

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of May 16th, 2021

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it,” begins Psalm 24, a psalm about the ascension of *the* king into God’s presence – a good psalm to read in celebration of Jesus’ ascension. Who is this King of Glory? God alone? Or a human representative chosen by God? The Christian answer in Jesus is – both!



We celebrate that Jesus ascended into heaven and was given all authority by God. His first act was to send the Holy Spirit which we will celebrate in the coming weeks. And Jesus promised to come again to judge all people and all nations.

Paul also said that Jesus will continue to face resistance to his rule until death itself is defeated. (*See Romans 8 or 1 Corinthians 15.*) Is Jesus’ rule arriving bit by bit throughout history? Or will it come upon the universe all at once at Jesus’ return? The church has never been able to answer these sorts of questions decisively. We are not sure how to connect the Bible’s poetic visions of God’s plan to human history or to natural history. For example, how could nature exist without any death? Or in history, is what we see happening now, part of the God’s plan or a result of the resistance to that plan? Even our children ask these questions.

From time to time, something happens in the world or in our own lives which causes us to feel deeply that creation remains, in Paul’s words, “subjected to futility,” and in “bondage to decay.” As author Annie Dillard observes, “It is death spinning the globe.” And filmmaker Werner Herzog states (perhaps in all his films, one way or another), “The common character of the universe is not harmony but hostility, chaos, and murder.”

When we pray The Lord’s Prayer/The Our Father (and we should every day), we pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.” It is a plea for all humanity and for all creation: “God come and bring an end to all violence, illness, and death.” How or when this could happen is far beyond my limited knowledge and intellect.

Therefore, when I pray this prayer throughout the day, I pray that, at the very least, may “God’s will be done” in my body and in my life, and that God would give me the strength to trust. I cannot answer the question as to how Jesus’ rule will come to earth, but I do hope that in some small way, my life would reflect my trust in his authority and my hope in his return.

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Yours with love,

Pastor Joel

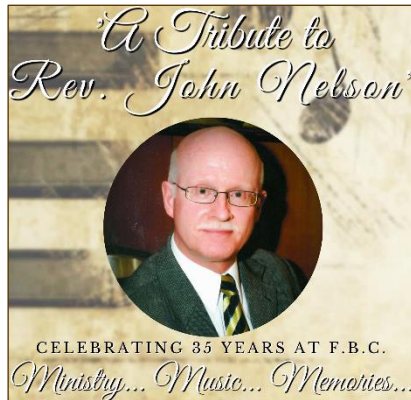
Achievers' Virtual Luncheon

The May Achievers' Luncheon will be this Thursday, May 20th, at 12:00 noon, over Zoom. Please note that this will be the last luncheon for this term.

Pastor John: "We will be meeting with Pastor Joel to discuss the ACHIEVERS Group. I hope that many of you will come online to offer your suggestions and recommendations concerning the future of ACHIEVERS. Thank you, as always, for your support and encouragement over these past many years!"

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](#).

Notable Words & Music: *A Tribute to John Nelson*



When: Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 7 pm

Where: On Zoom

Join us for a virtual celebration in gratitude for 35 years of faithful ministry to First Baptist Church, the Regina community, and beyond.

"With God's Blessings, Best Wishes on Your Retirement, John." (See [John Nelson Tribute](#) on our website.)

Benevolent Fund

First Baptist maintains a benevolent fund from which it helps folks from inside and outside our congregation in times of crisis. Pastors, in discussion with the diaconate, disperse money as needs arise.

Over the past few months, we have helped different folks with various needs. We have used all the money given to us to date. If you wish to help replenish this fund, please indicate "benevolent fund" on your donation.

Do you have some time you could donate to the church?

As you know, the need for maintenance does not go away just because our use of the church has been limited due to the pandemic. There are a number of jobs, both inside and outside, that need to be done. As you can see in the photo, this fence is in serious need of a paint job! If you are able to make a contribution to the church in this way, please contact Rob SL or [Pastor Joel](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.



Our Condolences

We extend our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Susan Senger (Pastor Chris' mother), who passed away in Regina on Friday, April 30th, 2021.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Charles Towle on Tuesday, April 27th, 2021, in Calgary, AB. Charles' wife, Carol Joy (CJ), is the daughter of Ken and Joan Thompson. We extend our condolences and prayers to Charles' family and friends.

Report from the Board

Your church board held its monthly meeting on May 8. We recognize we are in a time of transition, both because of COVID and John's retirement, and are entering a new chapter in our worship and music ministry.

Further, we recognize that we are in a new period culturally, here in Canada. We are giving much thought and prayer to these issues. We are grateful that church finances have held up well, and we were able to send a special gift to the Canadian Baptist Ministries emergency aid fund.

We continue to ask the big questions: What should ministry look like post-COVID? What is God asking of us, as a downtown church? What is the best use of the financial and human gifts the Lord has entrusted us with? What will a faithful church focus on? How can we best evangelize and disciple (Matthew 28:18-20)?

Please pray about these things, and pray for your board. We long to be faithful, and we trust the Lord Jesus to lead us.

—Ron Phillips, Board Chair

Did you hear about the fire at the circus? It was in tents!

Good news! People are living longer than ever!
Bad news—we don't get to choose which people.

My blue tooth speaker wasn't working so I threw it in the lake. Now it's syncing.

I'm a social vegan...I'm avoiding meets.

I quit my job as a mailman when they handed me my first letter to deliver. I looked at it and thought, "This isn't for me."



**Singing in the shower
Is all fun and games
Until you get
Shampoo
in your mouth,
Then it just
Becomes a soap opera.**

Lebanon Fundraiser 2021 Giving Update – WOW!

Our fundraiser on April 18th was a moving experience with stories from the Botros family in Beirut, about the difficult current conditions in Lebanon and what the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development are doing to help.

As of Sunday, May 2nd, donations toward our Lebanon partnership are at \$17,395!! This will be matched with \$9,000 from our Missions budget, adding up to a total of \$26,395. We praise God for this wonderful

response! Also, our heartfelt thanks go to all who have contributed. For more information on what we learned at the luncheon and where your gift goes, see [our website](#).

Watch for further updates!

Ways to give:

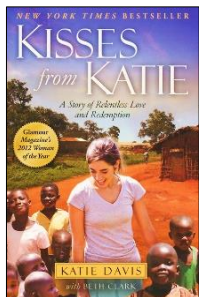
1. Online with a credit card: <https://www.givetogo.org/team/FBCRegina>
2. Mail, or drop off, your donation to First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina SK S4P 0S4. (Please do not leave cash in the mailbox.) If you require an in-person pick up, call the church at (306) 359-1450.
 - Make cheques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

Website Update

On Sunday, April 25th, we transitioned over to our new website. The address has not changed (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.

For help in navigating the website or for technical difficulties, please visit [this page](#). You may also send an email to [the church](#) or call (306) 359-1450.

Novel Study



Voice is holding 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, true 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.



L to R: Timothy (Timmy, 15), Almess, Emad, Nathaniel (13)

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: On Sunday, May 16th, Pastor Richard began a new series: "Christ's Letters to the Church." This 7-week course will look at the letters of Christ to the seven churches in the book of Revelation.

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, we find a letter, from Christ, to each of seven different churches. These letters contain, generally speaking, both words of commendation and condemnation. They lead us to ask: What is Christ looking for in his Church? What are considered strengths in a local church? What are considered weaknesses? We will work through one letter a week, asking, as well, what elements of each letter contain significance as we reflect upon our own church (of which we are each individually a part). For more information, see [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, contact Lauren S or Bonnie AW, visit [our website](#), email [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

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 call the church at (306) 359-1450, 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 Thursday of each month at 7 pm (*please note that this group's meeting day has changed from Sunday to Thursday*), and the second, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 am. For more information, please visit [our website](#), contact [Pastor Richard](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

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.



Q. Why should you never trust stairs?

A. They're always up to something.

Q. How do you measure a snake?

A. In inches—they don't have feet.

Q. What does a house wear?

A. Address!

Q. What's the difference between a dog and a marine biologist?

A. One wags a tail and the other tags a whale.