit of \$17,000. Once again, our bank account can support this deficit. Nevertheless, the Finance committee and Board of Deacons will review our situation on a monthly basis and provide regular updates to the congregation over the coming year.

Esther G has been hired on a part-time basis as the Communication Lead, beginning November 1st. She is currently preparing the newsletter and the weekly email, and will be adding communication through Facebook and our Website.

The major announcement came at the conclusion of the morning worship service. Ron P, the Board Chair, read a letter from Rev. John Nelson announcing that John would be working part-time beginning in January and retiring later next spring. John has been a pastor here for 35 years and has provided excellent music, loving pastoral care, and solid leadership. Our Lead Pastor, Joel, shared that we will take our time with plans so that we can process our grief, and also enjoy our time with John and celebrate all his years of hard work and love.

Our apologies if we did not get to your question during the meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact one of the pastors or deacons, or our treasurer with any further questions or concerns. To contact any of these individuals, you can send an email to [the church](#) or call (306) 359-1450.

Children's Ministry

As Advent begins, our children's ministry has again moved online so we can all prepare for Christmas together! Julie and Kayely have enjoyed seeing some of our kids in person and on Zoom, and hope to see, virtually, even more in the coming weeks.

This year, our families with children are being given an Advent activity called the "Jesse Tree." While there are a couple variations of this concept, we will be looking at the story from creation to the birth of Jesus. Each family will have a Scripture reading and short craft that reminds them of that day's story.

Here's a schedule of these Advent activities:

1. Dec. 1 to 25 – Jesse Tree crafts and readings at home – a look at the time from creation to Jesus' birth
2. Nov. 29 to Dec. 20 – Advent worship services offer lots of ways to engage kids as they watch from home. If needed, prepare some colouring or a notepad to sketch/write as you listen.
3. Nov. 29 to Dec. 27 – After the Sunday morning worship service, kids are invited to their own 'breakout' room to visit with friends and share about Advent. There will also be a short Advent-related story.
4. Dec. 3, at 8 pm – Parents night on Zoom

****Parents:** Please contact [Pastor Kayely](#) if you need a link to join any of these events.

An invite from FBC Kids to our whole FBC congregation:

While we are not able to make enough crafts for all the adults in the congregation, we would like to invite you to follow along with the Bible readings from December 1st to the 25th. Here are this week's readings to start with:

Dec 1 - Genesis 1:1, 27-28 and John 1:1-4

Dec 2 - Genesis 3:1-10, 23 and 1 John 1:8-9

Dec 3 - Genesis 6:11-9:17, Romans 6:23 and Joshua 23:14

Dec 4 - Genesis 12:1-7, Hebrews 11:8 and Matthew 1:1

Dec 5 - Genesis 22:1-13, Isaiah 53:7, John 1:29 and 1 Peter 1:19

Dec 6 - Genesis 28:10-22

Dec 7 - Genesis 37:3-4, 12-24, 28

For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

—Pastor Kayely

Katepwa Lake Camp (KLC) Event – “Dancing in the Rain” Stream-a-thon

Like many organizations in this year of Covid-19, it was a challenging year, financially, for KLC. With no income from camper fees (\$60K) or rental revenue (\$30K), we anticipated a significant deficit at the year’s end.

In view of this situation, on Sunday, November 22nd, KLC presented “Dancing in the Rain”—a virtual fundraiser. Hosted by two former campers, the audience enjoyed videos of camp in operation, ranging from the earliest years of the camp to more recent times. Also presented were interviews—some live (on Zoom) and some pre-recorded—of many of those who have participated in, or played a role in the operation of the camp.

We are very grateful for the generous donations that were received or pledged by many individuals at this event. Over \$26K has been received in donations, and with pledges, we expect that figure to rise to \$35K or more, surpassing our goal of \$25K for this event.

Although we were unable to offer our regular camp programs, many of our expenses, such as insurance (\$20K+), utilities, property taxes, property maintenance, and accounting fees did not go away because there was a pandemic going on. Even with the generous outpouring of support at this fundraiser, we are still in need of \$35K by the end of the year in order to avoid a deficit.

If you would like to partner with us to continue our ministry and help us make a difference in lives of children and youth in 2021, here's how you can donate:

1. Online with a credit card at: www.katepwalakecamp.com
2. By e-transfer to: treasurer@katepwalakecamp.com
3. Through CanadaHelps (www.canadahelps.org)
4. Mail a cheque to:

Katepwa Lake Camp
PO Box 926
Fort Qu'Appelle SK S0G 1S0

Material for Masks

Do you have some **100% cotton** fabric taking up valuable space in your sewing room or storage area? If so, you can bring it to the church and give it to an usher, or contact Eleanor R. She is making masks for Carmichael Outreach and is running out of her supply of extra fabric.

Canadian Baptists of Western Canada (CBWC)

– We Are All CBWC



What are some of the things they do?

Our denomination helps support church leadership and administration. It isn't glamorous, but they manage our pension plan, disability insurance, health plans, and a sabbatical fund. They also offer education opportunities and a several retreats for church staff and leadership throughout the year. The CBWC has been ready with good counsel and help for everyone involved anytime we have called over the past few years. Area Ministers are also in regular contact with pastors and are ready to help when invited by a congregation. The Denomination has helped camps and churches financially as they've had the fund to do so.

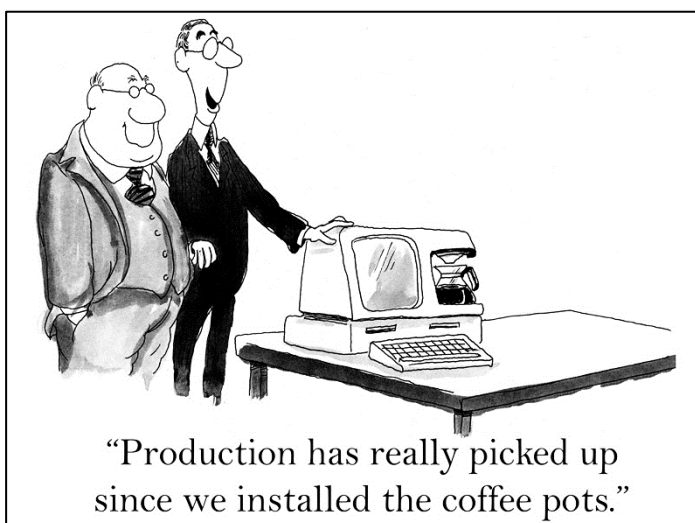
A portion of all our giving goes directly to our denomination to support this and all they do.

Website

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our church events and schedules in every way. The [church website](#) is a valuable source of information that can help keep you connected and up to date with the various programs that are available.

One easy way to keep on top of upcoming events is to click on the calendar icon at the bottom of each page on the website. Each entry on the calendar provides a link to information about various events, such as Learning for Life, small group studies, and prayer times.

Also on our website are links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel, where you will find video reflections, devotions, and studies by a number of our members and pastors.



What did the drummer call his twin daughters? Anna one, Anna two...

If you see a robbery at an Apple Store, does that make you an iWitness?

My friend wants to become an archaeologist, but I'm trying to put him off. I'm convinced his life will be in ruins.

Today, my son asked, "Can I have a bookmark?" I burst into tears. 11 years old and he still doesn't know my name is Brian.

Spiritual Disciplines Series: The Shema

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

These verses above contain the Shema of the Old Testament: A call to love the Lord our God with all that we’ve got, recognizing that this God is one. Dennis Hollinger, in his book *Head, Heart & Hands*, writes:

“To believe that God is One involves the mind in an affirmation of thought, but draws on a commitment of the heart that will not assent to any other ultimate commitments in life... This belief of the mind and sentiments of the heart are evidenced in daily life by obeying and observing God’s commandments... The Shema is a clear example of holistic faith that brings the whole of one’s self together in the context of a community of believers... The firmness of heart could not exist without the theological affirmation that God is one and the actions demonstrating that claim in the realities of everyday life. Without the head, the claims about God’s nature as one are exclusive and meaningless; without the heart, such claims are mere rhetoric; without the hands, such claims and their corresponding laws have no life and reality in everyday existence.”

The Shema called Israel to not only a belief that their God was One, but a response to that belief, by living out this truth in their day-to-day lives. In this sense, the Shema is connected to the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) within the Old Covenant. In light of who your God is, you ought to follow his commandments. Within the New Covenant we get this expressed well in Mark’s Gospel as follows:

“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

“When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.”

You will notice in Jesus’ reciting and teaching on the Shema of the Old Covenant, he reiterates the call to love God, but also recognizes the love of neighbor which is inherent in the Torah. So, we are called to recognize that our God is One, and to respond to this truth by loving God and loving others. One last important word on this is that this is a response to a God who is also gracious. The first word of the Decalogue is a word of grace:

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” (Deuteronomy 5:6) This word opens the giving of the Ten Commandments – a word acknowledging the grace of God who delivered Israel from Egypt. So, we love the Lord our God because he is One and because he is gracious, and this response to God carries over to love for others. This is the keeping of the Shema.

—Pastor Richard

What’s happening at First?

Morning Prayer

Join us each morning, Monday to Friday at 7:15 am to begin your day with scripture and prayer, via Zoom. Visit our [website](#) for the link.

Children

Our children’s ministry has moved online. For more information, see page 4.

Youth

Pastor Chris: “Last week, for youth, we met on Zoom to catch up, play some games, and pray together. While it’s disappointing that we cannot meet face to face, we are grateful to be able to build community by seeing one another virtually.” For more information, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adults

Learning for Life: Annabel R is facilitating an online series on the book of Romans. The class is exploring how Paul’s epistle to the Romans focuses on his message to the followers in Rome, who are under the shadow of Caesar. Paul states that God’s plan for the world has been revealed through Jesus, and his message demonstrates that God has been faithful to his covenant with Israel. For more information, please contact Annabel, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

Voice is a small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively conversation. Voice meets every second Wednesday from 7 to 9 pm, using Zoom. At present, the group is reading *Jesus Among Other Gods* by Ravi Zacharias. For more information, visit [our website](#), send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

Reading through the Old Testament: In this online reading group, participants will read through the Old Testament chronologically. The group will be meeting weekly, via Zoom, at two different times: Sundays at 4 pm and Thursdays at 11 am.

Gospel of John small group study: Pastor Richard is leading a small group online that is looking at the Gospel of John. This group is meeting, via Zoom, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, and the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 am. For more information about this group or the Old Testament group, please contact [Pastor Richard](#).

He will come to judge the living and the dead

Pastor Norma's sermon from November 22, 2020 – A summary

Scriptures: Psalm 145:1-3, 9-13; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46

The whole phrase from the Apostle's Creed is: *"The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead."*

"To Judge." That whole concept of 'to judge' can be quite offputting.

I went through a lot of word searches in the Scripture.

I started collecting articles, sermons, commentary statements on judge, judging. Then sermons on the Apostle's creeds. I read denominational statements of faith...our own included, which, along with many others, mentions 'the Final Judgement.' So I looked into the scripture.

Matthew 25:31-45 is not a parable, nor an allegory. It is an Apocalyptic Proclamation. A prophetic proclamation. In Matthew 24-25 Jesus is speaking to the disciples and talking about the future. He is sitting on the Mount of Olives and the disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal when you return, and the end of the world?"

So Jesus, in these two chapters, tells them that the end of the world will come but that the time they will not know. He mentions signs, and warns of dangers and gives illustrations and then ends with the story, the Apocalyptic Proclamation.

Jesus starts by saying "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence..."

He goes on to say that the king will separate the people like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will put the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

The goats at some point, had chosen not to have a relationship with God and are not followers of Jesus. The sheep are the good guys. The ones who had chosen a relationship with God, the ones who followed Jesus and, without thinking about it, did what Jesus did when he was on this earth: fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, brought the stranger, the refugee, the visitor, the homeless into their home. They clothed the naked and cared for the sick, looked after and visited the prisoners. Jesus said that when you do these things to someone who is overlooked or ignored, lonely, or heartbroken, that was him. You did it to me.

Talking about judgement brings anxiety to many people, even those who know the Lord. But so many places in Scripture tell us there is no need to be anxious. When we choose a

relationship with God, there is no need to be afraid of judgement. He has told us there is no condemnation.

Those of us raised in the church probably memorized John 3:16 in the KJV: “For God so LOVED the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believed in him would not perish but have everlasting life” Some heard the word ‘perish’ and ignored the word ‘loved’.

Then in John 3:17, we see that God sent his Son into the world NOT to judge the world but to save the world through Jesus. There is no judgement against anyone who believes, who follows Jesus, who has chosen to be in relationship with God. There is no condemnation. They will inherit eternal life. They will worship Jesus, as King of the World, on his throne.

In I Thessalonians 4, Paul is encouraging the church at Thessalonica about the last days. He wants them to have hope about those who had died before them, that Christ would come again, and God will bring back with him, the believers, the followers of Jesus, who have died. Paul says it comes directly from the Lord, that we who are living will not meet him ahead of those who have died. However, together with those who are raised from the grave, we who are still alive and remain on earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and will be with him forever. Paul tells Jesus’ followers in Thessalonica and to us, let’s encourage each other with these words.

That brings us to Christ the King, because he’s coming back as King over all. As a believer, a follower of Jesus, the kingdom of God is with us even now. Luke 17 says “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs... For the Kingdom of God is already within you.”

His kingdom is established on earth in the lives of those of us who are in relationship with Him. But that Kingdom is not complete because there is the future coming of the kingdom that has yet to happen at the end of this age.

Many of us in these days of isolation, quarantine, and COVID-19, are very tired. We’re at the beginning of the ninth month. Some may have what they’re calling “Pandemic Fatigue.” Some of us may be at various levels of depression. Some of us may be financially destitute or at some level of financial stress. We don’t really see an end to it. We hear lots of maybes and grandiose statements that it will soon be over. Vaccines on the brink. And we can only say, “When, please.”

But in the midst of that, we have the hope that the King, the Messiah, the Christ, is returning for us. It could even be before the end of the coronavirus, or not. But he is coming. Let your heart, your mind, your emotions dwell on that. It brings hope. The King is coming.

Please note: To hear the full sermon on your phone, call our “Dial-the-Sermon” line at (306) 992-1912.

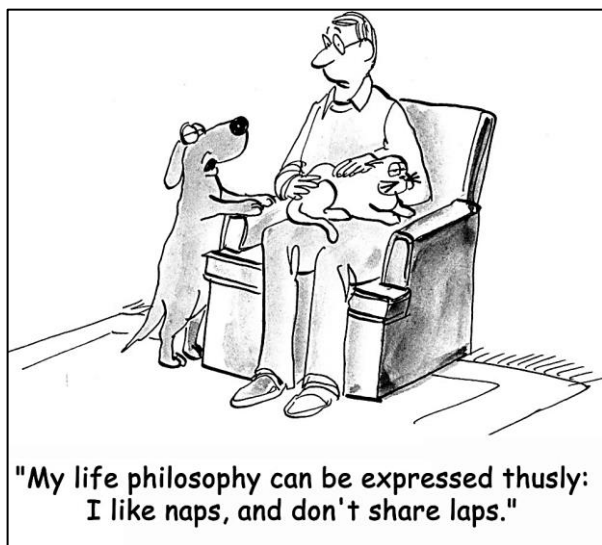
Tithing during the pandemic

With the COVID-19 crisis limiting contact with others and restricting meetings of groups, please do not neglect the financial needs of our church.

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

1. Mail your gifts to the church or call and leave a message at (306) 359-1450 to arrange for an in-person pick-up. Please place your cheque in your regular offering envelope (or any envelope marked "Offering"), and seal that inside another envelope addressed to: First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK S4P 0S4.
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 with a PayPal account via the **PayPal Giving Fund** *(no fee or cost to the church... 100% of your donation reaches us and contributes to our mission)*
 - Use a credit card or PayPal via **CanadaHelps** *(a fee of 4% is deducted from the donation)*
 - Use a credit or debit card via **FBC ChurchTrac** *(the church is charged a fee of approximately 3% for each donation)*

PLEASE refer to our website at firstbaptistregina.ca for more specific information on these contribution methods. You may also contact the treasurer at (306) 775-1497 or email the church at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net for further details.



Assigned to his first ship, the timid young naval lieutenant was curious about the captain. "What's he like?" the new man asked an experienced colleague.

"Remember Gregory Peck as Ahab in *Moby Dick*?" the officer replied.

"Yes," said the lieutenant grimly.

"And do you recall Captain Bligh in *Mutiny on the Bounty* and Queeg in *The Caine Mutiny*?"

"Y-y-y-yes," stammered the now nervous sailor.

"Wonderful!" the other officer exclaimed. "The captain's an old-movie buff."