

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of April 25th, 2021

“Peek-a-boo,” the daddy said, pulling his hands away from his eyes. The baby’s eyes widened in surprise and then they both laughed.



This game works because all babies have to learn about “object permanence.” We all learn as babies that, just because we can’t see something, it does not mean it is not there. Through this period of learning, when something disappears, the question for the child is, “Is it gone forever?” In the game of Peek-a-boo, suddenly what was hidden, reappears!

The Gospel according to Luke includes one specific time when Jesus receded from the disciples’ sight behind a cloud. But in all the Gospels, for several weeks after his resurrection, Jesus kept appearing and disappearing. It’s like he was helping his friends learn, “Just because you can’t see me, doesn’t mean I’m not there.”

With Emad and Almess speaking to us last Sunday, I was reminded of the dramatic stories we heard while in Beirut of Jesus appearing to people across the Middle East and North Africa. The most recent Arab Baptist Seminary newsletter includes yet another story of Jesus appearing to a young Muslim woman who is now a student at the seminary. Jesus is not gone from earth, even if it often feels that way.

Jesus said, “I will be with you until the very end.” During these Easter days, let’s learn to recognize that Jesus is always with us. And may our hearts be fixed on seeing Jesus face to face, when he returns to earth at the restoration of all things.

With love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. L." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Joel

Lebanon Fundraiser 2021

Our fundraiser on Sunday, April 18th, was a moving experience. The Botros family, from Beirut, was with us, via Zoom. By sharing their stories with us, they provided insight into what it's like to be living in Lebanon right now.

Luncheon highlights:

- The Botros family answered the questions that had been submitted beforehand, and also some that were asked during the luncheon. Each member of the family took part in this: Emad, Almess, Timmy (15), and Nathaniel (13), thus allowing us to see the situation from each of their viewpoints, and to get a feel for what their lives are like. Timmy and Nathaniel shared that, even though their schooling is online at this time, they appreciate that they are able to meet with friends about once a week to play football in the park.
- Lebanon has been without a government since their prime minister resigned in October, 2020. We heard about how the absence of a government impacts the people's lives in many ways.
- We also heard about the major economic issues that the Lebanese are facing, such as soaring inflation. Many are barely able to earn enough to feed their families. Although Covid-19 cases are increasing rapidly, people are not able to stay home and isolate when they should, since that would mean not getting paid. Lebanon does not have the safety nets that Canada has.
- Another situation that has a major impact on the Lebanese is the huge number of Syrian refugees living in their midst. Lebanon, a small country of 4 million people, had already welcomed hundreds of Palestinian refugees in the 1940s and on through the 20th century. With the onset of the civil war in Syria, over a million Syrians fled for their lives into Lebanese cities and mountains. This massive influx of people drove wages down, the price of goods and rent up, and put pressure on schools and health systems. Added to these tensions was the reality that Syrian had invaded and occupied Lebanon for over 20 years. Churches have struggled to know what to do, many choosing to help their former enemies.
- We watched a video, "Ministry of Presence in the time of Covid," which speaks of some of the hardships brought on by Covid-19 and what the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD—partners of Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM)) is doing to meet the challenging needs, including delivering nutritional meals to vulnerable families, visiting them through phone calls, and praying for them.
- We heard an informative report from Heather Russell-MacLean. She shared:
 - A brief portion of Lebanon's history and how, against the backdrop of the legacy of war and civil unrest, the more recent challenges of Covid-19, the financial crisis, and the port explosion of last August, have added immeasurably to the difficulties faced by the Lebanese people.

- An overview of the LSESD—their organizational structure and the various areas that they are involved in, in ministering to the people of Lebanon, including the Syrian refugees. These areas include children’s education in a Christian context, seminary education for students from the Middle East and North Africa, relief and development in partnership with local churches and organizations to support vulnerable families, and ministry to vulnerable children and youth.
- Lauren Snook showed us photos from the SENT team’s trip to Lebanon in 2019. She also shared how she was impacted by her experiences on the trip.

Supporting the work of the CBM in Lebanon makes a lot of sense! “The infrastructure is already there, so our role is to pray, to learn, and to donate. This is how each and every one of us, can make a tangible difference.” (Heather RM)

Last year, our church raised \$9,633 from our Lebanon fundraiser. Our target for this year is \$9,000 – let’s see if we can beat it! For more information, visit [our website](#).

Ways to give:

1. Online with a credit card: <https://www.givetogo.org/team/FBCRegina>
2. Mail, or drop off, your donation to First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina SK S4P 0S4. (Please do not leave cash in the mailbox.) If you require an in-person pick up, call the church at (306) 359-1450.
 - Make cheques out to “CBM.”
 - Note “SENT Lebanon” in the memo line or on the envelope.

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.



Just heard that a man had an accident while playing peek-a-boo with his six-month-old baby. He’s currently in the ICU.

I told my suitcases just now there will be no holiday this year. Now I’m dealing with emotional baggage.

A pastor’s wife was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their Mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.’” The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said, “You be Jesus.”

Website Update

We are currently in the process of transitioning over to our new website. The address will not change (firstbaptistregina.ca). While it 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.

As you find your way around on the new site, here are a few pointers to get you started:

- The main header (showing church name and dome image) and the footer appear on every page. To return to the home page from any page, click on the church name or dome image.
- Above the main header on the right hand side are small icons/links for the Calendar of Events, Facebook, YouTube, and email (to send an email to the church). These links are on every page.
- The banners (sliding images) on the home page can now be controlled by the user. When you hover over a banner, it pauses on that banner, and also reveals the controls:
 - Arrows at the sides to go forward or back, or scroll through the banners more quickly.
 - Dots at the bottom—these enable the user to go directly to a specific banner.
- All information about the upcoming Sunday service is now on a separate page. To access it, click on the “Sunday Service” link right under the banner.
- Also below the banner is a link to the Calendar of Events. As before, each entry on the calendar provides a link to information about that event.
- Right below the main header on every page, is the main menu. (Welcome, Media, Get Connected, Grow, Give, Covid-19) Hovering over each of these shows you the drop down menu for it. You can then click on the option you want.
- To the right of the main menu, you will find two small icons:
 - Search (magnifying glass icon)
 - Technical help (question mark icon)

As with anything of this nature, there will undoubtedly be bugs to work out. We ask for your patience while this is happening.

Please note: If you would like help in navigating the website, please call the church at (306) 359-1450, or send an email to [the church](#), and someone will contact you to set up a time to provide assistance over the phone.

Novel Study

Voice is having a novel study on Saturday, June 5, 2021. The book chosen for the study is “Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption,” by Katie Davis. It is the inspirational story of a young woman and her journey to Uganda to live and work with some of the poorest people in the world. For more information, visit [our website](#), contact Lauren S, or call the church at (306) 359-1450. The discussion will take place at 10 am over Zoom.

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: Eric Warren is leading a 5-week series on the book of Ephesians: “The Mysterious Plan for Everything.” This series looks at 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? Paul assures us this plan will be accomplished by the same power that raised Christ from the dead. 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](#).

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 bald man got a great deal on a wig today – only \$1!
It was a small price toupee.

My wife asked me today if I had seen the dog bowl. I said, no, I didn't know he knew how.

My friend Tony asked me not to say his name backwards. I said, y not?

Husband: My wife is blaming me for ruining her birthday. That's ridiculous—I didn't even know it was her birthday!

Aladdin has been banned from the annual magic carpet race. Apparently he's been using performance enhancing rugs.