

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of April 18th, 2021

The Restoration of All That Has Been Lost

Many of us learn about history as a timeline, with one event following another. Looking at history that way, two thousand years have passed, one after the other, since Jesus died and rose from the dead.

Though I do not pretend to understand cosmic physics, perhaps by analogy, they offer another way to understand history. I've read that time and space began in a hot, dense mass and then suddenly, time and space began to spread outwards in all directions. Even today, it continues to expand.



Looking at history this way, we could say that Jesus rose from the dead in the centre of all time and space, became the beginning of all things, and that through him, all things are being created. Like a stone thrown into water generating ever-expanding ripples moving in every direction, everything past, present, and future will eventually be touched by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In the same way, Genesis chapters 1 to 3 can be read, not as ancient history, but, as theologian John Behr suggests, as the expanding effect of God's creation through Jesus. The effects are seen in part now, while the fullness of creation lies in our future: life, light and order established through the word of God; Jesus and his bride, the church, revealed as the image and likeness of God on earth; humans created from the dust of death with the Holy Spirit indwelling them; and all nature living in the eternal Sabbath rest of God.

Men's curiosity searches past and future
And clings to that dimension. But to apprehend
The point of intersection of the timeless
With time, is an occupation for the saint...

The hint half guessed, the gift half understood, is Incarnation.
Here the impossible union
Of spheres of existence is actual,
Here the past and future
Are conquered, and reconciled...

—T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets: Dry Salvages*

May God help us to see signs that we are nearing the beginning, not the end.

With love and prayers,



Pastor Joel

Achievers' Virtual Luncheon

The April Achievers' Luncheon will be Thursday, April 22nd, 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 Jeff Sotropa, who will share both his music and reflections on his life journey.



Jeff is the son of Vic and Irene Sotropa, and grew up in Regina. Having moved out to BC, he has spent most of the past 20 years living near Kimberley. Jeff has worked in communications, marketing, graphic design and writing for most of his career. He is currently expanding his vocational pursuits more deeply into music, and is studying composition and film scoring. He will talk about the twists and turns of his life and how they have shaped who he is and how he approaches each day.

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](#).

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences and prayers to Laurie McPherson and her family. Laurie's father, Robert McPherson, passed away on Monday, April 12, 2021 in Calgary, AB.



More (actual) bulletin blunders...

Miss Jane Smith sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, good company, and gracious hostility.

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 at this time. For more information, contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth

The youth are meeting alternate Friday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom. For more information, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adults

Learning for Life: A new series, led by Eric Warren, began on April 11th: "The Mysterious Plan for Everything." This five week series samples Ephesian's "drone's eye" view of the plan by addressing three questions: 1. What is God's ultimate plan for Humanity and the Cosmos? 2. What is His universal plan for the Church? 3. What is His unique plan for individual Christians? In the midst of the uncertainty fostered by the pandemic, this timeless letter reassuringly reveals and reminds us of our inclusion in this unfolding cosmic plan. For more information, contact Eric or see [our website](#).

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](#), email [the church](#), or contact Lauren 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. There are two groups meeting, via Zoom. The first group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 7 pm, and the second, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 am. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Website Update

Our church website will be going through a makeover near the end of April. The current website no longer supports updates to the underlying platform, which leaves us vulnerable to security issues and unable to implement certain updates.

The website will remain at the same address (firstbaptistregina.ca), but will look somewhat different. We have attempted to maintain an appearance that reflects the traditional aspects of our church, while at the same time, simplifying pages and improving site navigation.

We ask for your patience as the change takes place and all the bugs are worked out.

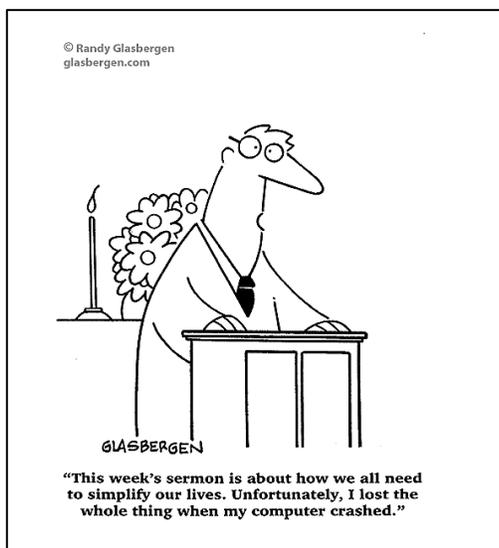
Tithing during the pandemic

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.



A middle-aged widower was dating a young woman of 18. When He received inquiries about his new romance, he commented, "I've found myself asking new questions about life, like, 'What kind of wine goes well with peanut butter?'"

Some scuba-diving students were about to be tested on their first dive in the ocean. "What do we have to do to pass?" asked one. To which the instructor replied, "Come back."

Directions on a recipe: Serves four hungry or six polite people.