

## First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the Week of November 28th, 2021*

Advent is the beginning of the church year and a time for looking forward. A new year can bring with it a feeling of a fresh start and a sense of optimism about what is ahead. A new year also reminds us that life can feel like it is going in circles. We've been here before: day follows after day, the years add up, and the next advent returns, faster each time.

However, there is a larger cycle going on, and the greatest new beginning is coming. God's kingdom is coming. God will bring about the end of evil and death. God will redeem history and our lives.

We might consider that the year of Jesus' birth was not a particularly auspicious time for God's people. Nor was God's response what most people were praying for. Perhaps you feel that now is the worst of times, or that they are approaching. Perhaps you think that God is not answering prayer in a way that makes any sense, any more than an answer like a baby born in manger in a small village made sense to God's people at that time.

We cannot see into the future and, as often as not, we cannot even see what we are right in the middle of. We are a little better at looking back. Advent is a time to return to an old story, to remember the meaning of it all, and to re-orientate our lives toward what is most important.



Jesus was born. Advent reminds us to welcome Jesus into our lives today. He is our hope, our light, our comfort, and our strength. Let us prepare our lives for him. May the Lord Jesus be near you, day by day. In our daily routines, in the cycle of day after day, and year upon year, may God give us strength and hope to persevere joyfully in prayer, love, and good deeds.

Yours with love,

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

Pastor Joel

## Your Journey Through Advent...

The Jesse Tree program is a tradition that helps tell the Christmas story from creation through to the birth of Jesus. It shows us how the coming of Jesus was being anticipated throughout the Old Testament. To lead us through the story, a scripture reading is provided for each day from December 1st to Christmas.

Last year, the families with children in our congregation made an ornament each day to go along with the Scripture readings. This year, families will have the opportunity to hang the ornaments in their homes once again.

If you're looking for a meaningful way to prepare yourself for Christmas, these daily readings offer a beautiful journey to Christmas morning. Here are this week's readings:

Dec 1 - Genesis 1:1, 27-28 and John 1:1-4

Dec 2 - Genesis 3:1-10, 23 and 1 John 1:8-9

Dec 3 - Genesis 6:11-9:17, Romans 6:23 and Joshua 23:14

Dec 4 - Genesis 12:1-7, Hebrews 11:8 and Matthew 1:1

Dec 5 - Genesis 22:1-13, Isaiah 53:7, John 1:29 and 1 Peter 1:19

Dec 6 - Genesis 28:10-22



*William S  
December, 2020*

## 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](#).

## 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](#).

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.***

## **Congregational Meeting – November 21, 2021**

Our fall church meeting was once more a hybrid affair, with some people in the sanctuary and others joining in via Zoom. We reviewed our finances to this point in 2021; giving is slightly below budget, but a legacy gift has boosted our revenue and has given us a modest surplus to the end of October. We are anticipating a good December. We also approved a budget for 2022, which we think is reasonable and faithful. A big thank you to Kevin Rich, our treasurer, for all his work in caring for our finances.

Klaus Link shared a timely word about dealing with worry.

We also elected three new members to the church board: Derrick Bellows, Roger Bellows, and Heather Russell-MacLean. Board members who will continue to serve are Ron Phillips, Kevin Rich, Adijah Pusi, Barry Lyons, Brenda Ziolkowski, and Tiffany Stafford-Lai. And a big thank you to Collin Carbno, who is retiring from the board after six years of service.

With much joy, we passed a motion declaring Rev. John Nelson, our recently retired associate pastor, as “Pastor Emeritus.” The search for a minister of music continues. Pastor Joel reported that we have two solid inquiries. Our search committee consists of Pastor Joel, Laureen Snook, Amy Warren, and Brenda Ziolkowski.

We also celebrated Pastor Joel’s having attained his Master of Divinity degree. A big thank you to Heather and the children for their patience through this journey, and for sharing Joel with us.

We did not talk at the meeting about who will pick up Pastor Richard’s responsibilities. Richard finishes at the church on November 30 and will be moving to New Brunswick. We are now looking for someone to help with pastoral care on an interim basis. We do not want all this to fall on Joel’s shoulders. We have a number of lay people who have been visiting folk in our congregation by phone, and that will need to continue. As to the various small groups which Richard led, these will not continue unless lay leadership arises from within. Learning for Life will of course continue, with a study of the Gospel of John scheduled for January, led by Annabel Robinson.

We will not be pursuing a full time replacement for Richard until we have a clearer sense of who will be coming on pastoral staff to lead music. The kinds of gifts they bring beyond music will help us determine what we are looking for in the associate pastor position which Richard has held.

If you have questions or concerns about anything at all in the life of our church, please feel free to contact me or any member of the board. We wish to serve you and to serve Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Phillips, Board Chair

## **Upcoming Christmas Events of Note** (Held at First Baptist unless otherwise noted)

**Rotary Carol Festival** – November 29 to December 2, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Live on Access Channel 7 TV or YouTube. (Our choir is not participating this year.)

**“Joy is Everywhere”** – December 5, 2:30 pm

University of Regina Chamber Singers & Concert Choir.

Tickets: Adults \$15, Seniors \$10, U of R Students (with ID) free; purchase at the door.

Masks and proof of vaccination required.

**Candlelight Services** – Sunday, December 5, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Luther College High School, featuring choirs, handbells, and instrumental ensembles.

Location: Merlis Belsher Heritage Centre, 1500 Royal Street, Regina, SK

Tickets: Available at [luthercollege.edu/candlelight](http://luthercollege.edu/candlelight). Masks and proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test required.

**“Love’s Pure Light”** – December 10, 7:30 pm

Cantate Senior Choir.

Tickets: Freewill offering. Masks and proof of vaccination required.

**“The Colours of Christmas”** – December 11, 7:00 pm

Vivace Chorale Ensemble.

Tickets: Adults \$15, Children 12 & under free; purchase at [www.vivace.ca](http://www.vivace.ca) or from Vivace singers. Masks and proof of vaccination required.

**Christmas Worship Concert** – December 19, 7:00 pm

First Baptist and Guest musicians. Featuring the First Baptist Sanctuary Choir, JuBELLation, vocalists, instrumentalists, and more.

Tickets: Freewill offering. Masks required.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – December 24, 6:00 pm

All are welcome. Masks required.

## **New Learning for Life Series Beginning January: The Gospel of John**

John’s Gospel has proved to be both accessible to those reading it for the first time, and increasingly challenging the more it is read. The whole Gospel is centred on Jesus and who he is. When John the Baptist is asked “Who are you” (1:19), his answer points to Jesus. Fast forward to 21:12: “Now none of the disciples dared to ask Jesus, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord.” (21:12). Our reading of John will turn this question on each one of us. Who, in your experience, is Jesus?

We are still working out the details of how this class will be taught. You can prepare for it by reading the Gospel of John right through, as though you are reading it for the first time. For more information, contact Annabel R, email [the church](mailto:the church), or call (306) 359-1450.

## 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](#).



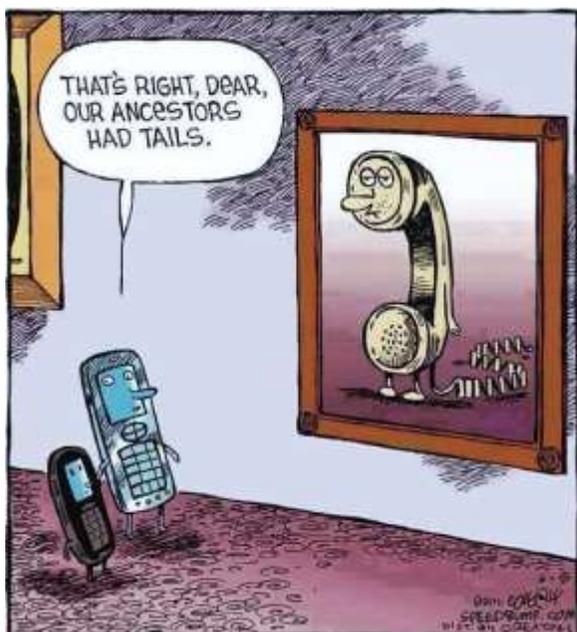
We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Tracy Sailor's mother, Anne Klinger, who passed away on November 12, 2021. Our condolences and prayers are extended to Tracy and her siblings, and to other friends and family. To view the service, please click here: [Anne Klinger funeral](#) (click on "Memorial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

## Communion Preparation Ministry

A team of is being formed for the new year to take turns preparing the communion elements. Brenda Ziolkowski 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](#).



Three doctors were on their way to a convention when their car had a flat tire. The first doctor said, "I think it's flat."

The second doctor examined it closely and said, "It sure looks flat."

The third doctor felt it and said, "It feels flat."

All three nodded their heads in agreement. "We'd better run some tests."

Man to a friend: "My wife claims I'm a baseball fanatic. She says all I ever read about is baseball. All I ever talk about is baseball. All I ever think about is baseball. I told her she's way off base."

## 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.

On Sunday, November 28th, the children began participating in an Advent activity. For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

### Youth Ministry

For information about our youth program, please contact Pastor Chris.

### Adult Ministries

**Learning for Life (L4L):** Dr. Kelvin Friebel is leading a 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. For more information, please contact Norma H, email [the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

**Gospel of John small group study:** 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 Norma H, email [the church](#), 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](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.



A woman went to get her false teeth adjusted for the fifth time. She told him they still didn't fit. "Well," said the dentist, "I'll do it again this time, but no more. There's no reason why these shouldn't fit your mouth easily."

"Who said anything about my mouth?" The woman answered. "They don't fit in the glass!"

"Was grandpa mad when they went through his luggage at the border?"

"Not in the least. They found his glasses that he'd lost two weeks earlier."