



**October 15, 2020**

**JAMANI DUO CONCERT, October 24, 7 p.m.**

Since we cannot have a Thanksgiving Dinner this year, Council has asked Matt and Jodi (known professionally as Jamani Duo) if they would do a special one-hour concert for us on Saturday, October 24 @ 7 p.m. This will be a free concert in the sanctuary. Please RSVP by **noon on Thursday, October 22**, so we can make sure we can safely seat everyone ([info@firstb.net](mailto:info@firstb.net) or 403-327-2082). Social distancing and face coverings will be respected.

**Sunday Services are in-person, Sunday at 11 am.** Meeting at 11 a.m. allows people involved in our Zoom Sunday School classes to attend. If numbers require it, we will add an earlier service as the Fall progresses.

**Online Services— any time!** If worshipping online works for you, you are welcome to do so. If you feel safer worshipping at home, if you are unable to get out, or if you have a medical condition that does not allow you to wear a mask, please make full use of our online services. We have no plans to change our online ministries.

Please invite others to check our services and groups out online at [www.firstb.net](http://www.firstb.net). We have a growing congregation of people from coast to coast and internationally. These services and groups will continue indefinitely.

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

**Services**

- **In-person services are Sundays at 11 a.m.**
- **Online services continue at <https://firstb.net/services/>**
- This week Bruce is looking at [Exodus 15](#): Surprise! We can celebrate God's goodness, even in the wilderness times of life.

**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](http://www.firstb.net) or email [info@firstb.net](mailto:info@firstb.net).

Prefer paper? Drop by and they are at 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.

**An October guide on Romans is now available, at the church and [online](#).**

**Kid's Kingdom**

This week from **KIDS KINGDOM**:

- **Sunday School** – This week is our final lesson for “Where is God in the Divided Kingdom?”. Check out this week’s lesson on the website or [here](#). Feel free to provide any feedback regarding length, content etc. that would help make these lessons better for your kids and family. I really appreciate the feedback I have received so far.
- **God Sightings** – each week I am asking kids to send in the ways they see God in their lives and the world around them. I have had some great submissions so far and look forward to seeing more.
- **Materials** – material pick-ups will occur 1x each month. The next pick up will be Nov 9-13. If you have not already contacted me about materials for the hands-on portion of our online Sunday School program and would like some please email: [angela@firstb.net](mailto:angela@firstb.net)
- **Zoom Session** –Our next session will be next week: Sunday October 25. Watch for more details in next week’s email.

### Small Groups

Many of our current groups are still meeting using Zoom. Other groups have begun meeting in person. If you want to join a group or need help setting up Zoom, contact Mark: 403-332-1919 or [mark@firstb.net](mailto:mark@firstb.net)

### Sunday Morning Prayer and Adult Sunday School continue Sunday mornings!

1. Join Troy for **prayer** from **9:00 am-9:20 am**. [Zoom link here](#).
2. Join our **9:30 am class**, Marv Wirzba leads a class on Ezekiel, called, “When Will We Know?” [Zoom link here](#). Everyone welcome.
3. Join our **9:30 am class** on the Book of Colossians. Gord Hunt leading. [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. Contact Troy to join: [troy@firstb.net](mailto:troy@firstb.net).
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** with Troy Taylor. Every second Wednesday. Studying the book of Mark. Contact Troy to join: [troy@firstb.net](mailto:troy@firstb.net).
- **Men’s Thursday Morning Study. In person:** 8:00-9:00 AM in the Fireside Room. **Online:** 9:15-10:15 AM over Zoom. Email [mark@firstb.net](mailto:mark@firstb.net) for the link. We are studying the book of Judges.
- **Tuesday Morning Ladies’ Bible Study** looks to begin, in person, by the end of October. If anyone would like to join us to let Brenda Viani know. This is a study that gives an overview of all of history - Adam and Eve to our present time to see how God has been at work in our lives. Contact Brenda at [vianibr@gmail.com](mailto:vianibr@gmail.com) for more information.

### Check-In and Chat

**Tuesday afternoon from 2-3 pm.** 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**

### **Fall Book Study**

Our Thursday afternoon Reading Group is planning to read *A Stone for a Pillow*, Book 2 in the Genesis trilogy by Madeleine L'Engle. We will begin as soon as the books arrive, hopefully mid-October. We will probably meet by Zoom. Interested? Please contact Janet Alexander ASAP, 403-329-4911, to order a book.

### **YETI Youth**

Youth group currently meets online Wednesday nights from 7-9pm. We will also have a once a month in-person event on the last Friday of the month. Check out the [youth newsletter](#) for all the details!

### **Young Adults**

This fall we're doing a reflective Bible study in-person at the church on Mondays at 7pm. Please be sure to review [First B's Covid protocols](#) before attending.

### **Visual Artists!**

We will be putting together another slideshow of First B artwork for November 22. If you have new original paintings, drawings, quilts, photos, sculptures, or other masterpieces, please send pictures to Bruce by **November 5** ([bruce@firstb.net](mailto:bruce@firstb.net)). You can view our May [Art Show Video](#)

### **What's New with You?**

Are you feeling out of touch with the church family? Wondering what has been happening with those you sat near on a Sunday morning? Has there been news you would like to hear or share? If you have things you would like to share with the church family send us a brief summary. We will turn this into a WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU newsletter sent to only those who request it. For confidentiality reasons, this information will not be shared on a public platform, and only news submitted to us will be shared. Talk to Mark at [mark@firstb.net](mailto:mark@firstb.net) if you would like to participate. A way to stay in touch when so many feel separated.

### **Refugee Sponsorship Opportunity**

As a church we have been invited to sponsor a Karen refugee couple, currently in Malaysia.

To date, we have had overwhelming, positive response to this proposal.

Council will make a decision at their meeting on October 20. You are invited to contact the Church Office, Frances McHardy, Faye Reynolds, Gord Hunt, or Bruce Martin with questions, for more information, or to register your "vote."

Here is a brief introduction to the couple:

*"My name is Naw May Hnin San and my husband is N'Hpan Doi Hla. We both are refugees from Myanmar, currently residing in Malaysia with refugee status. We have been registered and*

*waiting to be resettled since 2010. We married on the 24th August 2013 at Kuala Lumpur Baptist Church.*

*"We both currently work full time. I am currently working as secretary for Malaysia Karen Organization, commits to assisting the refugee/asylum seeker communities through the community-based organization and also facilitator of COBEM (the Coalition of Burma Ethnic, Malaysia). My work extended to coordinating programs, services and advocacy efforts with COBEM, as well as MEWRO (the Myanmar Ethnic Women Refugee Organization), which I was part of the founding group of women. As for my husband, he has been working at the International Rescue Committee as an interpreter.*

*"We are very blessed and thankful that we get this opportunity to help fellow refugees and asylum seekers where we are growing and getting to know the situation of many lives. However, we are in the situation of regularly fears the possibilities of being arrested and extorted or worse detained by authorities as refugee status is not protected under the law of Malaysia."*



Our commitment would be to support this couple financially and emotionally for one year. They do speak English and are in good health.

From the start of the application process, it would be 18 to 24 months before their arrival in Lethbridge. The cost would be about \$25,000. This includes a settlement allowance of \$5-6000 for furniture, winter clothing and pantry items. Monthly costs would be around \$16-1700 for rent, food, transportation and other necessities.

**Thank Offering**

As part of our Thanksgiving celebrations, we traditionally look beyond our walls and focus on meeting the needs of others in our world who are less fortunate than we are. We collect a special "Thank Offering" to bless others beyond our church doors.

This year, the Church Council has prayerfully considered suggestions and we are recommending supporting the following worthy causes:

Lebanon Relief through Canadian Baptist Ministries	\$2000
Cuba food relief through Canadian Baptist Ministries	\$2000
Mill Creek camp (cabin replacement)	\$4000

Soup Kitchen	\$2000
Refugee Fund	\$5000
Total	\$15,000

In order to fully support these fine projects, we are being asked to be part of raising \$15,000 above our regular tithes and offerings. We ask that you prayerfully consider generously supporting this year's Thank Offering.

To donate, you can mark "Thank Offering" on your regular offering, drop a cheque off at the church, make an e-transfer to **giving@firstb.net** (no password required), or donate at **www.firstb.net**.

***Our current total is \$7,330 of our \$15,000 goal.*** Thank you for your generosity in supporting God's work in our local community and throughout the world.

### **Leaf Raking Cuba Fundraiser**

Do you want your leaves raked up? Past Cuba team members and friends will rake your leaves October 17 or 24 in exchange for a donation toward future serving and learning trips to Cuba. Contact the Church Office at **403-327-2082** or [info@firstb.net](mailto:info@firstb.net) to book your spot. (Do you like to rake leaves? More volunteer rakers are welcome, too!)

### **Prayer Requests**

Need prayer? Contact any of our staff ([bruce@firstb.net](mailto:bruce@firstb.net), [mark@firstb.net](mailto:mark@firstb.net), [troy@firstb.net](mailto:troy@firstb.net), [kyle@firstb.net](mailto:kyle@firstb.net), [angela@firstb.net](mailto:angela@firstb.net))

Our sympathies are extended to Linda Gibson on the passing of her mother in Ontario.

### **Worship Playlist & Opportunities**

We have a new playlist on the First B YouTube account where you can listen to ALL the worship videos our musicians have produced over the course of the pandemic. There are 100+ videos! Now you can listen to the Community Worship Video Project any time, any place! [Just click here](#) or go to the "First B Lethbridge" YouTube channel and click on "Playlists"

There is also an library of all our community worship videos on our website where you can look up individual songs: <https://firstb.net/music-videos/>

We always welcome singers, instrumentalists, and other artists to participate in our online worship services. Contact [matt@FirstB.net](mailto:matt@FirstB.net) or visit [Community Worship Video Project](#) for more information.

### **Financial update to September 30**

Giving is below our budgeted expectations to September 30. However, due to great work in keeping costs down, we do have an excess of income/expenses. Our building debt retirement fund continues to inch up thanks to faithful contributors, and is now almost at \$20,000 toward

our annual goal of \$50,000. The budgeting process for 2021 is underway. THANK YOU for your continued and faithful support of the ministries of First B especially during this unprecedented time.

### **Giving to First B**

Thank you for your faithful generosity. Even if you are not able to join us on Sundays, please help us have a global impact, help people in need, pay bills, and care for our staff. 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](mailto:info@firstb.net).

- Donate at [www.firstb.net](http://www.firstb.net) ("DONATE" button in right hand column)
- Sign up for automatic withdrawal (**403-327-2082** or [info@firstb.net](mailto:info@firstb.net))
- Give through e-transfer ([giving@firstb.net](mailto:giving@firstb.net), no password required)
- Mail in cheques
- Drop cheques through the mail slot (in the Steeple Door)
- Use the debit machine – gloves and disinfectant will be available.
- Bring your offering to our in person service Sunday morning

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](mailto:info@firstb.net)**. Please do not just drop by. The door is locked. Phone first.

### **Miscellaneous**

*From Anne Dyck:* After receiving multiple requests for jams, pickles and pepper jelly, I have decided to offer them again this fall. Orders will be accepted until October 25. Order early as stock is limited. Sorry! No samples this year due to COVID.

ANNE'S KITCHEN	
Red Beet Pickles 500ml	\$6
Spicy Carrot Pickles 500ml	\$6
Basil Banana Pepper Jelly 250ml	\$9
Raspberry Ginger Jam 250ml	\$9
Low Sugar Raspberry Jam 500ml	\$7
Low Sugar Raspberry/Rhubarb Jam	\$7
NEW Salsa (Mild or Hot) 500ml	\$9

For questions or to order, call Anne @403 308 6534

## **Ways you can make a difference:**

Check out the [Volunteer Lethbridge website](#) for volunteer opportunities.

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: 100-10<sup>th</sup> 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.