

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of January 23, 2022

The Power of Life

Everyone can tell that the Gospel According to John is different from that of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Since these last three tell many of the same events in the same order and you can lay them out and read them together, they are sometimes called the “Synoptic Gospels,” which means “seeing together.” But John’s gospel sounds and feels different. The differences are full of meaning. This is the case when we examine the miracles they describe.



The word “miracle” comes from the word for “wonder” (as in “awe”). For many raised in western culture, our surprise and wonder (or our incredulity) when exploring the Gospels, relates to Jesus breaking what we call the laws of nature: wind and waves can’t just come to a halt at the snap of a finger; illnesses don’t simply disappear; nobody can walk on water. Sometimes we speak about these acts as proof that Jesus is God, and stop there. This distracts us from finding out more about who Jesus is, and therefore, more about what God is like.

The NRSV¹ never uses the word “miracle” in the Gospels, and only rarely in the New Testament. Instead, the NRSV calls them works of power, works of authority, or signs. For the most part, in the Synoptics, Jesus was expanding our understanding of the kingdom of God and the Messiah with these works. In the Gospels, people are not asking if there is a God or if miracles are possible. However, people were filled with wonder at the extent of Jesus’ authority and power, and filled with wonder at the extent to which the Kingdom was transforming the world.

The Synoptics are loaded with accounts of Jesus’ works of power. Jesus seems to be constantly healing, delivering, and doing other incredible things. But when we turn to John’s gospel, there are only seven miracles and the resurrection, and each time, John refers to them not as miracles, or works of power, or works of authority, but as “signs”. Two of the miracles in John (the water changing into wine and the rising of Lazarus) appear exclusively in John, and two more are developed into long stories.

In the Synoptics, Jesus has authority to teach, to heal, to forgive sins, and to command unclean spirits. Matthew concludes with Jesus saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." The impression I have is of a ruler, or a king, but on an epic or cosmic scale.

In John, however, the words used to describe these events are different. The Greek word for "power" is used 37 times in the Synoptics but not once in John. The Greek word for "the power of authority" is used frequently in the Synoptics but only a few times in John.

When we look at one of the few times that "the power of authority" appears in John, we find a compelling contrast. During Jesus' trial, Pilate finally exclaims, "You do not speak to me? I have authority to free you and authority to crucify you!" Jesus replies, "You have no authority over me." In this simple exchange, I hear Jesus dismissing all our human ideas about hierarchies and all our fascination with power.

It seems that John wants to move us away from understanding Jesus and God in terms of incredible power, away from a God who performs miracles. Instead of power, John talks about the "signs" of life.

By the time Jesus came and stood before Pilate, Jesus had already taught his disciples, "I have authority as the Son of Man to raise all humanity from the dead. I have the authority to lay down my life and the authority to take it up again." We recognize this power at work during the seventh sign, when Jesus commands, "Lazarus, come forth!" Lazarus, death, and life, all obeyed Jesus.

I don't know how John discovered all he taught us about Jesus. It is profound and life-changing. John begins with this word: "All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people."

I know many of you are trying to cope, day after day, with different signs, signs of our mortality: illness, chronic pain, confusion, sin, grief, worry, diminishing abilities due to ageing. I often wish God would just act in power! Instead, I will try to learn from John.

May the signs in John be the means of an encounter between you and Jesus. May Jesus be the light of life for you, as you follow him until you hear his voice calling you by name, as he did Lazarus.

Yours in prayer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.M.M.L.', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Joel

Birth Announcement

Carley and Jeremy Ellergot of Calgary welcomed a baby girl, Adelaide Olivia Ellergot, on January 17th. Adelaide is a sister to brothers Emmett and Owen. Congratulations to proud grandparents, Bonnie and Owen Winter.



Our Condolences



We extend our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Audrey St. Louis, who passed away on January 18, 2022 at the age of 95. Audrey's connection to our congregation goes back to 1931, when several adults from First Baptist travelled every week past the outskirts of town to gather children, one of whom was Audrey, and bring them to Sunday school, held in a small mission church in the area.

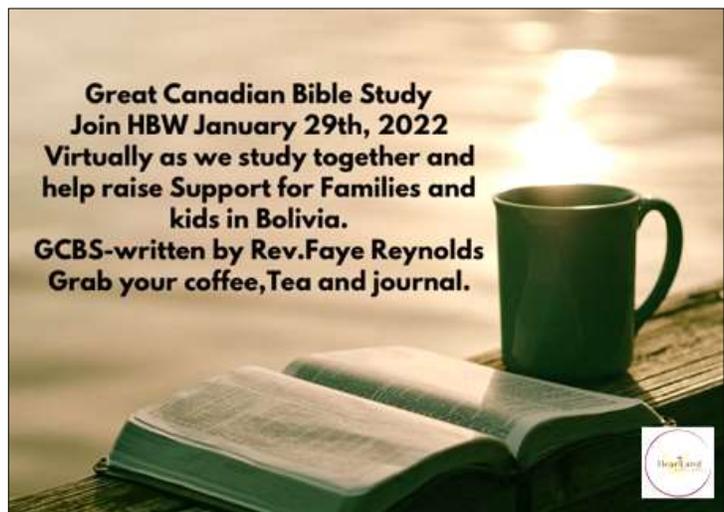
First Baptist was a significant part of Audrey's life. She served in many ways, both in leadership and also behind the scenes. With a lively mind, keen sense of humour, and a certain feistiness about her, she was active until late in life, proudly besting others at golf in her 80s. She is, and will be, missed. We commit her into the care of Jesus until the day of resurrection. To see the obituary, click here: [Audrey St. Louis Obituary](#).

Heartland Baptist Women – Great Canadian Bible Study on January 29, 2022

Greetings to our sisters across Manitoba and Saskatchewan,

This is an INVITATION to connect with other women and dig into God's word together. Register now for the Great Canadian Bible Study with Heartland Baptist Women on Saturday, January 29th at 10 am CST on Zoom.

To register, send an email to [HBW News](#). If you don't have the study notes, please request them. You will receive the Zoom link the day before the study. Registration deadline is January 27.



Bring your Bible and your favourite hot beverage. The study will be led by Faye Reynolds.

We will also have a great opportunity to give and support our project in Bolivia.

—Blessings from the HBW Leadership Team,
Carol, Charlene, Peggi, Rerie, Colleen, Lesia, Barb, Laurie, Marilyn

To check out our new website, click here: [Heartland Baptist Women website](#).

Do You Have This Book?

For their current study, Voice has chosen the book, “Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church,” by Philip Yancey. However, since it is out of print, Voice is looking to borrow some copies. If you have a copy of that 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@voice.org), or call (306) 359-1450.

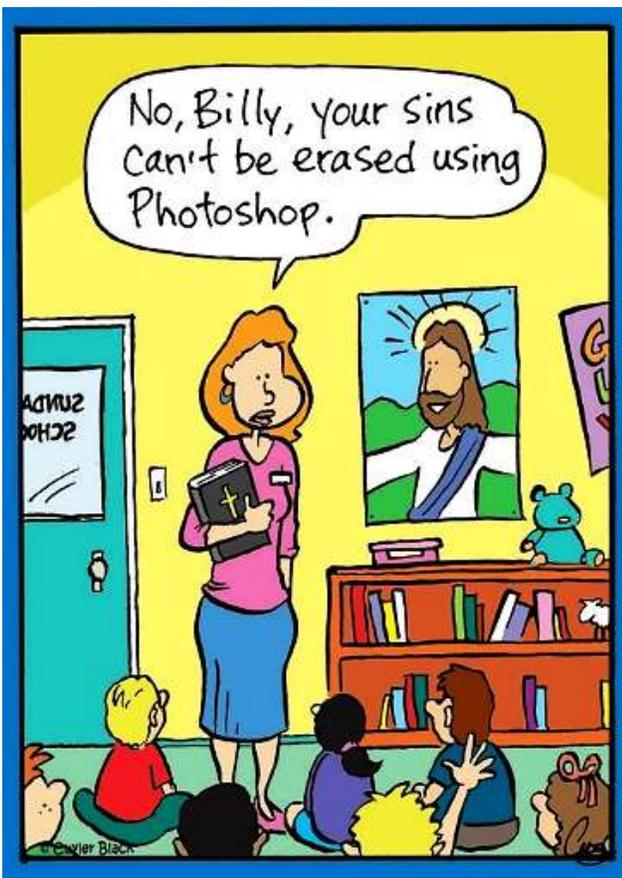
Parents

Want to give your kids their best future? Join with other parents to reflect on how you can do this. We are considering offering two Alpha¹ courses:

- 1) Parenting children 0 – 10
- 2) Parenting teenagers 11 – 18

The investment is two hours a week for five weeks. We can only do this if there are enough participants. If interested, please email [Pastor Kayely](mailto:pastor.kayely@voice.org) or call the church at (306) 359-1450 ASAP.

1 This is the same organization that provided the materials for the marriage course that a small group from the church participated in last winter.



On ageing...

When I was a child I thought “nap time” was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is... “ I don’t have to write that down, I’ll remember it”.

I don’t have gray hair... I have “wisdom highlights”! I’m just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would’ve put them on my knees.

Of course, I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age “Getting Lucky” means walking into a room and remembering what I went in there for.

I didn’t make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. But I decided to stop calling the bathroom “John” and renamed it the “Jim”. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

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

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 R, email [the church](#), 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. For more information, email [the church](#), contact [Pastor Joel](#), or call (306) 359-1450. [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. The book being read at this time 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 13 key individuals. For more information, contact Bonnie A-W or Lauren S, call (306) 359-1450, or email [the church](#). More information may also be found on [our website](#).

Reading through the Pauline Epistles: This group, facilitated by Norma Holtlander, meets every Wednesday, on Zoom, at 10:30 am. For more information, contact Norma, email [the church](#), or call (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 (*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.



Did you hear they are putting a clock in the leaning Tower of Pisa? Because what's the good if you have the inclination but don't have the time?

The doctor told me I'm going deaf. The news was hard for me to hear.