

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of May 17th



***Another sign
that spring is
well underway in
Regina!***

The city started construction recently on the road between Cornwall and Hamilton. Their goal is to finish the project that was started last year and replace all the sidewalk and street on Victoria between Albert and Broad.

They are making the sidewalks wider and safer and adding trees and irrigation in the median. They have also offered to add a bench on either side of our building's front steps.

Around our building tulips are growing quickly and the trees and shrubs are beginning to leaf out. Our head gardener has plans for annual flower pots and care of our shrubs. If you would like to help with purchasing plants and supplies, or would like to help with the gardening tasks, please speak with Rosemary or contact the church.

May the Holy Spirit continue God's work of transforming our hearts and minds.

With love,

Mission Commission:

Annual Missions Fundraiser - Virtual Lebanon "Lunch"

Sunday, May 24, 12:00 Noon - via "ZOOM" Prepare your lunch in advance and join us after worship to hear more about our Lebanon partnership.

Video chats with Canadian Baptist Ministries partners Emad & Almess Botros and a student from Arab Baptist Theological Seminary!

More highlights from our "SENT" Team's trip last June!

Opportunity to support our partnership with the seminary & refugee ministries in Lebanon.

Important Note: Please make cheques out to "CBM" and mail to the church.

Donations may also be made online at cbmin.org/donateonetimegift/

Please add a note "First Baptist Regina Lebanon Partnership".

Pledge forms will be available online so we have an idea of what we raise.

Daily Bread Devotionals

The Daily Bread devotionals for June, July, and August, have been dropped off at the church. If anyone would like one, please contact the church. We can leave them in the mailbox or mail them to you.

If you are looking for terrible puns:



I've given up asking rhetorical questions.
What's the point?

Did you know? The person who invented the umbrella was going to call it the 'brella'. But then he hesitated.

Vegetarians think people who sell meat are disgusting. But people who sell fruit and vegetables are grocer.

Achievers' Luncheons

I came across another seniors' group experience online a few years ago and the name of their group was J.O.Y.

What an exciting name for a group, especially for a seniors' small group experience! Now, can you guess what the letters stand for? JUST OLDER YOUTH!!!

The ACHIEVERS LUNCHEON ministry is composed of such enthusiastic and joyous people. Although this group has cancelled their gatherings until such time as the covid-19 restrictions are lifted, no doubt memories of past gatherings are uppermost in our minds. What is most important though is that we look with HOPE to the future when A.L. will gather once again with JOY and renewed ENTHUSIASM.

We look to the fall of 2020 with hope, when we will enjoy once again Chef Dean Gilchrist's tantalizing menus, special guest speakers, and the warm fellowship with friends. Until then dear friends, stay in touch through phone, email, text, and prayer!

Pastor John

Website

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted our church events and schedules in every way. The church website (firstbaptistregina.ca) is a valuable source of information that can be used to keep you connected and up to date with how our church leadership and pastors are responding.

We are currently holding Sunday worship and Learning for Life (L4L) via Zoom meeting. The links to these meetings can be found on the home/sermon page of our website. As well, there are small group meetings, Voice, and daily prayers that are utilizing Zoom.

You will also find links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel, where we are presenting video reflections and devotions by a number of our members and pastors.

“The Holy Spirit and Me”

Norma Holtslander’s sermon from Sunday May 3rd, 2020.

Romans 8:23-28m, Psalm 51.7-11, John 16.5-15.

This morning I am not talking about, “The Holy Spirit and Norma” - I am talking about the Holy Spirit and each one of us.

Recently, I have been asked “How does the Holy Spirit really relate to God and Jesus?” They are generally asking about God in three persons - how does that work?

Briefly: each member of the Trinity, the Godhead, the Divine Family (however you think of God in three persons) has a specific role although each one of those three persons is fully God. They never act independently, they work together.

God the Father is predominately the Creator, yet Jesus and the Spirit were also involved. Jesus is the Redeemer, yet God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are described as sending the Son to redeem. The Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier, the Advocate, the Strengthener, the Friend yet the Father and Jesus also cooperate in this work.

The Father, Jesus, and the Spirit are equal in their divine attributes yet they relate to us, the human beings they created, in a different way as each Person has a different role. We have been accused of having three Gods. We do not. We have one God in three persons functioning uniquely and perfectly.

This passage refers to all three persons but we are specifically looking at the role of God, the Holy Spirit.

Here in this passage we have Jesus speaking to the disciples in the Upper Room and ultimately on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane and after that to the cross and to the resurrection. This passage, in the words of Jesus, he is saying we have need of the Spirit of God. He wants the disciples to know there is a relationship they will need after he leaves them.

Like us, the disciples saw the world centring around them and only heard him say “Jesus is leaving ME alone!” Jesus brings their attention back.

He tells them of the need for the Spirit and to get over their grief and to look ahead. He is saying to them, “It is best for you that I go away because if I don’t, the Advocate, the Counsellor, the Strengthener, the Comforter, the Encourager, will not come. However, if I leave you, I will send the Spirit to you. I didn’t tell you that from the beginning because I was with you. You didn’t need the Spirit.”

Jesus is indicating here our need as human beings to be kept, supported and strengthened. Since he was there with them physically, he was caring for them himself. And since he was there they didn’t need to know all that he was keeping from them or how it was done. But now the time has come. He is telling them, “I am going away so you need to understand what has been happening.

And there he reveals to us the basic need of our humanity is to be kept. Basically we are born to be dependent on something or someone to keep us. We are not able to handle life by ourselves. Nobody is.

The Big Lie we have been told is that we should grow up to be self-sufficient and independent and not to need anyone, or anything. I was certainly that way in my twenties and thirties. I was happy when I was self-sufficient. I didn’t want to take any money or things back then when I was preparing to work in Ecuador as a missionary because I thought, “I can do it all by myself.” I had to learn differently.

I think a good thing we have learned through the pandemic is that we do need other people to help us.

I still see this struggle in myself. As I grow older, I struggle with having to give up my independence. I have needed someone to bring me to church or buy my groceries. The other day I wanted to put up pictures on my wall. I thought I could do it by myself. I got out my ladder and I climbed up. On the second step I got so dizzy, I knew I can’t do this anymore.” It is not easy to give up your independence but Christ is saying here, “You need someone to keep you, to help you, to counsel you and give you strength.”

At this moment the disciples are perplexed, as they have often been when Jesus spoke to them. They can't figure him out. They sometimes argued about what he had to say. They were full of questions. After the Day of Pentecost, when the Spirit came they were greatly strengthened and encouraged and full of joy. That's what the Spirit does; strengthen, encourage and fill with joy. It was to their advantage and ours that Jesus was not with them physically. By means of the Spirit we have access to Jesus that the disciples never had until the Day of Pentecost.

Did you notice the emphasis in verse 7? The Holy Spirit is not coming to the world! "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away for if I do not go away the Advocate will not come to you (the followers of Jesus) but if I go, I will send him, the Spirit, to you."

He comes to the Christian, the follower of Jesus, to the Church in the world. To us. Not to the world directly. It is through us that the Spirit is revealed to the world.

Jesus tells us that the Spirit will prove that the world is in the wrong on three counts that really matter; sin, justice and judgement.

1. First the Spirit will demonstrate through us, that the world is wrong in relation to sin; they are guilty of sin. What was their sin? They have not believed in Jesus. The world is bent on its own way, not God's way.
2. Secondly, the Spirit will demonstrate through us that the world is wrong in relation to justice, to their righteousness. When the world looks at the followers of Jesus they should see what they once saw in Jesus. If it is justice that is wanting, we know the verdict. God has decided in favour of Jesus as the righteous one. All those that follow Jesus share that verdict.
3. Thirdly, the Spirit will demonstrate through us that the world is wrong in relation to judgement (or condemnation.) The world throughout history and today thinks it can pass judgement on Jesus' followers. However, here Jesus says the ruler of this world is judged/condemned. It will be in a few short days from this moment that Christ's death and resurrection will take place. And it is due to these events that Satan's power has been broken.

Jesus continues on to say that the Spirit of truth would guide them into all truth. At the moment in the Upper Room they are not ready to handle what Jesus is telling them. They are not strong enough in understanding. The Message puts it this way, "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of Truth he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is."

I like that image. It is like someone coming and taking the ladder from me and the hammer and putting up my picture. The Spirit takes me by the hand and guide me into the truth. Like a tour guide who takes us through a place we've never been and tell us and show us all about it. He won't draw attention to himself. He won't speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears from God. He will glorify Jesus.

I want to close in telling you of one experience during this pandemic where the Spirit took me by the hand.

I am not a morning person and it gets worse as I grow older. So, several years ago I began writing out short prayers and memorizing them so that first thing in the morning before I put my feet on the floor they come to my mind. Sometimes I am alert enough to pray for family, here in Regina, in other parts of Canada and the U.S. and my Church family.

Part of these prayers are asking the Spirit to fill me for that day and to let me live in the freedom of the Spirit.

I arrived home from visiting my nephew in Florida on March 3. At that time they were telling us to monitor ourselves for 14 days for symptoms of the coronavirus. So I did and a few days later I got word I should isolate myself for the rest of the time. So I did. On the 18th of March I went out to get my hair cut, go to the dentist and drop by my granddaughters for a piece of orange spice cake. I also had a little gift from Florida for my great grandson, Eli. Haley took a picture of Eli and Me with our arms around each other.

That was the last human touch I had. I left and returned home to learn that the building was quarantined: no more social gatherings in the public places of the building, no more chapel.

After a couple of weeks I was feeling sorry for myself. I joked with Jenn when she dropped off something - we stayed 6 feet apart - that I could stroke my arm and maybe my brain might be fooled into thinking it was one of the kids.

When I talked to my sister in Pennsylvania she was also feeling hemmed in. I said, "Yeah, but you have Kenny, I have no one." I was in a blue funk.

But I wasn't alone. The Spirit reminded me that he was there. The Spirit encouraged me, came alongside me, counselled and comforted me and reminded me of Scripture I had memorized as a teenager, "Be strong, be courageous."

No one needs to be afraid of what is coming next. No need to panic. The Lord your God has personally gone ahead of you in the pandemic. God in his fullness will not fail you or abandon you. I am here with you and reminded me of my morning prayers.

Know this. The Spirit, as Jesus promised is with you during these days of isolation and quarantine. The Spirit will not leave you. He will comfort, counsel, encourage, and strengthen you. You are not alone.

Followers of Jesus, you are not alone.

BENEDICTION

May the light of God illumine the heart of your soul.

May the flame of Christ kindle you to love.

May the fire of the Spirit free you to live this day, tonight and for ever.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

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 Office or call to arrange 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 the 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 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.

New Small Group (via Zoom)

Who is Jesus? Recognized by many as the earliest written account of Jesus' ministry, we will be reading through the Gospel of Mark as we look to answer this simple question. We will read slowly, a chapter a week, and meet twice a month to discuss our reading of Mark's gospel, apply what we've read to life, and deepen our relationship with our Lord and King and with each other. This group will run May through August at two different times: the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm and the second and fourth Friday of each month at 10am. The first Wednesday meeting will be May 13 at 7pm; the first Friday meeting will be May 15 at 10am. Please let Pastor Richard know if you are interested in joining us and if so at which time and he will provide you with the Zoom link. If you have any questions please let Pastor Richard know (richard.fbcregina@sasktel.net)

You are correct:



I was annoyed to hear there may be new images on our coins. But then again, I never did like change.

I just deleted all the German names off my phone. It's Hans free now.

If you don't know what introspection is, you need to take a long, hard look at yourself.

A thesaurus is great. There's no other word for it.