

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Weeks of October 2 & 9, 2022

Just over 30 people gathered at Katepwa Lake Camp the weekend of September 18-20 for the first retreat since the pandemic. There was plenty of time for games, walks and resting, together or alone. We enjoyed good meals and times of singing and praying together. The weather was lovely and the valley as beautiful as ever.



The children joined Cheryl and Angeline on a prayer hunt around the camp. Rev. David Schuchart from Northview Community Church, led the rest through a study on how the Psalms help us move through disorientation to a new orientation. David was an excellent teacher, and he and his wife Sarah were active in all the fellowship.

Our teens took charge of cleaning dishes after the meals, doing much of the work themselves. Angeline brought her fiddle along and help lead us in worship. These young people have grown up attending fall church retreats and summer camps at Katepwa Lake, and it shows. For those young people who make it a priority, the camp means faith, friends, and the church as a family. A new younger generation of children is beginning to make those same connections.



In the other direction of time and aging, the camp is a reminder of the faithfulness of all the generations that have cared for the church and the camp. For over 130 years, so many at First Baptist have made growing together in faith a priority, by setting aside time and money to work, rest, and worship together. It is a sacrifice to give up a whole weekend. It is also a gift. Thank you!

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "M. M. L." or similar, written in a cursive style.

Pastor Joel

Fall 2022 Sermon Series – Ezra and Nehemiah

From now until Advent, we will be looking at the Old Testament Books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Here is some background information on these two books. (See maps on page 4.)

Time Line

This time line will help you understand the context of the exile and restoration and the events described in Ezra and Nehemiah with related maps.

900 - 612 BC **The Neo-Assyrian Empire**

721 BC The fall of Israel, its end as a nation, the deportation of its people, and the resettlement of people from other conquered regions. Found in 2 Kings 17.

701 BC Assyria invades Judah but Jerusalem is not taken. Found in 2 Kings 18-19, and Isaiah 36-37.

612 BC Nineveh is sacked by armies led by Babylon and Medes

586 BC The fall of Jerusalem to Babylon, the destruction of the temple, the city and the walls, and the deportation of its people. Found in 2 Kings 24-25, and Jeremiah 37-43.

550 - 330 BC **The Persian (or Achaemenid) Empire**

539 BC The fall of Babylon; King Cyrus' blessing for the exiles to return and rebuild

559 - 530 BC King Cyrus - The return of exiles, perhaps with Sheshbazzar

530 - 522 BC King Cambyses II

522 - 486 BC King Darius - The Return of exiles with Zerubbabel and Jeshua, Haggai and Zechariah

485 - 465 BC King Xerxes - (perhaps King Ahasuerus in Esther)

465 - 424 King Artaxerxes - The return of exiles with Ezra and Nehemiah

330 BC **End of the Persian Empire** – conquered by Alexander the Great (Greek king)

Background Notes on Ezra and Nehemiah

Ezra and Nehemiah were originally treated as one "book." There are three distinct sections covering a long period of time, from around 530 to 424 BC.

Section One – Ezra 1 - 6

These chapters appear to cover two different periods when exiles returned to Judah. Chapter 1 covers King Cyrus' proclamation encouraging the return of exiles and the offer to pay for the rebuilding and restoration of worship (Persians did this for several groups exiled by Assyria and Babylon). Chapters 2 to 6 record the return of exiles with Zerubbabel and Jeshua during the reign of King Darius, and the efforts to rebuild the temple.

However, note that Ezra chapter 4 summarizes local threats and interference over a period of 100 years and through the reign of five Persian Kings (from Cyrus to Artaxerxes). If you read quickly from chapter 3 to 5, it is easy to miss that such a long time is being covered before, in chapter 5, the story goes back to the time of King Darius.

Section Two – Ezra 7 - 10

Ezra leads the return of a group of exiles during the reign of Artaxerxes.

Section Three – Nehemiah 1 - 14

Nehemiah takes a leave from his high ranking position before King Artaxerxes in order to help rebuild Jerusalem and to lead the people.

Some Further Observations

Ezra and Nehemiah at first seem like a straightforward story, with one event following another. But reading them through like this might be misleading. As you can see from the time line, these books cover about 100 years of activity, a succession of kings, and several generations of exiles.

As well, parts of Ezra and Nehemiah seem like bureaucratic government reports. Government edicts and commissions dominate each section. The official documents are included. The books then carefully record how these orders were fulfilled, by whom, how much was spent, what was purchased, who helped, and who resisted. The government letters seem authentic and parts of Ezra and Nehemiah might be reports they submitted to the government. Genealogies connected to inherited occupations and areas of residence are also meticulously recorded for posterity.

There appears to be more than one author. We find Ezra writing in the first person (“I”), Nehemiah writing in the first person, and sometimes both are written about as if by someone else.

The order of the books doesn’t seem to be chronological. Nehemiah 8-10 appear to be part of the story found in Ezra 9-10, while Nehemiah 11-12 fit better following the events of Nehemiah 6. Nehemiah 7:6-73 is a nearly exact copy of Ezra 2:1-3.1. An indefinite period of time appears to have passed between the events of Nehemiah 12 and 13, but it isn’t clear.

Finally, Ezra 10 and Nehemiah 13 are very strange conclusions to all these great stories of hard work, faith, and endurance.

A final author appears to have collected all these documents and stories and, with Spirit-inspired purpose, created a unified book. What do you think that purpose is? What lessons are we meant to learn from these stories? How should God’s people feel about these pagan kings and their global empires? What does it mean to return to the city of God? What all has to be rebuilt? What does purity look like? Can their vision ever succeed? Take some time to read these books again, along with Haggai and Zechariah (for a real challenge!) Let me know what you discover!

Ladies Fellowship Breakfast – Saturday, October 15th

Time: Saturday, October 15th, 9:30 am

Place: Nicky's Café, 1005 8th Avenue, Regina

The purpose of this gathering is simply to provide an opportunity for fellowship. The theme for this meeting will be "Thankfulness." To sign up, or if you require transportation, please contact Julie Rich, Laurie McPherson, or Debby Nelson, [email the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

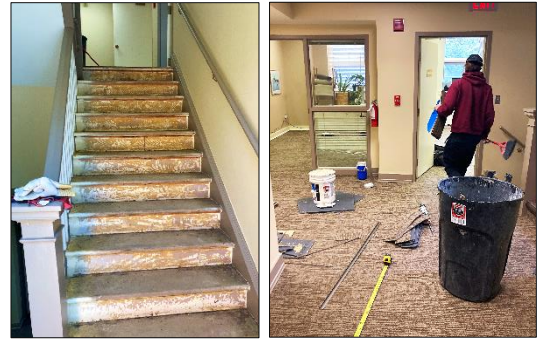
Property Update

A number of projects have been completed in recent weeks.



In the Youth Centre, YFC and First Baptist replaced the floor and re-covered the walls.

In our main building, the flooring in the stairs, hallway, and main floor rooms were getting worn and tattered. They were replaced last week and look great.



Thanks to those who managed these projects and to those who helped move things around to accommodate the work.

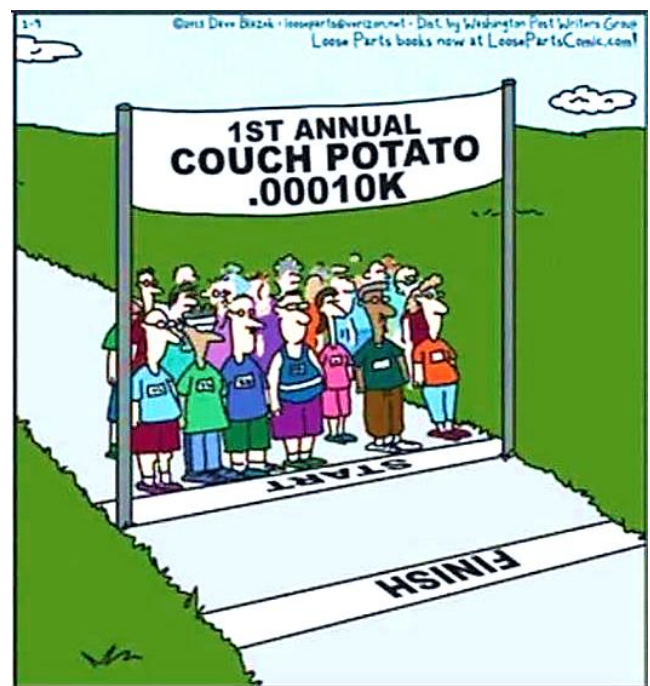
A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank. The rabbit says, "I believe that I am a 'type O.'"

Grandfather to grandson: Here's a picture of your great-grandma and great grandpa. Do you think I look like them?

Grandson: Not yet.

Two men are hiking through the woods when one of them cries out, "Snake! Run!" His companion laughs at him. "Oh, relax. It's only a baby," he says. "Don't you hear the rattle?"

Happiness is best kept when given away.



Lebanon Fundraiser Update

Over the past several years, our church has raised thousands of dollars to help out our friends and partners in Lebanon. This year has been no exception, with over \$6,000 raised already. We are going to end this year's fundraising effort on the Thanksgiving Weekend. Not that you can't continue to donate, and we will always continue to pray and be thinking of those we know and love in Lebanon, but we will be ending our 2022 focused effort to raise funds this coming week.



The Botros family(l-r): Timothy, Almess, Emad, Nathaniel.

With personal connections to people in Beirut (not least, the members of the Alhusain family still in the refugee camp in the Beqaa Valley), it makes the news that comes out of that part of the world all the more heart wrenching. Thank you to everyone who has donated and prayed. Here are some ways to give:

1. Online with a credit card: <https://www.givetogo.org/team/FBCRegina>
2. Mail, or drop off, your donation to First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina SK S4P 0S4. (Please do not leave cash in the mailbox.) If you require an in-person pick up, call the church at (306) 359-1450.
 - Make cheques out to "CBM"
 - Note "SENT Lebanon" in the memo line or on the envelope
3. For information about other ways to give, such as by monthly automatic donation, please call Barb Keys at CBM at 1 (905) 821-3533.

Farewell, Elizabeth

By Jack Mitchell

Farewell, Elizabeth. One throne
Endures forever: go
And greet the monarch who alone
Can all your virtue know.

As Alfred's sword once taught his land
Never to bow or yield,
So simple patience, in your hand,
Became your people's shield.

With patience now we must endure
A sadness long foreseen,
Relieved at least to be so sure
God's saved you, dearest Queen.

What's happening at First?

Morning Prayer

[Morning Prayer](#) will resume on September 6th. 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

The Godly Play and Oasis classes, for children aged 3 to grade 6, have resumed. For more information, please contact Pastor Cheryl [by email](#) or by calling the church at (306) 359-1450.

Youth Ministry

The youth meet weekly for various activities. For more information about our youth program, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adult Ministries

Reading through the Bible: This group, facilitated by Norma Holtslander, resumed meeting on September 14th, and will be reading from James to Revelation. The group meets every Wednesday, on Zoom, at 10:00 am. (Please note the new starting time.) For more information, contact Norma, [email the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450. [Join Reading Through the Bible](#).

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 Astring-Winter or Lauren Snook, visit [our website](#), [email the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Learning for Life – Sunday Mornings, 9:30-10:30: Mark Anderson is teaching the class, "The Hymns we Love" in the lower hall. This class will examine and discuss a handful of the most iconic hymns of our faith. There also will be opportunity to listen to diverse sacred and secular recordings of these hymns. This is an in-person class. For more information, contact [Pastor Joel](#), go to [our website](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Learning for Life – Sunday Evenings, 7:30-9:00 pm: Axel Schoeber is leading this class on "Understanding Our Bible." This class will look at—and wrestle with—things in the Bible that puzzling and difficult to understand, while seeking to understand and apply God's Word in our lives today. The class is on Zoom. **Please note** that there will be no class on October 2nd or 9th because of holidays. For more information, go to [our website](#), call the church at (306) 359-1450, or contact [Pastor Joel](#).

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.

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 3.5% 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. *Who was the fastest runner in the race?*

A. Adam. He was first in the human race.

Q. *Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?*

A. Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

Q. *Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?*

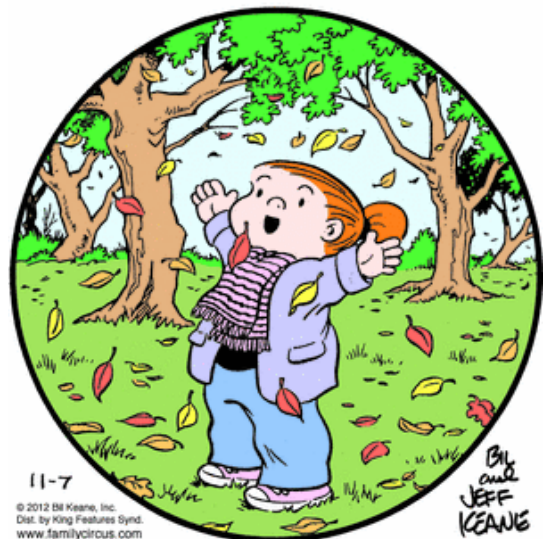
A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. How do we know they had cars in Jesus' time?

A. The Bible says the disciples were all of one Accord.

Q. *Why are atoms Catholic?*

A. Because they have mass.



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www.familycircuit.com
"All our summer shade
is falling down!"