

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of September 26th, 2021

James describes being a Christian as something new God started inside us: “The Lord gave us birth by the word of truth.” (1:18) Each day, we are to “rid ourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save our souls.” (1:21) This is our purpose, and it is our struggle.



James describes a battle that is largely internal. However, this battle is engaged as we interact with God, other people, and nature. Every day, our interactions reveal the state of our heart, or our “wisdom.” James does not think wise means smart or knowledgeable. For James, “The wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.” (3:17) Is that what we see in our interactions? In our disagreements? If we find we are “lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you!” (1:5)



James wanted the church to prepare to meet the, “one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy.” (4:12) And, according to James, “The coming of the Lord is near.” (5:8) The morality of James only makes sense with this final event in view.

I would argue that trying to make sense of our lives, the church, the nation, or the world—the here and now—without also looking far ahead to Jesus’ coming to set things right, leads to anger, despair, or envy in our hearts, exposed in our interactions.

I wish I could see an obvious way forward for Christians to resolve our conflicting views of “the truth,” of what is necessary right now for the church, our nation, or the world, but I am confident of this: We cannot neglect the state of our hearts, which is exposed in our daily interactions.

As always, in prayer for you, but also asking very much for your prayers for me and for all of us, yours,

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

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. Here are a few photos in case you missed them the first time.

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...

Youth Lead Sunday

On Sunday, September 19th, Adoniram and Angeline H, Xavier RM, and Sara O led our worship and they did a lovely job – thank you! We will have another Youth Sunday on October 17th. Any youth who has a heart for worship and who would like to participate in the Youth lead Sunday, please [email Melissa](#) by Thursday October 30th. Rehearsals for the youth will be October 7th and 14th, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, at the church.

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 August, offerings were 2% below what was budgeted. However, we have kept our expenses to about 3% below YTD budget, and we have also had some unexpected, one-time revenues totalling over \$50K. Because of this, our revenue is around 17% above our YTD budget and we have a current surplus of \$43.5K (spending less than our income).

Also, please note that we have been paying back the loan from our Organ Fund, so the outstanding loan amount has decreased, while the Restricted Reserve Balance has increased.

Approved Operating Expense Budget for 2021: \$ 431.0K

	Actual	YTD Budget
Operating Expenses to end of August 2021:	\$ 279.8K	\$ 287.3K
Operating Revenue to end of August 2021:	\$ 323.0K	\$ 276.0K
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 135.0K	
(Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)		
Organ Fund Loan	\$ 185.0K	
CEBA (CRA) Loan	\$ 40.0K	
(\$30K to be paid back by end of 2022)		

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. 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 or Ron P. Or, to watch the trailer, click here: [Spiritual Care Training Series](#).



Q: What do you call an animal you keep in your car?

A: A Carpet

Q: Why are dogs never good dancers?

A: Because they have two left feet!

Q: Why is Cinderella so bad at soccer?

A: Because she always runs away from the ball!

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 meet Friday evenings, 7-9. 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 Blindness 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, visit [our website](#), contact Bonnie AW or Laureen S, email [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

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.

Don't have a computer/internet access?

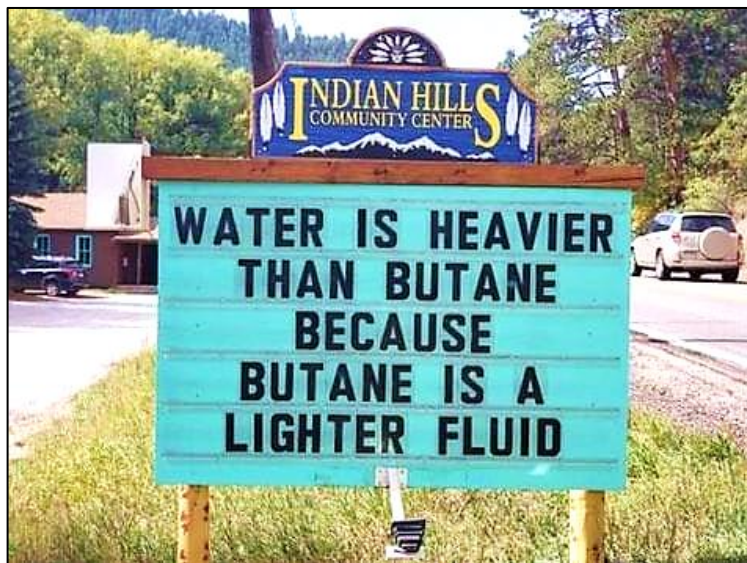
Listen to a recent Sunday sermon by dialing (306) 992-1912 on your landline phone or cell phone.

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.



In a manner of speaking...

"The bicycle wheel is definitely broken," he spoke out.

"I'll do that word puzzle," he said crossly.

Her words popped like corn over the heat of her indignation.

"The furnace isn't working," he coldly replied.

"I'll put in a new light bulb," she said brightly.