



CALVIN COMMENTARY

NEWSLETTER OF JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
METAIRIE, LA

AUGUST 2021

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PLAYLIST

Making Connections

BY THE REV. AARON OCHART

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to go to the Montreat Conference center with some of the youth from the Presbytery of South Louisiana for their Summer Youth Conference. The theme was "Called to Connect" and we explored issues of connection in our faith. We talked, in keynote addresses, in small group discussions, and in evening worship; about the fact that God created us to be in connection and relationship with one another, but also explored the fact that humanity is disconnected not only with God, but also with one another. We feel particularly disconnected from one another after the last several months, as we have been disconnected from friends and loved ones as a result of the quarantine.

We were reminded, however, that through Christ we are called to reconcile and reconnect with one another, even when it is uncomfortable. This is a hard thing, to connect with people that you have not seen in a while. Because I came here in the middle of a pandemic, I have had a hard time connecting with some of you and you with me, and for that I apologize and am trying to be better. While there are certainly times and instances when breaking connections is the healthiest thing that we can do; most of the time restoring our relationships is the better and more healthy option.

We also talked about the deeper and more lasting connection that we have through God. We are not only deeply connected with God and one another, but also biconnected (A term from mathematics that refers to points being connected in two ways so that if one is removed, it does not become disconnected). Because we are connected to one another through not only our individual relationships, but also our relationship with God, those connections are stronger and more resilient than other relationships without God.

I commend these thoughts to you as well, as we all work to strengthen, reconcile, and deepen our connection with one another and with our Living God. Thank you once again for the opportunity to attend. +



August Member Spotlight



Although you might find Dennis in the back of the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, he is front and center in our worship services. On most Sundays, Dennis not only manages the audio/visual in the sanctuary but also the audio/visual for those streaming at home. It's a huge job, but Dennis makes it look easy. We are so lucky to have him as part of our worship team! Thank you for sharing your gifts, Dennis!

1. When did you join JCPC? What brought you to the church?

My family started to attend JCPC in 2008 after moving into the neighborhood in 2006. My wife, Nancy, and I were members of Kenner Presbyterian for many years. We joined JCPC in 2018 or 2019.

2. Where did you grow up and how did you end up in Metairie, Louisiana?

I was born in New Orleans and lived mostly in Kenner growing up. Nancy & I lived just one block away from each other; we were childhood / school friends. Nancy and I briefly lived in Atlanta after getting married but ultimately decided to move back to Nawlins' for the food & family.

3. What is your favorite part of JCPC?

I grew up attending mostly Catholic mass as a child. I have always enjoyed the mix of old & new, traditional & contemporary of JCPC as compared to other denominations and experiences. I have always felt welcome at JCPC. We have a beautiful sanctuary. With two young daughters a number of years ago, the JCPC church community was always welcoming to our children into the life of the church.

4. Can you tell us a little about your family?

Nancy's parents are from Hong Kong. My parents are from Tennessee and the Bayou region. We love spicy seafood, dim sum, sushi rolls and snoballs. For us a good meal together has always meant a good time with family. Together, we enjoy traveling, playing cards, thrift shopping and recently started playing Mahjong.

5. What do you do for a living?

I work in Information Technology (Network Operations Center) at Ochsner. Let's just say, no one calls me when things are working and my team stays busy.

6. How did you get involved in audio and video production?

It has truly been a team effort with the audio / video production at JCPC. Many thanks for all who have contributed and continue to contribute in making it possible. I have always enjoyed technology and especially enjoy the creativity of video production. However, the audio portion has always presented the biggest challenges in a live production. A live production always has a level of anticipation, excitement and energy that is unique in that moment of time.

7. What else are you involved in at the church?

I enjoy singing and did so for a number of years at Kenner Presbyterian. I admire the choir members & other musical performers for the time and commitment it takes in preparing for each performance.

8. What kind of hobbies do you have?

I enjoy politics, history, basketball mostly but any sport really. I admire the physical dedication, competition and persistence to an athletic craft. I have a BA in Political Science. My most memorable class at Loyola University was "Socrates & Jesus". A close second was a full semester studying President Andrew Jackson... who knew it could be that interesting.... Good Times! Politics and Sports: the making of history is always just one fleeting moment away!

9. Can you share a special memory you have had at JCPC?

Being a part of the Pastor Nominating Committee was a real joy and a special opportunity. During our search, we had a real opportunity to share our life experiences & knowledge, get to know one another and share in our Faith Journey. It was a real pleasure and honor to share in that experience and fellowship at JCPC.



VBS 2021



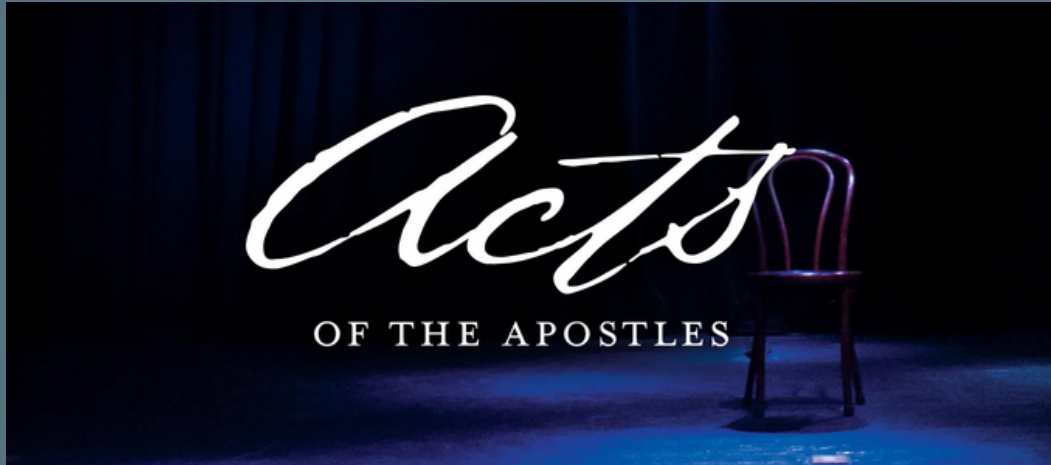


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Actor Joe Boyd explores this ancient tale in a one-man show that utilizes his unique balance of comedy, sincere drama, and historical insights crafted over decades of studying the text and performing on stages across the country. Regardless of what faith background a person has, this story brilliantly shows us that a small group of people can change the world when they have the courage to love others more than themselves.

Being intentional about our goals is a well-understood concept in the secular and corporate world. In this four-part series, author, business consultant, and coach Rajiv Chelladurai helps us answer these questions by examining “four Ps” of finding your purpose.



Sometimes the battles we fight for God's kingdom defy our expectations, leading us to trust God more deeply. In this five-sessions series with Bianca Juárez Olthoff, explore the story of Deborah, Barak, and Jael and discover what being a warrior for God looks like.

Your favorite flightless space birds are back! From the creators of VeggieTales comes a new set of stories about Penguins in space (of course) Over 5 hours of Penguin-Packed fun in these 20 episodes from season one and two of this #1 rated NBC show.



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