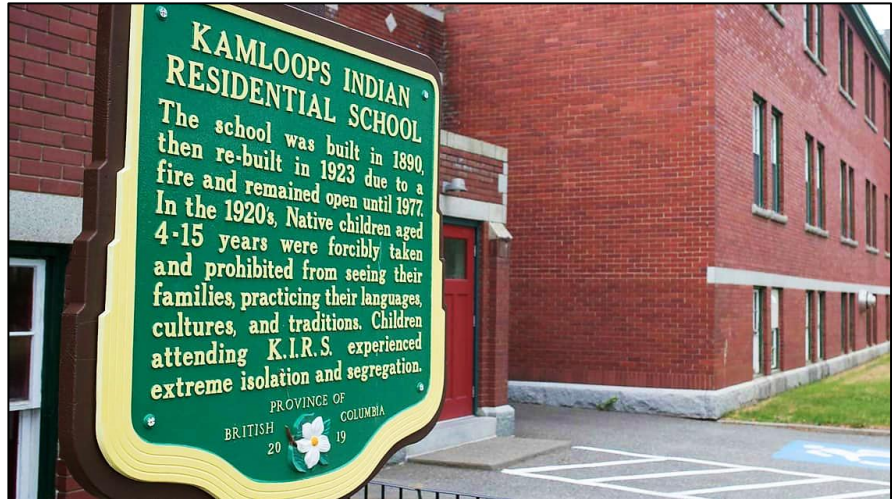


First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of June 6th, 2021

This past week, we heard the disturbing news of the discovery of the remains of 215 children found buried near the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Below are some statements from Canadian Baptists across Canada.

“Our prayers are with the families and loved ones of the 215 children whose remains were found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Our hearts break yet again as we are reminded of the injustice and violence committed against Indigenous people—specifically the precious lives who were stolen from their families



and communities. We continue to seek justice and raise awareness about Canada's dark destructive history against Indigenous people. It is not enough to merely feel sadness and sympathy. We pray for healing and justice and renew our efforts to be allies of Indigenous communities, working together towards truth, reparation and one day, reconciliation.

“Today, we too cry with grieved hearts, ‘Every Child Matters.’”

—Statement from Canadian Baptist Ministries

“As a group of Christian Churches, we are shocked, saddened and dismayed at the recent discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia. The legacy of genocide against Indigenous people in Canada is horrendous and evil. Knowing that many of the atrocities of the Residential Schools were committed by people claiming the name of Jesus, we should be stirred to repentance and to ask forgiveness from the First Nations people of this land.

“Moreover, we can and we must go beyond this—we must become allies who call upon both the Federal and Provincial Governments to act now to afford some dignity to so many discarded lives and some recognition to their families and communities in the midst of their grief. We ask that you contact your MLA and Member of Parliament and demand action to immediately implement items 71-76 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, under the section titled ‘Missing Children and Burial Information.’”

—Rev. Dr. Peter Reid, Executive Minister, Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada



The Red Deer Indian Industrial School had one of the highest mortality rates in the country. (United Church of Canada, Archives)

“The CBWC joins with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc to mourn the deaths of the 215 children discovered in an unmarked mass grave at the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

“We pray for all Residential School Survivors and intergenerational survivors as this awakens afresh layers of trauma endured for generations.

“These children were precious in the eyes of God. Their lives and the gifts that they had to offer were stolen from their communities and their families. We lament this irreplaceable loss, acknowledging and repenting of the ways that the Christian church enacted the state mandated policies of assimilation.

“We know that lament is not enough and there is a need for just action as well. We are reminded of our commitment to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which guides us as a framework for reconciliation and we call for renewed commitment to the TRC Calls to Action.



“Today though, is the time to express sorrow and pledge again our solidarity with Indigenous peoples in Canada. We lament together. We stand with you.”

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission studied 138 residential schools across Canada. For decades, Indigenous groups have lobbied for permission and help to locate all the unmarked graves at numerous schools. (TRC)

—Rob Olgivie, Executive Minister, on behalf of Canadian Baptists of Western Canada

The news that will continue to come out also highlights how much forgiveness Indigenous Christians are sharing with the wider church family and Canada. Please be in prayer for our Indigenous brothers and sisters in Christ and their churches across Canada, for all Indigenous communities, and for all of Canada.

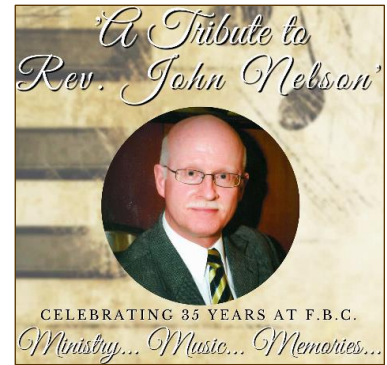
With a heavy heart and with love and prayers,

Pastor Joel

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

The service last Sunday evening, May 30th, was a fitting tribute to Pastor John, in gratitude for 35 years of faithful ministry to First Baptist Church, the Regina community, and beyond. In the words of our board chair, Ron Phillips, "It was an outstanding evening, with just the right blend of music, tributes, laughter, tears, and praise to God."

If you would like a printed copy of the program, please call the church at (306) 359-1450 or contact Esther G.



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.

Signs of Spring on the Farm...



Lilacs



Newborn bison calf



Lily of the Valley

Photos
contributed
by Hilary R



Crabapple blossoms



Male bluebird



Bison cow and calf reflected in the water

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 have increased our capacity level as of 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.



I just saw some red breasted birds sitting in the sun and selling ice cream. I think they were Baskin Robins.

Dr. Frankenstein entered a bodybuilding competition. However, he soon discovered that he had seriously misunderstood the objective.

The Axiom of Near vs Far: Tell someone there are 300 billion stars in the universe and they'll believe you. Tell them a bench has wet paint on it and they'll have to touch it to be sure.

If Facebook has taught us anything, it's that a lot of us are not quite ready for a Spelling Bee.

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

Since health guidelines have been relaxed in regards to outdoor gatherings, the youth are now able to meet in person—which both the youth and Pastor Chris are very happy about! They met on June 4th in Pastor Chris' backyard, and their next meeting will be on June 18th. For more information, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adults

Learning for Life: Pastor Richard is leading the 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, chapters 2 and 3. 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. Following the June 16th meeting, Voice will take a break for the summer.

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. **Please note:** This group is taking a break this week, but will resume on June 17th. 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. **Please note:** These groups are taking a break this week, but will resume on June 24th and 25th respectively. 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.



Woman to friend: I'm making it o-fish-all. I'm looking for my sole mate, so I'm off to do some sole searching. (There seemed to be something kind of fishy about those baaad puns!)

I lent a friend of mine \$10,000 for plastic surgery. Now I don't know what he looks like.

My mate lent me \$5,000 to produce my idea of a fruit-based torch, then took all credit. He stole my limelight.

Instead of cleaning my house, I just watch an episode of Hoarders and think, WOW, my house looks great!