

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of November 22nd, 2020

Over the past few weeks we have been reflecting on the final statements in the Apostles' Creed.

The simple introductory words, "I believe," remind us that reciting the creed in worship is meant to be a loving commitment to the way of life opened up by Jesus. For example, to say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit," does not mean simply, "I believe in the existence of Holy Spirit," rather "I commit myself to live for the Holy Spirit." We can say the same for each statement: I commit myself to the church; I commit myself to the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting; I commit myself to the forgiveness of sins, and so on.



In his classic, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer shared his concern that too often, Christians behave as though what we think about God or salvation is enough. He called that kind of confession, "cheap grace":

"Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth, the love of God taught as the Christian "conception" of God. An intellectual assent to that idea is held to be of itself sufficient to secure remission of sins."



Instead, Bonhoeffer called believers to costly discipleship and to the grace that accompanies that discipleship, and deepens as we follow Jesus.

When we say, "I believe," we're not merely affirming something in our minds. We are making a personal commitment. We are declaring our allegiance to Jesus and his way of life. This is not a private, solitary commitment. We confess it together. Even if Covid-19 makes

it seems like we are separated – even if death makes it seem like we are separated(!) – we are in this together. For that, I am grateful. May your faith be strengthened today.

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.

Achievers' Virtual Luncheon

The November Achievers' Luncheon will take place this Thursday, November 26th, at 12:00 noon, over Zoom. If you are 55+ years young, you are warmly invited to join us. Our guest speakers will be Doug and Edie Hiltz. For further details about the luncheon, visit the [church website](#). Please RSVP as soon as possible by emailing [the church](#) or calling (306) 359-1450, ext. 223 or ext. 221. For more information, please contact [Pastor John](#). To join the luncheon, click here: [Join Achievers' Luncheon](#).

Offering Envelopes

If you wish to receive offering envelopes for 2021, please send an email to [Tracy Sailor](#) or call her at (306) 537-9228.

Because many people have switched to online giving, envelopes will *not* be printed unless you request them. ***Regardless of your method of giving, you will receive a tax receipt for it, as long as your name is indicated on your donation.***

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences to Shawn and Bryden Yeo, along with their family and friends, on the passing of Shawn's mother.

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 or call Eleanor R at (306) 533-5811. She is making masks for Carmichael Outreach and is running out of her supply of extra fabric.

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, email [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450. Thank you.

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



What are some of the things they do?

Our denomination helps churches support refugees. Our denomination has helped the First Karen Baptist Church, among many other churches, with Ordination, church planting, and pastoral development. The CBWC's Iranian churches are exploding with baptisms and discipleship at the moment. CWBC is also a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the Government of Canada which allows our churches to sponsor refugees more efficiently. Through the CBWC, First Baptist Regina is sponsoring a Syrian family of five currently living in one of the tent cities in Lebanon. 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.



They say a joke becomes a dad joke when it becomes apparent. We would say it's when it's all groan.

A man walks into an apiary and asks the beekeeper for a dozen bees. To which the beekeeper replies, "Sure, and I'll throw in the 13th as a freebie..."

A psychiatrist saw another psychiatrist pushing a sofa down the street. "Why the couch?" he asked. "House call."

And then there's the surefire diet: Never eat while your teenage daughter is on the telephone.

Spiritual Disciplines Series: The Prayers of the Celts – Prayers for Daily Tasks

Perhaps some of you can remember growing up on a mixed farm, with crops, gardens, and animals to care for. Even with electricity and engines, the work is hard and the days can be long. We can imagine how much more work it used to be. Stopping several times during the day in order to pray was not practical.

Instead, the Celts came up with prayers to go with each activity of the day. There were prayers for making the bed, milking the cow, covering the fire at night, or for while they walked.

To read the prayers of the Celts is to find yourself immersed in a world still “enchanted”, a world only thinly separated from the spiritual realm. Their prayers reveal them as a people who perceived God’s presence around them, in an almost tangible, human way.

When they cleaned their homes, made their beds, or prepared meals, it was because the saints, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were their guests. When they set off on visits, errands, or walks, they were journeying with Jesus and the heavenly hosts. There is little abstraction in their prayers. They are earthy, specific and concrete.

All of nature was connected to God and to them. They themselves were creatures alongside others creatures, and all together were under the care of God.

There are plenty of collections of Celtic prayers if you want to see more examples than what I’ve included here. Or, you can create your own prayer. When you begin a task, call on God, describe the task, and ask for a blessing that matches the task. As you work, try to remember situations in scripture that match what you are doing. The “point” isn’t to cast a magic spell on your life. The goal is to know the joy and love of Jesus in the midst of all of life and to remember that, whatever we do, we do it for our Lord.

Here are a few examples of such prayers:

“Jesus, as I step out my door, I remember that I walk on the very ground that you once did in Galilee. Father God, you once walked in the garden in the cool of the evening. Holy Spirit, you hover over creation. Almighty God, you preserved your people as they journeyed through the desert. May your light accompany me as I go on my way.”

"Creator of heaven and earth, as I feed these birds, I remember that all living things look to you to give them their food. When you feed them, they gather it up. When you open your hand, they are filled with good things. Bless the birds and all creatures who come. May all who enter this place be welcome, safe, and blessed.”

“Almighty God, I am washing my hands but only you can clean my heart.”

—Pastor Joel

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.

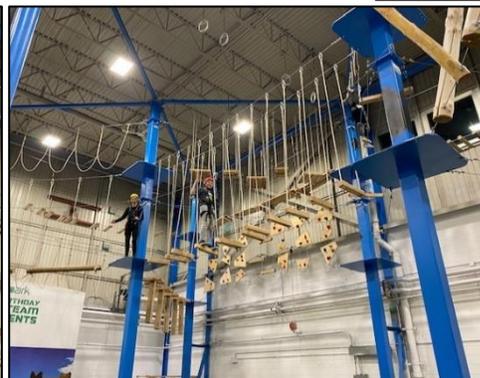
Children

Our Sunday morning in-person kids' classes, *Godly Play*, and *Oasis* have resumed. We are following health guidelines. For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth

Pastor Chris: "For youth last week we went to Sky Park in Regina. This is a multi-purpose activity centre in the former Leader Post building that has both High and Low Ropes Courses, Mini-Golf, Climbing Walls, Go-Karts, and a Zip Line that goes from one corner of the roof to the other! In a safe environment, (Sky Park requires all participants to wear safety harnesses), the youth had the freedom to try any of the activities that they wanted, when they wanted, over the course of two hours. I personally loved the speed of the Go-Karts, and passing the inexperienced drivers on the corners...it was fun...for the youth who took part...and for me! This event was about us being able to be out with one another, to enjoy one another's company, and for some, to be challenged to be pushed out of their comfort zones; the High Ropes course is...HIGH! We continue to be grateful for the time, space, and places where we can come together and meet face to face.

"Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we begin to explore "prayer" in our Bible Studies. Both Dell and Susan Bornowsky will be participating with us and challenging us to ask questions and formulate our own personal understanding of why prayer is an essential part of our faith. Please pray also, that, as Covid-19 restrictions tighten due to high case numbers in the province, God will direct us in any decisions that need to be made regarding the format of our meetings." 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](#).

Sermon Audio by Phone

The COVID-19 crisis 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.

[Dial-the-Sermon \(306\) 992-1912](#)

Resurrection and Life

Pastor Richard's sermon from November 15, 2020 – A summary

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:42-49; Psalm 22:28-31; John 11:17-27

In order for us to take up the resurrection of the body, we must lay down this body – this mortal, perishable, weak physical body. In order to enter into the everlasting life, we must come to the laying down of this body that we might gain the imperishable body, to be raised in glory, a spiritual body. For now we are but dust, bearing the image of the man of dust. But when we enter the life everlasting, we shall bear the image of the man of heaven, Jesus Christ, who is now resurrected and at the right hand of God. This is our hope!

And it is a hope for better days – glorious days when, not only the pains of this body, but also the pains of our hearts and souls will be healed. Not only will there be no physical sickness or pain, but there will be peace, love, and light in the presence of God. For in that day, the home of God will be among mortals who have put on immortality, and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes and death will be no more, and mourning and crying and pain will be no more. Yes, when this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

Let us thank God for this hope that we have. Peter writes it well when he says: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to His great mercy, has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God, through faith, for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Our hope is in the resurrected Lord and the promise of resurrection and everlasting life. And so, we lift our eyes to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who, for the sake of the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. So let us say with Paul, our eyes of faith fixed on that which is to come: “For to me, to live, is Christ and to die is gain.”

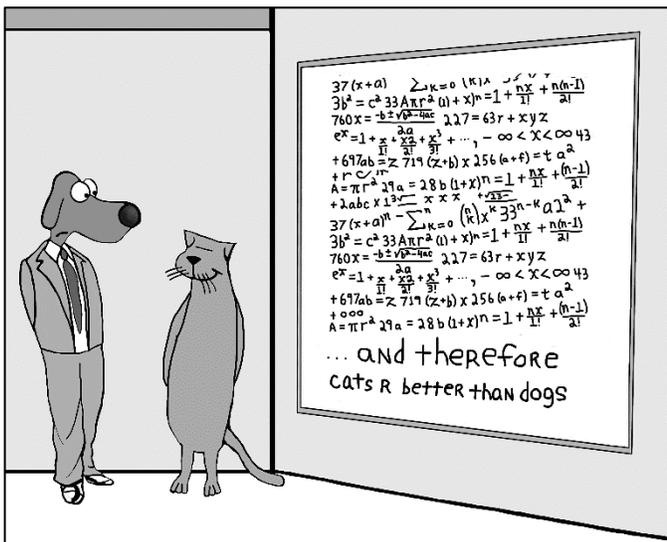
Tithing during the pandemic

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.



Q. Do I enjoy making courthouse puns?

A. Guilty.

Q. Why do pumpkins sit on porches?

A. They have no hands to knock on the door.

Q. What's a bad wizard's favorite computer program?

A. Spell-check.

Dad: You know, birds might use Facebook.

Kids: ?

Dad: Well, we already know they tweet, so...