

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of October 10th, 2021

Sowing Seeds of Thanksgiving

Those who sowed seeds this spring and summer have nearly completed their harvest across the prairies. Thanks be to God for the food they provide for the entire world.

Sowing and harvesting are common metaphors in scripture. This isn't surprising, given how many people in New Testament times lived and worked in fields.



Harvest time in Saskatchewan

Examples from nature and farming still appeal to our imaginations. The process of growing, the vulnerability of plants, the limits of what a farmer can and can't control, all these things remind us of what our lives can be like.

When someone plants a seed in the ground, they are hoping to see it sprout, grow, reach maturity, and finally produce a harvest. James compares our daily actions and words to seeds. What we say and do today are like seeds in the ground. They will sprout, grow, mature, and bear fruit. Anger sown today begets more anger later on—inside us and in our world. Facebook and other social media companies are in trouble these days. It is alleged that they knew they have been nurturing outrage and anger for years, because it makes them more money than peace. In contrast, James wrote, "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness." (*James 3.18*)

This week, we remember that thanksgiving leads to a harvest of gratitude and joy. What a difference it can be to have someone share what they are thankful for, especially on days when we are worn out or discouraged. What a difference it makes to have people sow seeds of thanksgiving every day in their own life and in the lives of people they meet. God is watching over that crop, and one day the harvest we've all been waiting for will come.

I pray that God would bring into your life, people who come and plant seeds of thanksgiving. And may you, in turn, have the chance to plant seeds of thanksgiving in the lives of others.

God bless you and those you love this Thanksgiving.

Yours, with love,

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

Pastor Joel

Birth Announcements

At a healthy 9 pounds, Ellie-Mae Lyn was welcomed by her parents, Christina Maeers and Matthew Cozart, on September 30, 2021. Ellie-Mae is a sister to Jackson, 6, and Karter, 3. Congratulations to proud grandparents, Esther Maeers and Randy Shumay, and great grandmother, Vi Maeers.



Hunter Shael Blondeau was welcomed by his parents on September 24, 2021. He weighed 7 lbs, 6 oz and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to proud grandmother, Karlee Mock.

Patrick and Natasha Skea welcomed a baby girl, Scarlett Elizabeth, on September 26, 2021. Scarlett weighed 7 lbs, 13 oz, and is a sister to William, 2. Congratulations to proud grandparents, Rosemary Ward and Derrick Bellows.



Katepwa Lake Camp Work Day – October 16th

There will be a work day at the camp on Saturday, October 16th from 10 am to 4 pm, to do the fall clean-up, and to winterize the facilities. For more information, please contact Rosemary W, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

Mitts and Toques

We have a number of individuals in our congregation who generously give of their time to knit or collect mitts and toques for children who need them. If you have mitts and/or toques to donate, please contact Winnie K, call the church at (306) 359-1450, or send an email to [the church](#). Winnie will deliver them to the schools.

Give & Take

Item looking for a new home: Yamaha Electone organ in pristine condition. If you are interested, please contact Kevin R, send an email to [the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.



Lost and Found

Found Sunday afternoon, September 26th, in the northeast corner of the church parking lot, a lady's ring. If you've lost a ring, please contact Brenda Z, send an email to [the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Music Ministry Update

We are grateful to Melissa Morgan for stepping in to serve as our interim Music Director and pianist, in the wake of the retirement of John Nelson and pianist, Christa Walsh. As Melissa's position is temporary, the search for a Minister of Music continues.



Upon further discussion of what our needs are in regards to a Minister of Music, some modifications to the job description for the position have been made, including giving it a new title. The following are the main areas of accountability:

1. Treat, and encourage others to treat, all our activity as a means of worship, relationship, discipleship, and ministry.
2. Music leadership on Sunday morning worship services and special services:
 - Seek to build up and encourage the musical gifts of the congregation and community
 - Lead worship as desired or as necessary
 - Ensure musicians and vocalists are organized and prepared
 - Confer with whomever is preaching on choice of music
 - Arrange for special music: prelude, postlude, offertory, guest musicians
 - Arrange musicians for evening services, weddings, funerals
3. Provide Pastoral care
4. Run church choir (Covid dependant): Leading, planning, rehearsing, recruiting

Resumés will be accepted until these positions are filled. For a more detailed description or to apply, visit [our website](#). If you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please pass this information on to them.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the “Music Futures” committee (Laureen S, Amy W, Brenda Z, and Pastor Joel) for the many hours of work they have put into this search so far, and the work they will continue to do until the position is filled.

Please continue to pray for this process. For more information or to address a concern, please feel free to talk with any of the committee members.

“Do not Judge.” But is that really possible? (One final note on James)

Jesus and James believed that there was right and wrong. Neither of them said that morals were just a matter of opinion, or that it's “Each to their own.”

However, they both still insisted that, somehow, we must learn to discern what we believe to be right, without judging anyone who disagrees or fails to live up to those standards. Can someone be wrong but be still worth loving? Is it humanly possible to take a stand for or against something but still have a heart full of love for those who disagree? Is it possible to be worried about the damage done to a person's heart and soul when they support something that we believe to be wrong?

I was challenged to search the Gospels for times when Jesus was described as angry and acted on his anger. I know I've assumed he was acting in anger at times—but was he? There are times when he is described as angry. What did he do or not do then? There are times when he appears to speak or act in anger—but did he? Could he have been moved with pity instead? Let me know what you find.

In practice, the issues before us are often complex. There may be Christians with opposing points of view. When certain decisions have serious consequences, it is tempting to say, “I'm right to be angry about this,” or to make personal comments about opponents: “So and so” is out of touch, naive, lacking compassion, corrupt, dumb, lukewarm, intolerant – just to name a few of the more polite criticisms we sometime use against others. Now, maybe they are! We might say, tongue in cheek, “Surely it is our right as Canadians to slander a politician, or the Prime Minister!”

And maybe it is impossible to completely control every word that comes from our mouth.

In fact, that is exactly James' point in 3:1-12: “Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is *perfect*.” (*James 3.2*) Ha! Who is perfect? No one is able to control everything they say. That doesn't mean it isn't sin. Many struggle to avoid ever slandering another person. I suggest that any unease we feel here points to a deeper sets of questions for reflection.

Are we a still a little bit put off by hearing that we are sinful?

People often ask about the Sermon on the Mount, “Why would Jesus make rules that no one can keep?” Have you ever wondered, if God would just lower the standards, just a bit, could some of us live sinless lives? James' teaching puts the lie to this vain notion. Sin is not merely voluntary or willful actions made when we know better. Sin is a product of a sinful nature that God addressed through Jesus' death and resurrection. Sin is a problem deep within us that we need to constantly remain on guard against. If the fruit of watching the news each day is anger, or hopelessness, then cut off the news! Better to go through life accused of being naive or uncaring as you serve God, than to go through life being up

on all the latest news, and end up in hell, to paraphrase Jesus' words (Matthew 5:29). A search of the Apostles' teaching in the New Testament letters reveal that anger is listed as a sin multiple times. Anger may be inescapable in this life, but we know that as we work at controlling our words and actions, anger can be reduced over time. This is true for any temptation that seeks to control us.

We all need grace, each day. We are in desperate need of the day of our rebirth at Jesus' return—every last one of us, no matter how old, kind, and prayerful we have become.

I'm grateful for all the patient and thoughtful dialogue I've witnessed in this congregation. I'm grateful for the many examples of gracious character modelled here, year after year.

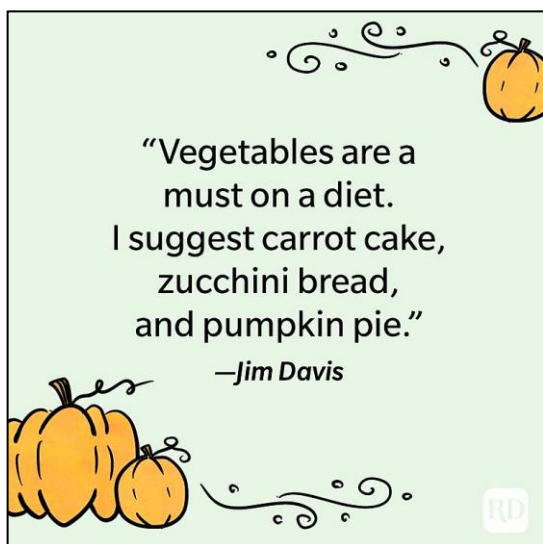
—Pastor Joel

Commissioning Service for Tim Coleman

On Sunday, October 17th at 10:30 am, there will be a commissioning service for Tim Coleman at Westhill Park Baptist Church, as he takes on new ministry responsibilities there. The service will be live-streamed through their website at www.westhillchurch.ca. Or you can watch it later on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

Dial-the-Sermon – (306) 992-1912

For 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 a recent Sunday's sermon. Simply dial (306) 992-1912 (toll-free within the Regina area) on your landline phone or cell phone. If you know someone who might like to use this service, please pass this information on to them.



You can tell you ate too much for thanksgiving when you have to let your bathrobe out. (Jay Leno)

My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I said I couldn't quit cold turkey.

Q: Why didn't the turkey want to eat dinner?

A. He was already stuffed.

Q. What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children?

A. If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!

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's Ministry

There are now in-person classes for children up to Grade 6—"Godly Play" for the younger children and "Oasis" for the older ones. Here is what's happening on Sunday, October 17th:

Godly Play – The story of Noah with Marilyn Phillips and Amy Warren

Oasis – Your choice whether to stay in the service for "Youth Lead" Sunday, or join Godly Play

**Watch for details coming soon about an exciting project on Hebrews that can be done in church or from home. For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth Ministry

Pastor Chris: "We have had a fantastic start to our youth program this fall. After meeting a few times over the summer, we officially kicked off our program with the family day at Mosaic stadium on October 12th. Since then, we have had a campfire and a card game (called "Mafia") at my house, along with two separate Bible studies at the church. We are currently using the Alpha Youth program which is designed to get our youth talking about their faith, and asking big questions about life.

"It has been a real joy to be able to meet in person so far, and I am really privileged to be able to meet with our youth, learn with them and from them, and have the opportunity to encourage them to get to know who Jesus is. Please pray that the Spirit will be working in us and among us, and for our youth to continue to grow as a community." For more information, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adult Ministries

Learning for Life (L4L): Dr. Kelvin Friebel is leading the series: "Lament Psalms: Asking God the Hard Questions." This series is about learning to approach God in prayer during difficulty. This class is 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. For more information, visit [our website](#), contact Bonnie AW or Lauren S, email [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

Reading through the Old Testament: In this online reading group, participants are have been reading through the Old Testament chronologically. The group meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am, via Zoom. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact [Pastor Richard](#) or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Gospel of John small group study: Pastor Richard is leading this small group. There are two groups meeting, via Zoom. The first group meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm, and the second, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 am. For more information, please contact [Pastor Richard](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

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.

**MY PET SHEEP HAD
A HEART ATTACK**



**I HAD TO GIVE HIM
SHEEPY R**

"Knock knock!" "Who's there?" "Norma Lee." "Norma Lee who?" "Norma Lee I don't drink eat this much!"

"Knock knock!" "Who's there?" "Tamara." "Tamara who?" "Tamara we'll eat all the leftovers!"

"Knock knock!" "Who's there?" "Annie." "Annie who?" "Annie body seen the turkey?"

"Knock knock!" "Who's there?" "Arthur." "Arthur who?" "Arthur any leftovers?"

"Knock knock!" "Who's there?" "Don." "Don who?" "Don eat all the gravy, I want some more."