

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of May 8, 2022

Easter is a celebration of new life and rebirth. During Easter we also touch Mother's Day and remember with gratitude her gift to us of life, care, and sustenance.

By sin or tragedy, some live without a mother's nurture. And yet, by God's grace, they can find healing and end up thriving in life. However, we don't conclude from the success of these individuals that mothers are unnecessary.

How vital is the church? It is an ancient teaching that she is our mother. We may find some who thrive as believers seemingly apart from the church, but this is not the norm.

In Calvin's words, "There is no other means of entering into life unless she conceive us in the womb and give us birth, unless she nourish us at her breasts, and, in short, keep us under her charge and government."



*First Baptist Church Regina
90th Anniversary, 1981*



First Baptist Church Congregation, 2015

I am grateful for this congregation, for the care it provides, for the growth it nurtures, for the new Christians it births, and for the life it sustains. Let us continue to prayerfully work to be a means of grace in each other's lives.

With love,

Pastor Joel

“Loved Ones and Leaving” – An Evening of Remembrance for Kristofer Sotropa

This gathering is primarily meant for the congregation of First Baptist Regina and any family and friends of Kristofer who wish to take part. It will be held on Tuesday, May 10th, at 7 pm. The immediate family is planning a few personal times of remembrance in BC and elsewhere. The service will be in person and on Zoom. A simple reception will follow. [Join Kristofer Sotropa Service.](#)

Our Condolences



Our condolences and prayers go out to family and friends of Carol Oxelgren who passed away on May 4, 2022. Carol lived a good life, full of loving service and care for others. She was a woman of faith, a lifelong member of First Baptist Regina, and a graduate of the Baptist Leadership Training School. She was strong and always managed to face things with a laugh. She was perceptive and sharp and enjoyed every moment with family and friends. She goes now to her eternal rest in the care of her Good Shepherd.

A funeral will be held on Friday, May 13th, at 1 pm, at First Baptist Church Regina, with a reception to follow. The service will be in person and on Zoom. [Join Carol Oxelgren service.](#)

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.



Church Kitchen Cleaning Bee – Saturday, May 14th



All are welcome to come and help freshen our kitchen for events happening in the coming months. Come and enjoy the fellowship as we work together. We will have fun—and help our church community too.

Please wear a mask. If you are able to join in, please contact Sue Bornowsky or call the church at (359)-1450.

Concert: “Forêt, Fleur et Faune” – Sunday, 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.

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.



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!

Cost: \$50/person (suggested), no cost for young children

To celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, a woman gave her parents tickets to a lavish performance of classical ballet. It was the first time they had been to the opera. The next day, the daughter asked them for their impressions.

“Oh! It was wonderful,” her father replied. “They were so graceful and kind. When they saw your mother asleep in her seat, they danced on tip-toe so as not to wake her up.”

The irate driver waved his speeding ticket in the air at the police officer who’d just written him up.

“What am I supposed to do with this?” the man yelled.

“Hold onto it,” the cop replied. “When you’ve collected four, you get a bicycle.”



Music Ministry Update

We are sorry to report that Trésor Otshudi will not be coming this weekend as planned, and has withdrawn his application for the time being. Our Board Chair, Ron Phillips, and I will be available for questions following the morning service (May 8th). The search committee (Laureen Snook, Brenda Ziolkowski, Joel Russell-MacLean, and Amy Warren) is disappointed, but trusting that God will provide.

I know that this news alone could be a source of discouragement. We had hoped to have a new staff member in place after a one year interim period following John's retirement, and this now seems unlikely. As well, with less staff, many of us may have either received less care from the church or have been called upon to help out with greater frequency. COVID has increased the needs in ministry while also reducing our capacity to respond easily. Richard's understandable but unexpected departure after John's retirement has presented a further challenge.

However, God has provided for us through two years of global, epochal change. As COVID moves from pandemic to endemic (that is, a part of life), we have been increasing our capacity on Sundays. More people are coming in person on Sundays. More children and youth are coming out. Choir has continued and we held our Easter Concert. We are involved in outreach in a number of ways. We have good reason to continue to work and pray to sustain our ministries, our care for one another, and to continue our search for more staff.

—Pastor Joel

Finances – 1st Quarter of 2022

A budget of \$447.1K was approved for 2022 at the 2021 Fall Business Meeting.

To the end of March, our revenue is around 3% below our YTD budget. Offerings to the end of March are 9% below what was budgeted. However, we have kept our expenses to about 10% below YTD budget, resulting in a current surplus of \$7.9K (spending less than our income). We continue to pay back the loan from our Organ Fund.

Approved Operating Budget for 2022: \$ 447.1K

	Actual	YTD Budget
Operating Revenue to end of March 2022:	\$ 108.9K	\$ 111.8K
Operating Expenses to end of March 2022:	\$ 101.0K	\$ 111.8K
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 119.8K	
(Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)		
Organ Fund Loan	\$ 180.1K	
CEBA (CRA) Loan	\$ 40.0K	
(\$30K to be paid back by end of 2022)		

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 now 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 Austring-Winter or Lauren Snook, 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 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.



A mother waits for her son excitedly on the last day of the term.

"At last you're home. Where's your report card?"

"I haven't got it."

"Why not?"

"I lent it to Lenny."

"And why does he need it?"

"He wants to scare his parents with it."

A 9-year-old walks in on her mother who is getting ready for work.

Daughter: "What are you doing?"

Mother: "Putting on my wrinkle cream."

Daughter: "Oh. I thought they were natural."