

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of January 30, 2022

Pilate demanded of Jesus, "Where are you from?"

People knew Jesus was Joseph's son from Nazareth. At one point, Jesus agrees with the crowd, "You know me, and you know where I am from." But later, Jesus also says, "You do not know where I come from or where I am going."

Some reject Jesus as the Messiah since, "We know where this man is from." But later, others reject him since, "We do not know where he comes from."



In several stories in the gospel of John, Jesus appears and disappears in crowds and in the wilderness. Twice after healing a person in John, Jesus disappears into the crowd leaving them to face the authorities on their own. Then, just as suddenly, Jesus reappears at their side.

There are a few more times in John, when we don't know where something comes from. When the water was turned to wine, we are told the steward did not know where the wine had come from, although the servants knew. And then later on, Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You do not know where the wind comes from or where it goes."

Is John trying to tell us something? As is often the case, John doesn't explain himself or make it explicit. At the very least, John is trying to capture the tension between Jesus' humanity and his divinity. But there's also something familiar in these stories.

What is our experience of meeting Jesus in daily life? For my part, Jesus seems to appear and disappear in my life. There have been times in my life where Jesus was very near, and other times where I have had no evidence whatsoever, of his presence. I hear about the same pattern in other people's lives. Some are healed, some are delivered, some hear, or even see, Jesus, while others do not. Sometimes scripture comes alive, or worship and prayer feels full, and other times, everything seems dry. When we are least expecting it, God's goodness can come out of nowhere.

Perhaps we can imagine John preparing this Gospel over the years, while pastoring a congregation. Perhaps his congregation's questions were similar to my questions. Why

does God seem distant sometimes? Why does it seem like God isn't listening? Why do some meet Jesus but others, never? Why did Jesus leave and why is he waiting so long to return?

The way John tells it, Jesus wasn't that different in life either. He appeared and disappeared with a timing and for reasons we are not given. My guess is, that even the apostles experienced this after Jesus ascended.

Jesus sends the Spirit to live within us. Jesus returns to us, but never in a way that is predictable or controllable. The wedding guests did not know where the wine came from, they just knew it was great wine. We can't see where the wind begins or ends up, but we can feel and observe its effects. What we are left with is the impact Jesus had on the people who met him in Cana, Samaria, and Jerusalem, and now, the impact he has on us. John is urging us to trust Jesus.

Yours in prayer,



Pastor Joel

Community Outreach – Saturday Bag Lunches

On Saturday, January 22nd, First Baptist hosted the fourth downtown bag lunch in our lower hall. Everyone has been having a good time at these lunches, whether those who have come to prepare the meal, or those who have come to pick up a lunch. Some sit and visit together. Others are taking food to folks whom they know are in need. Some of our guests bring food to share. One person brought tea and another brought a pie a couple weeks ago.



Saturday Bag Lunch "crew," January 22, 2022

Churches from across our city have signed up to be a part of this. Every Saturday in February and March is looked after.

Thanks to all who are helping out, especially Barb Ziolkowski and Louise Krueger, both for your leadership, and for making it fun and easy. If you would like to get involved in this ministry, please contact Louise or Barb, call the church at (306) 359-1450 or send an email to [the church](#).

Refugee Sponsorship Update

First Baptist is partnering with a community group to sponsor a Syrian family that have been homeless since fleeing Homs during the Syrian war. The husband's parents and his youngest siblings are already in Regina, and thriving.

Heather and Joel had the joy and privilege of meeting the family while visiting our Canadian Baptist Ministry partners in Lebanon with the "SENT" group from First Baptist in 2019. The family continues to wait, enduring another cold winter in the mountains of Lebanon, while the parents here pray. There is reason to hope that the families could be reunited this year. Please keep this family in your prayers. If you would like to help, or for more information, please call the church at (306) 359-1450 or send an email to [the church](#).



Joel and Heather with the family in Lebanon, June, 2019



Photos taken January, 2022

Tax Receipts

The tax receipts for 2021 have been printed. (A big thank you to Tracy Sailor.) For folks who have been attending Sunday morning services, I have placed the receipts in your mail slots. Please pick them up as soon as you are able. In order to keep postage costs down, I will hold the rest in the office for a couple of weeks. If convenient, please drop by the church to pick yours up. I am in the office each afternoon, Monday to Friday, but please let me know you are coming, by calling (306) 359-1450 or by sending an email to [the church](#). On February 14th, we will mail the ones that have not been picked up. Thank you!

—Esther Gurnsey

Student Looking for Help with Study

One of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) student leaders at the University of Regina has contacted us looking for help with completing her master's thesis. She is having a difficult time finding volunteers for her study. Volunteers must be from 65 to 80 in age. The study is simply walking for 10 minutes, without stopping, on the university track, while wearing a small sensor. Participants need to be either double vaccinated or provide a negative test, as is it onsite at the university. If you think you might be able and willing to assist her, please call the church at (306) 359-1450 or send an email to [the church](#).

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.

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](#).

There will be a funeral for Audrey on February 1, 2022 at 2:00 pm. It will be in person at the church, and on Zoom. [Join Audrey St. Louis Funeral](#).

Funeral for Connie Oxelgren

There will be a funeral for Connie Oxelgren (daughter of Carol) on February 14, 2022 at 1:00 pm. It will be in person at the church, and on Zoom. [Join Connie Oxelgren Funeral](#). Connie passed away in Ottawa, ON, on November 15, 2021.



Instead of water, I accidentally put Redbull in the back of my coffee maker this morning. I was halfway to work before I realized I had forgotten my car.

Edgar, a father of nine, reflected on how he had mellowed over the years: "When the firstborn coughed or sneezed, I called the ambulance. When the last one swallowed a dime, I just told him it was coming out of his allowance."

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 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, visit [our website](#) or contact [Pastor Joel](#). [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 chosen for study 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 thirteen key individuals. For more information, contact Bonnie A-W or Lauren S, call (306) 359-1450, email [the church](#), or visit [our website](#).

Reading through the Pauline Epistles: This group, facilitated by Norma Holtslander, meets every Wednesday, on Zoom, 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 (*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.



Andy, having completed a course of analysis with his psychiatrist, to a friend: "I always thought I was indecisive."

Friend: "And now?"

Andy: "Now I'm not so sure."

The first-grade teacher had just bought a new car. When she started for home after school, she put the car in reverse by mistake and it banged into a wall. She got out and surveyed the damage. "Oh, oh, oh," she cried. "Look, look, look. Darn, darn, darn!"
