

# CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2017

4201 TRANSCONTINENTAL DRIVE  
METAIRIE, LA 70006



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EVERYONE SHOULD EAT  
AND DRINK AND ENJOY  
THE GOODS OF ALL THEIR  
LABOR, FOR THESE ARE  
GIFTS FROM GOD.

Ecclesiastes 3:13

# From



# The Study Window

In an Alban Institute article, Dominique Gillard suggests that, “In an age of nonstop media that exposes us as never before to the world’s pain and brokenness, lamentation is an essential and even revolutionary act, one that the church needs desperately to reclaim. Scripture suggests that lamentation is a liturgical act that reorients and transforms us. Lamentation is uncensored communion with God. It is worship where we learn to be honest, intimate and humble before God. Lamentation is both an acknowledgment that things are not as they should be and an anguished wail, beckoning the Lord to intervene with righteousness and justice.

Gillard suggests that we are bombarded by an unprecedented, unceasing stream of media that exposes us to the world’s pain and brokenness as never before. Before we truly grieve one tragedy, another occurs and we move on before we can process what has occurred. Lamentation, however, forces us to slow down. In the midst of daily tragedy, lamentation requires us to stay engaged after the cameras and publicity move on. It summons us to immerse ourselves in the pain and despair of the world, of our communities, of our own sinfulness.

We need to lament because, paradoxically, often the best way to cure pain is to engage it. Lamentation prevents us from becoming numb and apathetic to the pain of our world and those around us. Lamentation opens our eyes to the injustice and oppression we had not even noticed. To live without lament is to live an unexamined life.

**Lamentation requires four steps: remembrance, reflection, confession and repentance.**

The first step, always, is to remember. God repeatedly instructed Israel to remember that they were once slaves, foreigners and exiles. This remembrance is to shape their life as God’s people and is the linchpin of their faithfulness. When Israel forgot, they turned from God, became self-centered, practiced idolatry and enacted injustice.

A faith devoid of lamentation aborts history and forsakes remembrance. This is the predicament we find ourselves in today. One of the primary failures of modern Christianity is its historical nature. History summons us as Christians to confess, lament and repent of our role in and apathy toward our nation’s record of injustice and exploitation. From the days of Pharaoh and Caesar right down to today, history and Scripture reveal that oppression is always institutionalized and structural. The sinful manifestations of a hardened heart have never been confined to interpersonal interactions. Too often, the hardened heart of an entire people is expressed collectively through institutions, organizations, governments -- and even the church.

Institutional injustice is part of our nation’s history. As a church, we have failed to confess and lament this reality. Too often, we have conformed to the pattern of this world and have not been transformed by the renewing of our minds. Consequently, we have become as prone as anyone else to engage in segregation, discrimination and oppression. The injustices of racism, sexism, classism, mass incarceration and militarism are all consequences of our failure to live in remembrance and lamentation.

History, however, roots us in humility; remembrance compels us to lament. In lamentation, we acknowledge that sin has distorted our relationship with God, our neighbors and creation. Lament beckons us to discern how we can recalibrate our relating in light of the gospel. When faithfully engaged and authentically enacted, lamentation keeps us accountable to our baptismal vows. It reminds us of our need for God, one another and the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Lamentation is a form of centering prayer that shapes our discipleship and mission; it illuminates blind spots in our lives and ministry, helping us to make our discipleship faithful and effective.”



# THE M U S I C C O R N E R



By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master

## FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

Finishing up vacation time, I thank Julie Etland and the soloists for their expert and uplifting presentations. Surely you have been an inspiration to everyone.

My vacation was very special as I not only visited my brother and family, but retraced my earlier years in northern New Jersey and New York City, playing many of the organs of my "youth" and seeing churches that have grown (a few have closed). I have been refreshed by these memories and inspired to build on their impact. Those were good years.

Again from my "youth." My great organ teacher was the late Dr. Charlotte Garden of the Sacred Music School at Union Seminary in New York. I visited her church, Cresecnt Avenue Presbyterian in Plainfield, New Jersey, where I took lessons on the massive four manual pipe organ. In her "youth" she studied with the composer/organist Charles Marie Widor (vee-door) in Paris. Over the next few months I will be playing selections from his ten organ symphonies which I studied under Dr. Garden.

Soon (Wednesday, September 6 at 7:15 pm) the choir will begin its Fall season, not only preparing anthems and special materials leading up to Christmas but also working on my new cantata for the Christmas Concert. *The Christmas Suite* (which includes several canticles from Luke's Nativity narrative).

We extend our invitation again to new singers to join us, and instrumentalists (young and more mature players). Instrumentalists will meet on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader



## THE YOUTH CORNER

August 26<sup>th</sup> we had a youth event at Surge Trampoline Park. This was a fun event for the children to enjoy time with their church group. We had 11 children attend this event.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS

You're Invited to the  
Sunday School

Sunday  
School  
KICKOFF



Superheroes of the Bible!

Kick Off Continental Breakfast

SEPTEMBER 10TH

9:00 Breakfast

9:15-10:15 class

Ages 3 and up

### Youth Events September-December 2017

#### September:

9/10: Sunday School Kick Off Breakfast 9:00am (Ages 3-up)

9/10, 9/17, 9/24: Sunday School 9:15-10:15 (Ages 3-up)

9/24: Youth Event (TBA)

#### October:

10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29: Sunday School 9:15-10:15 (Ages 3-up)

10/7: Unity Build providing 50 lunches for the building 9:00am (Ages 12-up)

10/27: Big Church Night out Newsboys concert 7pm (Ages 12-up)

Arrive at church for 5:30 for Pizza and Prayer before we leave.

#### November:

11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26: Sunday School 9:15-10:15 (Ages 3-up)

11/4: Second Harvest 8:00 am (Ages 10- up)

11/26: Hanging of the Greens service 5:00-6:30 (All Ages)

#### December:

12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/31: Sunday School 9:15-10:15 (Ages 3-up)

No morning class on Christmas Eve

12/10, 12/17, 12/21: Practice for Christmas Eve Service will be during  
Sunday School with one practice Thurs 12/21 at 6:00pm

12/17: Bridge House feeding the homeless 8:30-2:00 (Ages 12-up)

12/24: Christmas Eve service (All ages)

# Playschool News



We are WILD about learning through PLAY at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. We are eagerly preparing for our students' first day of school on Wednesday, September 6. We have a great group of kids and families this year which we are really excited about! Thank you in advance for your support of our fundraisers this year.

Our first fundraiser will be Save Around Coupon Books, but this will only run for a little over a week from September 7-September 19. Books are \$25 and we are sure you will find coupons in there to make back more than your money spent on the book! Coupons are good through December of 2018 and these books make great presents for family members and friends!

Family Fun Night will take place Friday, September 22 from 6-8 in the Fellowship Hall. We are doing a disney theme and tickets will be sold after worship in the coming weeks. Presale tickets will cost \$8/ adult and \$4/child.



# Unity Build IS Habitat for Humanity!

New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity likes to assign a name to each project, reflecting its unique nature. Ours is called "Unity Build"!

Unity Build is a collaboration of local faith groups facilitated by Habitat for Humanity.

The intention is to bring together a variety of faith groups from across the New Orleans area; people of different traditions, neighborhoods, and experiences will work side by side to build a strong future for a hardworking New Orleans family.



*A congregation the size of ours can't begin to build a home all by ourselves, but by working with other like-minded congregations, together we can build a home – each contributing time, talent, and treasure, as we are able.*

Even though we come from different traditions, we are all the children of God. The Unity Build idea is that it is very important that people of all faiths in this city demonstrate their unity through common service, and building a home is a perfect way to do so. Through laying a strong foundation—spiritual and physical—we can play an integral role in building hope in the city of New Orleans.

## Where is the build?

The site is at 6500 Dorian St., in New Orleans. It is in the western most part of New Orleans East.

## When will it be?

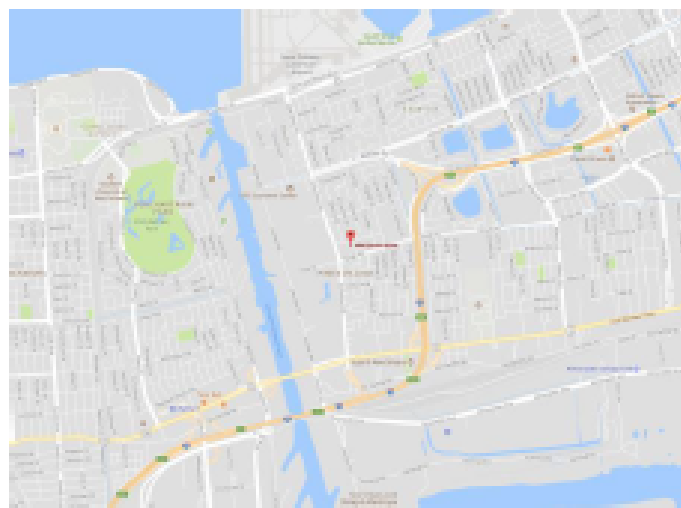
Thursday, October 5 thru Sunday, October 8

Thursday, October 12 thru Saturday, October 14

Thursday, October 19 thru Saturday, October 21

Thursday, October 26 thru Saturday, October 28

Dedication – October 28



## How does it work?

There are Construction jobs of course, but there are also non-construction needs. The "not construction" jobs include things that are done at the site, but also things you can help with right here at church that can then be transported to the site.

## How can I sign up?

You will sign up for the specific date you are interested in participating. Construction jobs are from 8 to 4 with check-in at 7:45. Timing for "not construction" jobs varies with the job.

You can sign-up on the sheets in the narthex, or you can call or e-Mail Sharon Fortin to let us know what you'd like to do (985-725-0904 or [s4tyne@cox.net](mailto:s4tyne@cox.net)).

Thank you for your help!

# Unity Build IS Habitat for Humanity!

I want to help! What's involved?

## Construction Jobs:

- A schedule of work has been created. You can sign up for the day they are doing work you want to do.
- A work-day is 8 am to about 4 pm, and includes lunch and snack breaks. You are expected to stay the whole day.
- You will check in at 7:45 am and receive a safety review and assignment to your task for the day. *The Habitat for Humanity workers will be there to guide you through every step of the process and expectations.*
- All of the tools you will need and safety gear you will need are there for you.
- All of the supplies needed to do the job are already on site and waiting for you.
- All construction volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- You will get a reminder before your scheduled date.
- Sign up early before the space is gone!

### Week 1 – October 5 thru 8:

Framing Walls; Sheathing Vertical Walls; Installing Trusses; Installing Windows and Exterior doors; Blueboard and Housewrap; Deck Roof and Tarpaper; Shingles

### Week 2 – October 12 thru 14:

Siding Installation; Interior/Exterior Paint; F Channel

### Week 3 – October 19 thru 21:

Interior Floor Installation; Interior Trim; Porch Work; Installation of Soffit and Fascia

### Week 4 – October 26 thru 28:

Laying Sod; Installing Fence; Touch-up Paint; Installing Door Hardware; Cleaning



Sign-up on the sheets in the Narthex, or call or e-Mail Sharon Fortin to reserve your spot (985-725-0904 or [s4tyne@cox.net](mailto:s4tyne@cox.net))



# Unity Build IS Habitat for Humanity!

I want to help! What's involved?

## Not Construction Jobs:

- There are several non-construction jobs that are needed:
  - Registration and Check-In: Work time is 7:15 thru about 8:15 am. You sit at a table and guide workers to sign in and to sign their waiver form. Several people are needed each day. Sign up with a friend!
  - Leading Morning Prayer/Devotion: Task occurs at 8 am and takes 5 minutes.
  - Snack Provider:
    - There are 2 shifts, morning and afternoon. Sign up for one or both as you like. There is no set time. The workers do not have a formal break time, they will come and go as they need to. Come when you are ready and stay to visit others or leave as you wish.
    - You will bring the snacks that the church or Playschool has collected, and set them out on the table provided.
    - There are a few chairs so you can sit and visit.
  - Lunch Provider:
    - Lunch is from 11:30 to 12:30. You will need to have lunch set up by 11:30 and then clean up when lunch is done.
    - As a church, we will make the lunch, deliver the lunch, setup the lunch and clean it all up. We can separate the jobs or do it all together. Plan for 50 hungry people!
    - There is no place for the workers to sit down unless they bring their own chairs or blankets, so make sure your lunch can be eaten standing up. There are 2 tables for setting out the lunch.
    - You will need to provide any utensils and cups needed to consume your lunch, plus napkins.
    - JCPC needs to try to provide lunch at least twice.
- There are jobs outside of the actual on site work (see Sharon Fortin)
- There are activities for young people under the age of 16 (see Julie Hebert).



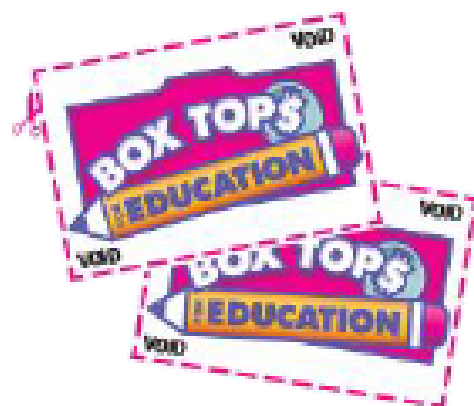
Sign-up on the sheets in the Narthex, or call or e-Mail Sharon Fortin to reserve your spot (985-725-0904 or s4tyne@cox.net)

# It's that time again!

Here's the easiest Mission Project you can imagine...  
one that nearly everyone can participate in!

## Collecting Labels for Education!

The Presbyterian Women and Outreach Committee are collecting three labels types for Alice Birney Elementary School to be used for positive behavior recognition and to purchase gym supplies for the classrooms.



Box Tops for Education are found on many, many common products: General Mills Cereals; Ziploc Products; Progresso Soups; Betty Crocker items; Old El Paso items; Scott and Kleenex products; Land O'Lakes, Pillsbury, and Yoplait products; Nature Valley and Fiber One products; and Hefty products. Each labels is worth 10 cents.

Campbell's Labels can be found on Campbell's soup and sauce cans; Pepperage Farm products; Pace salsas and sauces; Swanson stocks and chicken cans; V8 products; and SpaghettO products. These are used for purchase sports items from a catalog.



Local Community Coffee labels are being collected as well. The UPC Proof of Purchase Seal is what counts for these. Any Community Coffee product has one. We are collecting the seal off of the cases of coffee we are purchasing for Sunday coffee! Each one is worth 10 cents!

There are collection envelopes on a bulletin board in the narthex. Bring what you collect and we will get them to Alice Birney. Alternatively, our Playschool can accept the Box Tops for Education to be used for playground equipment. Just take them to the Playschool office! This one is easy. Yes, you can participate in a Mission Project!

# TABLECLOTH DINNER



8536 Ponchartrain Boulevard  
New Orleans, LA 70124 (504) 282-0801

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH**

Social 6:30pm

Dinner 7:00pm

**\$36.60**

**SIGN-UP IN NARTHEX**

**\*\*Make checks payable to Evelyn Tobey\*\***

**PAYMENT IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE EVENT**

## **MENU**

### **SALAD**

### **ENTRÉE CHOICES:**

- 1. Fried Catfish Filet—Topped with lite lemon butter sauce**
- 2. Veal Parmesan—Paneed veal topped with mozzarella and Sicilian marinara sauce**
- 3. Chicken Montalbana—Paneed chicken breast topped with a rich brown mushroom meuniere sauce**
- 4. Eggplant Parmesan—Fried eggplant topped with mozzarella and Sicilian marinara sauce**

### **DESSERT**

**New York Style Cheesecake**

**\*Price includes iced tea, soda, tax and gratuity**



1-Sep	Moore, Jeremy	15-Sep	Cranfill, Sandy
2-Sep	Calvin, Carolyn	16-Sep	Lybrand, Eloyease
2-Sep	Fortin, Mike	17-Sep	Magri, Marissa
3-Sep	Hebert, Caleb Paul	20-Sep	Robinson, Laurie
3-Sep	Laporte III, John	22-Sep	Brown, James
5-Sep	Joly, Marye Jane	22-Sep	Isham, Ryan
7-Sep	Cardinale, Nathan	24-Sep	Mullins, Pauline
7-Sep	Frank, Cathy	26-Sep	Boudreaux, Connor
9-Sep	Magri, David	27-Sep	Schwing, Kate Marie
11-Sep	Rogers, Jean	28-Sep	Asher, Mary
13-Sep	Thomas, Raju	28-Sep	Etland, Ethan
14-Sep	Palermo, Paula		



# EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar






## September

- 3rd: \* Worship CM between services 
- 4th: Labor Day—Church Office Closed 
- 6th: Wed Night Choir Prac Resumes @ 7:15p 
- 6th-7th: P/S Back-to-School Coffee @ 9:30-11:30 (FH)
- 7th: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 10th: Sunday School Kick-Off & Teacher Dedication 
- 11th: P/S CM @ noon  
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 12th: PW Council Mtg @ 10a (Lbry)  
> Lydia Circle @ 7:00p (Lbry)  
> Resource Mtg @ 7:00p (CR)
- 14th: Tablecloth Dinner @ 
- 17th: C/E CM after Worship
- 18th: P/S 3's Bible-Time Starts  
>Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 19th: Grace Circle @ 9:30a (Lbry)
- 20th: P/S 4's Bible-Time Starts
- 21st: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)  
>P/S Fmly Fun Night Set-Up (FH))
- 22nd:   
>P/S Fmly Fun Night (FH) 
- 24th: **YG Event**—TBA

**Note:** \* Committee Mtg. time changes may not be reflected, above times are based on a reoccurring schedule only.

## October

- 2nd: P/S Wrap & Cookie Fundraiser **Begins**  
> Worship CM @ 5:30 (CR)
- 3rd: PW Council Mtg @ 10a (Lbry)
- 5th: Unity Build Begins   
>P/S Individual School Pictures  
>PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 6th: >P/S Flue Shots / 11:45-12:45p
- 7th: **YG**—Providing Unity Build Lunches
- 8th: C/E CM after Worship
- 9th: Columbus Day   
>P/S CM @ noon  
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 10th: Lydia Circle @ 7:00p (Lbry)  
> Resource Mtg @ 7:00p (CR)
- 11th: P/S Cane's Night Fundraiser on Vets (12-9)
- 13th: P/S Wrap & Cookie Fundraiser **Ends**
- 16th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 17th: Grace Circle @ 9:30a (Lbry)
- 19th: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 20th: P/S Trunk or Treat  **Rain Day: 27th**
- 26th: P/S Parent's Night
- 27th: **YG**—Christian Concert: Meet @ 5:30p (Church)

**Note:** \* Committee Mtg. time changes may not be reflected, above times are based on a reoccurring schedule only.

# **John Calvin Presbyterian Church**



*“Freed by the Fire, Renewed by the Flood, and Empowered by the Spirit”*