

First Baptist Church



www.firstbaptistregina.ca

Inside the newsletter:

Achievers

Missions

Music@First

Prayer Together

VOICE

Tai Chi

KLC

Church Library

Financial Report

Learning for Life

Tuesday Nights Together

Kids @ FBC

Youth

Men's Breakfast

FBC Staff

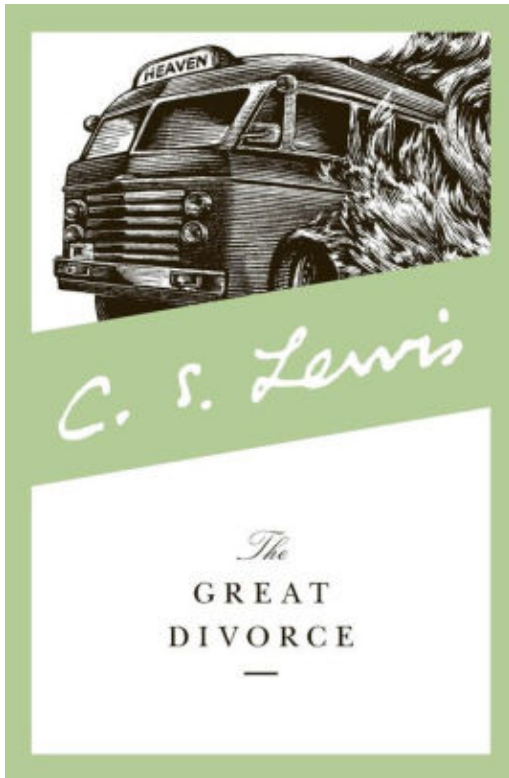
Month at a Glance

Lent 2020: Fasting and Seeking God

God alone is essential. Hell is approaches where ever someone begins to hold on to something else as essential - when something becomes a 'must'.

In *The Great Divorce*, CS Lewis parades one person after another past us, each one encouraged to choose God. We see a person increasingly controlled by carnal appetites, another compulsively running other people's lives, another always having the right answer, and then we see even good things taking the place of God: family, self-expression, "making a difference", nature, even life itself! Not one of these are sacred on their own.

Only in union with God, do created things become eternal and sacred. Jesus similarly warned us, "You search the



scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life." *John 5.39-40.*

Some end up becoming shades of human beings - thin caricatures - instead of choosing reality in Jesus.

During Lent we practice the habit of taking our lives, all our efforts, all the things we love and believe in, and placing them before the cross. In this way, both they and we are set free and transformed. "Do not be deceived; God can't be fooled, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own

flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit." *Galatians 6.7-8.*

With Love, Pastor Joel

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

A wonderful group for those 55+ years of age. This enthusiastic group meets on the fourth Tuesday of Sept-November/Feb-April. Come and enjoy a magnificent catered meal and fabulous fellowship. The guest speaker for March 26 is Dr. Melissa Morgan, professor of choral music at the University of Regina. Dr. Morgan was the director of music at Luther College High School for 11 years before accepting an invitation to become head of the choral department of the U of R in 2019. Dr. Morgan’s mum was also one of the Achievers’ previous cooks. Check out www.achieversregina.ca for more information on Dr. Morgan.

Meal cost: \$10

Menu: Meat, vegetables, salads, buns, dessert, and beverage

Achievers’ Bible Study

This group is open to everyone who is interested in study, prayer, and friendship. It meets every other Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the conference room. Please use the Lorne St. entrance.

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).

Website

The pastors make every effort to post the upcoming weekly sermon title and information on the home page of our website.

This is usually available on the Thursday prior, to help you prepare for the Sunday service. The Sunday bulletin and related scriptures and songs are also listed with information links.

Recent sermons over the past few years are still accessible to view and have audio for listening to the message. If you are looking for a specific speaker, year, or topic, a basic search tool is available. At the bottom right side of the home page, under “Sermons”, click on “View all Sermons”. This will open a new page with all the sermons, the most recent at the top. On the right side of this page there is a tool with several drop-down menus which can be used to for a more specific search. This and many other exciting resources are available on the website. If you haven’t already visited the website, please take some time and have a look.



TNT

Tuesday Nights Together is a potluck meal that takes place in the lower hall at 5 p.m. Collin and Klaus lead the Bible study, which starts at 7 p.m.

Prayer Times

Prayer Breakfast takes place Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. 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!

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 will continue with its biweekly meetings, discussing *Confronting Christianity* by Jennifer McGlaughlin. Voice will resume on March 11th, 7 p.m. at 77 Motherwell Crescent. This book discusses 12 questions that are commonly asked by non-believers about Christianity. All women who like to read are welcome. Please read the designated chapters and come with your own questions.



AGM

Church lunch & Annual General Meeting
Sunday, March 22, 2020,
following the morning
worship service



We hope you will join your church family for a light lunch and our AGM. This is an opportunity to review our life together in 2019 - our ministries and finances. It's an opportunity to ask questions of your pastors and lay leaders. And it's an opportunity to look forward to our life together this year and in the years to come. So please join us as we desire, together, to "keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25).

Our Annual Report Book, including the Church's audited financial statements, will be available Sunday, March 8.

Diaconate Report

Your church leadership board met with the church's pastors on Saturday morning, January 25. We do this three times per year (June and October being the others) to provide a more relaxed, unhurried space to worship and to talk about our life together.

Your board also met Sunday, February 2, along with our lead pastor, Pastor Joel, following morning worship. This was my first meeting as chair.

Our sense is that we are in a time of opportunity, and of needing to make wise choices in this time of opportunity.

Our church has come through a season of considerable change in terms of pastoral and support staff. We have paid off our bond debt and consolidated the remaining debt into a very manageable loan from our denomination (Canadian Baptists of Western Canada). Over this period, we have worked hard to make our budget both realistic and 'faith-full'. We continue to provide God-centered worship and many ministries. By God's mercy and faithfulness, we find ourselves now with a strong pastoral leadership team, healthier finances, and a church family that wishes to be faithful to God in this time and place. Instead of having to be primarily reactive, we have some space to be proactive.

At the same time, we recognize that we live in a time when our culture has gone from being broadly sympathetic and supportive of the church, to being largely indifferent and even at times hostile to the Christian Way.

We are trying hard now, in this changed culture and this opportune time, to listen to the Spirit's leading. For Jesus, not Caesar, is Lord! What will a faithful church look like in this time? What would God have us pour our life together into?

Please pray with us and for us, as our church makes choices that by God's grace will answer these questions faithfully and accurately.

Ron Phillips,
Deacons' Chair

Easter Alleluia

Sunday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

This is a memorable and very meaningful presentation of the Easter Story through the use of bells, choirs, piano/organ solos & duets, vocal solos, guest musicians (Karen Martin & others), and poignant narration. Invite a friend and join many others as we celebrate the hosannas, hear the cries of “Crucify him!” and finally lift our voices with resounding shouts of “Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!”



JuBELLation Ringers

This enthusiastic music group meets Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m.. Interested ringers are encouraged to contact Pastor John. Potential ringers must be able to read music.

Sanctuary Choir

Do you love to sing? Why not consider joining the FBC Sanctuary Choir, FBC's longest serving small group ministry? Become an important part of this welcoming and caring choir community. The choir rehearses Thursday evenings starting at 7:00 p.m. in the choir loft. For more information, contact Pastor John.

Missions

From a new article
by Emad Botros of
Arab Baptist
Theological
Seminary, Beirut:



كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية
Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

Last week I had an interesting chat with a student:

‘I am not sure if I can still pray for Lebanon or those in authority, and I doubt we will see any change in the near future,’ he said.

I wanted to understand more. ‘Why do you feel this way?’ I asked.

‘The whole system is corrupted,’ he replied in a disappointed voice. His frustration and sense of hopelessness were obvious to me.

While I listened to this frustrated student, of whom many of us living in the Middle East can easily relate, God’s words to the prophet Jeremiah came to my mind: *“But seek the peace (Shalom) of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its peace you will find your peace”* (Jeremiah 29:7).

My struggle was this: How can I encourage my student to continue praying while at the same time help him understand what we are praying for and how this can change us?

I began... by explaining what the Lord asks from his people - *to seek the shalom, the peace*. My student and I agreed that in a region like ours, nothing is more needed than peace since the reality we are experiencing today is entirely the opposite of peace, that is *chaos*... corruption, injustice, discrimination based on their religious, political, and sectarian affiliation, limited access to medical service and onwards... nothing is working as it should and people are longing for peace... total harmony within the

community where people experience justice, and this justice is the fruit of righteousness... This is what the prophet Isaiah tells us: *"Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever"* (Isaiah 32: 16–20)."

To read the complete article see abtslebanon.org and search "seeking the peace."

Love in Christ,
Marilyn

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.

Financial Report




We are currently in the midst of our annual audit. It appears that we were in a surplus position for the end of 2019, so this year is starting on a positive note. January 2020 revenue is above the monthly budgeted amount, while the expenses are below budget, both encouraging factors to the start of the year. The annual meeting on March 22nd will provide more details on the finances.

Approved Operating Budget for 2020:	\$ 427.6K
Operating Budget to the end of January 2020:	\$ 35.6K
Operating Revenue to end of January 2020:	\$ 39.3K
Operating Expenses to end of January 2020:	\$ 26.5K
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 299.8K
(Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)	
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$ 250.3K

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. The board has approved a plan to provide ourselves a loan from the Organ Fund to repay our outstanding debt to the CBWC. This plan will allow the church to finance our debt internally, while still maintaining the Organ Fund for the purposes it was established.

*

Ways to give:

-  Offering basket during worship service
-  Mail to church
-  Online donation
- PAR** Pre-Authorized Remittance

*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.

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. Parents are welcome to stay in the nursery with their little ones.

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.

This month: The story of the Nicodemus, through Science, Games, and Art.

Coming up: The Exodus

March Youth Schedule

March 6th: Bible Study at the church and then youth room painting and organization. Please wear something you don't mind getting paint on. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at FBC.

March 13th: Banana Car Rally, Take Two – we will be having another youth group join us to compete in this event. This year, all cell phones will be confiscated so that there is no cheating. Meet at the church at 7 p.m. If anyone is willing to drive, please let me know.

March 20th: Bible Study and hang out at the church. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

March 27th: Paint Night, Part III at FBC. Julie Rich will again lead us in exploring our artistic sides. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at FBC.

Men's Breakfast

Our breakfast this month will be on Saturday, March 21, 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.

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

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

Church Board

Ron Phillips (Chair)	Laureen Snook (Secretary)	Kevin Rich (Treasurer)
Collin Carbno	Esther Gurnsey	Barry Lyons
Adija Pusi	Eleanor Russell	Tiffany Stafford-Lai
Rosemary Ward	Brenda Ziolkowski	

Life Together

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

Month at a Glance

Mar. 8th FBC's Annual Report Book available in church lobby (p.5)

Mar. 11th VOICE! (p.3)

Mar. 22nd Annual General Meeting (p.5)

Mar. 25th VOICE! (p.3)

Mar. 26th Achievers' Luncheon (p.2)

Apr. 5th Easter Alleluia (p.7)