

# First Baptist Church



## **Inside the newsletter:**

Learning for Life  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Music@First  
Voice  
Prayer times  
Achievers  
Missions  
Children and Youth  
Katepwa Lake Camp  
Diaconate  
Interview  
Notes of Thanks  
Reading the Psalms  
FBC Staff  
Church Calendar  
June Calendar

“I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life  
long.” (Psalm 142.6)

Through the ups and downs of life,  
there is no better way to live than to  
live closer and closer to God. As we  
move into “common time” in the  
church calendar and drape green over  
everything, we remember that growth  
comes day by day and night by night.  
For thousands of years, praying with  
the Psalms each day was one main  
way people grew closer to God. We  
will be preaching on The Psalms this  
summer. If reading The Psalms each  
day isn’t part of how you are growing  
closer to God, give it a try!

Pastor Joel

## **Learning For Life**

**Coming in the Fall - \*Learning for Life \*- September 10 to November 19,**

**2017 - \*The Reformation\*, taught by Dr. Mark Anderson**

In 1517, the great reformer Martin Luther produced his 95 theses, which articulated his objections to perceived corruptions in the Roman Catholic church. This year Christians around the world celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that seminal occasion that forever altered the next six centuries of church history. Join us as we examine the celebrated, intriguing life of Martin Luther, and discuss the defining moments of the Reformation, including the political and social realities that allowed Luther to succeed when so many other would-be reformers paid with their lives. Most importantly, perhaps, we will contemplate together the relevance--if any--of the Reformation to the contemporary Christian church (including First Baptist, Regina), and will ask ourselves the critical question: Is Christianity in need of another Reformation?

**Tuesday Nights Summer Bible Study at the Church  
Starting June 6th, 7:00 p.m.--8:00 p.m. in the church  
library, led by Collin Carbno**

Last summer, a small group of us read and discussed approximately the first half of the Gospel of John. This summer, starting at John chapter 12, we hope to finish the book. The theme of this study is, "The Law Came by Moses but Grace and Truth Came by Jesus Christ." Jesus brought two dynamic concepts to the forefront, namely Grace and Truth. Our focus while reading through the Gospel of John is to more deeply comprehend both of these concepts.

I invite folks to read and study with us in the Gospel of John this summer. If you didn't attend last year, don't worry: each week stands somewhat alone, so feel free to come as you are able. Most of us tend to be away for some of the summer, so I purposely try to keep the weeks somewhat independent.

## **Music@First**

“Music’s final cause is none other than this that it minister solely to the honour of God and refreshment of the spirit.”

J.S. Bach

We express our heartfelt appreciation to Exaltation Singers, JuBELLation Ringers, the Sanctuary Choir, Christa Walsh, Becky Findlay, Mark Anderson, and others who enhanced our services of worship with their Gifts of music during 2016-2017. Both Exaltation and JuBELLation have finished for this term, with the choir, Christa and Mark soon taking their traditional well-deserved summer break commencing June 25- September 3.

Becky Findlay will be our summer keyboardist.

A Summer Music Ministry letter/schedule has gone out to various musicians inviting them to consider offering their Gift of Music on one or more Sundays during the summer months. A final schedule of the summer music ministry will appear in the July Newsletter, along with a preaching schedule.

“Music to me is like breathing - I do not get tired of breathing,  
I do not get tired of music.” Ray Charles

## Financial Report

The last couple of months have been difficult as we transition to our new bookkeeping service. We have been focussed on transferring authorities and managing cash flow, especially ensuring that income is properly recorded and deposited, and paying our bills.

We don't yet have detailed reports for month end but I can provide the following comments:

- Offerings have been strong and our operating account is solidly in the black. We have cash in the bank and the Operating Line of Credit is at zero.
- We have had successful fundraising for special missions projects.
- The 125th Anniversary Fundraiser is doing well. Donations are still being received and we are on target to meet or exceed our objective.

Detailed reports will be done in June and a financial update will be provided before the end of the month.



Look Mommy ---  
A 125 Camel humps.  
 $100+20+5 = 125.$

## **First Baptist Church website**

### **How About a Little Variety?**

You may think that the songs we sing on Sunday mornings are the only versions on the menu. You know – organ, piano, choir, stand-up/sit-down congregational singing. You'll be pleased to know that there's an "alternative" menu, right on the FBC website.

How about a version with 50-part symphony? Or a British boys' choir singing in a vaulted European Cathedral? Or a country-and-western version, complete with twang? How about a heavy rock version with guitar riffs, smoke and big stage presence?

It's all there you know! Just go to the First Baptist home page at <http://www.firstbaptistregina.ca>. We include video versions of each of the songs we sing for the current week. Sometimes you'll notice an extra one or two options. These "alternative" versions are for those who love a little spice in their music. Live on the adventurous side; try something that will grow your boundaries.

Where to start? Try the May 28 page. The "Jesus Lives ..." song is presented with dulcimer, banjo, marching drum, guitar, harpsicord, piano, base fiddle, cello, violin, viola and two gorgeous voices. The "Hail the Day ..." contemporary version is so passionate, you will find yourself bowing in worship, even if this isn't your first preference of musical style.

Go ahead, explore and enjoy the richness of God's vast array of worship expressions in all their many forms!

## **Men's Breakfast**

Men's Breakfast is taking a break for the summer and will resume in September.

## Voice

Voice is a women's literature group which meets every two weeks on Wednesday evening to discuss a book related to our spiritual journey. And more than that, we are a support system for each other, sharing our blessings and challenges, and seeking a better understanding of God in our daily lives. If you are interested in joining Voice or just want more info, please contact Laureen Snook (306-757-8403) or Martha Pauls (306-586-7015).

Voice has completed the book *7 Women and the Secret of their Greatness* by Eric Metaxas. Metaxas has shown us the stories of "world-changing" women: Joan of Arc, Susanna Wesley, Hannah More, Maria Skobtsova, Corrie ten Boom, Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks.

Voice is taking a break for the summer and will resume in September

## Shared Prayer Times and July 1<sup>st</sup> Outreach

**Prayer times:** It is important for God's people to gather for corporate prayer. Please join us for Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. for a light breakfast, short bible study and prayer for the needs of our church and the wider world. On Sundays, come to the east side of the sanctuary near the piano right after the service to pray for the service, family concerns and church needs. There will also be a deacon available on the west side of the church to pray privately with you for your personal needs.

**July 1<sup>st</sup> outreach:** This year marks Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. Canada was a much more Christian country in 1867; our culture and laws were based on Judeo-Christian principles. Our nation has fallen away from our original values. The Gideons, with whom our church is in partnership, would like to make the day of celebration a day of evangelism. We have the opportunity to go into

the parks of Regina to share the New Testament, Gospel of John ("True North" - a Canada themed cover) or a Hope magazine (a "mini" version has been produced that will be more pocket sized and easier to carry). Help yourselves to the scripture material on the tables in the narthex. It would be wonderful if we could go out in pairs to talk to people about Jesus and what He means to us. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could start a revival?

Contact Hilary Ryan to help plan this outreach. 306-584-1953  
[hmryan@sasktel.net](mailto:hmryan@sasktel.net)

## **Achievers**

### **Achievers' Luncheon- Fall 2017**

Another very successful year of Achievers' Luncheons came to a wonderful conclusion with April's guest speakers Tim and Shelley Keizer, KLC Executive Directors' Team. Shelley also shared in song. Attendance was over 48 and everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by Dean Gilchrist.

Plans are well underway for the fall of 2017 with confirmed guest speakers:

September 28	Joel Russell-MacLean
October 26	Carolyn Ward
November 23	David Kaiser
January 25	Dennis D. Henriksen
February 22	TBA
March 22	TBA
April 26	Tim Coleman

Chef Dean Gilchrist will return to provide tantalizing meals. Plan on attending the Achievers' Luncheons with J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth- 55+ years & older). See you in the fall!

## **Achievers Bible Study**

May 31 was our last Achiever's Bible Study until September.

## **Missions**

### **Mission Projects - Update**

On April 30 we held a luncheon to raise funds for the starving **South Sudanese** people, with a focus on the work of Canadian Baptist Ministries among them. We have raised \$9285 and have added \$2000 from the Missions budget.

As of May 31, the **Healing Hearts Shop-Rebuilding Project** (local ministry to First Nations youth) has received \$2820 from First Baptist members and \$5000 from our missions budget. Other Healing Hearts Partners have given \$6100 toward the project.

Praise God for the faithfulness and generosity of his people!

### **Healing Hearts Appreciation Supper**

Healing Hearts is a non-denominational Christian organization, which serves the youth of North Central Regina with a focus on First Nations.

On May 29 Healing Hearts held an appreciation supper for those who had volunteered their time and expertise in replacing their workshop, which burned down about one year ago. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Len Pauls who provided the architectural drawings for the building. Another Certificate of Appreciation was given to First Baptist Church for a donation of \$7,820. See certificate below.

A more detailed report on the work of this mission will be in the summer edition of our newsletter.



### **Prayer Needs:**

- Peace and provision for the people of South Sudan, all of Africa, and wherever there is conflict, hunger, or suffering.
- Healing Hearts Ministries: their work among aboriginal people in Regina, and how we might partner with them in “hands on” ways.
- Gordon King, our Sudan Luncheon speaker, who is healing from a heart attack.

### **Update from Gordon King**

I take pleasure in thinking of you at worship at First Baptist Church. I have such good memories of my time with you on Sunday 30 April. I am so appreciative of the way you incorporated immigrants and refugees from Africa into the life of the congregation. Welcoming the stranger is such an important theme of our faith.

The heart attack was a surprise because I did not have any of the usual causes for concern. However it has become clear that the five years on steroids and my body's reaction to Still's Disease had an impact on the heart and other organs. I can only thank God for my good fortune. Regine was at home and took me to emergency. I had great medical attention and was given priority for surgery... I am very aware that my life was spared.

## **Children and Youth**

Nearly 50 children are taking part in our children's program, from the nursery through to Oasis.

Another 12 young people are attending youth group. Keep these young people and our many volunteers in your prayers!

### **Godly Play - ages 3 - 6**

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction offered by First Baptist Church for children aged 3-6. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language, parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence around them and in their lives.

During the month of June, Pastor Joel and Esther Maeers will take turns leading the children through the stories. Bryden Yeo will help the children in their work with the materials.

#### **June Stories:**

June 4 <sup>th</sup>	The children will be upstairs.
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Peter, follower of Jesus, heals a lame man in Jerusalem.
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dorcas, follower of Jesus, helps the poor in Judea.
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper

### **Oasis - ages 7 - 11**

Oasis is taking a summer break from June until September. See you then!

## Children's Program, Looking Ahead

This summer's children's program will be "The Books of the Bible."

We have a four year summer cycle for our children, to present them with four basic parts of a normal Christian life:

1. The Psalms
2. The Bible
3. The Apostles' Creed
4. Prayer

## FBC Youth Group

Youth group is for ages 12 -18, and meets 7 p.m. Fridays for a mix of prayer, bible study, and fun activities.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Crash at Joel's home

June 9<sup>th</sup> Get Air

June 16<sup>th</sup> Crash

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> Pool party

While Joel was away at assembly, the youth gathered at Mark and Cheryl's home for a photo scavenger hunt and campfire. As you can tell, it was all very serious.



## Katepwa Lake Camp

It's time to register for KLC! Kids, families - there's something for everyone! See KLC website: <http://www.katepwalakecamp.com>

We do not want anyone desiring to go to camp to miss out. Persons who need financial assistance for camp, should contact Marilyn Phillips at [phillimarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:phillimarilyn@gmail.com)

Anyone wishing to donate to camper sponsorship, is asked to do so through our church offering. Envelopes must be marked, "KLC sponsorship."

Anyone who can volunteer time for this ministry (cooking, cleaning, maintenance) is asked to contact the directors, Tim and Shelly Keiser, on the KLC website) or Colin Carbno, our KLC board member. More board members are urgently needed.

Donations of clean 4 litre ice cream buckets welcome for use at KLC (Katepwa Lake Camp). Please leave downstairs by main closet.

### Katepwa Lake Camp Dates

Scamper Camp, July 5-7, Ages 6-8, \$170

Junior One, July 9-14, Ages 9-12, \$320

Junior Two, July 23-28, Ages 8-11, \$320

Junior Three, August 6-11, Ages 9-12, \$320

Junior Teen, July 16-21, Ages 12-15, \$320

Teen Escape, August 4-6, Ages 14-18, \$170

"Connect" - College and Career, August 11-13, Ages 18-30, \$125

"Reconnect" a 55+ CAMP, August 18-20, \$125

Family Camp, July 7-9, All ages.

Adults (18+): \$100, Kids (5-17): \$60, Under 5 - Free

Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), Aged 14 +

1st Year L.I.T., July 9-28, \$350

## **First Baptist Church Fall Retreat**

We have booked Katepwa Lake Camp in mid September for an all ages, church-wide weekend retreat. Previous weekends have included a mix of reflection sessions, free time, and gathered worship in the Qu'appelle Valley. They have been great times for friendship, rest, and spiritual renewal. Anyone interested in attending or helping to plan this weekend, please speak with Pastor Joel as soon as possible.

## **Diaconate**

Change seems to be the one constant now in First Baptist Church. This is both scary and exciting, and we are confident that God is leading us into some wonderful new ways to do his work here in Regina. The change to an external bookkeeper has forced us to go through the files and financial processes, with the result that there is now a solid group of people who understand and can take charge of this process. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and to Joel for the hours they have spent! Church members taking ownership of the work of the church means that we can redirect our finances to more direct ministry and missions.

This also means that we now spend time together and get to know each other. We look forward to increased involvement in setting direction, when we meet with the wider leadership of the church on June 17<sup>th</sup> for our spring retreat session. At that time, deacons, staff, and church members, representing all areas of our ministry, will meet together to assess, pray, and chart our direction for 2017.

## Interview With Javonne Miller and Her Daughter Donalyn Price by Vi Maeers

They are both participants in the tape ministry.



**Vi:** When did you start attending First? Please tell us a bit about what being a part of the FBC community meant to you and what aspects of church life you participated in.

*Vi's summary: Javonne's husband died accidentally in 1987. The family of 4 had now become 3 and knew that a move would be necessary. After much searching, Javonne found an apartment in Hampton House in the south part of*

*Regina, near her daughter and granddaughter, Nancy. This would allow her to live independently, although working from a wheelchair. It proved to be an excellent choice. She experienced a wonderful community of friends and neighbours over the next 21yrs. After attending church for 30 years in Rosemont, she decided to look for a new church.*

Javonne and Donalyn: Under the circumstances of needing an elevator, the decision was to check out First Baptist. Our first impression was, "what a huge church", but the warmth of people like Henry Friesen, Betty and Fred Anderson, Eva McMillan, Francis Haug, and old friends who were now attending "First", we began to feel at home in our "pew". Javonne: After a few years I became a member of the phoning committee, whose purpose was to keep in touch with

people, to get to know them better and to find out how they were doing. I was also a member of the senior ladies' bible class, led by Katie Medgett. She was a good teacher. I especially appreciated how she connected her teaching to her experiences as a missionary in Africa.

Donalyn: I became an usher in the church, and served a number of years on a team with Ron McDonald.

George Baxter was the Senior Minister and always delivered an uplifting message. We will never forget when one Sunday George stopped in his service, asked the organist to play "Jesus Loves Me" for the congregation to sing. There wasn't a dry eye in the church. God bless you George!

John Nelson was the associate minister and music director, leading the choir with such enthusiasm. We also enjoyed John's meaningful sermons and solos.

*Vi's summary: They especially enjoyed the structure of the service, the gospel music that opened the church service that "gave you something to think about, and reflect on while waiting for church to start." Javonne mentioned enjoying the old hymns: "the hymns that I loved since childhood". She especially likes It is Well with my Soul, Standing on the Promises, My Burdens are Lifted at Calvary, Because He Lives, and Great is Thy Faithfulness. She also loved the quartets, duets (Jack Buyze and Harry Veldhuis), and a band with a saxophone, plus much more that doesn't come to mind.*

**Vi: Why did you stop coming to church ?**

Javonne: Many of you know that following polio, something called post polio syndrome may develop later, as it has with me. That decline continues as I grow older. My need of rest is critical, so I

must pace myself daily. My outings are very limited and generally include appointments. Donalyn's care means assistance for everything for me as well as operating our business alone. Nancy continues to come home to pitch in if we absolutely need her.

**Vi: We know that now you participate in the video service. The church provides this service for people who are physically unable to attend the Sunday morning service. Tell us how you utilize this video ministry and what it has meant for you.**

Javonne and Donalyn: This video ministry keeps us up to date with what's going on at our church and with our fellow members. In the past, further information that we needed was mainly provided by Erin Angus, our former church receptionist. Vi Maeers, a neighbour across the street and a member of FBC, is now our contact. We are so grateful for her friendship and generosity. Both of us physically miss going to church, especially the fellowship. Javonne says "Sunday doesn't seem like Sunday when you can't attend church".

**Vi: How can we at "First" make your video ministry and other aspects of belonging to the church community more meaningful?**

*Vi's summary: The video ministry is very effective; bulletins keep them up to date. They feel there isn't much more that can be done at this point. Javonne and Donalyn appreciate the time that various members have spent taping the videos and are grateful to Hilary Ryan for the time she and her committee members have spent producing them.*

Javonne and Donalyn: With the many changes that have taken place at FBC these past months, we realize the responsibility that Joel has committed to as Lead Minister, and pray that he will feel God's presence, blessing, and guidance.

**Vi: There is a promise in Psalm 23, a very familiar one:  
“Goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.”  
Would you say that is true of your life?**

Javonne: I felt I was guided to Hampton House; everything worked so well. When I could no longer live there, we decided that the main floor of Donalyn’s home could be modified to accommodate special bathroom equipment, a ceiling tracking system for a V-3 lift, and doors wide enough to accommodate an electric chair, etc. I had a supportive family and a husband who helped me with anything I needed. I’ve been truly “Blessed”.

Donalyn: Within the last year of my father’s life, he mentioned only once, “When I’m gone, please look after your mother”. I replied that I would. After he died, I asked God to help me with this promise, and “Oh what a gift it has been for me”!

## **Notes of Thanks and Praise**

From Vivian Johnson:

My deep gratitude to each of you, for prayers, phone calls, emails, and cards. My journey of months was made easier with your prayers and I knew God travelled with me. My special thanks to John, Joel, Kathy Brown, Martha Pauls and William Crook. A very special thank you to Judy Grimsrud for your daily call, caring, and making sure I could get to church, and many acts too numerous to mention - you are a dear.

From Winnie Kelm:

You have supported me through the difficult days of travel and the memorial services of my two sisters. Thank you for your prayers, kind thoughts, and wishes.

## Psalms for the Summer

A beach bag of “did you know?” info on The Psalms as we begin a sermon series on them.

1. Psalms have been an expected part of a Christian’s daily prayer throughout Christian and Jewish history. This was news to me (Joel) and I’m not there yet.
2. The ‘p’ in psalm is silent. : )
3. The psalms take all of God’s laws and all of God’s promises, and then compare these with real life: “God, you walked off and left us and never looked back. If you are faithful God, how could you do that?”
4. The psalms help us to name our emotions, a key step for children and a skill that many adults could practice! Instead of bottling up or denying our anger, depression, pain, guilt or any number of other feelings, the psalms honestly and bluntly dump them before God, “I’m feeling THIS!” And the psalms expect God to respond to us.
5. The Psalms were all likely set to music. There appears to be music directions among the psalms.
6. King David (of Goliath fame) wrote many of the psalms, but much later another person arranged the psalms of David’s and others’ into 5 “books” within the big book of The Psalms.
7. Many of the individual psalms follow a cycle moving from faith, to nothing making sense, and then back again to faith. The writers 1st, describe God; 2nd, look at something in their life; 3rd, wonder what this means about God; 4th, affirm their faith in God; 5th, experience God’s goodness again.
8. The whole book follows a cycle as well. Psalm 1 sets the tone by describing two ways of life. Psalm 2 presents the Messiah, God’s chosen king.

9. The psalms get darker until “book 3”. Psalm 88 ends with the bleak phrase, “darkness is my closest friend (NIV)”, without any positive word to balance this.
10. From there, the psalms get more hopeful, recalling God’s goodness and faithfulness.
11. Each of the 5 “books” ends with “praise the Lord” and praise keeps building through to the last five psalms which all begin and end with “praise the Lord”, up to the last psalm in which every verse calls us to praise God.
12. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm, and the longest chapter of the bible, at 176 verses. It is an acrostic poem in Hebrew. Each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet gets eight verses, with each of these 8 lines beginning with that letter of the alphabet.
13. Reading through all the psalms every month or so, takes - or prays - a person through the ups and downs of life that most of us experience. God is there through it all.
14. Praying through the psalms changes how we pray and how we look at life. It is a great, life-changing habit for anyone to establish at any age.

An idea for the road trip, the tent, the cabin, the lazy summer mornings: read and pray through all the psalms, each month this summer.

No need to be a perfectionist - do the best you can and don’t give up if you miss a few days!

1. Read 5 psalms each day. OR
2. People have divided them up for us, so that psalm 119 is by itself and the short ones get joined together. Use the Book of Common Prayer, search online “the psalm in one month”, or ask Pastor Joel for a monthly reading plan.

## Some Things to Think About

**1. Help needed! Many Hands Make Light Work:** Over the past few years, our congregation has seen a renewed commitment to help out where needed. By sharing the load, we hope people feel “this is our church.” We also hope it means that no one has to carry too much of the burden and that all have free time to see what opportunities God provides around your neighbourhood. Here are some simple ways to serve. The church would love to find:

- 4 new ushers
- 2 people, once a month, to tidy and fill the offering envelopes and visitor cards in the pews
- 2 people, taking turns to buy cleaning and office supplies one day a month
- 3 new tellers (must be board approved)
- 2 people, taking turns to sort and file office documents one day a month (must be board approved)

**2. Bedding Plants for the Church Garden:** We are welcoming donations of assorted bedding plant for the front and side of our building. Contact Joel or John if you can help.

**3. We are a scent free zone on Sundays.** We have a number of folks whose health can be jeopardized by perfumes and strong scents. Come as God made you! We love you that way.

**4. We Recycle:** All paper, glass, tin, and numbered plastic go into our blue bins and are taken to recycling. Refundable bottle return: we have two families who have volunteered to take in all the bottle returns brought to the church. If you have bottles or cans at home, bring them in. Over the years, this has brought in thousands of dollars.

**5. Spring Cleaning:** We are looking for volunteers to help wash and declutter a few spaces in our church. If you have a truck or trailer and could help haul away some larger pieces, or if you would be interested in helping with a project, please speak to Collin Carbno or one of our pastors.

## **Mark your calendars: Annual Willow Island Church Picnic! Sunday June 11th, 3:30-6:30**

- Join us for a great afternoon of games, music, food, fun and prizes!
- Salad and dessert potluck.
- Hamburgers, hotdogs, beverages provided.
- Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, plates and flatware.
- Freewill offering to defray costs
- All ages welcome.
- Wheelchair access available, please contact Pastor Joel to arrange.
- Sign up sheets are available in the foyer.

### **First Baptist Church Staff**

Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor

John Nelson, Associate Pastor

George Mackenzie, Caretaker

First Baptist Church Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church office is closed on Fridays as it is a day off for staff.

Website: [firstbaptistregina.ca](http://firstbaptistregina.ca)

Email: [main\\_fbcregina@sasktel.net](mailto:main_fbcregina@sasktel.net)

Phone: 306-359-1450

## The Western Church Calendar and Church Colours

We are about to move into a new church “season”. What are the church seasons, you may ask?

**Advent** (from the latin for “coming”): In the west, the year starts here. The four Sundays up to Christmas Day are used to celebrate that Jesus came 2000 years ago, to prepare for him now in our lives and for the day he will return to earth. The colour purple is meant to remind us of royalty and suffering.

**Christmas:** December 25th through January 5, a twelve-day season (just like the song says). The white and gold express our joy and celebration at God coming to live among us and the arrival of the Messiah. This otherwise happy time includes remembering Christian matyrs and Herod’s murder of the innocents - not everyone wants God to rule on earth.

**Epiphany and Ordinary time** (epiphany means God revealed, ordinary comes from “ordered”): from January 6th to the first Sunday of Lent. We remember the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and we focus on Jesus’ life and ministry. This season culminates on transfiguration Sunday with Jesus’ glory revealed. Epiphany is white and Ordinary time is green, meant to remind of us daily growth as disciples of Jesus.

**Lent:** Forty days leading up to Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday, but not including Sundays. This is meant to be a time of fasting, repentance and prayer in imitation of Jesus’ time in the desert and a time of reflection on Jesus’ suffering. It includes Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The colour purple is meant to remind us of royalty and suffering. Red is also used during Holy Week. **Easter:** A fifty-day season of celebrating Jesus’ physical resurrection and victory over sin, death and evil. It in-

cludes Ascension Day, when Jesus went into heaven and was given all authority in heaven and on earth. The white and gold are meant to express our joy and celebration.

**Pentecost:** On the seventh Sunday after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the church, the breaking down of ethnic divisions, God's presence and healing power in our lives. The red colours remind us of the tongues of fire over the disciples' heads.

**Ordinary Time** (from the latin for "order", as in "living ordered lives" - it doesn't mean plain or boring time!): The season from Pentecost to Advent celebrates the Holy Spirit's daily work in our lives, and includes special days like Trinity Sunday, Holy Cross, Reformation Sunday, All Saints, and ends on Christ the King Sunday. That celebration of God making everything right through Jesus reminds us of our need for Jesus to return, which leads us right back into the prayers of Advent. The colour green is meant to remind of us daily, healthy growth as disciples.

We don't make use of the calendar because it is "right" or because "that's the way it has always been". There are no bonus marks if you follow it. But the calendar can capture our hearts and imaginations - think of how excited people can get as Christmas approaches or on birthdays and anniversaries. The calendar also teaches us through repetition the story of how the Triune God has come to rescue each of us and all creation. Evangelicals across North America are once again making use of these sorts of things for discipleship, and many churches that do are seeing growth.

For more information, visit our website [firstbaptistregina.ca](http://firstbaptistregina.ca), and click on the coloured stole (the scarf-like thing the pastors wear) at the bottom of the right hand column.

## June's Calendar at a Glance

Friday 2	7 p.m.	Youth Group
<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Tuesday 6	7 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday 7	8 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast
Friday 9	7 p.m.	Youth Group
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b> <b>3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b> <b>Church Picnic on Willow Island</b>
Tuesday 13	7 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday 14	8 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast
Friday 16	7 p.m.	Youth Group
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Tuesday 20	7 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday 21	8 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast
Saturday 24		Youth Group Wind up event
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Tuesday 27	7 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday 28	8 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast