

# First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the Week of November 21st, 2021*

## Looking For The city That Is To Come

The beginning of the month of November holds two annual memorials: All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day. Both remind us of the grim price of human sin.

Revelation chapter 6 describes the saints in heaven calling out to God, "How long?" as they await the day of resurrection. Here on earth we join them with the same cry. We are all longing for that "yet more glorious day" when death, the last enemy, will be defeated once and for all. We are



*Sunrise near Strasbourg, SK  
Photo by Richard Hovey*



*Sunrise over Regina*

all longing for the day when "the saints triumphant rise in bright array." We are looking, as the author of Hebrews says, for "the city that is to come". God is the architect and builder of the city and Jesus is its leader.

May those who have gone before give us courage to persevere faith-



fully through to the sun rising over the city of Jesus.

With love,

Pastor Joel

## **We will miss you...**

A few weeks ago, Pastor Richard surprised us all by announcing that he and his family will be leaving. They will be moving to Deer Island, New Brunswick, where Richard will be pastoring the Leonardville Church of Christ and the Lord's Cove Church of Christ, and Julie will be overseeing the children's ministry and Bayview Christian Camp.

November 28th will be Richard and Julie's last Sunday with us. During the service, we will commission them for the new areas of service that God has called them to, and present them with your love offering.

For anyone wishing to contribute to the love offering, gifts must be cash only. Please note that we are not able to issue receipts for income tax purposes. You may leave your gift in the offering basket at the church on Sunday morning, give it to a staff member, or bring it to the church before the 28th. *Be sure to mark your envelope clearly* with "Love offering for Richard & Julie Hovey." If you plan to come by the church with your gift, please call ahead.

## **Our Condolences**

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Les Warden, who passed away on November 11, 2021. Along with his wife, Shirley, Les was a member of First Baptist Church Regina for many years. Les' funeral was held at the church on Saturday, November 20th. To view the service, please click here: [Les Warden Funeral](#).



We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Tracy Sailor's mother, Anne Klinger, who passed away on November 12, 2021. Our condolences and prayers are extended to Tracy and her siblings, and to other friends and family. To view the service, please click here: [Anne Klinger funeral](#) (click on "Memorial Video").



On November 15th, Connie Oxelgren (daughter of Carol) passed away peacefully in Ottawa, Ontario. Our condolences and prayers go out to friends and family at this time. An obituary and information about a funeral will be available at a later date.

## **Christmas Worship Concert**

Date: December 19, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: First Baptist Church – In person in the sanctuary and on Zoom

First Baptist Church community and friends are invited to Christmas Worship 2021. The evening will be a special night of music and singing, featuring the First Baptist Sanctuary Choir, JuBELLation (First Baptist handbell choir), and much more. All are welcome.

## **Advent is right around the corner...**

### **What is Advent?**

Do you have memories of chocolate countdowns to Christmas? I certainly fondly remember the 25-day countdowns filled with cheap, waxy chocolates marking our way from December 1st until Christmas Day. But is that what we are referring to when we talk about the season of advent? Is it a countdown to a day of opening gifts, eating sweets and spending time with family around a big meal?

In the Christian tradition, Advent is about anticipating the coming of Christ. In remembering each year how Christ came as a babe among us, we have space to reflect on how Christ comes into each of our lives today. This also points us toward anticipating Christ's second coming.

### **When does Advent begin?**

Advent does not begin on a set date each year, but rather begins four Sundays prior to Christmas. An advent wreath can be a beautiful and meaningful way to help mark this countdown to the birth of Christ.

### **How do I set up an Advent Wreath?**

There are multiple ways to set up a wreath, reflecting the diversity of our expression of faith. Some people will find one way they like and repeat it annually. Others may enjoy experimenting with different wreath traditions across the years. Once you know the basics of the wreath, you may find it easier to choose the details that work for you. (See photos for some examples.)



The wreath is traditionally made in a circular shape, representing eternal life found in Christ. Four candles are placed equidistant around the wreath. In the centre, you will often see a white Christ candle that is lit only at Christmas to mark the birth of Jesus. The four candles placed around the outside can have different colours and different meanings attached to them. It is common to see 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle representing the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. The purple represents royalty, repentance and suffering. It's in the midst of this season, that we take the 3rd week to represent joy using the rose or pink coloured candle.



On the first Sunday of Advent, only the first candle is lit. On the second Sunday, the first candle is lit again, followed by the second candle. This pattern continues each Sunday until all four of the candles in the circle are lit on the last Sunday before Christmas. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, each of the four candles are lit prior to lighting the Christ candle, which reminds us that the light of the world came to us in human form.



You may have noticed that at First Baptist, we include the lighting of the Advent wreath each year, in our services leading up to Christmas Eve. When I was growing up, we also followed this pattern at home. I'm grateful for this tradition that helped to shift my attention from the worldly aspects of a Christmas celebration, to remember that truly, Christmas is about the coming of Christ.



Depending on the stage of life with kids and pets, it's important to find a safe place to set up the wreath. You may choose to purchase a wreath from a store or find some beautiful handmade ones on websites like Etsy. You can also make a wreath out of evergreens or whatever else you may have on hand. Want to do this project on a budget? Feel free to use white tea lights or any other candles you have in the house. Some have even chosen to line up their candles in a line rather than a circle. Choose what will work for you.

When it comes to the first Sunday of Advent (November 28th), I encourage you to light the first candle and reflect on the theme of hope. It can be helpful to read some Scripture and say a prayer that helps you focus on the hope found in Christ. Continue this tradition each week until you reach Christmas, when it is a special joy to read the story of the babe born in a manger.

Want some help in setting up a wreath or choosing scriptures? Please feel free to [email me](#) or call the church at (306) 359-1450. I'm here to help.



Wishing you a meaningful Advent season!

Love,

Pastor Kayely



## Ladies Breakfast – Saturday, December 4th

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Nicky's Cafe at 1005 8th Avenue, Regina



The purpose of this gathering is simply to provide an opportunity for fellowship. Please note that, due to provincial health orders, you will need to show proof of vaccination and ID to enter the restaurant. Please bring along a special Christmas ornament that you could show and briefly share about. For more information, please contact Laurie M or Julie R, call the church at (306) 359-1450, or send an email to [the church](#).

## Communion Preparation Ministry

A team of is being formed for the new year to take turns preparing the communion elements. Brenda Z has kindly offered to provide a demonstration of how it's done on Saturday, December 4th at 1:00 pm. She has also prepared a handy "To-Do List" for new volunteers to follow, which is super helpful! If you would like to serve our church family in this way once or twice in 2022, or just check out the list or the demonstration, please contact Marilyn P, call the church office at (306) 359-1450, or email [the church](#).

## Information Meeting

On November 23rd at 7:30 pm, there will be a short meeting at the church and on Zoom to provide an update on homelessness in Regina and the involvement of the downtown churches. All are welcome. To join via Zoom, click here: [Join meeting](#).



"I'll have to open you up again;  
that watch has great sentimental value."

A woman and her husband interrupted their vacation to go to a dentist. "I want a tooth pulled, and I don't want a painkiller because I'm in a big hurry," the woman said. "Just extract the tooth as quickly as possible and we'll be on our way."

The dentist was quite impressed. "You're certainly a courageous woman," he said. "Which tooth is it?"

Turning to her husband, the woman said, "Show him your tooth, dear."

Q. What's the definition of a bachelor pad?

A. All the house plants are dead but there's something growing in the refrigerator.

## Upcoming Christmas Presentations of Note (All will be held in the church sanctuary)

December	5	2:30 pm	University of Regina Chamber Singers & Concert Choir	"Joy is Everywhere"
Tickets: Adults \$15, Seniors \$10, U of R Students (with ID) free; purchase tickets at the door Masks and proof of vaccination required				
December	10	7:30 pm	Cantate Senior Choir	"Love's Pure Light"
Tickets: Freewill offering; Masks and proof of vaccination required				
December	11	7:00 pm	Vivace Chorale Ensemble	"The Colours of Christmas"
Tickets: Adults \$15, Children 12 & under free; Available from Vivace singers or at <a href="http://www.vivace.ca">www.vivace.ca</a> Masks and proof of vaccination required				
December	19	7:00 pm	First Baptist & Guest Musicians	Christmas Worship Concert
Tickets: Freewill offering; Masks required (available at the church)				
December	24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Masks required)	

## Offering Envelopes

If you wish to receive offering envelopes for 2022, please contact Tracy S, call the church at (306) 359-1450, or send an email to [the church](mailto:tracy@thechurch.ca).

Because many people have switched to online giving, envelopes will *not* be printed unless you request them. ***Regardless of your method of giving, you will receive a tax receipt for it, as long as your name is indicated on your donation.***

## Website

Just a quick reminder that the [church website](http://thechurch.ca) is a valuable source of information that can help keep you connected and up to date with the various programs that are available.

One easy way to keep on top of upcoming events is to click on the calendar icon in the top right hand corner of each page on the website. Each entry on the calendar provides a link to information about various events, such as Learning for Life, small group studies, and prayer times.

Also on our website are links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel, where you will find video reflections, devotions, and studies by a number of our members and pastors.

## 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.

At present, our children are participating in an exciting “Heroes of the Faith” art project on Hebrews, that can be done in church or from home. For more information or for art supplies, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

### Youth Ministry

For information about our youth program, 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. 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](#), call the church office at (306) 359-1450, or send an email to [the church](#).

**Reading through the Old Testament:** In this online reading group, participants are 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.

### Dial-the-Sermon – (306) 992-1912



Know of someone with no computer and/or internet access and cannot come to church in person? Please let them know that 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 a landline phone or cell phone. This number takes you straight to the sermon recording.

## 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](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.



What possible excuse can you give for acquitting this defendant?" the judge shouted at the jury.

"Insanity, Your Honour," replied the foreman.

"All 12 of you?"

A man visiting a graveyard saw a tombstone that read:

"Here lies John Kelly, a lawyer and an honest man."

"How about that!" he exclaimed. "They're got three people buried in one grave!"

I can always tell if someone is lying just by looking at them. I can also tell if they're standing.

Shopping for feather pillows always get me down.