

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of July 4th, 2021

This Canada Day stirred a mix of deeply felt emotions in many of us: freedom, grief, relief, thanksgiving, anger, pride, or uncertainty. What does that mean for us as the church?



We live here, with visas, permanent residency, or citizenship, but we have only one Lord and one kingdom. Peter called

Christians a “nation” which John said was made up of “every tribe, language, and nation.”

“You are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people...” (1 Peter 2.9) Saulteaux, Cree, Palestinian, Jew, American, Canadian – we are one nation under Jesus. I don’t think this is a metaphor. I sincerely believe that this is true about us here and now and takes precedence over any other claim on our hearts and lives. What is the relationship of a Christian to the nations in which they live? I don’t think there is one simple answer.

Part of the answer is that we our priests within our reserves, neighbourhoods, and country. Baptists have cherished “the priesthood of all believers” - the conviction that each Christian is called by God to a priestly role, not because we’ve earned it but because God will take anyone, know them by name and love them, and give them a chance to serve in Jesus’ kingdom.

Several events this past year have grabbed almost everyone’s attention. Sometimes, it seems like people are reaching for some means of dealing with all they are feeling.

As priests, on behalf of the people of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world - and at times together with them - look for what is good and give thanks. When wrongs are brought to light, it is time for prayers of confession. When a concern grips our heart or when tragedy strikes, we know we can turn to God. We practice each of these every Sunday together so that each day and in the moment of need, we know what to do.

In prayer with you for each person, language and nation within our nation,



Pastor Joel

We Reflect, and Give Thanks to God...

Sunday, June 27th, was the Rev. John Nelson's last service as part of the pastoral staff of First Baptist Church Regina. It was a joyous remembrance of his 35 years of ministry with us, and a service of gratitude to God for what *God* has done through John and in our midst. It was very special to have his three children present, and to have Becky play the piano so beautifully. And of course Debby, his faithful partner in a life of ministry, was there as always. We gave John a love gift from his beloved congregation, and commissioned him with word and prayer to go forward to the next fruitful season of his life, with gratitude and praise to God. It was a deeply moving and glorious service of worship to our God.



And while it marks the end of a season, it is not the end of ministry, for John or for us! For our God reigns!





A Note of Thanks from John...

Dear Church Family,

There are not enough words in the English language to adequately express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the outpouring of love that was conveyed in notes, letters, emails, texts, love gifts, May 30th's Farewell, and the Decommissioning Worship Service of June 27th. Your encouragement, love, and support over these past 35 years for myself, Debby, Rob, Becky, and David, have left indelible impressions upon our lives. It has been a privilege and honour to have been able to serve you through ministry over these past many years. Dr. George Baxter once said to me, "John, you are rich beyond measure if you have an overflowing storehouse of memories." Thank you all for enriching our lives and filling our storehouses with an abundance of treasured memories! May God bless each of you, and God bless First Baptist Church which is truly a wonderful, loving, place to belong!

In Christian Love,

John Nelson, Jr.

New Time for Sunday Worship Service

On July 4th, the start time for Sunday worship services was changed to 10 am. This schedule will be in effect for July and August.

Summer Schedules

Preaching

July	4	Joel
	11	Richard
	18	Joel
	25	Kayely
August	1	Joel
	8	Joel
	15	Joel
	22	Richard
	29	Jennifer H
September	5	Chris

Music

Date		Pianist	Song Leader(s)
July	4	Dr. Melissa Morgan	Bryan & Carmen Orthner
	11	Dr. Melissa Morgan	Bryan & Carmen Orthner
	18	Brianna Levesque	Rosemary Ward & Derrick Bellows
	25	Brianna Levesque	Marilyn Phillips
August	1	Karen Martin	Karen Martin
	8	Rob Nelson	Amy Warren
	15	Karen Martin	Karen Martin
	22	Rob Nelson	Rob Nelson
	29	Dr. Lorna Gorman	
September	5	Karen Martin	Karen Martin

Reaching Staff this Summer

These are the best days to reach staff at the church by phone or by stopping by:

Monday: Joel, Kayely, Richard, Esther

Tuesday: Joel, Esther

Wednesday: Joel, Richard, Esther

Thursday: Joel, Esther

At times, staff will be out, with someone, or on vacation. Sometimes, we do need extended time to focus on work. We also want to be ministering outside the church. People rarely walk into our building. Therefore, sometimes that means sitting in coffee shops or in our yard and in contact with our neighbours.

Please feel free to call any pastor on our own phones as well no matter what day it is. (Our numbers are in the church directory.) This is not an intrusion. We will manage our time and we believe it is important that the church be part of your life. If you leave a message at the church on Friday, there is a good chance it will not be answered until Monday.

If you need a directory, call the church at (306) 359-1450 or send us [an email](#), and we will get a copy to you.

A Note of Thanks...

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone at First Baptist Church. It has been a real blessing to be part of the music ministry, and part of the FBC family. Thank you for your many kind words, and for the amazing parting gifts – your generosity is overwhelming!

A special thank you to John, Mark, and the Sanctuary Choir for your constant support and encouragement over the years, for your prayers, and for your friendship. It has been a privilege to be part of so many wonderful musical collaborations with you, and more than just music, meaningful worship has always been the focus. Thank you for all that we have shared.

First Baptist Church certainly is a “place to belong.” I pray that God will continue to bless you all in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Christa Walsh



Psalms for the Summer

A beach bag-ful of miscellaneous info about The Psalms as we begin a sermon series on them.

Did you know that...

1. Psalms have been an expected part of a Christian's daily prayer throughout Christian and Jewish history. This was news to me (Joel) and I'm not there yet.
2. The 'p' in psalm is silent. :)
3. The Psalms take all of God's laws and all of God's promises, and then compare these with real life: "God, you walked off and left us and never looked back. If you are faithful, how could you do that?"
4. The Psalms help us to name our emotions, a key step for children and a skill that many adults could practice! Instead of bottling up or denying our anger, depression, pain, guilt or any number of other feelings, the Psalms honestly and bluntly dump them before God, "I'm feeling THIS!" And the Psalms expect God to respond to us.
5. The Psalms were all likely set to music. There appears to be music directions among the Psalms.
6. King David (of Goliath fame) wrote many of the psalms but much later another person arranged all the psalms of David's and others' into 5 separate "books" within the big book of The Psalms.
7. Many of the individual psalms follow a cycle moving from faith, to nothing making sense, and then back again to faith. The writers 1st, describe God; 2nd, look at something in their life; 3rd, wonder what this means about God; 4th, affirm their faith in God; 5th, experience God's goodness again.
8. The whole book follows a cycle as well. Psalm 1 sets the tone by describing two ways of life. Psalm 2 presents the Messiah, God's chosen king.
9. The Psalms are especially grim in "book 3". Psalm 88 ends with the bleak phrase, "darkness is my closest friend (NIV)", without any positive word to balance this.
10. From there, the psalms get more hopeful, recalling God's goodness and faithfulness.

11. Each of the 5 “books” ends with “praise the Lord” and praise keeps building through to the last five psalms which all begin and end with “praise the Lord”, up to the last psalm in which every verse calls us to praise God.
12. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm, and the longest chapter of the bible, at 176 verses. It is an acrostic poem in Hebrew (as are a number of psalms). Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet gets eight verses, each verse beginning with that letter of the alphabet.
13. Reading through The Psalms every month or so takes or prays a person through the ups and downs of life that most of us experience. God is there through it all.
14. Praying through The Psalms changes how we pray and how we look at life. It is a great, life-changing habit for anyone to establish at any age.

An idea for the road trip, the tent, the cabin, the lazy summer mornings: read and pray through all The Psalms this summer.

No need to be a perfectionist – do the best you can and don’t give up if you miss a few days! Here are a few suggestions for how you could do this:

- Read 5 psalms each day
- Use the Book of Common Prayer
- Search online: “The Psalms in one month”
- Ask Pastor Joel for a monthly reading plan



A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads “Talking Dog for Sale.” Intrigued, he walks in.

“So what have you done with your life?” he asks the dog.

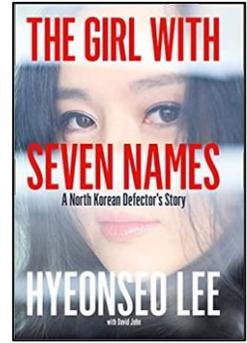
“I’ve led a very full life,” says the dog. “I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home.”

The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog’s owner, “Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?”

The owner says, “Because he’s a liar! He never did any of that!”

Voice Novel Study...The Votes Are In!

The novel chosen for the August 21st study is “The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector’s Story,” by Hyeonseo Lee. This book is an extraordinary insight into life under one of the world’s most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman’s terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom. 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.



Children’s Ministry: The kids have grown so much, Part II...

The pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. Yet the kids of First Baptist have been finding ways to flourish in the midst of the challenges. We have asked parents to share some short highlights about the activities and accomplishments of their kids over the last year. We had so many responses that we split them into two parts! We hope you enjoy reading them!

Lilen (7) is learning French so quickly it blows my mind. It has been wonderful to see the friendship between her and her brother, Oliver, grow so strong this past year. They are both so excited for KLC this summer, and also loving getting together again with friends and family.

Carter (7) is loving his track and field class. He made a friend next door that plays with him and Grace.

Max (9) has been learning to be more independent, reading and figuring out how things work.

Kieran (9) has completed grade 3 and has enjoyed his drum lessons, Minecraft, and modeling. He is excited to go exploring further from Regina and is looking forward to camping and fishing this summer.

Oliver (9) has discovered a love for math and drawing. It has been wonderful to see the friendship between him and his sister, Lilen, grow so strong this past year. They are both so excited for KLC this summer, and also loving getting together again with friends and family.

When she isn’t with her friends, Maizy (10) loves to draw and colour, especially pictures of dragons. She also enjoys reading stories with dragons in them. Reading through the whole Wings of Fire series multiple times over the lockdown is a shining example of her love of reading and dragons combined! Her activities have been non-existent this year, so she is soooooo excited for a week at Katepwa Lake Camp in July!

Cohen (10) spent the year doing school at home. He created 5 movies on his iPad. He performed, filmed and edited them all by himself!

Sara (11) just finished Grade 5 at Prairie Sky, an independent school focused on art and nature - two of her passions! She spends hours learning and playing outside, reading, drawing (both with pencil/pen and digitally with Procreate), and she's passionate about musical theatre - especially 'Hamilton' and 'Six'.

Madelene (12) enjoys drawing and is learning about designing different looks for her Character sketches.

Eden (12) has completed grade 6 and has enjoyed her piano, flute, and highland dance lessons this year. She is excited to finally be with her friends and looking forward to camping this year.

Ethan (13) has been working hard to keep on track. He's been really helpful with mowing the lawn. His older brothers were more than happy to show him how.

Gavin (16) has been working hard at high school and building his models.

If you haven't had a chance to submit an update on your child(ren), please text or email a brief update to [Pastor Kayely](#) and we'll share it in a future newsletter.

Music Ministry Positions

The "Music Futures" Committee has been hard at work and looking toward our fall music ministry. The two positions that we are looking to fill are listed below, along with a brief summary of what each one entails. Please visit [our website](#) for a detailed description of each position.

1. Church Pianist

- To support our Sunday morning worship services and other services if possible (e.g. weddings)
- The possibility of accompaniment for church choir, should it resume

2. Worship and Music Coordinator

- Participation in planning Sunday morning worship services
- Music leadership on Sunday mornings and special services
- Coordination of the audio-visual team
- Church choir, should it resume
- Seasonal concerts (optional)
- Visual worship arrangements (optional)

Both of these are one-year, term positions with the possibility of extensions, depending on mutual agreement. We are now looking for "Expressions of Interest." The committee will then pursue suitable candidates. *Please pray for this process.* For more information please talk with Pastor Joel, or with one of the other committee members: Lauren S, Amy W, and Brenda Z.

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

See page 8 to read about some of the interesting things that the children of First Baptist Church have doing in the past year or so.

Online children's programming is taking a break for the summer. We invite families to...

- Enjoy the activity packs provided for those attending in person on Sundays. It's so nice to have families in the worship service as we work towards rebuilding our volunteer base.
- Sign up for Katepwa Lake Camp (day camps, overnight camps, family camps)
- Send a note to [Pastor Kayely](#) sharing what your kids have done this past year so we can celebrate their accomplishments and events throughout the year. What have your kids done to survive and thrive throughout this odd year?

For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth

Pastor Chris: "On Saturday, June 25th, the youth were able to go and enjoy a beautiful morning of golfing at the Lakeview Par 3 Golf Course. We had amazing weather, and an even more amazing time of enjoying one another's company out in the fresh air. After the year we've had with all the restrictions, you can tell that the group really enjoys being able to be together again, face to face.

"At the end of 18 holes, we were invited over to the Holtlander household for some socially distanced snacks and ice cream in their back yard. A huge thank you to them.

"We will be taking a break for the next several weeks, as I will be on holidays, but I already look forward to the next time we can be together. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. In Christ, Chris" For more information, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adults

Learning for Life and the other small groups will be taking a break for July and August. For more information, see [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Give & Take

Item to give away: Power recliner in very good condition. If you or someone you know can put this chair to good use, please call the church at (306) 359-1450 or send an email to [the church](#).



Increased Capacity at Sunday Worship Services

As the maximum gathering size allowed for places of worship has been increased, we have increased our capacity level for Sunday worship services.

As you are probably aware, we are all at different places with regards to 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.

For information about children and youth programming, please see page 5.

Apartment for Rent

Furnished basement apartment for rent in a quiet neighbourhood near Regina Avenue and Pasqua Street. One bedroom and rec room, private bathroom and shower, washer and dryer, fridge, outside car plug-in, and private entrance. Share kitchen with owner. No pets, no smoking inside. \$700 a month, available August 1, 2021. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please call (306) 584-8143.

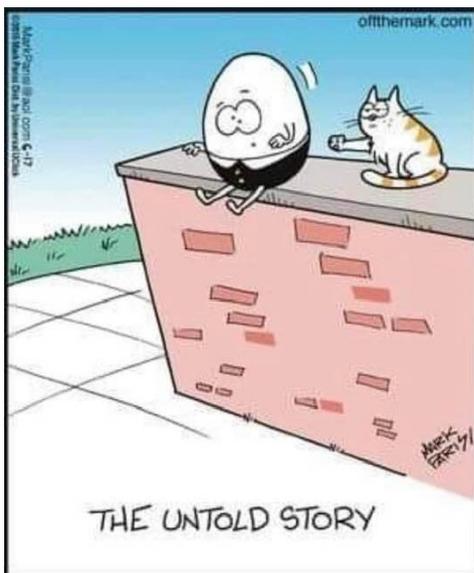
Tithing during the pandemic

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.



I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.

I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.

Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk. The results were staggering.

Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? 'S warm.