

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of May 1, 2022

The story of Israel is the story of refugees seeking a new home. As many have observed, Jesus became a refugee himself when his parents fled the murderous intentions of King Herod. On a more abstract level, perhaps we all sense that we've been cast out of Eden and are homeless until we meet Jesus. Scripture urges us repeatedly to welcome and care for people who come to us from other places – "the alien".

The current refugee situation globally is severe. Climate change is impacting food security and making ancestral homes uninhabitable. Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq added to the numbers of refugees created regularly from Sudan, Congo, and Burma among others. Then the Syrian civil war escalated. The destruction and murder we are witnessing in Ukraine was carried out across Syrian thoroughly, by the same nation. Millions of Syrians still live in tent cities and slums, with no homes to return to even if they didn't fear torture or death. And now the invasion of Ukraine has added millions more.



When we visited Lebanon, we saw firsthand how a nation of 4 million was hosting 1.5 million refugees. For Canada to act on the same level, we would have to welcome around 10 million refugees. We accept a few thousand every year. Our partners in Lebanon asked us to do what we can to help with the refugee crisis.

A few years ago, a Syrian refugee family, new to Canada, came to us looking for help. Their son and his family had been trapped, living in a tent, in the mountains in Lebanon, for years. They asked if we might be able to help get their son to Regina. Then, when we visited Lebanon in 2019, a few of us got to meet the son and his family. Further on in this letter, we've shared more information about the family and pictures of Raheed, his wife Maha, and their children.

We've recently received word that, after years of waiting, the family should be on their way any day now. This is an opportunity for us to be part of a profoundly joyful moment, of welcoming the lost, home. Please be in prayer and if there is something you might be able to give or share, let us know. (See list of needs on p. 3.)

Thank you for doing your part to make this congregation a warm, generous, and safe place.

With love,

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

Pastor Joel

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Kristofer Sotropa, grandson of Vic and Irene Sotropa. After a long struggle with brain cancer, Kristofer passed away peacefully on Friday, April 22nd. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Birth Announcement

Connor and Danielle Gorman welcomed a baby girl, Scottlyn Mae, into their family on April 14, 2022. Scottlyn is a little sister to Grayson, who is 16 months old. Congratulations to the proud grandparents, Peter and Lorna Gorman.



Music Ministry Update

We're excited to let you know that on May 8th, Tresor Otshudi will be visiting us as our candidate for the Minister of Music position. You may recall that Tresor visited us and worked with the choir earlier this year.

A bit about Tresor: He is a Vancouver resident, but was born in Congo, grew up in France, and has spent some years in Toronto. He recently completed a BA in Music at Trinity Western University, and is currently working on a MA in Music and Worship at Liberty University.

Tresor has been a worship leader at a few different churches, including West Point Grey, a CBWC¹ church. He leads a community gospel choir called Gloria Dei, enjoys composing music, and provides individual music lessons. We're happy to bring him here as our candidate and we hope you take this opportunity to get to know him. We will hear from Tresor a bit in the service and you'll have a chance to meet him afterward. If you have any questions, please talk to Brenda Ziolkowski, Amy Warren, Laureen Snook or Joel Russell-MacLean.

—Music Committee

¹Canadian Baptists of Western Canada

Church Picnic – Sunday, June 19th

Once again, we can look forward to meeting together for a time of fellowship, games, music, food, and prizes! The picnic will be held on Willow Island from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

- Salad and dessert potluck
- Hamburgers, hotdogs, and beverages provided
- Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, plates and flatware
- Freewill offering to defray costs
- All ages welcome
- Wheelchair access available – please contact the church to make arrangements.



Refugee Family Update

We are getting closer and closer to being able to welcome the Alhusain family – Raheed, Maha, Yamin (6), Emirate (5) and Amir (3), to Regina, the Syrian family that some of us have already met! The whole family has gone through the last steps, including interviews and medical appointments. They are just waiting for Visas and plane tickets! This can be a very quick turnaround – it may be only a couple of weeks until they get here!

Some furniture has been donated for the family already. (The library is being as a temporary storage space.) The following items are still needed:

- Beds – 1 queen/king and 3 single (possibly can get by with 2 smaller kids beds)
- Linens
- Dressers
- Coffee table
- Kids clothes

If you are able to donate any of these items, please call the church at (306) 359-1450 or send an email to [the church](#).

It would be great to have a lively church presence at the airport, when the family arrives. (Some of us have been present for a few family reunions at the airport and they have, without a doubt, been emotional and dramatic examples of love and togetherness after trauma and separation – glimpses of what it means to be the larger family of God on earth.)

We will keep the congregation updated as we get nearer to the family's arrival. We would like to gather a list of names that can be called on to meet the family at the airport, and respond to needs that arise throughout the summer. If you are interested, contact anyone on the Missions Commission: Bryan/Carmen Orthner, Barb Ziolkowski, Heather Russell-MacLean (until May 15th).

Details will be coming soon about a new fund that will be set up to continue to sponsor refugee families to come to Regina. This will allow our congregation to be an ongoing practical support for those fleeing war, reuniting with loved ones, and trying to get their lives back on track after trauma and displacement.



The outdoor pictures that you see here are from January, when they had no heat and the area was covered in snow. Shortly after these pictures were taken, their dwelling collapsed – a stark contrast to our warm homes in the winter! Please keep the family in your prayers.



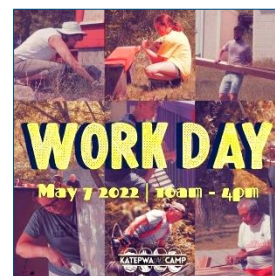
—Missions Commission

First Baptist Church Weekend Retreat – September 16-18

Mark your calendars now for our 2022 Fall Retreat at Katepwa Lake Camp. This is a church-wide retreat for all ages. The weekend will include sessions for teaching, reflection, and worship. As well there will be free time and opportunity for deepening our friendships, and finding some rest and renewal. *Everyone* is welcome!

Katepwa Lake Camp Work Day – Saturday, May 7th

May 7th, from 10 am to 4 pm, will be our spring work day. Our camp needs a lot of year-round upkeep, and we're hoping you'll join us as we prep our facilities for the 2022 season! There will be a job for everyone, regardless of your skill level. To sign up, please email [the camp](#) or contact Rosemary Ward. See you there!



Vivace Concert – May 7th

The Vivace Choral Ensemble will present “Spring Reflections” on May 7th, at 7:00 pm, in the sanctuary. Guest musicians are Mark and Paul Anderson, Fred Foerster, Kevin Kasha, Rob Nelson, and Mariel Tuazon. Tickets are \$15. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the [Vivace website](#).

Concert: “Forêt, Fleur et Faune” – June 5th

Alysse Sailor-Tedford, soprano, is a recent music honours graduate (Voice Major) of Wilfred Laurier University. Alysse will be sharing an inspiration evening of vocal selections, accompanied by pianist Maria Fuller and flutist Marie-Noelle Berthelet. Alysse is Jack Sailor’s daughter. The concert will be held in our sanctuary at 7:30 pm. Free will offering.

COVID Measures

We are still waiting for COVID to slow down further. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to ask people to wear a mask on Sunday mornings and in larger groups. We will continue to evaluate this week by week.

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 are in-person classes for children up to Grade 6 during our 11 am worship service. The children are currently working through the Lent and Easter Season stories. For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth Ministry

The youth meet regularly and are enjoying being able to meet in person once again. For more information about our youth program, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adult Ministries

Learning for Life (L4L): Annabel Robinson series on "The Gospel of John" was concluded on Sunday, May 1st. L4L will be taking a break until the fall.

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 Holtlander, 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 a recent Sunday's sermon. Simply dial (306) 992-1912 (toll-free within the Regina area) on a landline phone or cell phone. This number takes you straight to the sermon recording.

The doctor's last patient of the day asks: "Tell me, doctor, what is the best exercise to lose weight?"

"I advise you to move your head first to the right, then to the left."

"How many times?"

"Every time someone offers you something to eat."

Absolutely nothing in the world is friendlier than a wet dog.



Tithes and Offerings

Whether you are attending Sunday services 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 a credit or debit card to make a donation from our website. (*The church is charged a small processing fee for each 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*)
 - Use a credit card or PayPal via **CanadaHelps** (*a 4% fee 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.



You know you're not a kid anymore when...

- Driving a car doesn't always sound like fun
- You don't buy a new sports car because of the insurance premiums
- You laugh at your parents' jokes
- You actually buy scarves, gloves, and sunscreen
- The only thing in your cereal box is cereal.

What does it mean when you find a bear with a wet nose?
It means you're too close to the bear.