



November 26, 2020

This Sunday we begin Advent, a time of preparation for Christmas ...

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.

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 care for the wellbeing of others and make full use of our online services. We have no plans to change our online ministries.

Please invite others to our services and groups at www.firstb.net. We have a growing community of people from coast to coast and internationally. Online 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 [Luke 1:5-25](#): Does it feel like it's always winter and never Christmas? Be encouraged – ever since that first Christmas 2000+ years ago, Jesus is ALWAYS with us. There is HOPE even when things feel hopeless!

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 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 December guide, "It's All About Jesus," is now available, at the church and [online](#).**

Kids' Kingdom

This week from Kids Kingdom:

1. **Sunday School** – It's Advent! [This week's video is here.](#)
2. **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.

3. **Materials** – material pick-ups will occur 1x each month. The next pick up will be in January. 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

WHERE'S GOD AT CHRISTMAS?



We may not be able to join together for all our regular events BUT God is with us and we can share that with each other. Join us online this advent season for:

<p>Advent Family Event Online Video: November 22</p> 	<p>Advent Candle Lighting Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20</p>  <p>We are looking for 4 families to record a short reading and prayer For more details email angela@firstb.net</p>
<p>Weekly Lessons Nov 15, 29, Dec 6, 13, 20</p>  <p>Online videos with new characters and special craft</p>	<p>Daily Devotions Nov 29 – Dec 25</p>  <p>Do it daily or weekly What works for your family?</p>

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

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** on the Book of Colossians with Gord Hunt. [Zoom link here](#)
3. Join our **9:30 am class**, "Jesus" with Marv Wirzba. [Zoom link here](#).

Here are a few other groups available this week:

1. **Tuesday Evening Bible Study**. On break until January 2021.
2. **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** On break until January 2021
3. **Men's Thursday Morning Study**. On break until January 2021.

Check-In and Chat

Tuesday afternoon from 2-3 pm. Bruce hosts a time to visit with others. It's an informal time to encourage and connect one another. Think of it as afternoon tea/coffee and prayer with friends ☺. <https://zoom.us/j/682269711> Password: **chat**

Fall Book Study

Our Thursday afternoon Zoom Reading Group is discussing *A Stone for a Pillow*, Book 2 in the Genesis trilogy by Madeleine L'Engle. Contact Janet @ 403-329-4911.

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

We meet at the church on Mondays at 7pm. Please be sure to review [First B's Covid protocols](#) before attending.

Hopeful Gifts for Change

Need a gift for the person who has everything? Can't get out to shop? Canadian Baptist Ministries "Hopeful Gifts for Change" Catalogue allows you to give help to people around the world on behalf of your loved ones – from pigs, to medical care, to schoolbooks for kids, to training church leaders in Cuba, to emergency housing for refugees. Visit hopefulgifts.ca and make a difference this year!

Become an Angel Tree Christmas Sponsor!

Through Prison Fellowship Canada, you can purchase a gift for and bless a child with an incarcerated parent! The parent requests a gift for their child. You pick up or order the gift. We make sure it gets delivered. Contact mark@firstb.net to help a family.



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A ministry of Prison Fellowship Canada.**

Christmas Greetings

If you would like to send Christmas greetings to the people of First B, send your greetings and possible photos to mark@firstb.net. It will be made into a Christmas newsletter sent to those who request it. Deadline for submissions is **Wednesday, December 16**.

Prayer Requests

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

Worship Playlist & Opportunities

We always welcome singers, instrumentalists, and other artists to participate in our online worship services. In November we are encouraging you to consider recording Christmas carols for the coming Advent season. Contact matt@firstb.net or visit [Community Worship Video Project](#) for more information.

We have a playlist on the First B YouTube account where you can listen to ALL the worship videos our musicians have produced. There are 100+ videos! Now you can listen to the Community Worship Video Project any time, any place! [Just click here.](#)

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/>

Library

If you would like to check out books out of the library, please contact the office at 403-327-2082 to arrange a time to come in. If there is something specific you want, please ask and Kathryn can get it all ready for you so you don't even have to come fully into the building if that works better for you.

Refugee Sponsorship

We have had overwhelming, positive response to this proposal invited to sponsor a Karen refugee couple, Naw May Hnin San and N'Hpan Doi Hla. Please pray for the process now as we submit the paperwork and they go through government processes (interviews, etc.).

It will probably be 18 to 24 months before their arrival in Lethbridge. This gives us plenty of time to raise the budget of \$25,000. One benefactor has already pledged U.S.\$4500. Our Thank Offering gives us another \$5000. Several people have already donated specifically toward our refugee fund. You are welcome to do so as well.

Offering Envelopes

2021 Offering Envelopes are now available. They are on a cart just inside the East door.

Tax Receipts

In order to be able to email income tax receipts, please email the office at info@firstb.net with your correct email. Receipts will be done in 2021, but we want to make sure we have all our information correct. Thank you.

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.

- Donate at www.firstb.net ("DONATE" button in right hand column)
- Sign up for automatic withdrawal (**403-327-2082 or info@firstb.net**)
- Give through e-transfer (**giving@firstb.net**, no password required. Please remember to have your first and last name in the email)
- 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**. Please phone before dropping by.

Employment Opportunities

Join The Mustard Seed as we open a new shelter in Lethbridge for those experiencing homelessness! This is an exciting time for The Mustard Seed as we expand our services into the city of Lethbridge, to provide a safe and welcoming environment for guests, donors and volunteers during this winter season. We will need a Frontline Supervisor, Frontline Workers, and Frontline Relief staff to provide a welcoming and visible presence at the shelter site – optimizing safety and building relationships. Please see the job postings below for more information:

- Frontline Supervisor (1 Position): <https://bit.ly/2HIBtzb>
- Frontline Support Worker – Full-Time (Up to 16 Positions): <https://bit.ly/34DuDEa>

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: 100-10th 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.