

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Weeks of October 30 & November 6, 2022

The “Restoration Chronicles” by Lynn Austin are a series of three books dealing with the Jews in exile. The story starts around the time of the leadership of Iddo and Zechariah and carries through to the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. I have never been a fan of fiction based on Bible narratives. So often the authors misuse the Scripture, and/or run roughshod over the culture of the time. Some are even poorly written.

I reluctantly (through the push of a friend) started reading this series, expecting more of the same. However, I couldn’t put these books down. They are well written, culturally authentic, and true to Scripture. As I read the first book, I went to the books of Ezra and Nehemiah and did a lot of checking, trying to pinpoint areas that Austin “goofed.” Never found them.

Book 1: “Return to me”

After years of exile in Babylon, faithful Jews Iddo and Zechariah are among the first to return to Jerusalem. After the arduous journey, they—and the women they love—struggle to rebuild their lives in obedience to the God who beckons them home.

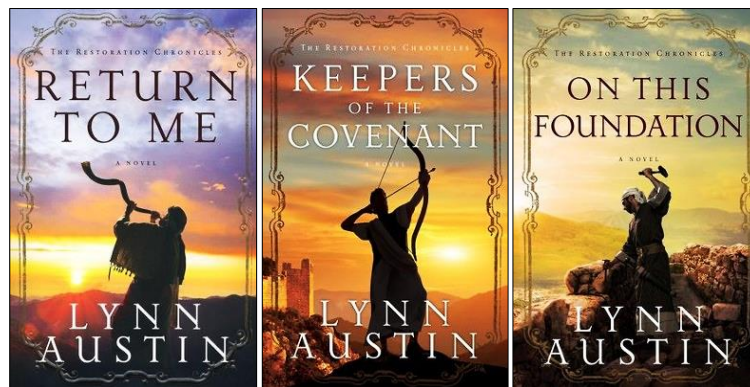
Book 2: “Keepers of the Covenant”

The lives of the exiles left in Babylon are thrown into despair when a new decree calls for the annihilation of all Jews throughout the empire. In this moment, Ezra, a brilliant Jewish scholar, is called upon to deliver his people to Jerusalem, but the fight to keep God’s law is never easy.

Book 3: “On This Foundation”

When news that the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire, Nehemiah seeks God’s guidance. After fasting and prayer, he’s given leave to travel to Jerusalem and rebuild the city wall, not anticipating all the dangers that await him on his arrival.

Capturing the re-building of the wall of the city through the eyes of a number of characters, this third book is a strong exploration of faith in the midst of oppression and



hope. Hope that, in spite of appearances, the gracious hand of God is upon those who believe.

In short, I would highly recommend these books as

a means of learning more about Ezra and Nehemiah and what it was like to live as a Jew in that place and time.

—Norma

November Congregational Meeting

Our fall business meeting will be on Sunday, November 13th, following the morning worship service. It will be held in the lower hall. Lunch will be provided.

This is a very important meeting, so please make a point of attending. The proposed budget for 2023 and other related materials are available on the church website and in the church foyer. Please take the time to read over the proposed budget and the agenda.



Lebanon Fundraiser – Final Total



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

The final total of donations received for the Lebanon fundraiser was \$12,650. This will be matched with \$10,000 from our Missions budget, adding up to a total of \$22,650. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed so generously! For more information about our Lebanon partnership, how to give, and where your gift goes, see [our website](#).

This concludes our focused effort to raise funds for this cause, although, as you are probably aware, you may make a donation at any time of the year. We will also continue to pray and be thinking of those we know and love in Lebanon, as they continue to cope with the difficult and challenging conditions in that nation.

Community Events

Are you interested in learning about events going on in our community, such as concerts, live theatre plays, and fundraisers? Check out our main bulletin board to learn about upcoming events. The board is located on the lower level. From the lower hall, take the door to the right (west) of the kitchen into the hallway, and you will see the bulletin board on your lefthand side.



Grief Share Support Group

Living Springs Church is running a grief recovery support group that is open to all. The meetings are Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. For more information, visit the [Living Springs website](#) or call our office at (306) 359-1450.

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Alan Kelm, who passed away on September 30, 2022. Alan was son of the late Winnie Kelm.

What's happening at First?

Morning Prayer

[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

We have two classes that take place during the Sunday morning worship service, for children aged 3 to grade 6—Godly Play for the younger ones and Oasis for the older group. We also provide nursery supervision for babies and toddlers. For more information, or to talk to someone about where your child will be most comfortable, 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, is presently reading from James to Revelation. The group meets every Wednesday, on Zoom, at 10:00 am. 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 Austring-Winter or Laureen 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. 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.

