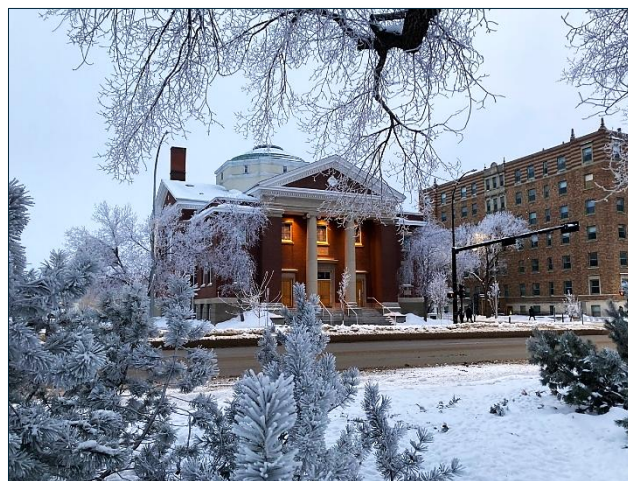


First Baptist Regina News

For the Weeks of January 22 & 29, 2023

The past few weeks, frost has painted our trees heavily and neither wind nor sun have interfered. They've granted us moments of white-arched streets lit by yellow street lamps and warm home windows; brilliant, white tree-lace against blue sky; and soft white tendrils subtly merging into soft grey clouds. Every day on my walks to church and back home, I've come across people stopped in their tracks



and staring, or walking with eyes up and and gazing this way and that, or with cameras out, trying to capture it all. There is magical quality to our city right now. I say this because, on days like these, it seems easier to remember that there is a spiritual dimension to life.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was one of several Christians in the 1800s who warned us that western culture was tearing nature in two. Nature, we have increasingly perceived as functional, mechanical, and material, while 'spirit' is perceived as immaterial and optional, a matter of personal taste. Browning says it this way:

“Natural things
And spiritual – who separates those two
In art, in morals, or the social drift,
Tears up the bond of nature and brings death...”

Browning conveyed another way, an older way, of experiencing the world and understanding nature, one that insists upon a closer union of visible and invisible, upon God's ongoing presence and activity in all life:

“Glancing on my own thin, veined wrist,—
In such a little tremor of the blood
The whole strong clamour of a vehement soul...

Earth’s crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God:
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes.”

She also perceived that nature has a trajectory, from death to redemption, and that all things were being draw up into God’s kingdom:

“... up to (eternal) significance
Through the open arms of God”

Perhaps she had Paul’s letters in mind. Paul saw all creation being lifted up with Christ on the cross and raised up to new life in Christ. This is God’s mystery made known, he explained, to gather all things in heaven and on earth into Christ. All things were made through him and all things were being redeemed through him. (*Ephesians 1:9-10; Colossians 1:15-20*)

Paul taught that the salvation of creation was connected to the salvation of our bodies:

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God... not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.” (*Romans 8:20-23*)

Since Paul preached in Athens, people have regularly scoffed at the resurrection. It has always been hard to accept. Since the 1700s, this skepticism has only intensified. People who see a spiritual dimension to physical life are (sometimes unconsciously) viewed as simple, naive, or eccentric. The idea of dying and of our spirits living on is more believable than the redemption of creation and the resurrection of our bodies. But this is, in fact, what we’ve always confessed. As John Chrysostom (a well-known church leader from 400 AD) wrote, “Let us continually say to others, and to ourselves, ‘There is a resurrection.’”

Winter may not feel magical when scraping ice from windshields or when it is minus 25... and windy... again... in March. Our bodies do not feel magical when we can’t remember things or when we get to the point where standing up takes some time

and comes with pain. But our suffering is not pointless. Thanks to Jesus' death and resurrection, suffering is redeemed. In God's hand, it brings about transformation.

“What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.

“I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

“You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you're looking forward to: total salvation.” (*1 Peter 1:3-9, The Message*)

Yours with love,



Pastor Joel

Poem quotes taken from Aurora Leigh by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, book 7.

“Great Canadian Bible Study” – January 28th

Ladies! Please join us on Saturday, January 28th, at 9:45 am for Coffee & Muffins in the church library!

At 10:00 am we will join, via Zoom, the Heartland Baptist Women (HBW) and women across Canada for the "Great Canadian Bible Study" – a study on Deborah and Jael.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Marilyn Phillips or Laurie McPherson, by [emailing the church](#) or by calling the church at (306) 359-1450. You may also join from home on Zoom. To receive the Zoom link, please register by sending an email to: hbwnews2021@gmail.com.

Prayer for Aging

All Gracious God, you have given me all I am and have,
and now I give it back to you to stand under Your will alone.
In a special way I give you these later years of my life.

I am one of those called by you into old age, a call not given to all.
not given to Jesus, not given to most in our world today.
I humbly ask you, grace me deeply in each aspect of the struggle.

As my physical eyesight weakens,
may the eyes of my faith strengthen,
that I may see you and your love in everything.
As my hearing fails, may the ears of my heart
be more attentive to the whisper of your gentle
voice,

As my legs weaken and walking becomes more
difficult,
may I walk more truly in your paths,
knowing all the while that I am held in the
embrace of your love.

As my mind becomes less alert and memory fades
may I remain peaceful in you,
aware that with you there is no need for thought
or word.

You ask simply that I be there, with you.

And should sickness overtake me and I be
confined in bed,
may I know myself as one with your Son as he
offers his life for
the salvation of the world.

Finally, as my heart slows a little after the work of the years,
may it expand in love for you and all people.
May it rest secure and grateful in your loving Heart
until I am lost in you, completely and forever. Amen.

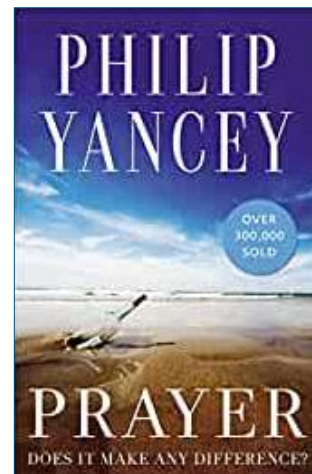
—Sr. Moya Hanlen



*Isaac enjoying a ride in
great-grandpa's walker.*

Voice – A Women’s Book Club

Voice is launching its new season on Wednesday, January 25th. The book chosen is “Prayer: Does it make any difference?” by Philip Yancy. In this powerful book on prayer, the author explores the intimate place where God and humans meet. Writing as a fellow pilgrim, he probes questions such as “Is God listening?” and “Why do answers to prayer seem so inconsistent?” In the process of tackling the tough questions, Yancy comes up with a fresh new approach to this timeless topic.



Voice is a small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively discussion. Voice meets every second Wednesday from 7 to 9 pm online, using Zoom. Women interested in joining the discussion, please contact Bonnie Austring-Winter, or Laureen Snook, [email the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450. More information may also be found on [our website](#).

Shrove Tuesday Festival, February 21st – SAVE THE DATE!

Plan to come and join in an afternoon of family-friendly activities, followed by a pancake supper. Watch for more details coming soon.

Financial Update – December 2022

Although we do not yet have our final financial numbers for 2022, it appears that December giving has once again exceeded expectations. Our annual audit is beginning in January and the financial statements will be available for the March AGM.

THANK YOU to the congregation for continuing to sacrificially support the ministries and missions of First Baptist Church.

	Actual	2022 Budget
Operating Revenue to end of December 2022:	\$ 443.4K	\$ 447.1K
Operating Expenses to end of December 2022 (est):	\$ 420.0K	\$ 447.1K
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 97.6K	
(Benevolent, Building, Organ, and Legacy Funds)		
Organ Fund Loan	\$ 173.7K	
CEBA (CRA) Loan	\$ 30.0K	

Give and Take

Item to give away: Wooden coat tree. Please send an [email to the church](#) or call the office at (306) 359-1450 if you would like this item.

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Doug Hiltz, who passed away on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Doug and his wife Edie have been long-time attendees of First Baptist. Doug sang in the choir for many years and helped out in the music ministry wherever needed. A private service will be held this week at St. Paul's Cathedral. Rev. John Nelson will officiate at the service along with Rev. Michael Sinclair of St. Paul's.

Ladies Fellowship Breakfast – Saturday, February 11th

Time: 9:30 – 11:00 am

Place: First Baptist Library

Come and have your hearts warmed! A light breakfast will be provided. If you are able to come, please contact Julie Rich, Laurie McPherson, or Debby Nelson, [email the church](#), or call the church at (306) 359-1450, so that we know how many to prepare for.

Q. Why did Beethoven get rid of his chickens?

A. All they said was "Bach, Bach, Bach..."

Q. Where did the music teacher leave her keys?

A. On the piano.

Q. What did the sign on the music shop door say?

A. "Gone chopin. Bach in a minu

Q. What did Johann Sebastian say to his son while teaching him to drive?

A. Bach it up.



Youth Ministry Update

This year, we have been alternating between Wednesday and Friday nights for our meetings. Wednesday nights have been a night to hang out, have a meal, and have a small Bible study. With a few exceptions, we have been doing this every second Wednesday, while every other Friday night we have held an event. As you can see, we have been doing some things differently as compared to before the pandemic. It has been good trying something new—such as how we have fellowship, share a meal, or reflect on scripture.



Getting in some outdoor sports while the fall weather holds out.



Mini-Golf at Victoria Square Mall

One highlight of the fall occurred on a Friday evening. For our event, we went mini-golfing at the Victoria Square Mall. We were done earlier than expected, so we spontaneously decided to play a game of “sardines,” which is where one person hides and the rest of the group have to look for them. Once you have found the person, you then stay with them until everyone is in one place. (Or...you run out of time and make everyone give up!) Addie Holtslander found a fantastic spot where no one could find him, and eventually we all had to just give up and text him to ask him to tell us where he was hiding. While the mini-golfing was meant to be the main event, it was fun to see how something unexpected, and unplanned, could actually turn into the thing that we found to be the most fun that evening. At the end of the evening, we went to Tim Horton’s and visited with each other. It was a great way to end the evening.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Please pray specifically for health for our youth, as this past fall has seen a fair bit of sickness off and on. Also, please pray that they would have peace and freedom from anxiety, as they continue to navigate what school looks like “post-pandemic.”

We are grateful for your encouragement, prayers, and support for our youth ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Chris Senger



Taking advantage of a mild January evening to enjoy some skating.

Hello from Katepwa Lake Camp (KLC)!

Winter Camp has returned at KLC for the second year in a row! We're so excited to be bringing this unique camp back to our regular programming schedule.

Winter Camp is a one-of-a-kind experience that gives kids all of the best of KLC with a new perspective



and fresh activities, such as sledding down the valley slopes, skating on the lake, camp-wide snowball wars, and more. This 3-day, 2-night experience gives campers a chance to meet new friends, see some familiar faces, and make frosty memories to last a lifetime. With bigger and better programming, more options for indoor and outdoor activities, and BIG possibilities, Winter Camp 2023 is THE place to be!

The following two camps are being offered:

Junior Camp (for children 9 to 12 years old) – February 18th-20th

Junior Teen Camp (for 12 to 15 year olds) – February 21st-23rd

To register or to find more information about winter camp, visit the KLC website at <https://www.katepwalakecamp.com/winter-camp>

Questions can be directed to myself at admin@katepwalakecamp.com or by calling the First Baptist Church office at (306) 359-1450.

Praying that your 2023 is off to a strong start! God bless!

—Payton Veltkamp

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 recording.

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 calling the church at (306) 359-1450 or [by email](#).

Youth Ministry

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

Adult Ministries

Morning Prayer: 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, facilitated by Norma Holtslander, will resume on January 11th, when they will commence with reading through the Gospels. 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](#).

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. The group meets every second Wednesday from 7 to 9 pm, using Zoom. For more information, contact Bonnie Austring-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: 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"](#).

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 (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. For further details, you may also email the church at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net or contact the treasurer at (306) 775-1497.



Q. What do snowmen call their offspring?

A. "Chill-dren."

Q. Where does a snowman get the weather report?

A. The winternet.

Q. What does a barbershop serve in winter?

A. Cold cuts!

Q. Where do snowmen love to dance?

A. "At a snow ball."