

First Baptist Church

www.firstbaptistregina.ca



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Month at a Glance

Happy Valentine's Day!

Sometimes we might feel sad, happy, or tired, etc. and yet can't quite identify the source or reason for what we are feeling. Like feelings, love is "felt" too, but unlike a feeling, love always has an object it is direct towards.

God's love has an object as well: it is Jesus.

Trusting in God's love for Jesus leads to understanding God's love for you. God sees you and knows you. There is a "you" that is worth God's love and this is the starting point for our identity.

The certainty of God's love in Jesus is our rock no matter what we go through. May you know the love of God.

With love, Pastor Joel

Ash Wednesday

If you have never come to an Ash Wednesday service, consider coming out February 26th at 7 p.m. for a reflective worship service of repentance for all ages, led by our youth and Pastor Chris. Those who wish may receive the imposition of ashes on their forehead as a reminder of our mortality and a sign that our life is hidden in Christ.

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days plus 6 Sundays. We set aside these weeks to intentionally reflect on Jesus' suffering and death and to prepare for the resurrection. Lent can be a time of fasting, self-examination, and prayer as we take further steps to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. Consider committing to one practice for the 6 weeks of Lent such as a weekly volunteer commitment, fasting from certain foods or meals or from a regular activity, adding a weekly time of silence, or making financial gifts to charities, to name a few.

Fasting used to be a normal Christian practice throughout the year. Jesus expected his followers would fast, taught about fasting, and fasted himself. Lent lasts for forty days because that is how long Jesus fasted in the desert.

When your body wants a thing you are fasting from, you may find yourself asking, "Why am I doing this?" While fasting can in fact be beneficial for our bodies, Christians practice fasting to draw closer to Jesus, to grow in good habits, and to weaken the hold food and possessions can have on us.

Achievers`

Achievers` Luncheons

If you are 55+ years young and enjoy fantastic food, fabulous fellowship, great guest speakers, and stimulating spiritual connections, come to this month`s luncheon.

The first luncheon for 2020 will be held on February 27: “Sing “n” Share”, with guest speaker Marilyn Philips. Marilyn will sing, lead us in song, and will share glimpses of her life journey. Dean Gilcrest, our chief extraordinaire, returns to provide us with a magnificent menu to tantalize your taste buds. The cost of this luncheon is \$10.00.

Please RSVP by Tuesday noon, February 25th by phoning the church office, dropping a note into the offering plate on Sunday morning, emailing Pastor John or signing 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 and April.

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

Achievers` Bible Study

This group is open to everyone who is interested in study, prayer and friendship. It meets most months, every other Wednesday, at 10 am in the conference room. Norma facilitates this study.

Mission

Refugee Sponsorship Volunteers

Greeting a refugee family as they land at the airport for the first time is something everyone should experience at least once in a lifetime. It is powerful and deeply moving. We have a great opportunity before us to work toward that event.

A community group has asked for our help to sponsor a Syrian family currently living in a tent in Lebanon. It is also a chance to build relationships with Muslims and the community.

This would also be a great moment to establish of the proposed Refugee Fund. There are more people inside and outside of our church looking for sponsors. Speak with Marilyn or Joel if you have any questions about what might be involved.

Helping Children Learn English

We are looking for books to help children ages 3-6 learn English or French. Regular reading partners would be also be great! If this is something you would like to know more about, speak with Joel.

Update from Emad and Almess in Lebanon

A reminder to keep them and all of Lebanon in prayer:

"The situation is of course very disturbing. Kids went back to school, but they have to make up for the hours they have missed as they stayed home during the demonstrations. So, they have been going to school on Saturdays too. 6 days of schooling a week is a lot for the kids. When we ran out of gas and gas stations closed for few days, this reminded Almess of the situation in Iraq during the war. This of course brought some bad memories to Almess and it had its emotional grip on her. Emad has not been able to focus much on his studies."

MUSIC@FBC

I recently came across a much treasured Music Ministry Handbook in my personal library that I acquired many years ago. I want to quote and paraphrase some of the valued contents of this resource, for our endeavours in music ministry at FBC hopefully reflect the following music ministry purpose and objectives.

The Music Ministry of FBC is an integral part of our worship experience. As such, the purpose of our music is not to entertain, but to enhance our worship. Our music is a ministry of praise to God and of outreach to the world." As Martin Luther so eloquently expressed, 'Second to the Word of God, music deserves highest praise.' It is essential that we offer a music minister that reflects this quote.

Sanctuary Choir

This music ministry family is the longest serving small group of FBC. "Great music is not just the result of great voices. Good voices, motivated by dedication and preparation," make for meaningful and memorable music.

"The choir strives to practice regularly and minister joyously. These steps will be given meaning by the depth of spiritual understanding and commitment" each one brings to their musical expression. We hope that you will consider joining our music family.

"What are the 'returns' for such an investment? We hope that you will sense the feeling of a vital service well done and the assuring warmth of God's blessing. You will be part of a group that is not just a musical organization, but a fellowship, a community of caring, sharing friends." We would welcome new members with both excitement and joy!

"The Sanctuary Choir/JuBELLation/Exaltation/Gifts of Music strive to...

- ...visually enhance the worship and praise expectation for the congregation
- ...quicken their anticipation
- ...quicken their spirit for meditation
- ...lift them to spiritual response
- ...add a warmth and a glow to the spiritual atmosphere
- ...focus proper attention to acts of worship

The Music Ministry of FBC is:

- ...a tool of our worship and evangelism
- ...an important avenue of ministry and service
- ...for the congregation, the participating audience
- ...what we say to God and what He says to us
- ...our upreach to HIM, our outreach to those we should touch
- ...planned and focused to meet our needs as God seeking worshippers
- ...so much more

YOU can be one of the KEYS to our music ministry. Please give prayerful consideration to joining the Sanctuary Choir. or any other music ministry opportunities. The Sanctuary Rehearsals are held on Thursday nights from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Remember, God is more concerned about your availability, rather than your ability.

Various quotes/paraphrasing credited to Renda Brumbeloe, Music Ministry Handbook, copyright 1981- Bethany First Nazarene Church

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.

Prayer Times

Prayer Breakfast Prayer Breakfast takes place Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. to about 9:15 a.m. 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.

VOICE!

Voice is a women's book study group which meets bi-weekly and is open to any woman who likes to read. We are a study group, but also a support group for members to converse and to request prayer.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi for Baptists took a break during the bitterly cold last few weeks and will swing into action on 22 and 29 of February. Join us for the last two Saturdays of the month from 0900-1000 for exercise with a devotional and prayer time to follow. Enter by the elevator door on Lorne St. Parking is available in front of the Youth Centre or the lot east of the church.

Katepwa Lake Camp

Camp registration opens February 1st. It is never too early to capture your spot at your favorite camp.



Volunteers needed! It takes an army to run camp, volunteers are absolutely 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>

Collin Carbno
KLC Board Secretary

Financial Report

Our first look at 2019 year-end financials prior to the audit indicates that offerings to the end of the year were 10% above giving back in 2018. It appears that overall operating revenue was around 5% above the 2019 budget. As well, our current view indicates that overall expenses will be around 1.5% below budget at year-end. This will put us in a surplus position for the end of 2019 (that is good!). This will be reviewed after we complete our annual audit in February.

Here are the preliminary numbers for the end of December and 2019...

Approved Operating Budget for 2019:	\$ 408.7K
Operating Revenue to end of December 2019:	\$ 428.2K
Operating Expenses to end of December 2019:	\$ 402.4K
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 299.5K
(Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)	
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$ 251.6K

Approved Operating Budget for 2020:	\$ 427.6K
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The congregation approved the budget for 2020 at our Fall Business Meeting on Nov. 17, 2019. This budget will again be a stretch and a challenge. But this 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 at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net 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 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 at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net.

Men's Breakfast

Our breakfast this month will be on Saturday, February 15, 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.

Tuesday Nights Together

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

Kids @ FBC

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 story 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 lots of other ways.

This month: The story of the Prodigal Son, through Cooking, Games, and Drama. Coming up: Nicodemus

Youth

7th: planning for participation in Ash Wednesday service at FBC. 7:00-9:00.

8th: Kurios information night at Westhill park. I will add more information regarding this event to our Facebook page.

14th: Crash night at the Senger household. Bring your own games and snacks. Drinks will be provided. 7:00-9:00. I know that none of you will have anything else going on on valentines day, so come on over to our place and hang out with our kids :)

21st: No Youth - winter break

26th: Ash Wednesday Service at FBC.

29th: Ravine Adventures tobogganing. 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 hot dog 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!

Church Library Corner

Recently, I was going through the shelves and came across a book "Let God be God:" by Ray. C. Stedman with a subtitle of "Life Changing Lessons through the life of Job." Look for it on the book table, I'll put it out sometime in February when I finish reading it. It is a treasure.

Collin Carbno (Church Librarian)

First Baptist Staff and Board Members

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

Church Board

Ron Phillips - Chair	Laureen Snook - Secretary
Kevin Rich - Treasurer	Collin Carbno
Rosemary Ward	Barry Lyons
Tiffany Lai	Adijah Pusi
Eleanor Russell	Esther Guernsey
Brenda Ziolkowski	

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

Website: firstbaptistregina.ca
Email: main_fbcregina@sasktel.net
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
	12:15 pm	Noon Prayers
Thursday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Friday	7:00 pm	Youth Event
Saturday	9:30am	Tai Chi

Month at a Glance

Saturday, Feb 8	Kurios 7:00 pm, Westhill
Wednesday, Feb 12	Achievers` Bible Study 10 am
	Voice 7:00 pm
Saturday, Feb 15	Men's Breakfast 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Wednesday, Feb 26	Voice 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm
Thursday, Feb 27	Achievers` Luncheon 11:45 am