

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of October 3rd, 2021

Have you ever talked with others about “being saved”? What do we mean when we say, “I’m saved” or ask someone else, “Are you saved?”

In my experience, Christians often describe it as something in the past, something that God has already done in their lives: saved *from* a way of life that wasn’t as good, or in a crisis, or saved *to* a good relationship with God and others.

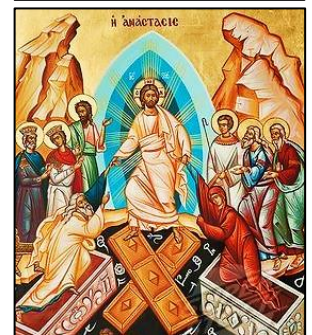
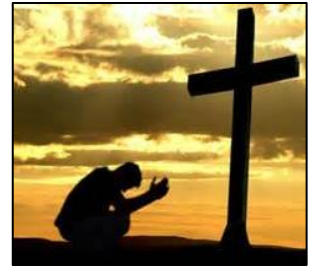
While salvation is all of those things, in their letters to the first churches, the Apostles also talked about salvation as an ongoing process, as something that has happened, is happening now, and will happen in the future. “You were saved,” “you are being saved,” and “you will be saved” – all of these statements are used to describe our life in Jesus. There’s truth in each of them that we need to get through life.

We need to be confident (that is, have faith) that God has decisively acted in the past in our lives. In James’ words, “God gave us birth by the word of truth.” Something has changed in our very nature, and our relationship to God and to others is different.

We also need to keep the future salvation in mind, to “be patient until the coming of the Lord.” (*James 5.7*) This event in the future should temper our expectations for today, guarding us from overestimating how good or how bad things are. No matter how much we grow, no matter how much society might progress, this future salvation reminds us that there’s still more. God’s work in us and in the world will remain incomplete until Jesus returns. However, we need to have faith that this *will* happen. We need that hope. Our anticipation of that day can help us to keep going no matter how bad things get, to keep serving the world, and to keep allowing Jesus to change us.

James also speaks of salvation as a process. We are to “welcome the implanted word that has the power to save.” Every day in a Christian’s life, there is dialogue with God. Maybe we aren’t listening well (or at all - yikes!), and maybe we aren’t saying a whole lot ourselves, but the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are there. There is simply nothing more important than being honest with God about your life, and listening to what the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have to say to you.

James exhorts us several times to “Ask God!” and “Listen!” But neither of these are easy to do. When things are great, no one wants to be brought back down to earth by being



reminded about their shortcomings. When things are tough, no one feels like having more demands placed on them. However, when we make the time to “welcome the word,” we will find that God does not destroy us or rob us. God has the power to save us, day after day. May you experience, once again, God’s power to save – in your life, in your character, in our church, and in our world.

With love,



Pastor Joel

“Youth Lead” Sunday

On Sunday, September 19th, Adoniram and Angeline Holtslander, Xavier Russell-McLean, and Sara Orthner 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](#) as soon as possible. Rehearsals for the youth will be October 7th and 14th, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm.

Birth Announcements



Hunter Shael Blondeau was welcomed into the world 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. 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.

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 that 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, you may talk with any of the committee members. If you need help contacting one of them, please send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

Board Report

The church board met Saturday morning, September 25th, via Zoom. Your board members are: Ron Phillips (chair), Kevin Rich (treasurer), Brenda Ziolkowski (secretary), Tiffany Stafford-Lai, Adijah Pusi, Barry Lyons, and Collin Carbno. Our lead Pastor, Joel Russell-MacLean was also present.

In line with our goal of providing continuing education for board members, we are working our way through Vancouver pastor, Tim Dickau's "Plunging Into the Kingdom Way." In this last meeting, we discussed his chapter on radical hospitality. An extended time of prayer followed.

The board spent considerable time talking about music, organizational structure, building improvement needs/plans from the property commission, finances (we're close to budget, plus we received an unexpected insurance gift), plus an update from our lead pastor, Joel, on various ministry issues.

At the meeting, two important dates were set:

1. October 24 – Town hall meeting, to give the congregation an opportunity to talk together about the future and direction of our music ministry.
2. November 21 – Fall Congregational meeting, at which we will adopt the 2022 church budget, and appoint new board members.

Congratulations are in order to Joel, who recently completed his Master of Divinity degree at Carey Theological College. Joel was to have taken a sabbatical beginning June 2020, but Covid prevented this. It is hoped that he will now take a sabbatical in the summer of 2022.

The board wishes only to serve the Lord Jesus and this congregation. If you have concerns, suggestions, thoughts, please feel free to approach any of the board members.

—Ron Phillips, Chair

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 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.



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).

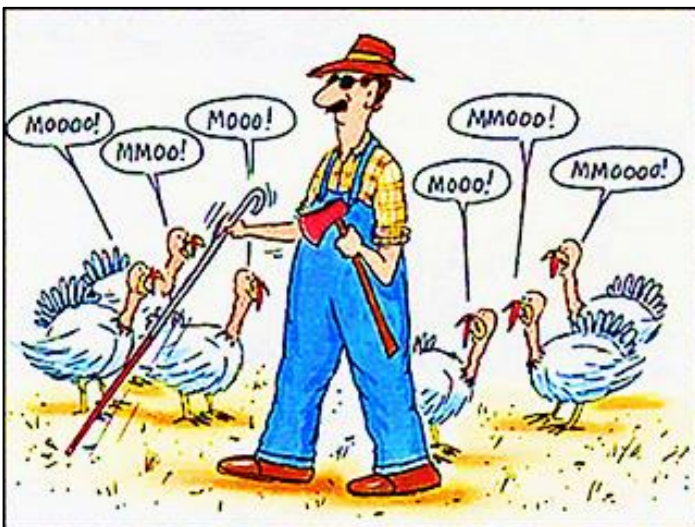
Also, please note that we have been paying back the loan from our Organ Fund, so the outstanding loan amount has decreased, while the Restricted Reserve Balance has increased.

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: (Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)	\$ 135.0K	
Organ Fund Loan	\$ 185.0K	
CEBA (CRA) Loan (\$30K to be paid back by end of 2022)	\$ 40.0K	

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 email [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.



Q. If pilgrims traveled on the Mayflower, what do college students travel on?

A. Scholar ships.

Q: Why did the police arrest the turkey?

A: They suspected fowl play.

Q: When do you serve tofu turkey?

A: Pranksgiving.

Q. What did sick folks do on the Mayflower?

A. They went to the dock!

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. Pastor Kayely reports: "It has been so good to gather with our children in person again throughout September! Highlights have included having one of our teens lead the kids in Godly Play, welcoming new kids in our midst, and welcoming back kids that we haven't seen in a while.

"The children are growing up quickly. They've been enjoying spending time together, and look forward to seeing more friends as time goes on. Last Sunday, we had a large group of kids, aged 1 to 10. After their lesson, they had a great time laughing and playing games together." For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth Ministry

The youth generally meet Friday evenings, from 7 to 9. For more information, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adult Ministries

Learning for Life (L4L): On September 12, Dr. Kelvin Friebel 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, 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 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.

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.



Two dog owners are arguing about whose pet is smarter. "My dog is so smart," says the first owner, "that every morning he goes to the store and buys me a sesame seed bagel with chive cream cheese, stops off at Starbucks and picks me up a mocha latte, and then comes home and turns on ESPN, all before I get out of bed." "I know," says the second owner. "How do you know?" the first demands. "My dog told me."

A perfectionist walked into a bar...apparently, the bar wasn't set high enough.