

# JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



**JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**NOVEMBER 2020**

4201 TRANSCONTINENTAL DRIVE  
METAIRIE, LA 70006  
504.888.1375  
[www.johncalvinchurch.org](http://www.johncalvinchurch.org)



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- FROM JCPC's PASTOR
- PLAYSCHOOL
- HAPPENINGS / EVENTS

Greetings,

The first time I was able to vote in a presidential election was the year 2000. As you may remember, that year's election was not as straightforward as anyone would have hoped, and it was not ultimately resolved until the December 12th decision by the Supreme Court.

As I write this, I have nothing but political polls to suggest how the election is going to go, who will win, and who will lose. Since I will be on vacation over election day, I have already voted and made my own voice heard, but like you, await the actual results. I do not know what you may already know, how things will go on November 3rd, or if we even have an answer on the 3rd, or the 4th, or the 5th, etc. What I do know, is that unless there is an overwhelming majority for one candidate or the other (and maybe not even then), there will be a long and drawn out contention over who should be inaugurated in January.

I also know that we as the American people are even more divided and partisan than we were in 2000. In 2000, my internet was dial-up (remember the squealing sound of connection) and would take several minutes to load a single picture. We now have access to more information than we could possibly want or need on our phones, complaining when our HD video buffers slightly. The internet, especially social media, is a hotbed of opinion (with a few facts sprinkled in for color). Our media (from Facebook to Fox News) is carefully cultivated to affirm our own beliefs (whatever flavor or extremity) and distance us from those who are 'other'. We can shield ourselves from the thoughts of others, dehumanizing them as the enemy, and cherry pick the facts we like. If you think this does not apply to you, honestly reflect on the assumptions that you make about others who are different from you whether politically, racially, economically, etc. Also watch "The Social Dilemma" documentary on Netflix.

Matthew 5-7, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, remains today a stark and almost radical statement on the Kingdom of God over and against the kingdoms of this world. Jesus tells his listeners (including us) not to be angry with a sibling (Matthew 5:22), to turn the other cheek when attacked (5:39), love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (5:44), to not worry about tomorrow (6:34), to not judge one another (7:1-2), to treat others with respect (7:12), to discern others by the fruits of their lives (7:15-16), and (in case we thought that we might be able to get out of any of these difficult things) compares the one who hears these words and does not put them into practice to a house built on sand. The standards and conduct that Jesus holds up for his disciples are challenging, subversive, defiant in the face of the standards and practices of this world, and frankly, not something that we do very well. (In fact, there is a story that Mahatma Gandhi read these words and almost became a Christian, but did not because he had met too many of us who don't live up to them). I highly recommend a careful re-read of the Sermon of the Mount for all of us in the midst of all of this.

Whatever the next days, weeks, months... hold for us, whether answers are quick or (and especially) if they are slow, if you get the outcome that you were hoping for or dreading; let us all remain disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us serve one another, no matter the differences; let us respect one another as siblings in Christ and fellow human beings; let us trust God, even if we do not know what God is doing; and let us be the people of the Living God this day and every day. Amen.

What Am I...

Listening to: In Search of Black History with Bonnie Greer (an Audible Original)

Watching: the Mandalorian (!), and What We Do in the Shadows

Reading: "Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a Spoke in the Wheel" by Rinate Wind



Happy November! Just wanted to fill you in on important dates and events for this month:

- November 3 (tomorrow)- Spirit Shirt & Crazy Socks Day (wear them over your pants or leggings)
- Coat Drive starts today and runs through November 16 (adult & child sizes- place in box outside Playschool office)
- Kendra Scott Fundraiser- November 10 & 11 online or in Lakeside store- **MUST USE CODE GIVEBACK8793 when check out and we receive 20% of the purchase!** Get your Christmas, Anniversary, Birthday & Mother's Day gifts.
- November 13- Spirit Day- team spirit (wear your favorite sports team outfit)
- November 17- Picture Re-takes/ Absentee photos in FH
- November 18- PK-4 Friendsgiving Performance (9:30 for Rm 10 and 10:30 for Rm 9)
- November 19-20- Thanksgiving Feasts in the classrooms
- November 23-27 Thanksgiving Holidays



# EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



## November

## December

**1st: Celebration of Heritage Day**

**3rd: Election Day**

**5th: PW @ 10:00 (Lbry)**

**8th: Stewardship Sunday/Congregational Meeting after church**

**9th: Playschool CM @ 12:15**

**10th: Worship CM @ 10:00am**

**10th: Outreach CM @ 6:30pm**

**14th: Rental in Fellowship Hall 4-10pm**

**15th: Christmas Decorations Come down**

**16th: Session Meeting 6:30pm**

**17th: Circle @ 10:00am(Lbry)**

**23rd-27th: P/S Thanksgiving Holiday**

**26th: Thanksgiving Day**

**26th-27th: Church Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday**

**29th: First Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Greens 10:30am**

**3rd: PW @10am Library**

**5th: Presbytery Meeting**

**6th: Cookie Swap 3-5pm Fellowship Hall- All Invited**

**8th: Worship CM 10am**

**8th: Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)**

**13th: Christmas Cantata 10:30am**

**14th: P/S Angel! Angel!**

**14th: P/S CM 12:15**

**14th: Session Mtg @ 6:30p (Lbry)**

**18th: Grace Circle @ 10:00 (Lbry)**

**24th: Christmas Eve Worship @ 6:00p**

**25th: Children and youth Christmas play comes out on JCPC youtube channel**

**25th: Christmas—Church Office Closed**

**31st: New Years Eve— Church Office Closed**

# John Calvin Presbyterian Church



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