

## First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the Week of January 16, 2022*

Charles Taylor has challenged me to look at people and society differently, paradoxically, both with more hope and with more concern.

Taylor is a world-renowned Canadian philosopher and a lifelong, faithful Catholic. As he approached 80, he wrote *A Secular Age*, to widespread praise. At 800 pages, it is imposing. But since large parts of it are a story, it can be, dare I say, fun to read. I believe you may have just raised your eyebrows. A number of folks at First Baptist have tackled it. Let me know if it interests you.

Taylor argues that we are secular today in large part *because* of the church, not *in spite* of the church. Centuries ago, the church worked to reform – to convert and transform – people and society, and the results have been mixed. He refutes as unhistorical the story that science and learning have gradually made belief (seem) unnecessary. At first, this is how I experienced and appreciated *A Secular Age*, as a tool for apologetics. But Taylor has so much more than that to offer.

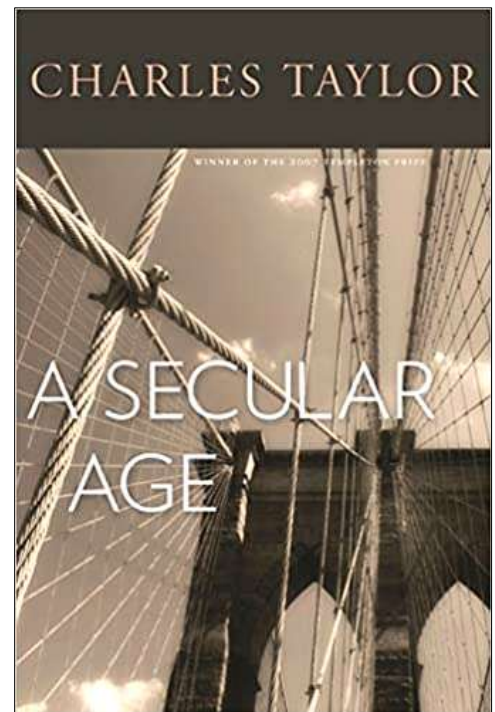
On the one hand, he's moved me away from pining for a lost time when most people believed, and also from viewing secularism or society as an enemy. I think he provides some reasons for why we become polarized, politically and theologically, and why the debate around identity and sexuality is so intense.

He also nudges me to think pastorally about society. He has nurtured in me a greater sensitivity to the hurts, the tendencies, and the needs of believers and non-believers alike, raised in a secular age. He offers some ideas about what we need to be doing as a church. In the spirit of John's Gospel, I feel Taylor encourages us to remember that "God so loved the world," to have compassion, and to work with hope.

Yours in prayer,



Pastor Joel



## Youth Ministry Update

There are a few things that stand out to me about some of our events and get-togethers in December. Prior to the start of Advent, we worked with Pastor Kayely one evening to get some advent calendars and activity packages together for our church families. There was a good turnout and the youth had a great time together, as they willingly participated in the task at hand. Some wrote cards, while others assembled the materials for the activity packages. Thanks to Kayely who had organized the materials beforehand.

We had a Bible study at our house on December 10th, and also decorated some Christmas cookies. We watched and discussed a short video on how the angels proclaimed the birth of Christ to the shepherds. Through this artistic interpretation of the story, it was good to be reminded that we are all called to come and celebrate the birth of Christ; that Christ has come to remove barriers, and to bring light into the darkness. Being able to decorate cookies afterwards was the ‘icing on the cake (or, in this case, cookie),’ so to speak. (See photos.)



For our last event before the Christmas break, Tom and Emily Stewart, parents of Lila Stewart who attends our youth group, invited us over. They had a fantastic spread of treats and eats, and also made their hot tub available to us. Some chose to brave the arctic-like weather and enjoy the tub, while others (including myself) had a mini crokinole tournament. It was a very nice evening and we are thankful for the Stewart family’s hospitality.

Currently we are choosing to have youth on Zoom for the next several weeks. I personally find this very difficult as it seems like such a step back compared to how great it is was to meet face to face in the fall. However, this seems like the wisest decision for now. Please pray for both the youth and myself as we try to navigate how to best keep everyone safe and also balance that with the need and desire to meet together in person.



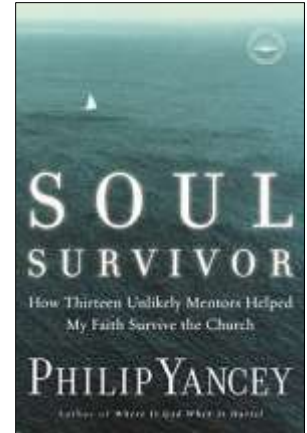
—Pastor Chris

## Ladies’ Breakfast Cancelled

Due to high Covid case numbers, this event, which was scheduled for January 22nd, has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled when we feel it is safe to go ahead with it.

## Voice – A Women’s Book Club

The book that Voice has chosen for study is “Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church,” by Philip Yancey. In this book, the author charts his spiritual pilgrimage through the influence of key individuals: “These are the people who ushered me into the Kingdom. In many ways, they are why I remain a Christian today, and I want to introduce them to other spiritual seekers.”



Voice is a small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively conversation. Voice meets every second Wednesday from 7 to 9 pm, using Zoom. The first meeting will be on January 19th. Women interested in joining the discussion please contact Bonnie A-W or Lauren S, email [the church](mailto:thechurch), or call (306) 359-1450. More information may also be found on [our website](#).

### Do You Have This Book?

The book shown above (“Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church”), is now out of print. Therefore, the group is looking to borrow some copies. If you have a copy of this book, and would be willing to lend it out for a few months, please contact Bonnie A-W or Lauren S, email [the church](mailto:thechurch), or call (306) 359-1450.

## Center for Healthy Aging Transitions (CHAT)

Marilyn and I are on the steering committee of this organization. It was founded by two CBWC (Canadian Baptists of Western Canada) pastors, Paul Pearce and Myrna Sears. Its goal, as its name implies, is to help our people to age well, serving Jesus and continuing to grow until the Lord calls us home.

Two courses will be sponsored by CHAT in the first half of 2022. Patsy Pearce will be facilitating a course on “Storytelling for Life: Why Stories Matter and Ways of Telling Them” (January 29 – March 12), and Steven Pike will be facilitating a course on “Coming to Peace with your Pain,” during the Lenten period (March 7 – April 11). There is potential for a third offering, on grandparenting.

If you are interested in these, or in the work of CHAT in general, please visit the [CHAT website](#). More details are available, and you may register for the courses there. (Click on EVENTS.) You will find other helpful resources on the website as well.

—Ron Phillips

## Saturday Bag Lunch and Warming Centre Update

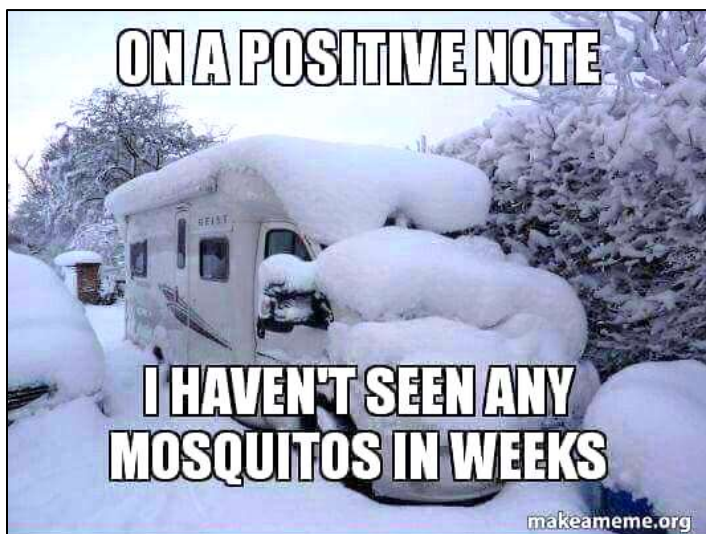


The Saturday lunches have been going well. Thank you to all who have been helping out in various ways.

On December 18th, Louise Krueger, Barb Ziolkowski, and Joel Russell-MacLean met with representatives from Knox Met, Sunset United, the Catholic Archdiocese, and First Presbyterian. At that meeting, it was decided that a bagged lunch and warming centre would be hosted weekly, beginning January 8th. It has also been decided that these events would be held at our church, as it is in a central location.

Up to this point in time, while other churches have been buying the food and preparing the sandwiches, some First Baptist folks have been involved each time with the set-up, hosting, and clean up for these lunches. The plan is that, once things are better organized, the other churches involved would each take a turn hosting the event in its entirety, and, except when it is our turn to host, all we would need to do is let the hosts into the building. This plan is being worked on and should be in place soon. The goal is also to involve more churches from across our city in the preparation and hosting, so that everyone has a chance to help.

That said, ***please note*** that on Saturday, January 22nd, it will be our turn to prepare the bagged lunches to hand out that day. This includes making the sandwiches and purchasing the other items to go in the bags. If you are able to help make the sandwiches from 9 to 11 on the morning of Saturday, January 22nd, please contact Louise, Barb, or [Pastor Joel](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450. Or, if that doesn't work for you, we could also use folks to help with set up, hosting, and clean up from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, or a portion of that time.



A tourist, checking into a hotel in Rome, asked the clerk, "What time do you serve meals?"

"Well," the clerk replied, "breakfast is from 7 to 11:30, lunch is from 12 to 3, and dinner is from 6 to 9:30."

The tourist shook his head and said to his wife, "Doesn't leave much time for sight-seeing, does it?"

I tried to climb a really tall tower in France ...but Eiffel off!

## 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 is an in-person class for children up to Grade 6. The children are currently learning about the stories of Jesus' ministry. For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

### Youth Ministry

See the Youth Ministry Update on page 2. For more information about our youth program, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

### Adult Ministries

**Learning for Life (L4L):** Annabel Robinson is leading the series: "The Gospel of John." This whole Gospel is centred on Jesus and who he is. The class will encourage each person to ask themselves, "Who, in my experience, is Jesus?" This class is in person, and also on Zoom. For more information, please contact Annabel [by email](#) or at (306) 761-1458, or go to [our website](#). [Join Learning for Life](#).

**Learning for Life between Sundays:** In this class, facilitated by Joel Russell-MacLean, we will read and reflect on the powerful stories and personal presentation of Jesus in the Gospel according to John. Whether Sunday mornings at 9:30 don't work for you, or if there's something you want to follow up on after Sunday's sermon or L4L class, all are welcome. The class is both in person and on Zoom. [Join Weekday L4L](#).

**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 and the date of the next meeting, see page 3.

**Reading through the Pauline Epistles:** This group, facilitated by Norma Holtslander, will meet on Zoom, starting Wednesday, January 12, at 10:30 am. For more information, contact [Norma](#) or call the church at (306) 359-1450. [Join Reading the Pauline Epistles](#).

### 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](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.



*...when the internet goes down*

- Q. Why did the chicken say "meow," "oink," "baa," and "moo?"  
A. She was studying foreign languages.
- Q. Why did Shakespeare only write using pens?  
A. Pencils confused him. 2B or not 2B.
- Q. What do you call a can opener that doesn't work?  
A. A can't opener.
- Q. Where can you buy chicken broth in bulk?  
A. The stock market.