

# First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the Week of September 19th, 2021*

“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature.”  
(James 1:2, 3)



Enduring suffering is hard enough, but who would go so far as to say, “consider it nothing but joy”? Maybe James was just an odd and intense man? He does stand out among

other New Testament authors as uncompromising, demanding, and blunt.

James is not alone in connecting suffering, endurance and joy. Several other New Testament authors understand the connection between them as well:

- “You rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials...for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” *1 Peter 1:6, 9*
- “We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” *Romans 5:3-5*
- “Look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross.” *Hebrews 12:2*
- “May you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully praising God.” *Colossians 1:11*
- “The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him.” *1 Timothy 2:11*

The last quote from Paul is telling. It would appear that among the churches the apostles founded, there was a widely shared understanding, including well-known “sayings,” that Christians would be called to endure suffering, but would experience it as joy.

This joy was a choice – Christians chose to rejoice and give thanks in the midst of suffering. The joy also came from knowing that God was changing them for the better as they endured and matured. In the midst of suffering, there was a new experience of receiving salvation and God’s love poured into their hearts. And there was also their future hope, a time of joy waiting for them.

During a First Baptist Place Bible study on James chapter one, I asked my elders if they considered suffering to be a joy. None of them felt they would put it quite that strongly! However, they then, unconsciously, flowed into sharing their personal experiences of joy in suffering:

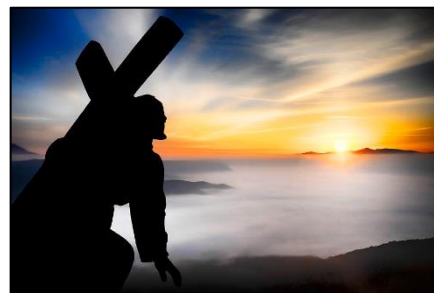
- They chose each day to find things to be thankful for.
- Jesus had never abandoned them, he was always there when they needed him. Sometimes, suffering drew them closer to him.
- Jesus never failed them, they found strength as they needed it. (*See 1 Corinthians 10:13.*)
- God took their suffering and allowed it to serve a purpose in their lives. One person felt that in the midst of Covid-19, God was saying to us, “Stop and think.”

Do you see the close overlap between the witness of the early church and the testimony of believers in our own day? I found that quite moving.

Faith does not make suffering disappear. “*When you face trials,*” James said, making it clear that suffering is to be expected. Nor does anything said so far, suggest that suffering is an illusion or a state of mind. Suffering, by definition, is unpleasant. If it were a happy experience, it would not be suffering.

There is a joy we can hope for in our suffering, but joy will not end the suffering. We need to preserve the contradiction between suffering and joy in this life, not letting one eliminate the possibility or reality of the other.

Finally, we should remember that James likely knew Jesus personally. (He could, in fact, be Jesus’ brother or step-brother.) He had likely seen Jesus on the cross with his own eyes. If you are suffering, fixing your attention on Jesus on the cross, and on his love for you and for all creation as he suffered, might be a means of drawing you closer to him, and a source of consolation, or even joy.



Yours with love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. L." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Joel



# Fall Kick-Off at Mosaic Stadium

Our fall kick-off event at Mosaic Stadium on September 12th saw a good turnout. There were activities for everyone...

Children...



Soccer

Sack Race



Wheelbarrow Race

Soccer

Youth...



Soccer

Football

Hangin' out with friends...

Adults...



*A chance to get caught up with what's been happening in each other's lives...*

To see more photos from the kick-off, click here: [Kick-off photos](#).

## **First Baptist Church Question & Answer Time**

When: Sunday, September 26th, following the morning worship service

Where: In the sanctuary

We would like to hear from you. You may have questions related to Covid, our music ministry, or the ministries coming up in the fall. Or, perhaps something else has concerned you in recent weeks. We've had fewer opportunities to listen to one another over the past year. Pastor Joel and Ron Phillips, our board chair, will remain in the sanctuary following the service to hear your concerns and answer your questions.

## **JuBELLation Rehearsals Begin**

The first JuBELLation rehearsal will be held this Tuesday evening, September 21st, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Would you like to be a part of this refreshing and revitalizing music ministry? We are currently three ringers short of what we had before the summer break. Ringers must be able to read music fairly well. Anyone interested, please contact John Nelson by email at [jonel3454@hotmail.com](mailto:jonel3454@hotmail.com) or at (306) 535-0001.

## **Thank you for your feedback**

A big thank you to those of you who have taken the time to respond to our question about your preference as to the frequency of this newsletter. The responses that we received indicated a preference to continue with a weekly letter. Based on that, and the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet, and that having an alternate means of communication besides the Sunday worship service is advantageous to both the congregation and the leadership, we have decided that, for the time being, we will continue to prepare and distribute a weekly letter.



## Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Julienne and Gibril on the birth of their son, Haidary, born Thursday morning, September 9th. Haidary was 9.5 lbs. Mom and baby are healthy, for which we thank God.

## Our Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Enid Miller, grandmother to Melissa Morgan, who passed away the morning of Friday, September 3, 2021. The funeral was held on Saturday, September 11, 2021.

If you'd like to watch the service or read the obituary, please go to the [Speers website](#) for the link.



## A Note of Thanks

Carol Oxelgren would like to thank all those supporting her family in prayers, notes, offers of food, etcetera, over the past few months. They have been appreciated very much. Carol reports that she is feeling better, but is experiencing some painful side effects from a new medication that she is on, and asked us to pray that her doctors will be able to find a solution to this issue.

## Help Needed

Bryan and Carmen Orthner are moving this Saturday, September 25th, and are wondering if there might be a few people who could help them out with the move. If you'd be able to help, please call Bryan at (306) 807-9318.

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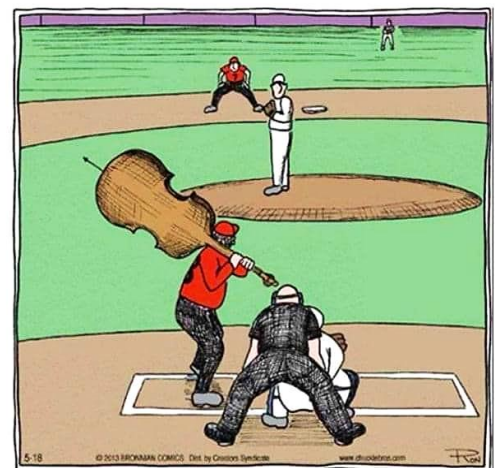
An expert on whales was telling friends about some of the unusual findings he had made.

"For instance, he said, "some whales can communicate at a distance of 500 kilometres."

"What on earth would one whale say to another 500 kilometres away?" asked an astounded member of the group."

I'm not absolutely sure," answered the expert, "but it sounds something like, 'Can you still hear me?' "

I saw a movie about how ships are put together. It was riveting.



Being the bottom of the ninth, one run down, with two outs and a runner on second, Barry knew his team's only hope was a double bass hit.

## Fall Programs

### 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's Ministry

There are now in-person classes for children up to Grade 6. For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

### Youth Ministry

The youth met this past Friday, September 24th, at the church, for a Bible study and some games. For more information, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

### Adult Ministries

**Learning for Life (L4L):** On September 12, Dr. Kelvin Friebe began leading a new series: "Lament Psalms: Asking God the Hard Questions." This series is about learning to approach God in prayer during difficulty. The class will look at questions such as:

- "Why should I pray in the midst of trauma?"
- "Is my suffering due to my sin?"
- "Why do the wicked prosper?"

This class will be in person, but also available through Zoom. For more information, please go to [our website](#).

**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. The book chosen for study this fall is "Misreading Scriptures with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible," by Brandon O'Brien and Randy Richards. In this book, the authors challenge the way the Western church reads the Bible. For more information, send an email to [Bonnie Austring-Winter](#) or [Laureen Snook](#), or visit [our website](#).

**Reading through the Old Testament:** In this online reading group, participants have been reading through the Old Testament chronologically. The group will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 15th, at 10:30 am, via Zoom. The scripture passages they will look at this week are Lamentations 1 – 5 and Ezekiel 1 – 17. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact [Pastor Richard](#).

**Gospel of John small group study:** This group will resume meeting soon. Watch for more information, or contact [Pastor Richard](#) if you're interested in joining the group.

## Heartland Baptist Women Fall Gathering – October 2, 2021

Greetings to all Heartland women from SASKATCHEWAN! You are invited to the FALL GATHERING of Heartland Baptist Women (HBW).



Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 am (SK time), via Live Stream Zoom

Speaker: Rev. Wendy Thom of Shoal Lake, Manitoba

Theme: Freedom in Christ – Galatians 5:1

We are looking forward to seeing you on October 2 and sharing together.

To register, send an email to: [mwif.news@yahoo.com](mailto:mwif.news@yahoo.com). The Zoom link will be sent out 2 days before the GATHERING.

—The Heartland Baptist Women's Team

## Spiritual Care for Seniors Training Series

Have you ever wondered what good aging looks like? Or how churches, caregivers, and families can provide guidance and support to seniors?

CHATCanada (Centre for Healthy Aging & Transitions) offers an online, 8-week Spiritual Care Training series to equip participants with the skills they need to offer thoughtful, relevant spiritual support to those on the aging journey.

If you are interested in taking this course and would like more information, please contact [Pastor Richard](#), the [church office](#), or [Marilyn Phillips](#). Or, to watch the trailer, click here: [Spiritual Care Training Series](#).

## 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.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:main_fbcregina@sasktel.net) for further details.



Actually seen in a bulletin somewhere...

- Coming Up—Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.
- All singles are invited to join us Friday at 7 p.m. for the annual Christmas Sing-alone."
- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.