

John Calvin Presbyterian Newsletter

October



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From Reverend Ochart

*Satisfy us with your love in the morning,
and we will live this day in joy and praise. (Psalm 90:14)*

Jesus's disciples asked him one day to teach them how to pray. This was a common request of rabbis (teachers), John had taught his disciples to pray, so had many others. They, like us, knew that prayer was an important part of our spiritual lives, it is the line of communication that we have with the living God. I think we all understand the importance of prayer, but that does not mean that we always know how to do it...

One hurdle for us is the words to say, which is why the Lord's Prayer is such a great tool. We are able to repeat these memorized words, and cover all of the basics of prayer. But if we go beyond that, we sometimes run out of steam (and words), we don't know how to pray or what to pray for. Sometimes when we pray on our own we can also feel self-conscious, we realize that most of the things we are praying for is about us (help me, help me, bless me, bless me, etc) or those around us or like us. We can also easily get out of the pattern of prayer; we pray sporadically, when we think of it; but at times find ourselves thinking of it less and less (This is one of the reasons that people pray before a meal, you are far less likely to forget to eat than to pray!).

I was first introduced to the practice of using the Daily Prayer Liturgy in seminary. It is a simple prayer service that can be done alone or as a group, consisting of praise, scripture reading, a rotating litany of prayers for the world and people around us, and the Lord's Prayer. It is by no means the only way to pray, but it is a good way to practice prayer. It gives us words (mostly from scripture), a list of people and situations which we might easily forget to pray for, and encourages regular time set aside for prayer. Since I have been using this prayer regularly, I have found God working in profound and subtle ways. For instance, the repeated prayer "for those from whom we are estranged" encouraged me (eventually) to reach out to my father and work to repair our broken relationship.

I now regularly record and distribute these "Daily Prayer" sessions, first to keep myself accountable to regular prayer, and also to help others in this vital practice of prayer and the reading and reflection on Scripture. These videos are available every weekday and sometimes on Saturdays for you to use in your spiritual practice. They are about 20-30 minutes each, and we are using the weekly readings that go along with the Narrative Lectionary. Again, this is not the only way to pray, by any means, but I have found it useful and commend it to you.

However you may choose to pray, I encourage you to do so as a daily practice. This is our line of communication with the God of the universe, who longs to hear from us, and speak to us.

Resources to start, start again, or renew your practice of daily prayer: [Rev. Ochart's Daily Prayer Services](#); [PC\(USA\) Daily Prayer App](#); [Mission Yearbook](#); [Reading Plans from Bible.com](#); or great books like: "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers, "Diary of Private Prayer" by John Baillie, and many more.

Weekly Readings for October: Week of October 4th- Exodus 16-20, [21-24] 25-34; Week of October 11- 1 Samuel 1-15; Week of October 18- 1 Samuel 16-19 and 2 Samuel 1-7; Week of October 25th- 1 Kings 17-22.

This Month I have been:

- Listening to: "Staying In Podcast with Emily & Kumail" and "Black Panther: The Album Music From and Inspired By" by Kendrick Lamar, SZA, etc.
- Watching: Space Force
- Reading: "Building a Discipling Culture" by Mike Breem and the 3DM Team
- Playing: Minecraft Dungeons

Thank You

Thank You Ron and Cynthia Palmisano for the donation of instruments to the church. They generously donated a **flute, piccolo, and clarinet** to the church music program. They hope to encourage members to learn to play, particularly the youth, and make these instruments available for loan. Interested people can contact Sandy Cranfill by email or by calling the church office.

swcranfill@yahoo.com



GAME NIGHT



JOHN CALVIN WILL HOST A GAME NIGHT FOR

YOUNGER ADULTS

OCTOBER 16TH

6:00 FELLOWSHIP HALL

PIZZA PROVIDED

BRING A BOARD GAME TO SHARE

ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS



FALL HARVEST FOOD DRIVE

The Presbyterian Women of John Calvin Presbyterian Church will again be collecting for the **Second Harvest Food Bank** to deliver to those in need in a 23 parish area. This covers from the Texas to Mississippi borders. Therefore, this includes those affected by Hurricane Laura. We are asking for non-perishable items such as:

Canned Vegetables

Canned Fruit

Peanut Butter

Canned Tuna

Sugar

Flour

Coffee-Tea-Cocoa Mix-Powdered Drink Mix

Bottled Water

Cleaning Products

Hygiene Products-soap, shampoo, deodorant

Monetary donations are also accepted. (Make checks payable to John Calvin Church with "Food Drive" on memo line)

Collection begins on Sunday, October 11th and will conclude on Sunday, October 18th.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!