

# First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the week of January 2nd, 2022*

Church bells are one of the treats of living near the downtown. Several churches around us ring their bells on Sundays and other occasions such as New Year's day. These are often quiet mornings with little to no traffic or activity. Over the still neighbourhood they ring out their worship and their summons.



“So ring them out in joy and jubilation,  
Sound them in sorrow toiling for the lost,  
O let them wake the Church and rouse the nation”  
- *Malcolm Guite (poem included in full below)*

May the music of this season and the turning of the public calendar be a reminder to us to be born again. May we recommit ourselves to Jesus, the hope of the nations. May we be renewed so that we might pray and serve Jesus in this coming year to the best of our ability.

Yours with love,

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

Pastor Joel

## New Year's Day: Church Bells

Not the bleak speak of mobile messages,  
The soft chimes of synthesized reminders,  
Not texts, not pagers, data packages,  
Not satnav or locators ever find us  
As surely, soundly, deeply as these bells  
That sound and find and call us all at once.  
'Ears of my ears' can hear, my body feels  
This call to prayer that is itself a dance.  
So ring them out in joy and jubilation,  
Sound them in sorrow toiling for the lost,  
O let them wake the Church and rouse the nation,  
A sleeping lion stirs to life at last,  
Begin again they sing, again begin,  
A ring and rhythm answered from within.

*By Malcolm Guite, "Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year"*

Some of you may be familiar with Guite, a British poet, through prairie songwriter Steve Bell, as they have collaborated together on occasion.

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

Are you discouraged? Is Covid getting you down? Do you long for a fresh understanding of Jesus? What if he spoke to you, personally?

If you've never attended Learning for Life before, come! We're going to do things a little differently this time. Starting January 9th.

You can prepare for it by reading the Gospel of John straight through, as though you are reading it for the first time. You can do that in an afternoon. 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. Don't get bogged down by things you don't understand—just keep going. I have a software version of the Bible in all sorts of translations which I can print out without chapters and verses. If you would like a copy, any translation, formatted as a PDF file that you can print out if you wish, call me at (306) 761-1458, send me an email at [Annabel Robinson](#), or email [the church](#). If you'd like a printed copy, please let me know and I'll get one to you.

Please note that on January 16th, Dr. Wil Rogan, from Carey Theological Seminary, will be the guest teacher at Learning for Life.

—Annabel Robinson



## **Update from the Hovey's**

Dear friends at First Baptist Regina,

A huge thank you for all of the care and support that was shown to my family and I during our time at First Baptist.

While we were only there a couple of years and a bit (most of which was unfortunately during COVID), we felt the strong sense of community which was there. A heartfelt thank you to each of you who contributed toward the love offering for us prior to our departure - a true blessing for us.

The trip to New Brunswick went well overall. Jennifer and I made the 4000 km trip in the U-haul, and while we met some weather on the way, nothing that held us up for long. Julie and Andrea flew the following week. They got into Saint John (NB) just after 9pm on Monday, December 13. As some of you may know, we have moved to an island, and the last ferry from the mainland is at 10:30pm; we had just enough time to make it from the airport to the ferry to get home for the night.

We hope to maintain some contact with you in the coming months and years, and if you ever find yourself in Atlantic Canada and feel like a relaxing day on a quiet island be sure to look us up. I've included some pictures to give you an idea of the beauty we are surrounded by here (though I am already missing the amazing Saskatchewan sky, especially the sunsets).

Richest Blessings,

Richard



## **Poinsettias for Christmas**

Thank you to everyone who helped delivery Poinsettias last week to members of our congregation.

## Saturday Bag Lunch

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped serve meals on Saturday December 18. Around 50 lunches were served. The remaining food was shared through the White Pony Lodge and the Good News Chapel.

KnoxMet, Sunset United, the Catholic Archdiocese, and First Presbyterian were all part of the preparation and serving.



Louise Krouger, Barb Ziolkowski, and Joel Russell-MacLean met with these churches the following the event. All agreed that we should host a weekly bagged lunch beginning on January 8th. Any new Covid restrictions will be observed which may lead to some changes.

The goal will be to involve churches from across our city in the preparation and hosting so that everyone has a chance to help.

## Offering Envelopes

If you wish to receive offering envelopes for 2022, please send an email to [Tracy Sailor](#), or call her at (306) 537-9228.

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.***



## **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.

## **First Baptist Facility Renewal**

At present, we are repairing and painting the elevator entryway, the Lorne Street stairwell and landing, and the library. The work is nearly complete and is looking good. Thank you to Julie Rich and Shirley Wolfe for coming up with the design.

## **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. Simply dial: (306) 992-1912, (toll-free within the Regina area).

## 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.

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*We Resolve to Share Only the Finest Jokes*

Knock knock! Who's there? Abby. Abby who? Abby New Year!

The ISS astronauts wanted to have a New Year's party on Mars but they didn't planet in time.

Not to brag, but I already have a date for New Year's Eve, 2022. It's December 31st.

Right before the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, make sure to lift up your left leg: you'll want to start out the New Year on the right foot.