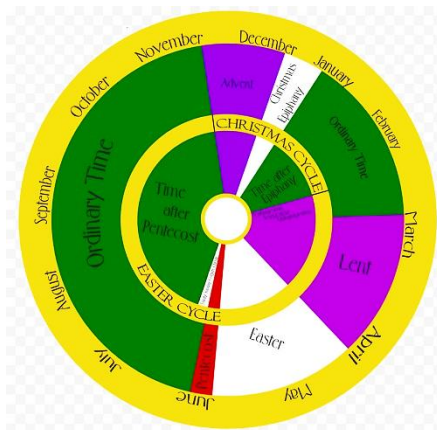


First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of November 1st, 2020

Why do we celebrate anniversaries? Shouldn't I be grateful every day for my wife, for each of my children, for all my family, and for friends? Every year, though, an anniversary or a birthday, returns. Those special days never feel boring or repetitive. They remind me of what a blessing that person is. It is also a day which focuses my gratitude and love. I think the practice of marking special days helps change my heart a little bit each time. Sometimes those days arrive at just the right time because, for whatever reason, I had been forgetting what a gift people are.



The church calendar is like that for me. The creation of the world, Jesus' death and resurrection, the coming of the Holy Spirit – we can celebrate those any and every day. However, the church calendar helps us focus on the breadth and depth of salvation through different anniversaries. Year after year, the calendar helps us remember the whole story. I know this practice has changed my heart and mind and deepened my celebration of the Trinity's work.

We are currently in the season of Pentecost and quickly approaching the fast of Advent. As a way of wrapping up Pentecost, we are looking at the final statements in the Apostles' Creed, which are all connected to the coming of the Holy Spirit, and to each other:

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

We reflected on the coming of the Holy Spirit through the months of May and June, and we've reflected on what it means to believe in the holy catholic church in recent weeks. Over the coming weeks, we will celebrate the final three statements in this confession.



ALL SAINTS DAY

May your love and your faith be deepened in these days.

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 at firstbaptistregina.ca.

Birth Announcement

Ian and Sheena Rivett welcomed a baby girl, Sylvi Diana Jean, on October 26th. Sylvi was 8 lb 5 oz, and is a sister to Tatiana, 2½.

Congratulations to Ian and Sheena and proud grandparents, Rosemary Ward and Derrick Bellows.

Graveside Service for Jeane Buyze

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Jean Buyze who passed away on Friday, October 30th. There will be a graveside service on Saturday, November 7th at 2:30 pm, at Riverside Cemetery. All are welcome.

Great news from Arab Baptist Theological Seminary!

“We congratulate our Assistant Professor of Old Testament, Emad Botros, on achieving a Doctorate in Christian Theology of the Old Testament from McMaster Divinity College in Ontario! Focusing on the book of Jonah, Dr. Botros conducted a study on how the early Muslim community typologically read and applied the narrative of Jonah into their lives to develop a Biblical theology of Jonah in the context of Islam. We pray that the Lord continues to guide him as he works to serve the Kingdom in the Arab world.”



Emad and Almess Botros and their two boys are our mission partners in Lebanon. Feel free to send Emad your personal congratulations at emad.w.botros@gmail.com.

Opportunity to Serve

We are seeking to add people to help prepare communion. If this is something you could help with once a month, please speak with one of the pastors, or call the church at (306) 359-1450. Thank you.

November Congregational Meeting

Our November congregational meeting will take place in the sanctuary on November 22, 2020, following the Sunday morning worship service. Similarly to the worship service, we will participate both in person and on Zoom.

This is a very important meeting, so please make a point of attending, whether in person or over Zoom.

The proposed budget and other related materials will be available on our website by November 8th. Printed copies will also be available at the church.

Masks will be mandatory during the meeting, and no eating will be allowed in person, due to Covid-19. The meeting will be approximately an hour long. If this creates a problem for you, please participate in the meeting through Zoom from your home. The link will be provided on the church website, as well as in the *First This Week* emails the weeks of November 8th and 15th.

Mitts and Toques

We have a number of individuals in our congregation who generously give of their time to knit or collect mitts and toques for children who need them. If you have mitts and/or toques to donate, please contact Winnie K, send an email to the church, or call (306) 359-1450. Winnie will deliver them to the schools.

Canadian Baptists of Western Canada (CBWC) – We Are All CBWC



What are some of the things they do?

Our denomination runs discipleship and education programs through Kurios and the Carey Theological Seminary on UBC campus.

Several people in our congregation are, or have been, students at Carey, where Rev. Dr. Barb Mutch taught for many years.

Kurios is a new initiative for young women and men (typically age 17 to 22) who desire to grow as Christian disciples and leaders. It runs 28 weeks each year, from the middle of September until the middle of April. Kurios participants live in community together at the “home base” at Gull Lake, Alberta. From there, the young people travel across western Canada, serving and visiting local churches, and to CBM partners in other countries. (This part of the program will see modifications due to Covid-19.) As part of the educational aspect of this program, teachers from within the denomination lead regular studies. For example, Annabel Robinson led a series of lessons this past fall.

Finances

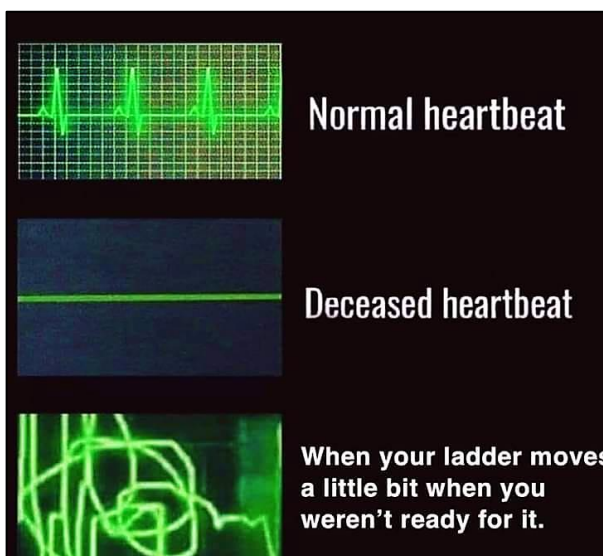
To the end of September, our revenue remains at 14% below our YTD budget. Our expenses are 11% below YTD budget. This results in a current deficit of \$9,000 (spending more than our income).

Approved Operating Budget for 2020:	\$ 427.6K
Operating Budget to the end of September 2020:	\$ 320.7K
Operating Revenue to end of September 2020:	\$ 277.0K
Operating Expenses to end of September 2020:	\$ 286.0K
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 109.9K
(Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)	
Organ Fund loan	\$ 198.5K
CEBA (CRA) Loan	\$ 40.0K

Website

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our church events and schedules in every way. The church website (firstbaptistregina.ca) is a valuable source of information that can help keep you connected and up to date with the various programs that are available such as Learning for Life, small group studies, and prayer times.

If you don't have a computer and/or internet access, you may access the website on one of the public computers at the Regina Public Library. If you need assistance, one of the library staff members will be able to help you.



Q. Why do we tell actors to "break a leg?"

A. Because every play has a cast.

Q. Why can't a bicycle stand on its own?

A. Because it's two tired.

Q. Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers?

A. He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.

Q. What do you get from a pampered cow?

A. Spoiled milk.

What's been 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 Sunday morning in-person kids' class, *Godly Play*, has resumed. We are following health guidelines. For more information, please contact Pastor Kayely by calling (306) 359-1450.

Youth

Pastor Chris: "The youth are invited to a Bible study at the church on Friday this week. Please note that the time will be shorter than usual, and will run from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Single use snacks will be provided. Masks are recommended. Please let me know in advance if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!" 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 will explore 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, 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. The next meeting will be on October 21. At present, the group is reading *Jesus Among Other Gods* by Ravi Zacharias. For more information, visit our website (firstbaptistregina.ca), 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. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Pastor Richard, and he will provide you with the reading schedule and Zoom link.

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. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Pastor Richard.

Hidden in the Shelter of Jesus' Love

Pastor Joel's sermon from November 1, 2020 – A summary

Scriptures: Romans 8:31 - 39; Psalm 31; Matthew 22:23, 29 - 33

Why do we say, "I believe in the communion of the saints?" Communion is another way of saying fellowship, or connection, and a saint is anyone who is in Jesus. In the words of the late Baptist theologian Stanley Grenz, we are "created for community". Sin and death, however, attack our relationships and our connections with others. Death attacks our connection to those in Jesus who have died, and sin attacks our relationships with the people in our church. Jesus has defeated both sin and death. Therefore, we say, "I believe in the communion of saints" to declare our commitment to live for the communion we have with others in Jesus: I will give to, and I will receive from, all those in Jesus.

This past Sunday was All Saints' Day, and we focused on our connection to those who have died in faith. We remain linked to them through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Our connection is meant to be a source of strength, comfort, and encouragement. This is possible because, as Jesus taught us, to God, no one is dead.

God is everywhere within creation and every human, alive or dead, is in God's presence. Psalm 139 says, "Where can I go from your spirit? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in the land of the dead, you are there."

For those who have died in Jesus, to be in God's presence is to be hidden in the love of God, sheltered there in death. We are given hints in scripture that those who have died in faith, continue to pray and worship. When we pray and worship, we join them.

They are alive in Jesus while they wait, with us, for the day of resurrection, and they encourage us to finish our lives well. As it says in Hebrews, "since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus." Amen.

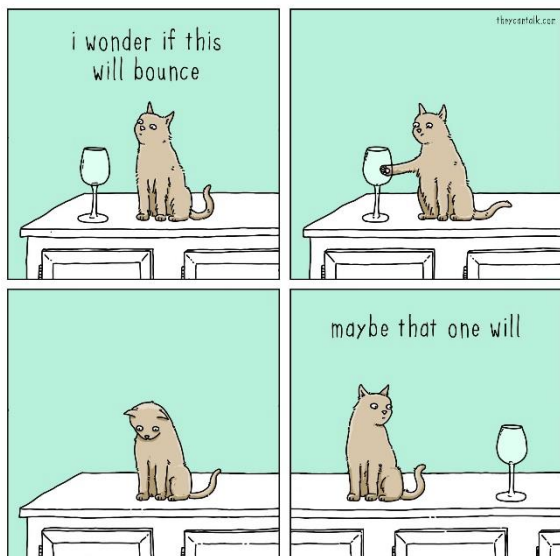
Tithing during the pandemic

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 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.



Yesterday I saw a guy spill all his Scrabble letters on the road. I asked him, "What's the word on the street?"

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma? There's no menu: You get what you deserve.

Before going in for surgery I thought it would be funny if I posted a note on myself telling the surgeon to be careful. After the surgery I found another note on myself. "Anyone know where my cell phone is?????????"