

# First Baptist Regina Weekly News

*For the Week of February 13, 2022*

## I Hear Wedding Bells

There are several references to weddings across the first chapters of John's Gospel. Jesus chose a wedding as the place for his first sign and his first public activity. At the wedding, Jesus blessed the people and revealed his glory to his disciples.

The subject of weddings comes up again after Jesus visited the temple and met with Nicodemus. John the Baptist says about Jesus, "The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him arrive, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled." If Jesus is the bridegroom in this metaphor, who is the bride?

And then we come to the story of the woman at the well, a more subtle example. In Old Testament stories, the community well was a place where young men and women could meet by chance. In fact, a number of marriages in the Old Testament begin at a well. In this story, Jesus sat with the woman by the well and, all alone, they talked. Part of the conversation was about whether or not the woman had a husband. The disciples were astonished by what they saw upon their return.

I think this is all intentional on the part of John. I wonder if John is trying to give us a sense of how much Jesus loves people, how much Jesus loves John, himself, the woman, and you. Marriage is obviously an intimate metaphor. Though Jesus' disciples call him teacher and Lord, Jesus calls them friends, and, on his final night, he describes the relationship he has with them as a union, as abiding within each other. (*See John 14-17.*) Love is the crux of his final words to them.

Marriage is perhaps being used as another picture of salvation. Many of us are more accustomed to the courtroom metaphor for salvation, with a judge, sin, guilt, pardon, and penalty. In John's Gospel, salvation is an invitation into close connection with God, characterized by trust, while sin is rejection or betrayal. After her intimate time with Jesus, the woman at the well went and brought her whole town to meet him, and the church, the bride of Christ, grew in Samaria.

May you know Jesus' love for you.

Yours in prayer,



Pastor Joel



## Our Condolences



We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Al Basky, who passed away on February 9, 2022 at the age of 84. Al and his wife, Eva, have attended First Baptist faithfully for many years. Al was kind, gentle, and compassionate, ready to help, and always ready to chat. He loved music, and sang in the church choir and the Regina's Male Voice Choir for many years. Our love and prayers are with Eva and the family. There will be a funeral for Al on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 2:00 pm. It will be in person at the church and on Zoom. [Join Al Basky Funeral](#). To see his obituary, click here: [Al Basky Obituary](#).

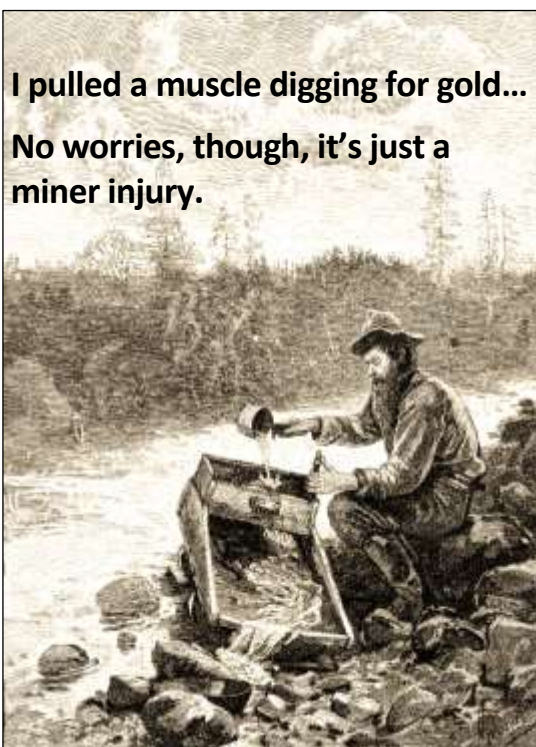
## Teens or Pre-Teens in the Family?

Join with other parents to reflect on how you can give your kids their best future. Beginning March 9th, we will be running a parenting course for parents of teens and pre-teens, using Alpha resources.<sup>1</sup> Sessions are once a week for five weeks.

It's not too late to sign up. For more information or to register, please email [Pastor Kayely](#) or call her at (306) 737-0393 ASAP.

If you know of someone who may be interested in this course, please pass this information on to them.

<sup>1</sup> This is the same organization that provided resources for the marriage course that a small group from the church participated in last winter.



Sam shows up at a revival meeting seeking help. "I need you to pray for my hearing," he tells the preacher.

The preacher puts his fingers on Sam's ears and prays and prays. When he's done, he asks, "How's your hearing now?"

"I don't know," says Sam. "I don't go to court until next Tuesday."

Woman: My son swallowed a roll of film.

Doctor: Let's wait and see what develops.

Recently I sat in a restaurant watching two older men go at it. It quickly grew heated as one of them declared, "I'm so mad, I'm taking you off my pallbearer list!"

## 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

Pastor Chris: "The youth have been meeting for a video study on creation. The series challenges us to unpack our understanding of what God as Creator means, and how that affects how we can look at our world and ourselves as creative beings. We look forward to continuing this study over the next few weeks.

"As Covid numbers decrease we are hopeful that we will meet again in person soon. Please continue to pray for our ministry and especially, our youth." For more information, 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. 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. For more information, contact [Bonnie Austring-Winter](#) or [Lauren Snook](#) 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

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.



A student nurse had to give an injection to a 79-year-old male patient. She asked which hip he preferred the shot in. He wanted to know if he really had a choice. She told him he did. He looked her straight in the eye and said, "Yours!"

A man was very skeptical of chiropractors, but when no other treatment seemed to relieve the chronic pain in his back, he decided to give it a try. Before his first appointment, he told the chiropractor of his reservations, but after a few adjustments, he felt better than he had in years.

"What do you think now?" the chiropractor asked.

"Well," the man replied, "I guess I stand corrected."

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.