

July 16, 2020

These days it's possible to see only doom and gloom ... when in fact God is doing AMAZING things. We can be thankful. Let's celebrate some of the good things!

- Last Monday we had 27 out for our first ever socially distanced, bring-your-own-chair and mask prayer meeting on the lawn (23 adults, 2 youth, and 2 kids). Thank you to everyone for wearing a mask and distancing appropriately. We hope to do this again August 10.
- Last Wednesday, July 15, we had our first ever online Vacation Bible School session. Other sessions happen July 22, 29, August 5 and August 10-13. Everyone welcome.
- For the first time, our Sunday morning classes and midweek small groups are running through the summer. They have had really good attendance.
- We have people from across Canada (and in other countries) viewing our services and taking part in our small groups.
- We are making tentative plans to begin modified in-person services in late August (we have no air conditioning – July and August get very hot in our sanctuary). **Socially distancing and face masks will be expected of all attendees;** these are best practices to keep other people safe, to model Christian love and empathy, and to minimize risk. This is the directive of AHS and the Premier. And we all want to get through this as quickly as possible without going back into lockdown!
- No fear! We will still keep our online services/groups going ... for a LONG time to come.
- Mill Creek Camp is running its regular summer camps, online, too.

In the meantime, please invite others to check our services and groups out online at www.firstb.net. We have a growing congregation of people from coast to coast and internationally!

One of the silver linings is also our growing archive of homegrown YouTube Videos. Check out our [Worship Music Video Library](#) and [Interviews](#) with missionaries, leaders, and more.

Services

- Our service this week is at <https://firstb.net/services/>
- This week Bruce is looking at [Genesis 12:1-9](#): Bruce is painting and talking about making new beginnings with God and other people.
- If you are interested in contributing to the services, contact Matt (matt@firstb.net) for more information about our [Community Worship Video Project](#). We want to encourage you to be involved in worship, even during this time of isolation
- Feel free to give us constructive suggestions for how to improve each week

Daily Devotionals

Every day, Bruce prepares a new devotional reading, reflection, and prayer. If you would like the direct email version, sign up on www.firstb.net or email info@firstb.net.

Prefer paper? Drop by and they will be just OUTSIDE the East Door of the Church in a box, Monday-Thursday, 8:30-2:30 (weather permitting). Or phone and we'll drop one in your mailbox or mail it to you. A new guide is now available, at the church and online.

Rocky Railway Online Day Camp

Weekly July 22, 29, August 5 (Join any week!)

Week Long August 10-13

For kids entering grades 1-6

At Rocky Railway Online Day Camp we'll learn how Jesus' Power helps us in our lives! All aboard as we sing songs, learn crafts, make snacks, & enjoy stories of Jesus' Power at work!

How it works:

- A recorded 15 minute video session is released the afternoon prior to the live session. Watch it whenever you wish!
- Every live session meets over Zoom from 10:00-10:15 each morning. Meet leaders, special guests, and other kids taking part as well!
- All 8 sessions will be different! Join us for weekly Day Camp, week-long day camp, or both!
- Did you miss a week? No problem! All previous recorded videos are available on our website and YouTube channel. It's easy to catch up on previous sessions.

To sign up for Rocky Railway Online Day Camp contact mark@firstb.net

Kid's Kingdom

Sunday School - This week is Lesson 4 of our Fresh Fruit Summer Program.

Check out this week's lesson by Emily our new summer intern on PATIENCE on the website or here: <https://youtu.be/XbV5GYP9Jxg>

Your Turn - Do you want to be a part of our Sunday School videos? Send in a picture or video of you practicing our challenge of the week and we will include it in the next weeks video. When you send your picture/video please include your permission for it to be used and posted on YouTube. (Example: I give permission for First Baptist Church to post this picture/ video as part of the Sunday school lesson on youtube.)

Worksheets - If you are having your school aged children sit with you during the online service and would like some activities for them to work on while they listen you can check out the pdf worksheets on the website or attached that connect with our lesson on PATIENCE.

YETI Youth

We're excited to offer an interactive online version of our youth ministry! Each week we have a teaching time, small group discussions, prayer, and fun games/activities we can all do together! Visit www.firstb.net/onlineyouth for more information, including how to connect with us on Zoom and on social media!

Be sure to also check out our weekly newsletter each Friday for event information, family activities, worship ideas, service projects, and a fun contest for a chance to win a prize! Find it at www.firstb.net/youthnewsletter

Young Adults

We are done for the summer. Have a wonderful summer and see you in the Fall!

Small Groups

Many of our current groups are still meeting using Zoom. Zoom can be downloaded onto your smart phone or computer (camera and microphone capabilities required). It gives everyone a chance to meet face to face and engage with one another. If you want to join a group, or need help setting up Zoom, contact Mark: 403-332-1919 or mark@firstb.net

Sunday Morning Prayer and Adult Sunday School continue Sunday mornings!

1. Join Troy for prayer from 9:00am-9:20am. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/853736490>
2. Join our 9:30am class on Revelation, especially as it relates to the 7 letters to the churches. Marv Wirzba leads. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/853736490>
3. Join our 10:00am class on the Book of Philippians. Gord Hunt leads this study. [Zoom link click here](#)

Here are a few other groups available this week:

- **Tuesday Evening Bible Study** with Troy Taylor. Every second Tuesday. Studying the book of Romans. Next meeting is May 19. Contact Troy to join: troy@firstb.net.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** with Troy Taylor. Every second Wednesday. Studying the book of Mark. Next meeting is May 27. Contact Troy to join: troy@firstb.net.

Prayer with the Pastor

Sundays @ 9 am: <https://zoom.us/j/853736490>

Check-In and Chat

Now **ONLY TUESDAY afternoon from 2-3 pm** (please note the change of day). Bruce hosts a time to visit with others who join the meeting. It's an informal time to encourage and connect with others. Think of it as afternoon tea/coffee and prayer with friends 😊. <https://zoom.us/j/682269711> Password: **chat**

Sympathies

Our sincere sympathies to Corinne Courtney on the passing of her husband, Dan, on July 7.

Congratulations

Art & Shirley Sanford are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on July 16.

BYOC (bring-your-own-chair) Prayer – Monday, August 10, 7 p.m.

We're planning a second outdoor (on the church lawn), bring-your-own-chair, socially-distanced, face-mask-expected prayer time Monday, August 10 at 7 p.m. We invite you to come, with your lawn chair and face mask, for a time of social distanced fellowship and prayer together. Following AHS guidelines, we will not share food or beverages. Wearing a face mask is a practical way we can "love our neighbour" – protecting the health of others – therefore we expect everyone will wear one. If you forget, one will be made available for you.

Post COVID-19/Re-opening

Church Council created a committee to begin conversations and make plans around what opening "post-Covid" will look like. The committee includes Bruce Martin, Kathy Jang, Kathryn Brandt, and David Sarsfield. They will be considering all Alberta Health directives and best practices from other jurisdictions to shape policies for us to consider. Feel free to contact [Bruce](#) or the [office](#) for more information.

Several times a week, we reflect on what is our best next step as a church. We know a few local churches are tentatively reopening. We are monitoring how they are (or are not) following AHS guidelines, providing for people's safety, and how it's working for them. We can learn from their "best practices." On an ongoing basis we will continue to reflect on the best options for us. Check out our [Reopening Page](#).

Our priority is the health and safety of all, especially those most vulnerable.

Giving to First B

Even though we are not gathering together on Sundays, you can continue to financially support the ministry of Jesus through His church. As the Church of God, we still have bills to pay and staff to care for. This is a great opportunity for all of us to be the Church, to reflect the love of Jesus by having a greater call of generosity and servanthood. We CAN bless our community through your gifts. Call or email the church and we will help: 403-327-2082 or info@firstb.net.

- Donate at www.firstb.net ("DONATE" button in lower left corner)
- Sign up for automatic withdrawal (403-327-2082 or info@firstb.net)
- Give through e-transfer (giving@firstb.net, no password required)
- Mail in cheques
- Drop cheques through the mail slot (in the Steeple Door)
- Use the debit machine – call first – gloves and disinfectant will be available.

We know some of us are going through difficult financial times: we don't want to add to your stress. Those of us who have stable incomes may be able to give more generously at this time. If you do have a stable income, would you consider increasing your giving (even temporarily)? Many of us won't be spending money on travel, vacations, eating out, etc. for a while: could we make some that money available to help out? Thank you.

Office

Kathryn is in the Office Monday to Thursday. **Phone 403-327-2082 OR email info@firstb.net**. Please do not just drop by. The door is locked. Phone first.

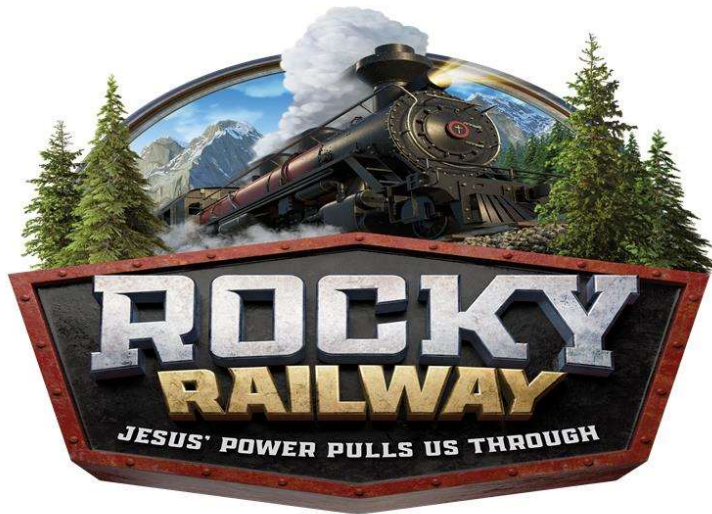
Ways you can make a difference:

The **Lethbridge Public Library** is looking for volunteers to help deliver books, DVDs, and audio items to customers who are unable to visit the Library for curbside pickup. If you're able, and have some time, call 403-359-6533.

COVID COMMUNITY DONATION DROP-OFF CENTRE: 100-10th Street S (Old Bibles-for-Missions Thrift Store) – West Door. They are accepting donations of clothing, household goods, kitchenware, furniture, and hygiene items. Donations will be sorted and redistributed to agencies who need items. After health restrictions are lifted, all remaining items will be divided among the partnering agencies. They are also looking for volunteers to help SORT donations. You can contact Streets Alive for details. This is a partnership with Mission Thrift Store, MCC, Salvation Army, My City Care, and Streets Alive.

Check out the [Lethbridge COVID-19 Community Support Circle](#) on Facebook for other opportunities to make a difference.

Both the [Lethbridge Food Bank](#) and [Interfaith Food Bank](#) are looking for volunteers. They follow provincial guidelines to ensure safety and physical distancing.



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