

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of February 27, 2022

A Reflection on the Man Born Blind in the Gospel of John, Chapter 9

Christians with sight can likely think of faithful Christians who are blind. Others are also hearing-impaired, or do not have the use of their limbs, or have yet other challenges. The church has witnessed their perseverance at living life fully: working, studying, joining activities and ministry, singing in the choir, getting around on their own, going on vacation, praying with happiness and thanksgiving.

I think the above needs to be said because the Gospels, especially John's gospel, give the strong impression of being written by and for people for whom sight is the most important experience. "Come and see" is one of the refrains, while "blind" is used as an insult – by Jesus, no less. However, downtown, we literally have the blind leading the blind at times, with neither "falling into a ditch."

Part of what is going on in John is a subtle emphasis on the five senses as an affirmation of our bodily life. A temptation back then, and perhaps now again, is to discount the value of our bodies and this world.

To correct this, John shows how the Gospel was tasted, touched, smelled, seen, and heard. This story actually happened in places we can visit. God actually became part of this physical world. Our senses, all of them, do matter.

The Gospels also hint at something else: that blind people who met Jesus were quicker to recognize him than their sighted contemporaries. We know Jesus has disciples today who remain blind, perhaps he did during his earthly life as well. How might they have described Jesus? They would have known him by the sound of his voice, the sound of his movements, the smell of his hair and skin, and the shape and feel of his body and face: truly a profound and beautiful way of knowing Jesus.

May God grant all of us the joy of recognizing and knowing Jesus, more and more.

Yours in prayer,



Pastor Joel



*Christ healing the Blind Man,
by Andrei Mironov, 2009*

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days and six Sundays. We set aside these weeks to intentionally reflect on Jesus' suffering and death and to prepare for the resurrection. Lent can be a time of fasting, self-examination, and prayer as we take further steps to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. Consider committing to one practice for the six weeks of Lent such as a weekly volunteer commitment, fasting from certain foods or meals or from a regular activity, adding a weekly time of silence, or making financial gifts to charities, to name a few. Fasting used to be a normal Christian practice throughout the year. Jesus expected his followers would fast, taught about fasting, and fasted himself. Lent lasts for forty days because that is how long Jesus fasted in the desert.

Ash Wednesday

If you have never come to an Ash Wednesday service, consider coming out March 2nd at 7:00 pm for a reflective worship service of repentance for all ages. Those who wish, may receive the imposition of Ashes on their forehead as a reminder of our mortality and a sign of our life hidden in Christ.

Baptismal Service

On Sunday, February 20th, we had the privilege of sharing in a part of Kristofer Sotropa's journey of faith as he, in obedience to Christ's command, was baptized in water.



Special Music Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Maria Fuller has agreed to step into a full-time interim music ministry role at First Baptist Church Regina, from now through to May 20, 2022.

Growing up on a farm near Earl Grey, Maria and her four siblings played often in our worship services and concerts while growing up, as many of you will recall.

After successfully competing in various national and international music festivals in trumpet, piano, and chamber music, Maria attended McGill University, where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano. From there, she went on to CCM (College-Conservatory of Music) in Cincinnati, where she achieved a Masters of Music in Piano, an Artist Diploma in Operatic Coaching, and a Masters of Music in Orchestral Conducting.



With a remarkable breadth of abilities as a conductor, opera coach, pianist, trumpeter, composer, arranger and vocal coach, Maria has had a number of opportunities to perform internationally, from Vancouver to Paris.

Most recently, Maria was the Resident Conductor and Chorus Director of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. This summer she looks forward to being the Musical Director for the Saskatoon Opera's production of "Carmen," and the "Badlands Passion Play" in Drumheller, AB.

Maria would like to hold an Easter concert with our choir participating. Which means—choir practices are back! We invite current and former members, seasonal singers, guests, friends, and anyone who has wondered about joining the choir, to do so as we get ready for this evening of ministry and worship. To sign up or for more information, please send an email to [the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

To learn more about Maria and her career, click here: [Maria's website](#).

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 (ages 11 – 18), using Alpha materials. 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 the church at (306) 359-1450 ASAP. If you know of someone who may be interested in this course, please pass this information on to them.

Spring Cleaning Days

If we act like it is spring, perhaps spring will come!

There are plenty of little and big cleaning and tidying jobs to do around our building, as we get ready to welcome in this new season. Activity is increasing around our facility, and we are getting ready for Lent and Easter.

We are aiming to have some cleaning bees the week of March 6th. If it has been a while since you pitched in, this is your big chance! If you can use a dust cloth, organize a closet, turn a screwdriver, or carry books – we want you!



If you can give a few hours of your time, please contact us by emailing [the church](#) or calling (306) 359-1450. Let us know if you would prefer to help on a weekday, an evening, or a Saturday and whether you prefer working in a group or on your own. As with all activities these days, we will watch for any changes in public health directives.

COVID Measures

It appears that we will be easing out of COVID measures shortly. Over the coming weeks of March, we ask that you continue to wear masks when we gather in larger groups. We will decide week by week.

We are also considering moving away from Zoom and removing the screen from the sanctuary. We will continue to live stream our service. Please contact anyone from the board or church staff with questions, concerns, or to share your preference.

Our Condolences

Our condolences go out to Sue and Dell Bornowsky on the passing of Sue's mother Yvonne Stevenson. Yvonne passed away the evening of Sunday, February 27, 2022, with family at her side. Yvonne attended First Baptist Church in Calgary and was a former office administrator for Dr. Harold Mitton at the church.



I'm not one to brag about my financial skills, but my credit card company calls me almost every day to tell me that my balance is outstanding.

A woman asked her three-year-old granddaughter what she liked to eat.

"Nuts," she replied.

"Great!" said Grandma. "What kind? Pecans? Walnuts? Peanuts?"

"Donuts."

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

The youth have been meeting for a video study on creation. The series looks at our understanding of what God as Creator means, and how that affects how we can look at our world and ourselves as creative beings.

Pastor Chris: "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, 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, 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 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

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.



The games get pretty crazy at English teachers' parties.

The minister was sick and a pastor noted for his never-ending sermons agreed to fill in. When he stood up in the pulpit, he was annoyed to find only 10 worshippers present, including the choir. Afterward, he complained to the sexton. "That was a very small turnout," he said. "Weren't they informed that I was coming?" "No," replied the sexton, "but word must have leaked out!"

A woman accompanied her husband when he went for his annual checkup. While the patient was getting dressed, the doctor came out and said to his wife, "I don't like the way he looks."

"Neither do I," she said. "But he's handy around the house."