

# First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the Week of November 8th, 2020*

The Apostles' Creed has been confessed by Christians in worship back to the earliest centuries. Every time Christians gather, there is one generation repeating the faith to the next. The creed reminds us that we have our faith because others were faithful throughout their lives, and passed on the Christian faith in their words and deeds. When we confess the Creed, therefore, we are challenging ourselves to be conscious that how we live, and what we talk about, is what we are passing on to others.

As well, the Creed is not simply a historical document. It continues to be confessed today in churches around the world as a part of our worship.



In these ways, the Creed is a symbol of the unity of the church in worship. We are connected through Jesus to people way back into the past, as well as all around the world right now.



It is not a perfect summary of all we believe. Perhaps as you are reading through the creed, you will have questions of your own. Don't ignore them—that could be the Holy Spirit speaking to you. Make those questions a point of study in scripture,

of prayer, of reading (try Alister McGrath's *I Believe*), or of discussion with friends or a small group.

May our unity in the Holy Spirit bring you strength and comfort.

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.

## 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 are available on [our website](#). Printed copies are available at the church.

For those who attend in person, masks will be mandatory during the meeting. 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. You will be able to join the meeting by clicking on the "Join Worship Service" link in the *First This Week* email or on the [church website](#).

## Offering Envelopes

If you wish to receive offering envelopes for 2021, please send an email to [Tracy S.](#) or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

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.***

## Birth Announcement

Ian and Sheena R. 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 W. and Derrick B.

## Our Condolences

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

## Spiritual Disciplines Series: Mentoring

The word “mentor” comes to us from ancient Greece. But today, we use the word for anyone who is a “positive, guiding influence in another (usually younger) person's life.” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Spiritual mentors can help us in at least two ways: relating to others and relating to God. Ideally, they will help us better relate to God, which will spill over into our relationships with others.

In their book, *Connecting*, Christian authors Stanley and Clinton suggest that there are three kinds of mentoring: Downward Mentoring, Peer Mentoring and, Upward Mentoring.

**Downward Mentoring** is being open to mentoring someone who is not quite as far down the road as you are on the Christian adventure; usually someone younger than you, but not always.

In his letter to Titus, Paul encouraged the older women to coach the younger women in living exemplary lives in their particular culture and time on the Mediterranean island of Crete. (Titus 2:4-5) In the same way, he wanted Titus to encourage the young men to live wisely and to be an example to them. (Titus 2:6-7)

**Peer Mentoring** is being mentored by someone who is beside you on the Christian journey with similar but complimentary experience. Paul considered the Roman Christians as able to help one another in this way.

Romans 15:14: I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.

Brothers and sisters...equals before God – able to instruct one another (Jew and Gentile).

Full of goodness (full of kindness, full of mercy) – no condescension (Jew and Gentile)

Filled with all knowledge – a range of salvation knowledge and experience. (Jew and Gentile)

**Upward Mentoring** is seeking to be mentored by someone who is a little further down the road on the Christian adventure...someone older than you, but not always.

Paul was a kind of upward mentor to his congregations: “Nevertheless on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God.” (Romans 14:15)

Sometimes all three kinds of mentoring may be present at the same time, formally or informally.

Stanley and Clinton suggest that three levels of intensity in the mentoring relationship need to be considered: Passive, Occasional and Intensive.

Whether intentional or not, a **passive** mentoring relationship may be the most common. Though it doesn't involve a personal relationship, you may be influenced by a living Christian. Or, it could also be a person from 2000 years of Christian history, including the New Testament writers. An **occasional** mentoring relationship usually involves a mentor with a specific skill set (like a counsellor), to help you in a specific growth area (such as marriage issues or stress management), for a short period of time. **Intensive** mentoring [can be done by] a Discippler, Spiritual Guide, or Coach.

Most of us have experienced teaching and advice-giving through passive or occasional spiritual mentoring. The most powerful kind of spiritual mentoring may be one-on-one Intensive Upward Spiritual mentoring. Bill Gaultier writes: "Spiritual mentoring, as it was practiced in the Bible and for subsequent centuries of the Church's history in the ministry of spiritual direction, is about the "one thing" of seeking the Lord's face. David did it in his desert trials (Psalm 27), Mary did it in the clamor of her kitchen (Luke 10:38-42), and Paul did it in his demanding apostolic ministry (Philippians 3:7-14)."

Rather than teaching and advice-giving, spiritual mentoring may look more like spiritual direction, in which the Spirit is understood as guiding the mentoree. The mentor seeks to help him or her discern or discover that leading by prayerful listening and asking questions like:

- *How have you sensed God's presence recently?*
- *What challenges are you experiencing in your spiritual life?*
- *When have you delighted in the Lord recently?*
- *What is the Lord teaching you?*

Additionally, the mentor and mentoree might agree on scripture reading and meditation during or between meetings, or study a spiritual biography together.

Though we have talked mainly about one-on-one spiritual mentoring, much of what we've discussed can also apply through a home group setting.

Perhaps Paul sums up the goal of spiritual mentoring when he writes to the Philippians in chapter 3, verses 8 and 9: "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have discarded everything else, counting is all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him..."

Consider praying this week to discern whether you might feel drawn to be a spiritual mentor or to be mentored.

—Eric W.

## 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 the participants. For example, Annabel R. led a series of lessons this past fall.

### 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.



I got hit in the head with a can of Diet Coke today. Don't worry, I'm not hurt. It was a soft drink.

My wife asked me to sync her phone, so I threw it into the ocean. I don't know why she's mad at me.

In a freak accident today, a photographer was killed when a huge lump of cheddar landed on him. To be fair, the people who were being photographed did try to warn him.

Police arrested a bottle of water because it was wanted in three states: Solid, liquid, and gas.

## 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: "Last week the youth met at the church for a Bible study. Our theme this year has been about us "being the light" or "be light" in places and times where there is darkness. In particular, we talked about the difference between joy and happiness; that happiness is an emotion that is fleeting, but that joy, and specifically a joy that flows from our relationship with Christ, is something that is fostered even in difficult times. Our youth also played a fun word association game where they competed against one another to associate as many words as possible to the words that popped up on our projection screen.

It has been very good to be able to see each other face to face, and to pray, talk, visit, laugh, and with one another. Please continue to lift us up in prayer." For more information, 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](#).

## **I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins**

Pastor Joel's sermon from November 8, 2020 – A summary

Scriptures: Isaiah 64, 65; Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 7:36-50

When we say in the creed, "I believe in the forgiveness of sins," what do we mean?

Israel looked at its history and saw its sin and the consequences of sin, as both individual choices and acts. Sin also had a power of its own over individuals. Sin was in families, neighbourhoods, economics, politics, the justice system, the treatment of the land, and worship – just to name a few examples.

Israel understood the foreign invasions and occupation by the Assyrians and Babylonians as a sign that they were under the power of sin. They lost their Davidic king, land, cities, and homes, and God's visible presence left them. For them, forgiveness of sins would mean the reversal of all of these consequences.

When Jesus was born, the Jews had returned to their land, but it was occupied by the Romans; they had a king, but he was an Edomite and ruled at Rome's pleasure; they had a temple, but a compromised priesthood. For many Jews of the time, we know there was inner turmoil when they asked themselves if God had forgiven their sins yet.

Jesus' followers – especially after the resurrection – believed that Jesus was God's answer to sin, not only for the Jews, but for all of humanity and creation. Jesus was the son of David, the fulfilment of the priesthood, the redemption of the land, and the return of God's visible presence. In short, God's forgiveness of sins had come, in Jesus.

What was surprising and confusing was that, instead of everything being set right immediately around the world, Jesus left and ascended, promising to come back one day. This meant there were two kingdoms existing at the same time: Jesus' kingdom, the kingdom of the forgiveness of sins, and a kingdom of darkness, a kingdom under the power of sin.

This is what Paul has in mind when he writes, "God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

Therefore, when we say, "I believe in the forgiveness of sins," we are not simply admitting that forgiveness exists, or willing it to exist. We are committing ourselves to live in Jesus' kingdom, a kingdom of forgiveness.



When we say, “I believe in the forgiveness of sins,” we mean, “I believe in forgiving others.” There is no room in Jesus’ kingdom to withhold forgiveness until someone says they’re sorry, or until they pay for what they’ve done, or until they change. We forgive others because we have already been forgiven by God. Our debt to God was significant and keeps growing – how could we not forgive in turn?

When we say, “I believe in the forgiveness of sins,” we are confessing that sin and sin’s consequences are real, and that we will confront all the sin in ourselves. We are committing ourselves to ask the Holy Spirit,

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)

When we say, “I believe in the forgiveness of sins,” we mean, “I believe that God forgives me for my sins.” Sometimes, I personally feel like I’ll never learn. Or that this time, God won’t forgive me. Paul’s words give me strength: “This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on.” (Philippians 3:10-14)

And we don’t examine ourselves in order to wallow in guilt and shame. Look at the experience of Simon, Jesus’ dinner host, in our Gospel lesson. Jesus’ point was not that Simon did not have many sins. Instead, between the woman and Simon, only one was truly willing to be honest about their sin. Only one was able to recognize how much they were being forgiven. Therefore, only the woman recognized just how much Jesus loved her. Only the woman experienced the joy of being transferred into Jesus’ kingdom.

Remembrance Day drives home the point that sin can take hold of entire nations or even the world. This can lead to the literal destruction and ruin of cities, cultures, nature, and human lives. We remember not to hold on to bitterness or rage, but to recall the life and death importance of committing ourselves to the kingdom of forgiveness that Jesus brought into existence.

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## **Achievers’ Virtual Luncheon**

The next Achievers’ Luncheon will be held on November 26th, at 12:00 noon, over Zoom. Our guest speakers will be Doug and Edie Hilts. For further details about the luncheon and to access the Zoom link, visit the [church website](#). Please RSVP as soon as possible by emailing [the church](#) or calling (306) 359-1450, ext. 223 or ext. 221. The Zoom link will also be included in the *First this week* emails the weeks of November 15th and 22nd. For more information, please contact [Pastor John](#).



## 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](http://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](mailto:main_fbcregina@sasktel.net) for further details.



Q. Why don't crabs give to charity?

A. Because they're shellfish.

Q. Why did the raisin go out with the prune?

A. Because he couldn't find a date.

Q. How do you tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?

A. You will see one later and one in a while.

Q. What's the best way to watch a fly-fishing tournament?

A. Live stream.