

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of August 15th, 2021

By God's grace, my family and I were given the chance a few years ago to share the cabin Fred Anderson built north of Montmartre on Lake Marguerite. There are always chores to do. That year, the decision

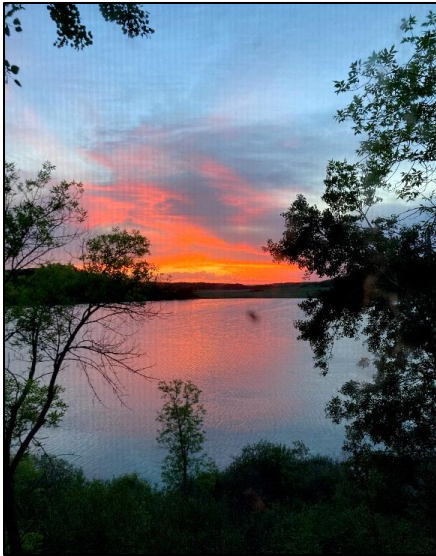


was made to move our floating dock to a new spot around the corner from its original location. With the drought, the dock was largely resting on mud. It is called a lake but, like many in southern Saskatchewan, it is a shallow, marshy body of water. Birds of all kinds love it and the views are beautiful, but it isn't a pleasant place to swim.

Heather and I spent a day preparing the new site, clearing a landing and wading through the lake mud, removing piles of field rock dumped over the years, and pulling leeches off our legs. Maizy played with a school mate who came out for the day. Finally, it was time to bring the dock over. I pondered the most efficient way to transport it. I thought, why not try paddling it over? Sure, it won't be easy but I'll get there eventually. Maizy and her friend begged to come as well and help paddle. I wasn't sure this was a good idea. But what was the worst that could happen? One would think, given thousands of years of human experience, that the appearance of these words would signal to all involved, not to proceed.

To balance out the load on the dock, Heather came as well. We pulled up the long, heavy, rusted metal poles that had been pounded into the mud decades ago, and placed them carefully up and down the middle of the dock. The kids each sat on a corner at the back and Heather and I sat on the front corners. I emphasized to the kids how important it was that we all stay seated, as if we sat or stood up, it would tip the dock, and the poles and likely all of us would end up waste deep in mud and water. Off we went.

We had to push our way out from the shore with the dock hung up on the mud. The rotting smell released by disturbing the sediment was very strong but soon we were floating free and started to paddle.



Now, there is a reason that boats are “V” shaped. I knew this. I knew that paddling a rectangle was not going to be fun. I was also aware that I was going to be paddling into the wind. I was up for the challenge. I’m decent in a canoe and know how to steer fairly well with a paddle.

Unfortunately, it turns out that a “J” stroke is not as effective when paddling a dock.

We immediately begin to turn in place. Well, not in place exactly, because the wind was blowing us backwards and away from shore. The harder I paddled, the fastest we turned, all while drifting further in the wrong direction. I pondered my options. The shore line was

heavily treed and steep. The only option was to get back to the old landing.

It was then that the myriad spiders for whom this dock had until recently been a safe, stable, dry home began to make their way to higher, dry ground. From below, dozens of spiders of all shapes and sizes began crawling out onto the top of the dock. I’m embarrassed to say, I do not like spiders. I don’t think I shrieked. But it wouldn’t be out of character. Some of them seemed, to me, enormous.

Maizy as it turns out was not impressed either. She wailed and began to stand. The poles rolled towards her. I pleaded with her to sit. I began alternating between furiously paddling toward shore, rolling the poles back to the middle, and removing spiders from Maizy and myself. We thanked God for her friend Dash, who was calmest of everyone and chatted away with Maizy while plucking spiders off her, “Ooo, look at this one! It looks very interesting.” Maizy was not as composed. But she remained mostly in place. Eventually, sighing, I stepping off the dock and into the mud. I pushed the dock back to the landing and everyone escaped. With nothing left to lose, I began to walk the dock around the lake to its new spot. It wasn’t fun.

Doing something one would normally never, ever do, sometimes leads to something special. As I waded along, I was moving much quieter and closer to the water’s surface than I ever had. I walked just below a beautiful blue, white and orange belted kingfisher surveying the water from an overhanging branch. Then I came upon a group of cormorants, standing on various logs in the water, all fast asleep. I passed within a foot of a few of them without any of them stirring. It was quite a special and peaceful moment.

Soon enough, I rounded the bend and got the dock in place. Later, we praised the kids for keeping their heads. I wish I could stay that calm when things are going wrong, when there doesn’t seem to be any easy solution, when things are unpleasant or frightening.

I find Psalm 37:8, helpful and comforting: “Do not be angry and frustrated. Do not fret. That only leads to trouble.”

How true! And yet how hard not to fret, worry, or get angry and frustrated.

Please keep praying for one another, for all of us, over the coming year. We could be heading into another challenging season, probably globally. Some of the months that we will pass through, might once again be unpleasant. Let’s continue to minister to one another. And perhaps, by God’s grace, if we watch carefully, we may see God at work around us in a way we never would otherwise.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. M. L.', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Joel

Calling all Rider Fans!

Pastor Chris: “This Saturday, August 14th, everyone is invited to our place to watch the Saskatchewan Roughriders football game. The game starts at 8 pm, but feel free to come any time after 7:30. The plan is to watch the game outside using a projector and screen, and to hang out and visit. We will have some snacks, a fire, and some chairs available. If you prefer not to share snacks, please feel free to bring your own. If dropping by for just part of the game works best for you, feel free to do so.

“Please let us know if you plan to attend. Send me [an email](#).”

Where: 3539 Pederson Crescent

Time: 7:30 to the end of the game

Who: Youth, parents of youth, and anyone else who is a football fan 😊

What to Bring: We will have some chairs, snacks, and drinks, but feel free to bring your own if you wish to.

We want to hear from you!

It has been almost a year and a half since the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the shutting down of all our in-person services and activities. When that happened, those in leadership here at First Baptist were concerned. Without actually getting together, how would we be able to stay connected to each other and to the church? One of the ways in which we have sought to meet that need, was to send out a weekly newsletter. We’ve heard from quite a number of you that the letters have helped you feel more connected to the others in our church community.

Now that we’re meeting in person again, we are considering going back to a monthly letter, and we would like to know how you would feel about that. Would you like to continue receiving a weekly letter, or do you feel that a monthly letter would be sufficient? Please respond by sending an email to [the church](#), or calling us at (306) 359-1450.

Interim Director of Music Welcomed to First Baptist!

First Baptist Church Regina is happy to welcome Dr. Melissa Morgan as Interim Director of Music.

Dr. Melissa Morgan is the Assistant Professor of Choral Music in the department of Media, Arts, and Performance at the University of Regina. An active conductor, she is frequently asked to serve as a guest clinician, adjudicator, and conductor with high school choirs, children's choirs, and church choirs throughout Canada.



As a researcher and scholar, Dr. Morgan has contributed articles to *Teaching Music through Performance in Choir, Vol. 5*. She is also published in the Canadian Music Educators' Association journal, the *Canadian Music Educator*, and the American Choral Directors Association monthly publication, *Choral Journal*. Her choirs have won numerous awards including second prize in the chamber choir category of the Choral Canada National Competition for Amateur Choirs.

Dr. Morgan holds a Doctorate of Music Performance in Choral Conducting from the University of Toronto, a Master of Music Performance in Choral Conducting from the University of Western Ontario, and a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Regina. She is also an Associate of the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT) in piano, voice, and flute. For more information on Dr. Morgan please visit her website: www.classicmel.ca.

Melissa is very excited to serve the First Baptist Church Community.

A message from Melissa . . .

The year of the COVID pandemic proved to be very challenging for everyone, and especially for people who create and perform music. This fall, community music organizations, schools, and professional performers in the fine arts are cautiously coming back to the rehearsal room and practice spaces. As Interim Director, I would like to keep the legacy of music at First Baptist Regina alive and well! I would also like to try new things and create new possibilities for our church.

I invite each of you to fill out the online form below to allow me to get to know a bit about you. My goal is to get as many congregation members as possible involved in our music ministry, and to establish the choir to sing one Sunday a month.

Please come and chat with me, email me (classicmel@gmail.com), or visit with me before or after church. I will be there on August 29th and then from September 12th onward. Please do fill out the online form below so that I can get in touch with you. I can't wait to see you at church, in worship through music!

To access the information form, please click here: [Information Form](#)

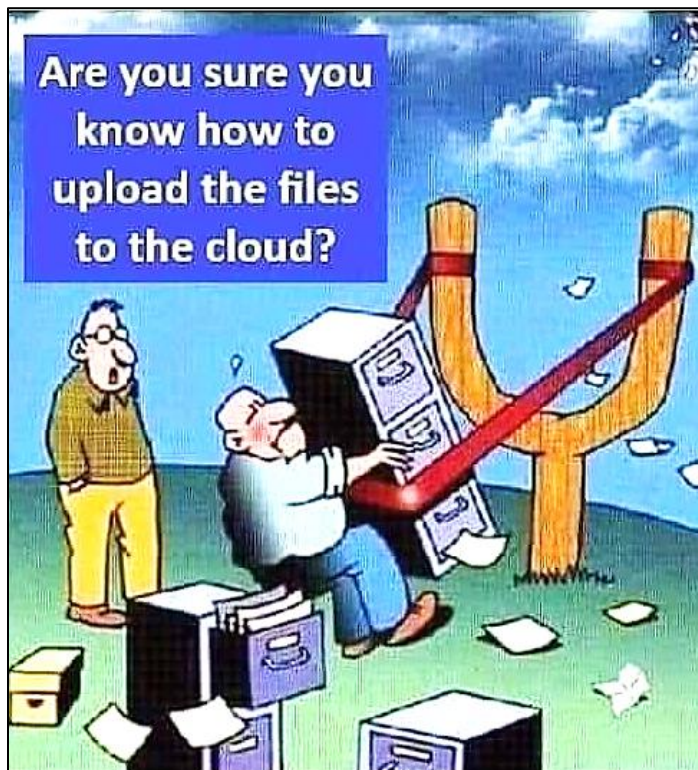
Lebanon Update

August 4th marked the one-year anniversary of the Beirut blast, a massive explosion in Beirut's harbour which resulted in major destruction and devastation in a country already in political and economic turmoil. The blast has been recognized as the most powerful non-nuclear explosion of the 21st century.



Adrian Gardner of the Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) has written an article in which he talks about what has transpired in the year since the blast: [Beirut Explosion – One Year Later](#). He also provides links to two videos. In the first, CBWC Executive Director, Jennifer Lau, talks to National field staff, Joe Bridi, to get a firsthand account of what it's been like living in Lebanon over the past year.

In the second video, our partner organization, The Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD), shares briefly, the effects that the blast has had on many of their programs and how they have responded in love to those in need in Lebanese communities.



Once upon a time, there was a young man who wanted to become a great writer. "I want to write things the whole world will read," he declared. "Stuff that will elicit strong emotions from people in every walk of life. I want my writing to make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger."

He now lives happily ever after in Vancouver, BC, writing error messages for Microsoft.

The newly hired musician was having trouble keeping the beat with the rest of the cruise ship's orchestra. Finally, the captain threatened, "Either you learn to keep time or I'll throw you overboard. It's up to you: Sync or swim!"

Summer...in Full Bloom (in case you missed them the first time)



Photos contributed by Dean Gilchrist

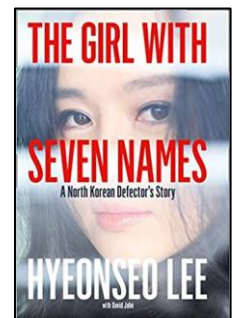
Voice Novel Study – August 21st

Event: Potluck Brunch

Place: 5955 Hague Crescent (Home of Julie R)

Time: 10 am

The novel chosen for this 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 Laureen S, send an email to [the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.



Summer Psalm Sermons from the CBWC

In addition to our sermon series on the Psalms over the summer, our denomination (Canadian Baptists of Western Canada) has also prepared a series on the Psalms. Four different churches are represented here, including Tim Coleman from Westhill Park Regina. Take some time today to reflect with others from our family of churches. Click Here: [CBWC's “Summer in the Psalms”](#) or visit [cbwc.ca](#) and click on “Summer in the Psalms” by moving through the sliding banners on the home page.

Give & Take

Items needed for refugee family: 2 bedroom dressers. Please send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

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.



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 families met up a couple times in July for some family fun time in the park. The next one is planned for August 29th.

For children attending the Sunday worship service in person with their families, we invite them to enjoy the activity packs provided. It's so nice to have families in the worship service as we work towards rebuilding our volunteer base.

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

Youth

Pastor Chris: "On Friday, July 23rd, the youth gathered for a barbecue and a game of football at the Senger residence. It continues to be a real blessing to connect with the youth face to face, hear how their summer is going and how God is working in their lives, and have some fun together. It was especially good to hear from those who have been attending or working at Katepwa Lake Camp this summer. Please continue to keep our youth and our youth program in your prayers." For more information, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adults

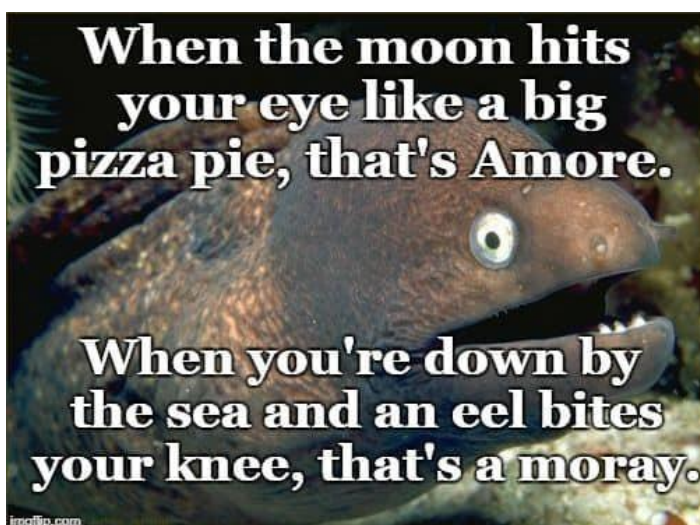
Learning for Life and the other small groups will be taking a break for July and August. For more information, see [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Richard](#).

Tithes and Offerings

While many of you are coming to worship services in person now, there are also quite a number joining the service on Zoom or Facebook. Whether you are attending in person or online, there are several methods that you can use to give your 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.



What do you call a train carrying bubblegum?

A chew-chew train.

Why did the math textbook visit the guidance counselor?

It needed help figuring out its problems.

What eulogy was given for the pot of boiling water?

Rest in peace. You will be mist.