

## First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the Week of February 14th, 2021*

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days and 6 Sundays. We set aside these weeks to intentionally reflect on Jesus' suffering and death and to prepare for the celebration of the resurrection. Lent can be a time of fasting, self-examination, prayer, and serving others as we take up our cross and follow Jesus.



Consider committing to one practice for the 6 weeks of Lent. Pastor Richard has created a library of practices to choose from. There is a video and written description for each practice on [our website](#).

If you've never come to an Ash Wednesday service, consider taking part on February 17th at 7 p.m.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. L.", likely representing Pastor Joel.

Pastor Joel

## What's happening at First?

### Morning Prayer

Join us each morning, Monday to Thursday at 7:15 am to begin your day with scripture and prayer, via Zoom. Visit our [website](#) for the link.

### Children

Our children's program is online. Here is what they are learning about at present:

Godly Play (ages 4-6) – The Life of Jesus

Oasis (ages 7-11) – Shalom Around the World

For more information or for the Zoom link, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

### Youth

Pastor Chris: “[On Friday, February 5th], the youth met on Zoom for some games and a devotional. Pastor Joel and his son Xavier led the youth in a quiz. The quiz was tied into Joel's devotional about the man in the Bible who was helped through the roof of a house to see Jesus.

It was good to see the youth, hear their voices, and be challenged to think about who Jesus is to us, and why pursuing a relationship with him is so important.” For more information, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

### Adults

**Learning for Life:** Pastor Richard is facilitating an online series: “Jesus' Earthly Ministry: Revealing the Heart of God.” This class is focusing on the four Gospels, allowing them to shape the account of Jesus' life and teachings, and discovering how Jesus revealed not only God's heart toward humanity, but also how our hearts ought to be toward one another. For more information, visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

**Voice:** A small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively conversation. The group meets every second Wednesday from 7 to 9 pm, using Zoom. For more information, visit [our website](#), send an email to [the church](#), or contact Laureen S or Bonnie AW.

**Reading through the Old Testament:** In this online reading group, participants are reading through the Old Testament chronologically. The group meets every Thursday at 10:30 am, via Zoom. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

**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 Sunday of each month at 7 pm, and the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 am. (Please note that the Wednesday evening meeting time has switched to Sunday evenings, beginning February 14th.) For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

## 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.

## Give & Take

Items to give away:

1. 54-inch bed frame and mattress in perfect condition. Pick-up only.  
(Contact person: Diane Z)

Items needed:

1. Piano Light – bright and wide.  
(Contact person: Marilyn P)

If you can use or supply any of these items, please contact the person listed, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450. If you have items either to “Give” or “Take” (something you need), please contact us and we will list your items here.



*You want the long, skinny rug in the hallway for a scarf?! What on earth are you talking about?*

Muldoon lived alone in the countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, “Father, me dog is dead. Could ya’ be sayin’ a mass for the poor creature?”

Father Patrick replied, “I’m afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane. No tellin’ what they believe. Maybe they’ll do something for the creature.”

Muldoon said, “I’ll go right away Father. Do ya’ think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?”

Father Patrick exclaimed, “Saints be praised! Why did ya’ not tell me the dog was Catholic?”

## Carried by Friends

Pastor Joel's sermon from Sunday, February 7th, 2021 (A summary—to hear the complete sermon, dial (306) 992-1912.)

Scriptures: Isaiah 40.21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; Mark 2.1-12

A paralyzed man came to Jesus and Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Does this seem wrong or awkward to you? It makes me squirm a bit. The man's need was obvious. He was suffering.

This story brings to light a common dilemma for believers. God sees us and the world differently than we see them. We may have something we believe is urgent for our wellbeing or the world's wellbeing, but God may see something else we need even more. We look at the man on the mat and maybe see a problem to fix. But Jesus saw something else.

Why did four people carry their friend to Jesus? They had hauled him for who knows how long, only to find Jesus in a home so full that people were crowded around the doorway. Then they hauled him onto the roof, looking for a separate entrance. Finding none, they resolved to dig through the roof. Why all of this effort? Was it because their friend was so burdened by his sins? Or was it in hopes that Jesus would heal their friend's leg?

I want to know this: After all they had been through, how did the man and his friends react when Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven”? Do you think they said, “Great! Let's pull him back up now and haul him home and celebrate!”

First though, what do we learn about Jesus here? He is certainly able to keep calm through surprising events! We also see that Jesus is empathetic and compassionate. He is moved by the faith of the man's friends. Jesus is able to understand what is going on in people's hearts and minds. He sees the faith of the friends, and he sees what others in the crowd are thinking in their hearts.

With that in mind, consider this possibility. Perhaps Jesus' words, “You are forgiven” meant more to the man than we know. It is possible that this man needed to hear those words more than anything else Jesus could have said or done – even more than walking again.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus addresses different things in different people as if he sees the one thing that person needs at that point in life.

Another example is the rich young ruler, whom we will meet later on in Mark. Jesus looked at him and said, “This one thing you lack: go and sell everything and come, follow me.”

Jesus, looking at the man on the mat, somehow knew the man needed to hear, “Your sins are forgiven.” Jesus does heal the man, but Mark emphasizes that Jesus did this to prove to the man that his sins were forgiven, and that he had authority on earth to forgive sins.

It is essential as believers that we know our sins are forgiven. Jesus has the authority to forgive any and all sins: All sin completely, totally, finally, and fully. Some of us need to hear that more than others. But not everyone. What is the one thing God needs to say to you, right now in your life?

## 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.



*Don't heal me—I'm getting a great disability allowance!*

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why should we be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

After a recent church service, eight year old Lee said to the preacher: "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money."

"Well, thank you," the preacher replied, "but why?"

"Because my father says that you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."