

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of May 30th, 2021

Celebrating Trinity Sunday

For 2,000 years, the church has preferred the word “Trinity” over the generic word “God,” as they pray, sing, and think. We pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

Christians worship the Trinity because this is the God we see at work – creating, saving, and renewing: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the story of Israel and of the Church. Take away the Trinity and you have something other than Christianity.

I often pray that we would be grow in awareness of God’s presence in our lives. However, Trinity Sunday reminds

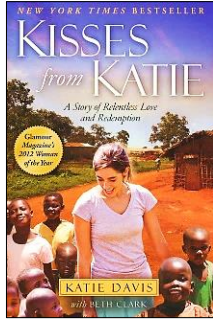


us that the God of creation and salvation hasn’t been discovered through reason or spiritual practices. By that I mean that there’s no way to discover the Trinity through logic or science. Nor can we discover the Trinity beginning with spiritual feelings. Knowing God is a gift from the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit. Let’s honour the triune God in all we say and do.

With love,

Pastor Joel

Novel Study



Voice is holding a novel study this 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 Laureen S, email [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450. The discussion will take place at 10 am over Zoom.

Katepwa Lake Camp (KLC) Volunteer Day – June 5th

June 5th, from 10 am to 4 pm, will be our spring “All Hands on Deck” volunteer day. Our camp needs a lot of year-round upkeep, so we’ll use this day to get the camp beautified for summer! Regardless of your skill level, we’d love for you to join us. Please wear a mask, as health guidelines will be followed. (If you are unable to bring a mask, PPE will be provided.) For more information or to RSVP, visit the [KLC website](#), contact [Rosemary W](#), or email [the camp](#). See you there!

Love Offering for Pastor John

We will continue to accept contributions towards a love offering for John for the month of June. The offering will be presented to him on June 27th – his last Sunday in his official capacity as Music Minister.

For anyone wishing to contribute, gifts must be cash only. Please note that we are not able to issue receipts for income tax purposes. If you are attending a Sunday worship service, you may leave your gift in the offering basket at the entrance to the sanctuary, or give it to any staff member (except John, of course!) *Be sure to mark your envelope clearly* with “Love offering for John Nelson.” If you plan to come by the church with your gift, please call ahead to make sure someone will be there.

Lebanon Fundraiser 2021 Giving Update

As of Sunday, May 16th, donations toward our Lebanon partnership are at \$18,675. This will be matched with \$9,000 from our Missions budget, adding up to a total of \$27,675. A heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed! For more information about our Lebanon partnership, how to give, and where your gift goes, see [our website](#).



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

Increasing Capacity at Sunday Worship Services

Due to declining infection rates, our government has recently announced changes to the maximum gathering size allowed for places of worship, beginning May 30th. In light of this, we will increase our capacity level as of this coming Sunday, June 6th.

As you are probably aware, we are all at different places regarding our comfort level in joining a public gathering. Some are already very comfortable being out in public. On the other hand, some have hardly ventured out of their homes for quite some time. In light of this, we can care for each other by being patient and gentle with those whose comfort level is different than ours.

While progress is being made in our goal of returning to a more normal way of life, the pandemic is not over yet. In order to keep each other safe, we will continue to follow all health guidelines for public gatherings. As a reminder, here are the main ones:

1. Everyone is required to wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose for the entire time they are at the church.
2. Everyone is required to wash their hands with sanitizer when they enter the building.
3. Everyone is required to follow the arrows on the floor. The ushers are there to help you. Please look to them for guidance.
4. A distance of 6 feet/2 metres is required between households.

For a complete list of the Worship Service Guidelines, please visit [our website](#).

Please note that, now that the weather is milder, you are asked to head straight outside to visit, rather than using the foyer or aisles for that purpose.

Also note that Zoom participants will continue to be fully included as part of Sunday morning worship at 11 am.

Plans for in-person children and youth programming are underway.

Dial-the-Sermon – (306) 992-1912

Just a reminder to those of you who do not have access to a computer and/or the internet and are unable to attend the worship service in person, there is an easy way to listen to the previous Sunday's sermon. Simply dial (306) 992-1912 (toll-free within the Regina area) on your landline phone or cell phone. This number takes you straight to the sermon recording. If you know someone who might like to use this service, please pass this information on to them.

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Regina Haroun, who passed away in Regina on Monday, May 3rd, 2021.

Finances

At the 2020 Fall Business Meeting, a one-time deficit budget was approved for 2021. This included total revenues of \$414K and total expenditures of \$431K for an overall deficit of \$17K.

To the end of April, our revenue is around 16% above our YTD budget and we have kept our expenses to about 7% below the YTD budget. As a result, our income currently exceeds our spending by \$27.1K. We have been paying back the loan from our Organ Fund, so the Restricted Reserve Balance has increased, while the outstanding loan amount has decreased.

Approved Operating Budget for 2021:

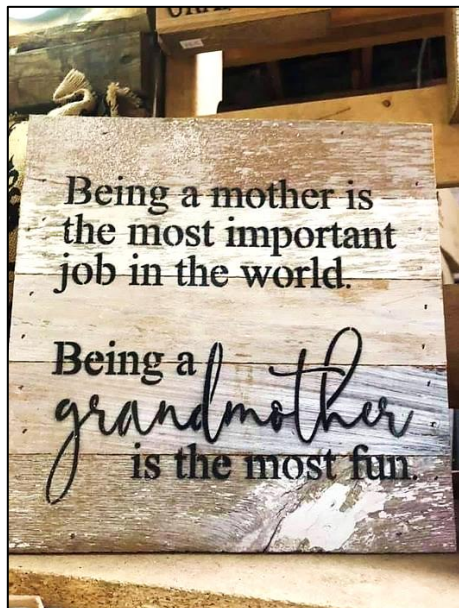
\$ 431.0K

	Actual	Budget
Operating Expenses to end of April 2021:	\$ 133.1K	\$ 143.7K
Operating Revenue to end of April 2021:	\$ 160.2K	\$ 138.0K
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 128.0K	
(Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)		
Organ Fund loan	\$ 187.7K	
CEBA (CRA) Loan	\$ 40.0K	
(\$30K to be paid back by end of 2022)		

—Kevin Rich, Treasurer

Laptop Needed

Do you have a usable laptop in good condition that you no longer need? The church is looking for one for Gibril's brother Rashidi, who has recently arrived from Burundi, East Africa. If you can help, please contact [Ron P](#) or call the church at (306) 359-1450.



I locked myself out of my house today, so I shouted through the letter slot for my cat to let me in. He said, "Me? How?"

Did you know that a raven has 17 rigid tail feathers called pinions, while a crow has only 16? So, the difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.

I just moved into my new apartment. Below me is the police station. It would appear that I am above the law.

I heard on the news that some guy was stealing wheels off police cars. The police are working tirelessly to catch him.

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 will meet on Friday, June 4th at 7:00 pm for games in the park and then a campfire in Pastor Chris' backyard. They will follow health guidelines. Pastor Chris (to the youth): "I am thrilled that we can start doing some face to face events again, and cannot wait to see you in person." 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, 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 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, 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.

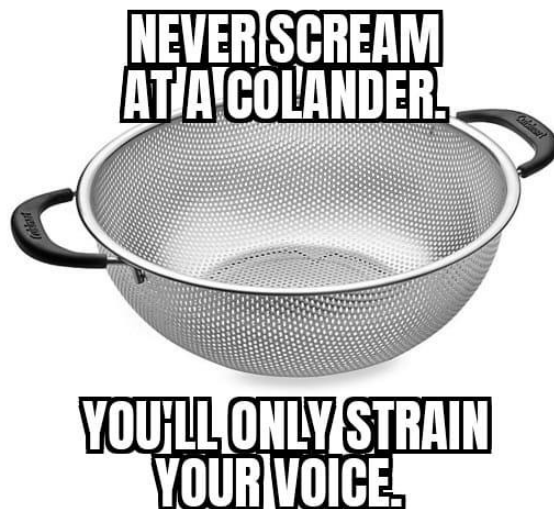
Tithing during the pandemic

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. What do french fries do when they haven't see each other for a long time?

A. They ketchup.

Q. What did the triangle say to the circle?

A. You're pointless!

Q. What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?

A. One is really heavy and the other's a little lighter.