

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of December 12th, 2021

Joyful Expectancy

Watching a young couple prepare for their first child is often a source of joy for everyone. They make room for the coming child in home and heart with a mix of joy, nerves, and trepidation, as the birth draws near. There's work to do and a re-ordering of daily life. Old habits have to change, new ones are introduced, and some hobbies and pleasures may have to be put off for a while. The people around the couple help where they can, and watch and wait as well.



We are half way through the Advent season, once again welcoming Jesus into our lives and remembering that one day, we will all see Jesus face to face. We are encouraged to let Advent be a time of prayer and preparation for Jesus' advent in our lives.



Fasting is meant to be part of this season but it's impossible for Advent to be as somber a fast as Lent. Like all times of watching for a birth, the preparation and waiting is full of joy.

This coming week, the Wednesday and Friday have traditionally been set aside as special days of fasting. We are free as Baptists to make use of anything which draws us closer to God and shapes us into the image of Christ. Perhaps set aside a day or two this week to fast and pray. There's so much to pray for in our lives, the lives of our friends and family, and our world.

May your attention upon, and affection for, Jesus, increase this season.

Yours with love,

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

Pastor Joel

Reaching Out to Our Community – December 18th

Over the last couple of months, a number of Regina churches have been meeting together to try to discern how we might respond to the increasing signs of poverty in our city. Last week, Louise Krueger, Barb Ziolkowski, and Joel Russell-MacLean met with representatives from Knox Met, the Salvation Army, First Presbyterian, Sunset United, Trinity Lutheran and the Catholic Archdiocese, to discuss what needs remained unmet through existing charities, and what role our churches might play in meeting those needs.

It was noted that, while there are free meals offered during the week, there is, to our knowledge, only one group that is offering an open, free meal on the weekend. (The Sikh community distributes meals on Sunday in North Central.) Of the needs expressed, this was the first need we felt we could meet.

To this end, First Baptist will be hosting a free lunch and warming centre, December 18th, at 1:00 pm for the downtown and surrounding neighbourhoods. Other churches are partnering with us. Our role is to set up, host, and serve coffee.

We are looking for 4 to 6 volunteers, to help out from 11:00 am until approximately 3:00 pm, or some portion of that time period.

The lunch will be a bag lunch of sandwiches and other items, to be eaten offsite. We will set up some chairs and tables so that people can sit and warm up. We also hope this gives some of the volunteers a chance to sit and visit with our guests. We believe that, in order for this to serve as an outreach endeavor, relationships and hearing about each others' lives is crucial.

We are preparing for 200 people. The other churches will be bringing all the food items at 11:30 am. Everyone will help get everything into bags. Coffee and any additions will be served by First Baptist volunteers.

Masks must be worn at all times. Hands must be washed or sanitized upon entry. We will not be checking vaccination status.

On the following Monday, the churches will meet to evaluate the event to determine if it should continue in January. Homelessness and hunger appear to be on the rise in our city, with many charities noting a marked increase in demand compared to previous falls and winters. Churches are continuing to discuss supporting additional shelter space with emergency shelter providers. We also hope to serve our provincial government with updates from the front lines.

Let us know if you can help and if you would like to be involved in this sort of activity or planning going forward.



Regina Christmas Wish List

Are you looking for a way to help the poor in our city? The Regina Christmas Wish List is a Christmas gift program for people living in poverty in Regina. On their [website](#), you will find stories of individuals and families from several charities, including the Good News Chapel – an inner city ministry that we blessed last year with a \$500 donation and muffins for their lunch program.

Note: Good News Chapel also needs food donations and volunteers to serve and wash dishes for their Sunday Potluck lunches. If you can help, please contact Pastor Murray Hack at (306) 580-0112.

—Marilyn Phillips



Our Condolences

We extend our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Alfred Gordon “Gordie” Fuller, who passed away on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Many of you will remember Gordon as the father of Natalie, Maria, Alice, Abby, and Nolan, who have shared their musical gifts with us on their trumpets. To read the obituary, click here: [Gordon Fuller obituary](#).



We were also saddened, this week, to hear of the passing of Chris Senger’s grandmother, Victoria “Vicky” McMillan on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. We extend our prayers and condolences to friends and family at this difficult time.

Christmas Decorations

A big thank you goes out to Tom Chen, Marg and Marv Fuller, Dean Gilchrist, Carol Hepting, Kevin Rich, Marion MacRobbie, Marilyn and Ron Phillips, Eleanor Russell, Tracy Sailor, Amy and Eric Warren, and coordinators Dean Gilchrist and Barb Ziolkowski, for decorating the sanctuary with the sights and colours of Christmas. Thank you for taking the time and energy to decorate the sanctuary, not only for our enjoyment, but also to bring alive the Advent and the Christmas message of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Thank you one and all!

First Baptist Facility Renewal

At present, we are repairing and painting the elevator entryway, the Lorne Street stairwell and landing, and the library. The project may be completed by Christmas. Thank you to Julie Rich and Shirley Wolfe for coming up with the designs. Thank you to Eric Warren and Glen Larson for helping to prepare the areas ahead of time. Thanks also to Collin Carbno, Bryden Yeo and Susan Bornowski for coming and tidying up a few places in the church that have been neglected during Covid.

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 1 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. (See photo.)



Jesse Tree crafts, Dec, 2020

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:

December 13 - Isaiah 11:1-5

December 14 - Isaiah 11:6-10

December 15 - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

December 16 - Isaiah 40:11; Psalm 23:1-2; John 10:27

December 17 - Isaiah 53:4-7, 9, 12b; John 10:14-15

December 18 - Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 9:15

December 19 - Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:4-7

December 20 - 2 Kings 17:7; Daniel 3:1-6, 12, 19-29; Jeremiah 1:8

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?

You can prepare for it by reading the Gospel of John right through, as though you are reading it for the first time. It is helpful to use a different translation from the one you usually use, and if possible, one that has no chapter or verse numbers. I have a software version of the Bible in all sorts of translations. If you would like a copy, any translation, formatted as a PDF file, send me an email at [Annabel Robinson](mailto:Annabel.Robinson@thechurch.org), call me at (306) 761-1458, or email [the church](mailto:thechurch). If you'd like a printed copy, please indicate such in your email.

—Annabel Robinson

A Note of Thanks...

Carol Oxelgren would like to thank everyone—groups and individuals—who have been praying for her and her family during this difficult time of dealing with the loss of her daughter, Connie. It is *greatly* appreciated.

Upcoming Christmas Events of Note

Christmas Worship Concert – December 19, 7:00 pm

First Baptist and Guest musicians, featuring the First Baptist Sanctuary Choir, JuBELLation, vocalists, instrumentalists, carol singing, and more.

Tickets: Freewill offering. Masks required.

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

All are welcome. Masks required.

“Christmas Presence”

This play, presented by the Burnt Thicket Theatre, promises to be a “rich tapestry of stories and songs reflecting on Jesus’ first coming and our longing for God’s renewal of all things.” It will be presented online from December 17 to 31. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. For more information, visit the [Burnt Thicket website](http://burntthicket.com).



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@firstbaptist.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.***



Father George was opening his Christmas cards one December morning. Out of one of the cards came a single sheet of paper. On it was written only one word: “Fool”. The following Sunday, in church, Father George announced to the assembled congregation, “I have known many people who have written notes to me and forgotten to sign their names. But this week I received a note from someone who signed his name and had forgotten to write a letter.”

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.

Throughout Advent, the children have been participating in an activity where they have been looking at different people who have shown us the way to Bethlehem. 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) is taking a break until the new year and will resume on January 9th. See page 4 for information on the new series.

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 next meeting will be on January 12, 2022. For more information, send an email to [Bonnie Austring-Winter](#) or [Laureen Snook](#), or visit [our website](#).

Reading through the Old Testament: This group is taking a break until the new year, at which time they will begin reading through the Pauline Epistles. For more information, contact [Norma Holtslander](#) or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Gospel of John small group study: This group is taking a break until the new year. For more information, contact [Norma Holtslander](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Poinsettias for Christmas

We would like to give away our poinsettias during the week of December 26th. We are looking volunteers to deliver 10 poinsettias to folks who have not been able to get out as much (or at all) this year. If you have time to help that week, please email [the church](#) or call the office at (306) 359-1450 in order to coordinate our efforts.

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 the sermon from a recent Sunday service. On a landline phone or cell phone, simply dial this number: (306) 992-1912 (toll-free within the Regina area). It will take 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 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.

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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2010

THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST
THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS
STABLE!

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree?

Nice gnawing you!

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

Cookie sheets.

Mason, to his mother: You can delete the train set from my Christmas wish list.

Mother: Why is that?

Mason: Because I found one in the closet today.