

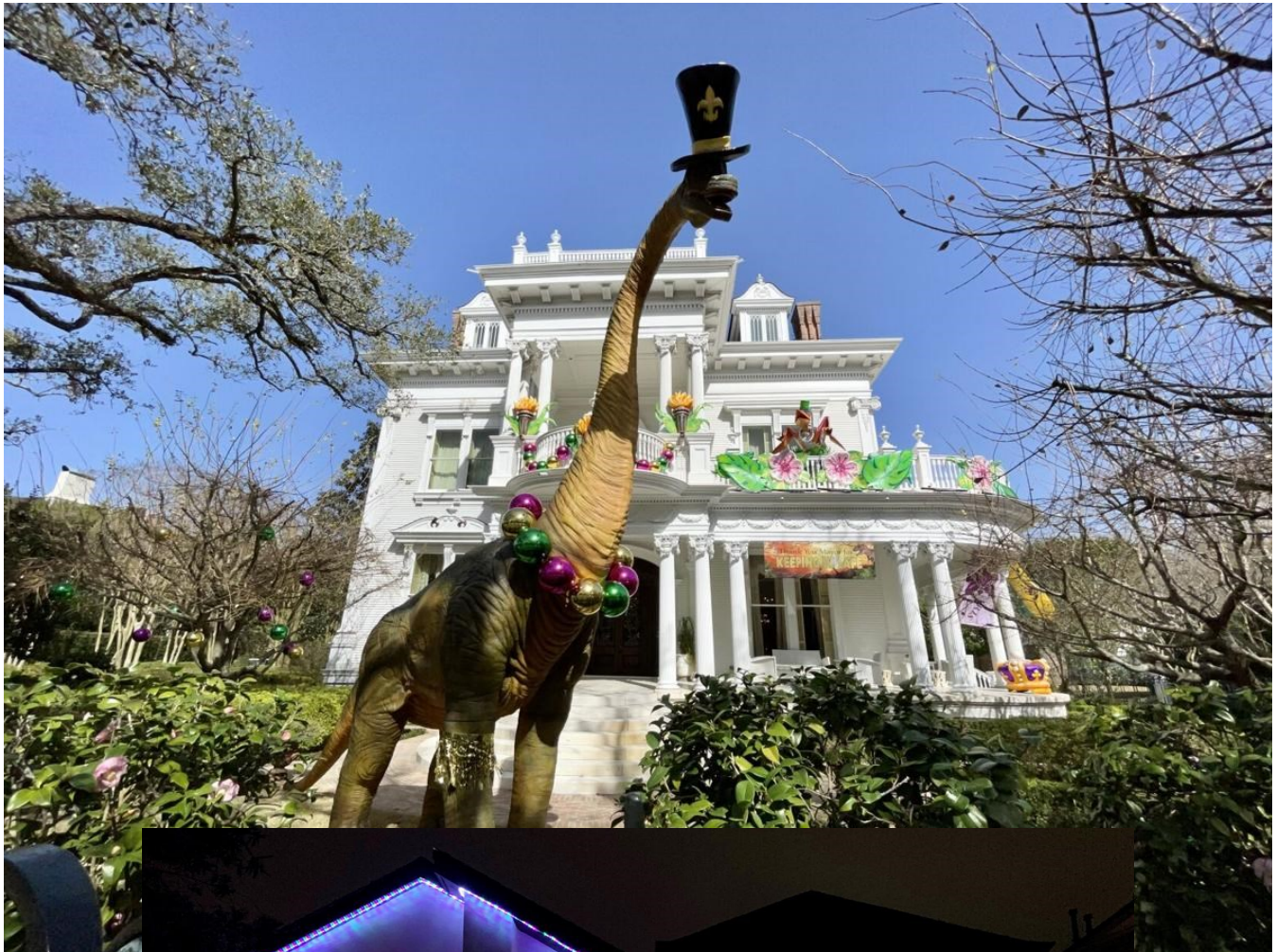
# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



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**JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**February 2021**



## From Reverend Ochart

It is February in New Orleans, and even though this year is different from years past, there is still a festive mood in the air. King Cakes are everywhere (including our pantry), decorations cover houses (with some very impressive “Yardi Gras” House Floats unique to this year), and everywhere the gold, purple, and green of the season can be seen.

You certainly know this better than I, but I will remind us all nonetheless of the liturgical history of this season. Mardi Gras, or “Fat Tuesday” began as a celebration on the day(s) before Ash Wednesday, the official start to the season of Lent. The name came as a result of the practice in Roman Catholic traditions (specifically in French and Spanish communities) of a feast to eat all of the meat before refraining from it during Lent as an act of sacrifice. In some communities, this celebration began to extend beyond the one day of Tuesday, and locally now takes up the season from Epiphany to Lent. While in some quarters, the celebration of Mardi Gras has taken on a ‘Sin as much as you can before Lent’ kind of vibe, in most places it is a celebration of life which is a perfect and logical precursor to Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday traditionally begins the season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes (which is where it gets its name). This is the act of having our foreheads marked with ash in the sign of a cross and the words, “You are dust, and to dust you will return.” It is a reminder of our own mortality and need for repentance (even if we didn’t do anything that bad during Mardi Gras). In the midst of a global pandemic, we may not need as much of a reminder of our mortality as other years, but the reminder that we are marked by God, is just as important for us to hear right now (if not more). This year, Ash Wednesday is February 17th, and our service will be at 6 pm.

Lent is the season of preparation before Holy Week and Easter Sunday. From the earliest days of the church, this season was set aside to provide all believers (but especially new converts or those being reintegrated into the church) a time of prayerful and penitent reflection on their own sinfulness. In many Christian communities, notably our siblings in the Roman Catholic tradition, Lent is a season of abstinence and fasting. More recently, Lent has become a season to add acts of service or take on acts of spiritual discipline. This year, Julie will reprise her Lenten Bible Study on ‘Wilderness’ which I hope you will join us for.

Consider how you are being called to prepare during the season of Lent. Do you need to eliminate something from your life? Do you need to take something up? As a possible option, The Synod of the Sun’s [Network for Dismantling Racism](#) has posted a calendar of activities for understanding and thinking through issues of systemic racism during the season of Lent. If you are interested in going through it, and would like to talk with others who are doing so as well, please email me at [revo-chart@johncalvinchurch.org](mailto:revo-chart@johncalvinchurch.org). Have a Happy Mardi Gras and meaningful Lent.

Rev. Aaron’s Radar (What media have I been consuming in the last month?)

- Read: Star Wars: The Light of the Jedi by Charles Soule (Book 1 of ‘the High Republic’ series)
- Watch: Star Trek: Voyager- season 3
- Listen: Off Book: The Improvised Musical Podcast (not safe for children)

Play: The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild

# THE PLAY SCHOOL

Happy February! Just wanted to give you some dates for this month and a couple Covid-related calendar changes.

- Alum and wait list registration and Open Registration for next year will be February 8.
- February 9 is Spirit Day with Mardi Gras dress/accessories (Mardi Gras colors/clothes can be worn all week).
- Mardi Gras Parades at school- The Krewe of John Calvin is still rolling and is sure to not disappoint (we just have to have each class parade separately and of course all adults must wear masks on campus)! Tuesday 2/9 Schedule: 9:45- TK, 10:30- PK Nancy, 11:15- PK Briana (THE 4'S & TK WILL PARADE THEIR NORMAL ROUTE AROUND THE MIDDLE CAMPUS BUILDING- PARENTS ARE TO CATCH THE PARADE FROM THE PARKING LOT.) Wednesday 2/10 Schedule: 9:45- Rm 108 3's, 10:30- Rm 12 3's, 11:15- Rm 107 3's (THE 3'S WILL PARADE IN THE LARGE SIDE OF THE QUAD INSTEAD OF INSIDE FELLOWSHIP HALL- NO MORE THAN 4 PEOPLE PER CHILD IN THE CROWD TO KEEP CROWDS DOWN). 1's & 2's do not parade, but they will attend a parade and catch throws. Rain Out dates are Thursday for 4's & TK and Friday for the 3's.
- February 15-19 is Mardi Gras holidays- there is no school this week.

## February 24 is Inside Out Spirit Day!

We are pushing back the dates for our Grandparents Week/ Scholastic Book Fair & Art and Fun Festival due to Covid concerns. We are hoping the later dates will offer grandparents more time to get vaccinated if they choose to do so and just offer more time for the pandemic situation to improve. We have the Zoo2U petting zoo and ponies booked, and we will make it an end of the year celebration for the kids with performances, games, food, obstacle courses, and the silent auction.

Our new dates for these events will be:

- April 19-23: Grandparent's Week & Scholastic Book Fair

**Saturday, May 15: Art & Fun Festival  
(10 am-3 pm)**





**This Lent,**

We will travel through the wilderness together and along the way meet different things that we might encounter in the wilderness: hunger, loneliness, risk and faith.

**Wednesday's February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24**

**6:00-7:00 pm**

Intergenerational (All ages)

Virtual at 6:00 via Zoom

Questions:

[Julie.hebert@johncalvinchurch.org](mailto:Julie.hebert@johncalvinchurch.org)

# Virtual



**“VIRTUAL” HAPPY HOUR!** Please  
plan to come join us for a Zoom event  
on Friday,

**February 5, from 6 to 7 pm!**

Get your favorite beverage, and log  
on! Find out what the rest of us are  
doing, and share your  
stories of living in this new age!

The Zoom invitation will be sent via  
email this coming week. Look for it and  
make a plan to join in!

**“See” you on Friday!**



Special Ash Wednesday

Service

February 17

6:00pm

Sanctuary and Online

# **John Calvin Presbyterian Church**



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