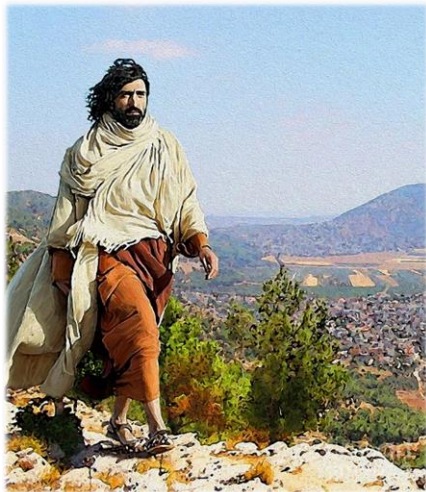


First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of February 21st, 2021

Sometimes we refer to salvation as if it were entirely an event that happened in our past. Our confidence in God is not misplaced: If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. However, each year, Lent reminds us that salvation is also a way of life. It is not something we can achieve in one prayer or in one decision. We are on a journey through death, to life.



In Lent, we remember the journey Christ made toward his own death. We remember that he saw the cross ahead of him in Jerusalem, and yet walked obediently toward it without deviating. Christ's goal was not death. His goal lay beyond that, as does ours. We seek

to follow Christ through our death, so that we might experience the new life he has waiting for us.



With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.M.L.' with a stylized flourish.

Pastor Joel

Achievers' Virtual Luncheon

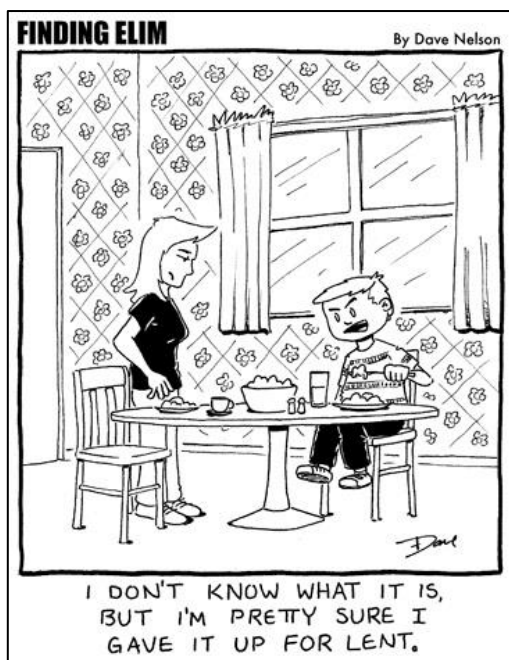
The February Achievers' Luncheon will take place this Thursday, February 25th, at 12:00 noon, over Zoom. If you are 55 years or older, you are warmly invited to join us. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Kayely Rich, associate pastor at First Baptist Regina, providing leadership in the children's program, and bringing experience in counselling, administration and leadership. Pastor Kayely will be sharing about discerning God's voice and his leading – both in her own life as well as in community.

For full details, visit the [church website](#). Please RSVP as soon as possible by emailing [the church](#) or calling (306) 359-1450, ext. 223 or ext. 221. Questions? Please contact [Pastor John](#). To join the luncheon, click here: [Join Achievers' Luncheon](#).

Website

Just a reminder that, as the COVID-19 restrictions continue, 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.



An atheist named John lived in a small Christian village. During Lent on every Friday he would grill a deer and the whole village could smell it.

After a few years the village elders got together and said this has to stop and they need to convert John.

The elders eventually convince John to convert and spend a year helping him prepare for his baptism. At the baptism the priest blesses John and sprinkles some water on him and utters "John, you were born an atheist and raised an atheist and now you are a Christian!"

Everyone celebrates his conversion and that for the first time on years they won't smell meat grilling on the Fridays of Lent. Well, come the first Friday of Lent the villagers smell John cooking a deer and run over to stop him. As they are approaching his yard they see him sprinkling the deer with water and saying "You were born a deer, raised a deer and now you are a trout!"

Birth Announcements

Anna TianYue Mor Hepting was born January 22, 2021 in Malaysia to David and Jetaime Hepting. She is a granddaughter to Merv and Carol Hepting. She was born prematurely at 33 weeks but has been improving and is now home with her parents. David and Jetaime are both teachers in an international School located in the south of Malaysia.

Due to her early birth, Anna has had some serious health complications, including issues with her heart and lungs. She is making good progress, and Merv and Carol would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all those who prayed for her.



Kylian Tazi Ngongo was born to Marco Kisembe and Miriam Kay (Malik) on November 4, 2020. He is a little brother to Kamil Kisembe Ngongo. Marco, originally from Republic of Congo and then South Africa, was married to Miriam on July 13, 2016 in Capetown, South Africa. Marco is now a school teacher in Ponteix, SK. Miriam has been in our church since a young girl, growing up with her Aunt Adijah and Uncle Emmanuel and cousins Lilian, Patrick, Bonifise and Arno. Miriam is on maternity leave from her job in Health Care.

David Godwin Tabio was born in July 7, 2020, in Regina, to Dieubeni Tabio and Gloria Hytahe. David is a little brother to Grace and Theresa. Dieubeni comes to us from Central African Republic via Chengdu China.

Dieubeni has been part of our congregation since 2012 and has sung in the choir since shortly after his arrival. After several years apart, he was thrilled to be reunited with his wife and daughters when they arrived from Africa on July 3, 2018.



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 have been learning about recently:

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

The youth are meeting alternate Fridays, on Zoom. Please keep them and Pastor Chris in your prayers. 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. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Divine Use of Power

Pastor Joel's sermon from Sunday, February 14th, 2021 (A summary—to hear the complete sermon, dial (306) 992-1912.)

Scriptures: 2 Kings 2:5-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 8:21 - 9:2-9

The Gospel of Mark divides neatly into two halves. The first half is chapters one to nine, culminating in the transfiguration, and the second half is chapters nine to sixteen, culminating with Jesus' death and resurrection.

By juxtaposing two events that seem very different, the transfiguration and the cross, Mark emphasizes that Jesus died of his own free will. Jesus used the power and the authority that he had been given by the father in order to lay his life down for us and for this world.

In the first half of Mark, Jesus travels through Galilee. In the second half, he travels to Jerusalem. The first half of Mark culminates with Peter declaring, "You are the Messiah!" and the second half with the centurion exclaiming, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

In the first half, Jesus reveals that he has authority and power to teach, heal, cast out unclean spirits, command nature, raise the dead, and feed the hungry, culminating on the mountain when he is revealed in glory before his disciples. What does he do with all this glory? He immediately turns towards Jerusalem, and uses his power to walk towards his own suffering and death.

It is at the transfiguration that Jesus first clearly and plainly warns his disciples about what is going to happen. Tragedies often involve characters with a tragic flaw which brings about their own downfall. They may be of noble character, but doomed by fate into a spiralling destruction. This is *not* the case for Jesus.

The transfiguration reveals that Jesus was not trapped, nor was he doomed by a tragic flaw. For the church fathers, it was important that, along with Peter, James, and John, we *all* see Jesus' glory and power, so that we might understand that his approaching suffering and death was his own choice.

The mirror-like shape of Mark also tells us that Jesus' glory is connected to his suffering and his death. Mark matches the glory of the transfiguration and suffering of the cross. Can we really imagine talking about our Lord's suffering and death in terms of glory?

What about in your own lives? When might you say, "That was my moment of glory?" Was it after some accomplishment? Was it a success after hard work? Was it maybe a time you put on your very best to attend a special event? Was it a simple moment of pure happiness?

Or was your moment of glory when you were enduring pain, day after day? Was your glory enduring through grief, loneliness, depression, anxiousness, or confusion? Are these moments of glory?

Things did not work out for Jesus. Everything went wrong. Other people his age went on to success and accomplishments. Jesus died young and alone.

Jesus suffering is his glory, and therefore, there is a connection between *our* enduring suffering and our glory. Thanks to Jesus Christ, our suffering is not pointless. Paul echoes this in 2 Corinthians 4:17: “Your afflictions are preparing for you an eternal glory beyond all measure. Don't look at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. Do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.”

In one of his sermons on the transfiguration, Leo the Great put it this way, “The joyousness of reigning cannot precede the times of suffering. Amidst the trials of this life, we must ask for the power of endurance.”

Mark's gospel reveals Jesus' character. Jesus has glory, power, and authority. And yet, he uses it to lay down his life for the life of the world.

With this in mind, we remember that we confess that Jesus is fully God. What is it that makes God so great? What is God's glory? It is the greatness and the glory we see in Jesus: God's authority and power is used self-sacrificially to bring life. The source of all creation, the source of all life, of all living things, is found in God's self-giving love. *This* is what is revealed in Jesus' transfiguration and his suffering and death.

At the same time, we confess that Jesus was fully human. Therefore, everything that Jesus did or experienced was done by a human being, including the transfiguration. Through Jesus, we see that human flesh is worthy of bearing the glory of the image of God. Creation *can* hold God's glory. Even a bush once held the glory of God and it was not consumed. I wonder if Moses looked at bushes differently for the rest of his life? We should likewise look at ourselves and others differently now that we have seen God's glory shining from a human face on the mountain of transfiguration. The transfiguration reveals the beauty of humanity, the glory of all creation, and of all physical matter.

Perhaps when you hear the story of the transfiguration, you wonder if people back then were much more likely to believe stories like this, while we know they are clearly myths. The people back then were no different from us. Even two thousand years ago, people questioned this story. Peter, near the end of his life, wrote to his church, “We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice said, ‘This is my son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain.” (2 Peter 1:16-18)

Peter then ends with these words, “Remember this like a light shining in a dark place.”

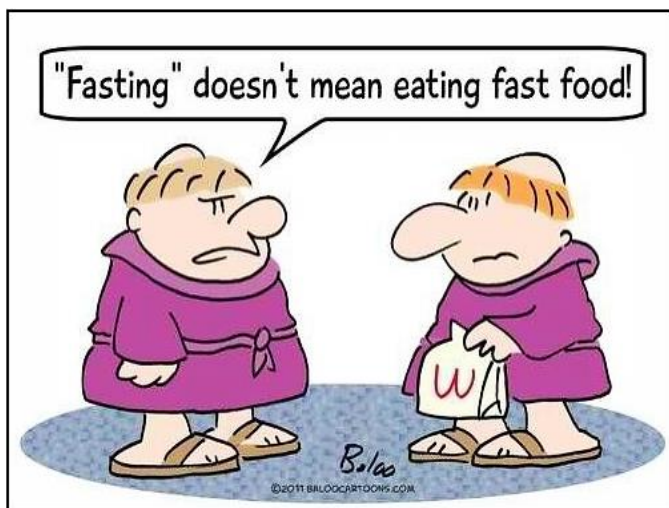
Tithing during the pandemic

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.



One afternoon, three elderly ladies were sitting around a table enjoying tea.

One woman said to the others, "You know, sometimes I find myself in front of the fridge with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand, and can't remember if I am supposed to put it away or make a sandwich."

Another woman chimed in saying, "You know, I have the same problem... sometimes I find myself at the stairway landing and can't remember if I'm going up or coming down."

The third woman proclaimed, "Well, I'm glad I don't have your problems – knock on wood," as she rapped her knuckles on the table three times and said "Oh! That must be the door. I'll get it!"