

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of May 15, 2022

“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” *1 Peter 2:10*

Each local church is a visible part of God’s new people. That invisible group is made up of people of all kinds, languages, cultures, and from across time; all of us are, “called out of darkness into God’s marvellous light.” We know we did not earn our way into the church. It is a gift, a sign of God’s mercy. But maybe it doesn’t always feel like a gift!



We have a truism that says, “You get out what you put in.” You may have experienced something like that in your work. What are we observing when we say that? At first it sounds like a simple exchange.

On one half of the ledger, we would have something like time + energy + material contributions; on the other half, we would have the reward we receive – things like the pleasure of work, the pride of accomplishment, support from others in our need, or a sense of being loved and belonging. If this is the case, the more we put in, the more we get out. I wonder, though, if what is actually happening is a little different.

Perhaps what can happen is that we are changed bit by bit through our shared work and prayer. I wonder if the more we put in, the greater the chance that we recognize the abundance of the grace that surrounds us. I wonder if the more we put in, the more God can grow our heart. And then we begin to feel that even though we’ve put in so much, it seems like we’ve received so much back. Sometimes we even realize that it feels like we have received more in return.

That is what being part of this congregation means to me.

I hope and pray that it is and will be your experience as well. May God bless you richly through the body of Christ, his church.

“Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart.” *1 Peter 1:22-23*

Yours, with love and affection,

Pastor Joel

Joel's Sabbatical: May 16 to the September 6, 2022

Some of you may be wondering just how things are going to go around here during my sabbatical and who will be responsible for what. The following are some of the things that have been put in place.

A preaching schedule has been arranged with people from within the church and a few well known and beloved people from outside.

In regards to pastoral care, there are a number of people from within the church who have offered to help if multiple needs arise in a short period. Chris and Norma will also continue to help with Sunday services and pastoral care.

Rev. Kayely Rich will be working full time through the summer. She brings counselling experience and leadership gifts to the ministry role she is taking on during my absence. The board is also available when needs or questions arise. We've listed their names below.

As I look back on these past two years of COVID, it has been a time of many challenges. I am aware of ways I've fallen short, such as keeping up with visiting and phoning. Often, out of necessity, I have focused primarily on moments of crisis. For these things, I am sorry and I ask for your forgiveness.

For my part, I will miss you and pray for you. Thank you for letting me spend time with just my family. I look forward to returning in the fall. We have active ministries that I'm excited to hear about – among refugees, the homeless, people who attended camp. We have a fall retreat being planned, our staff search to continue, and, quite likely, a return to sharing meals and coffee times together again. In the end, it is the return to friends that I will look forward to most of all.

May God bless you and keep you.

—Pastor Joel

Church Board:

Ron Phillips – Chair

Barry Lyons

Kevin Rich – Treasurer

Adija Pusi

Brenda Ziolkowski – Secretary

Heather Russell-MacLean

Derrick Bellows

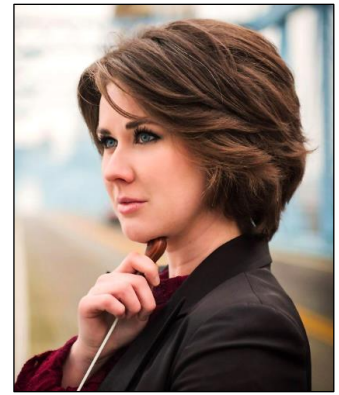
Tiffany Stafford-Lai

Roger Bellows

Thank You, Maria!

This past Sunday, May 15th, was Maria's last Sunday with us as our interim Music Pastor. Thank you, Maria, for your musical excellence, your joyous spirit, and your ready smile. Thank you for caring for us, and letting us care for you and be your church family. We hope we will see you again! And may God be with you wherever life takes you.

—Ron Phillips, on behalf of the church board & congregation.



Saturday Bag Lunches

First Baptist has been hosting downtown bagged lunches every Saturday in 2022. Each week, from 40 to 100 people come and pick up a lunch for their household. Churches from across our city have signed up and have been turns preparing and serving these lunches: United, Catholic, Baptist, and more. These have been relaxed, good times of doing something meaningful together.

It is our turn to make and prepare the meal on June 25th. We are looking for your help with shopping, preparing the lunch, set up, serving and clean up. This is usually a commitment from approximately 10 am to 1:30 pm. We will need 6 to 8 people for this.

If you are able to help in this way, please contact Barb Ziolkowski or Louise Krueger, email the church at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net, or call the church office at (306) 359-1450.



There are a few Saturdays in July and August where no other church has stepped forward. If we have volunteers who are willing and able, we could sign up for one or two of those dates.

As well, we are looking for a few who might be willing to be responsible to unlock the building, welcome and orientate the volunteers, and lock up once the lunch is over. Barb and Louise have hardly missed a Saturday. If you might consider spelling them off, please contact them or the church. (See above.)

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. Sign-up sheets will be available in the church foyer in the near future. For more information, see [our website](#).

Congregational Meeting – May 29th

Please note that a special, brief Congregational meeting will be held May 29, 2022, following morning worship service, to consider the following motion:

“We, the congregation of First Baptist Church Regina, request that Christopher Senger be recognized as a Licensed Minister by his Regional Advisory Group and Ministerial Credentials Committee of the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada (CBWC), and that he fulfill all CBWC requirements and appear before the Ordination Examining Council within three years, to be recognized as ordained to the gospel ministry.”

If you have any questions, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#) or [Ron Phillips](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Notable Music Dates Coming Up

“Forêt, Fleur et Faune” – Sunday, June 5th, 7:30 pm

Alysse Sailor-Tedford, soprano, is a recent music honours graduate (Voice Major) of Wilfred Laurier University. Alysse will be sharing an inspirational 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. Free will offering. Everyone is welcome!

“Sing On!” – Friday, June 3rd, 7:30 pm

This concert will be presented by the Cantate Youth Choirs, directed by Deborah Nelson, and accompanied by Marlene Hinz. Featured will be the Cantate Senior and Apprentice Choirs and guest musicians. The concert will be held in our sanctuary. Free will offering. Everyone is welcome!



The mother of a 7-year-girl was trying to get her to eat more vegetables.

Mother: Do you think you could eat green beans?"

Daughter: "No," she said. "I haven't liked green beans since the accident."

Mother: "What accident?"

Daughter: "When I accidentally ate a green bean."

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): The next L4L class will be in 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 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



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.

COVID Measures

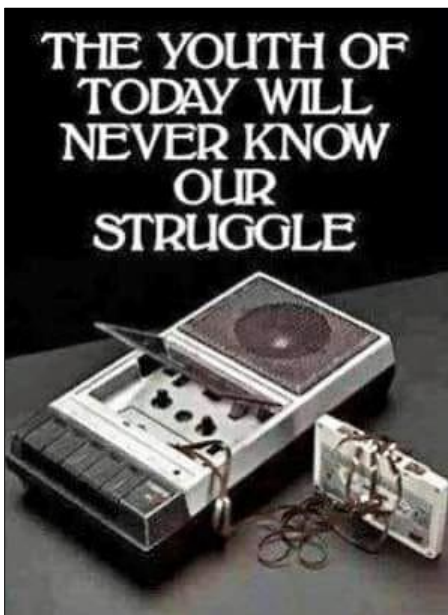
We are still waiting for COVID to slow down further. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to ask people to wear a mask on Sunday mornings and in larger groups. We will continue to evaluate this week by week.

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.



- Q. How many bureaucrats does it take to change a light bulb?
- A. Two. One to assure us that everything possible is being done while the other screws the bulb into a water faucet.
- Q. How many economists does it take to change a light bulb?
- A. How many did it take this time last year?
- Q. How many real estate agents does it take to change a light bulb?
- A. Ten. But we'll accept eight.