

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Weeks of December 25, 2022 & January 1, 2023

Merry Christmas!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth...from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” (John 1:1-17)

We all experience all manner of darkness throughout our lives. For thousands of years, through countless generations, believer after believer has gone through suffering of all kinds, keeping their eyes on the light that came to life at the birth of Jesus.

In the 4th century, Bishop Ambrose comforted his people. Life wasn’t easy then and it isn’t easy now. “God’s Scripture gives proof in numerous passages that (we) must undergo many disturbances in this life and also that many consolations are at hand.

“With these, a spirit of sufficient vigor and awareness of the right should overcome present discomforts and look to those things that promise everlasting joy. The consolations do indeed outweigh the discomforts, because they impart calm in present difficulties and the hope of things to come.”

Chief among our consolations in the face of our discomforts is the birth of Jesus Christ. God is with us. We are not alone. Jesus is a source of comfort and strength for all who turn to him.

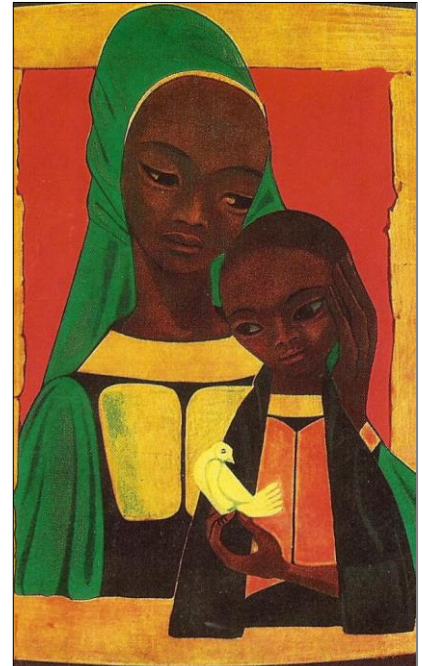
We also have the hope of things to come. God became human; divine nature was shared with humans. By becoming human, God was committing to suffering but Jesus’ suffering was not pointless. Instead, God used his suffering to transform humanity. Thanks to God becoming flesh in Jesus, our own mortal suffering is now connected to our own redemption and the beautiful world that is coming. I find that helps me with pain, grief, and disappointment. Hardship is now part of my transformation and salvation.

May Christmastime bring you real comfort and strength. May you find many consolations in your days so that you have thanksgiving to give to God. May Jesus be born within you today.

Yours with love,



Pastor Joel



Unknown Artist. Mary with Jesus is always a sign to us that Jesus is fully human. Mary is the definitive witness of Jesus’ birth and vulnerability.

Christmas Concert Well Attended

On the evening of December 11th, over 200 people gathered in person at the church with approximately 50 joining online for our annual Christmas concert. We heard the story of Christ's coming to earth as presented by the Sanctuary choir, juBELLation, and several guest musicians. We also heard special readings and sang Christmas carols together. Below are a few photos from the evening.



Photos contributed by Carmen Pauls Orthner.

Reaching out to our community – December 31st

On Saturday, December 31st, we will be helping the Saturday lunch committee host the lunch that day. We need volunteers to help out from 10:00 am until 1:30 pm, or some portion of that time period. Your role would be to help make sandwiches, assemble bagged lunches, and help serve the lunch. We will prepare 200 lunches. If you are able to help out, or for more information, please contact Barb Ziolkowski, send [an email to the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.



This is a project that everyone can take part in, including children. Why not bring the whole family, and share the joy of serving others together.

Time to Clean Out Your Closets!

Has it been awhile since you cleaned out your closets? We are looking for certain items to give out to those who come to the Saturday lunch program on December 24th and 31st. Items needed are adult-size mitts, gloves (especially men's), toques, scarves, underwear (new only, please), and toiletries such as hand soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant.



Q. How does a sheep say Merry Christmas?

A. Fleece Navidad!

Q. What do you call a bunch of chess masters bragging about their games in a hotel lobby over the holidays?

A. Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.

Q. What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

A. Orna-mints.

Q. Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?

A. Their days are numbered.

Q. What do you call a snowman with a six pack?

A: An abdominal snowman

Coming this January: In Case You Were Wondering...

Some of you have had questions about the worship service at First Baptist Regina. The structure, the hymns, the repetition – they drive some of us crazy while others really enjoy and appreciate them. For many who are new to this church, it can take some getting used to. We aren't just "doing what we've always done" because we don't like change. Actually, our services weren't always quite as structured as they are at present.

Furthermore, we aren't alone in going this way. There are young, growing evangelical congregations across North America that are choosing to change to a more structured service. Starting in January, we will take just a few minutes at the start of *A Time for Friends* to see if we can make any sense of it. Each Sunday, we'll pick one aspect of this topic and chat about it briefly. For some, this might result in the services have more of an impact on them. For others, it might be helpful to understand a bit more about the "whys."

Spiritual Formation Small Group Beginning in January

When: Tuesday evenings from January 10th to April 4th (no meeting February 21st)

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: At the church, in person

The book, *Sensible Shoes*, by Sharon Garlough Brown, follows the stories of four women as they are drawn into a spiritual formation journey. The reader is invited to join with them. "The sacred journey is a pilgrimage for those who are thirsty for more of God. This journey is for all those who are dissatisfied with living on the surface and who want to travel deeper into God's heart. We invite you to come and explore spiritual disciplines as we seek to create sacred space for God." (p. 34).

Over 12 weeks, we will have times of guided discussion and will practice the spiritual disciplines for ourselves. Join us on a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation. Questions? Ask [Pastor Cheryl](#) or [Pastor Kayely](#) or call the church at (306) 359-1450. To sign up, please click here: [Sensible Shoes sign-up form](#). (Please indicate if you require childcare).

Offering Envelopes

If you have used offering envelopes in the past year, your 2023 envelopes have been printed and are in your mail slot. If you did not use offering envelopes last year, but would like to start using them, please leave a message with the church office by calling (306) 359-1450 or by sending [an email to the church](#). Please note that you do not need envelopes to receive a charitable donation receipt for your offerings. Regardless of your method of giving, you will receive a tax receipt for it, as long as your name is indicated on your donation.

What's happening at First?

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, please contact Pastor Cheryl [by email](#) or by calling the church at (306) 359-1450.

Youth Ministry

The youth meet weekly for various activities. The youth are taking a break until the new year. For more information about our youth program, please contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adult Ministries

Morning Prayer: This group will take a break from December 26th to 29th and resume on January 2nd. Join us Monday to Thursday at 7:15 am to begin your day with scripture and prayer, via Zoom. For more information, visit [our website](#). [Join morning prayer](#).

Reading through the Bible: This group is taking a break over Christmas and will resume on January 11, 2023. For more information, contact Norma Holtslander, [email the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450.

Noon Prayer: This group will take a break on December 28th. Join others every Wednesday at 12:30 pm for a short time of scripture and prayer. In person, in the main office, or over Zoom. If coming in person, please use the Lorne Street entryway. For more information, visit [our website](#), or contact [Pastor Joel](#). [Join Wednesday noon prayer](#).

Voice: A small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively conversation. This group is taking a break over Christmas and will resume early in the new year. For more information, contact Bonnie Austrang-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: This group will take a break from December 25th to January 1st, and will resume on January 8th. Annabel Robinson is leading a class on the Gospel of Luke. This class is in person and on Zoom. For more information, contact Annabel, email [Pastor Kayely](#), go to [our website](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450. [Join "Gospel of Luke"](#).

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.



Three buildings in town were overrun by squirrels—the town hall, the hardware store, and the church. The town hall brought in some cats. But after they tore up all the files, the mayor got rid of the predators, and soon the squirrels were back. The hardware store humanely trapped them and set them free outside town. But three days later, the squirrels climbed back in. Only the church came up with an effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and made them members. Now they see them only on Christmas and Easter.