

The Clarion  
September 2020  
Calvary Presbyterian Church





# *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

	Luther Philpot	9/1
	Susan Wilson	9/5
	Ryan Zack	9/6
♥	Diane & Frank Quintanilla	9/7
	Richard Gutschow	9/9
	Hideko Furuta	9/10
	Glenice Hershberger	9/11
	Thaddeus Philpot	9/12
	Nick Robertson	9/14
	Noel Garcia	9/15
♥	Marta & Paul Renna	9/15
	Maribel Valadez	9/23
	Rob Freeman	9/25
	Nathana Schooler	9/25
	Becca Daley	9/29





Friends,

We continue to be involved in an ever-changing pandemic with the updates and regulations constantly being altered. These regulations come from a multitude of places; our insurance company, San Gabriel Presbytery, the LA Department of Health, and the state of California.

We know that one of the questions that is on many hearts and minds continues to be, “When will we be able to go back to Calvary?” Please know that your Staff and church leaders are constantly working on this, and we are operating under the guidance of the presbytery who has discouraged in-person worship for the time being. Calvary’s primary goals are to keep everyone *safe* and to follow all of the guidelines. Recognizing that there is both a lot of work to be done in order to prepare for re-opening and that we continue to get additional requirements, Session has decided that we are aiming to have our first in-person worship service on Sunday, October 11th. (Please note that this is a change from our original date of Sunday, September 6th.)

Please also go ahead and prepare yourselves for the reality that when we do reopen, church might feel very different. Please recognize that this is only temporary, and that again, this is to keep people *safe* and prevent the spread of the virus as much as we can. In the coming weeks, we will send to all of you a document outlining all of the procedures and precautions we will have to follow in order to worship safely. Additionally, we will give you several weeks’ notice confirming that October 11th is our first Sunday offering in-person worship.

We love you and miss you a lot! Continue to look for the fun and exciting things we have in store. Just because we can’t be together in person doesn’t mean that we can’t feel connected!

Sincerely,

The Session of Calvary Presbyterian Church

# BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



**Don't forget that every Friday we have an amazing Bible study gathering via Zoom at 4PM. Come explore the Parables of Jesus with us. These teachings are more than entertaining little stories, they are paradigm shifting lessons. Come check us out!**

**All ages are welcome.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6759828821>

I must admit that I started participating in Reece Lemmon's Friday online Bible study because I like Reece and as a good Calvaryite I feel that I should at least tap in at least once in a while to what we offer. But, I am hooked. Reece's discussions always reach me in ways that I need to hear. His kind and humble approach to Scripture is winsome and revelatory. If you haven't tuned in yet, give it a try. It is on Fridays at 4:00 pm. The Zoom link is in the Calvary weekly update email. If you have difficulties with Zoom, Ashley Roque is available to help you (818 934-6908).

Ron Schooler



## Presbyterian Corner Our faith, our practice, and our roots

### Do you have “free will”?

The answer to this question depends on how we define “free will.” We can speak of the choices we make in everyday life. If we use the term this way, to describe the things we choose to do like go to bed, or pick up a box, or drink milk—we can say we have freedom of choice. What we do is done on the basis of our power to make decisions. Our will cannot be coerced or forced to do something that it doesn't not want to do. No power on earth can make that happen.

But theologians have used the term “free will” in another sense. This is the question: “Do we have the power to do the good?” Or can we, by our own “will,” do what God wills for us or choose to live the way God wants us to live? Immediately we see that the stakes are much higher here. We are talking about things that are really important. We are talking about spiritual choices and whether we as humans can will to do the good that God intends. To this question, Presbyterian, along with Lutherans and others, have said, “No.” By ourselves we do not have “freedom” to choose to follow God’s ways. We do not have the “free will” to will the good or God’s will in our lives.

Why? We do not have this freedom of the will because of our sin. The power of sin affects our minds, hearts, wills, and affections. This power is so strong that it prevents us from choosing God’s ways. We are sinners by nature. Our actions—and our wills—are expressions of our nature. What we do reflects who we are. And we are persons infected by the virus of sin so strongly that the totality of our lives is under sin’s power. Without God’s help to give us new wills and hearts and minds, in Jesus Christ, we will always choose that sinful path. We will not be interested in God’s love in Jesus Christ, since we are unable to act in any other than our sinful ways. Our wills are in bondage to sin. Our only hope is for God’s gracious love to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves—give us the wills to have faith and trust in God.

-from Donald K. McKim, *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*

## *Thank You Calvary Pres*

For a while I kept asking God why He connected me to Calvary Presbyterian even though I was living in Eagle Rock and schooling in Pasadena. I came to realize that in His providence, He had determined this church to be my family and a wealth of blessings to me. Thank you for welcoming me and being part of my American experience, my life is richer and more beautiful because of each one of you.

Thank you Rev Millason for embracing and incorporating me into your congregation, you're a blessing.

To all of you, I can't thank you enough for honoring me by turning up for my graduation celebration. You filled my heart with joy.

The Calvary ladies made sure my winter nights are taken care of by giving the hand-knitted blanket as seen in the picture. Thank you for the love Dr. Pat Martínez-Miller, thank you. You're a friend, a mother, a mentor and a huge blessing to me.

Maribel Valadez, thank you. You are a true sister.

I'll be taking my internship in chaplaincy so I am still around and part of Calvary.

Thank you Calvary family for being a blessing to me.

God bless you and keep you.

Rev. Priscilla Ngunju.



# LAST CHANCE!

As children across Los Angeles return to school in new and different ways this year, we are again partnering with Monte Vista Street Elementary School.

Faced with remote, online learning some children will not have access to the crayons, scissors, pencils, graph paper and calculators that are regularly available in their classrooms. Calvary is helping provide those items to children for their in-home learning.

Since drop offs at the church building are difficult, we have an Amazon wish list, through which you can order and have the items delivered.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1AOQ4V0F2NEZW?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1AOQ4V0F2NEZW?ref=wl_share)

If you prefer to shop in person, please contact Liz Daley for safe pick up from your home.

## Monte Vista Street Elementary School basic supplies



- Pencils
- Erasers
- Spiral notebooks
- colored pencils
- pencil case
- highlighters
- crayons

- chap stick
- pencil sharpener
- facial tissues (individual packs)
- child safe scissors

### **AND Backpacks!**

Please NO sharpies

**THANK YOU** to the many Calvary families and friends who have already purchased school supplies.



Ashley has given me a month to guest write for her book review. I am SO excited to share with you several books (cheating I know, but they cover the same topic) that have impacted how I look at mission projects.

**What if we have been doing Mission in the wrong way all these years?**

**What if the things that we do to help others, do not help, and in some cases hurt those who we are trying diligently to serve?**

Before you put down the newsletter, or close your computer screen, let me say; I would love to have a discussion with these authors. I am not sure that I 100% believe all that they are saying. But isn't that what a good book does? It makes you think. Reading these books was mission-life changing for me.

The authors suggest that many mission projects deliver a feel-good experience to the group providing aid but do not actually deliver positive benefits to the receivers. Several easy to explain examples are:

- Untrained groups coming from the US to build or paint facilities in other countries which take needed jobs away from local trained carpenters.
- Building wells with material that are not available locally, so that when items break there is no ability for the local population to replace the part and fix the structure. They are then dependent on the next mission trip for the needed part.
- Consistently providing food handouts which create a division between those enforcing distribution rules and those seen as manipulating the system.
- On a larger scale, free food donations from the US have driven small farms and markets out of business, taking away livelihoods, and creating more poverty.



The authors assert that rather than empowering those being served, improving quality of life, and relieving poverty, many mission trips deepen dependency, weaken those being served, and foster dishonest relationships.

### SO what should we do....

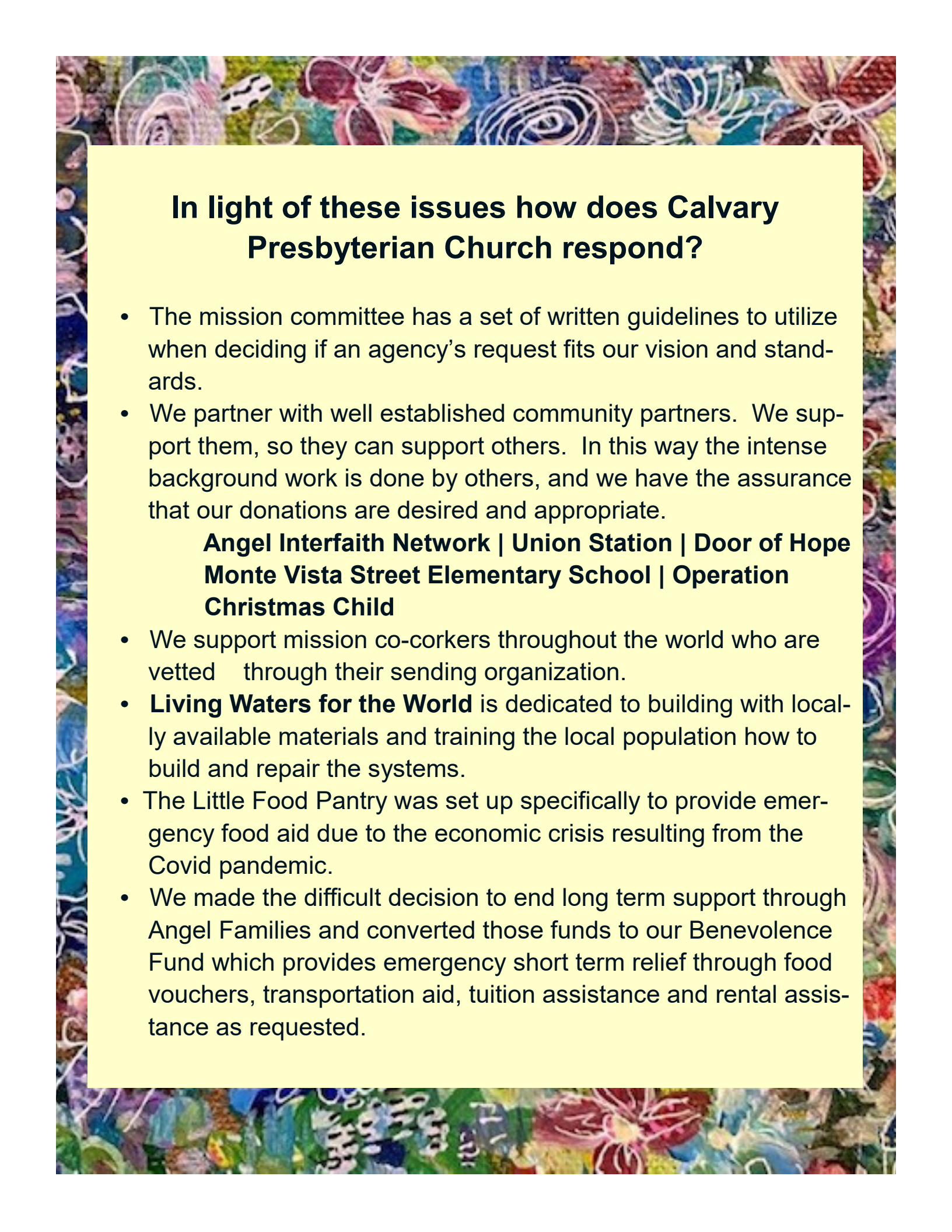
1. Realize the difference between necessary emergency aid (hurricane, flood, earthquake) and ongoing (potentially harmful) community support.
2. Focus on local development by using loans, providing expert consultation, and encouraging local employment and involvement.
3. Develop honest partnerships. The authors have many stories of agencies who host mission trips or service days that they do not feel are helpful, solely because they worry that support money will be cut off if they do not host these groups. Ask about true needs and listen to the answer even if it does not match with what you want to provide.
4. Be willing put aside the need to 'feel good' and be willing to work harder to address the more difficult underlying issues, rather than providing a band-aid quick fix.
5. Trust God and Pray.

I highly recommend that everyone read [Toxic Charity, How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help](#) by Robert Lupton or [When Helping Hurts, How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself](#) by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. ([Toxic Charity](#) is shorter and a slightly easier read) If you are interested in medical mission work [When Healthcare Hurts](#) by Greg Seager is a must read.

Corbett and Fikkert have an online video based small group study- if you would be interested in participating in this study please let me know. If you want to discuss these topics or have questions about mission work I am always happy to chat.

Liz Daley





## In light of these issues how does Calvary Presbyterian Church respond?

- The mission committee has a set of written guidelines to utilize when deciding if an agency's request fits our vision and standards.
- We partner with well established community partners. We support them, so they can support others. In this way the intense background work is done by others, and we have the assurance that our donations are desired and appropriate.

### **Angel Interfaith Network | Union Station | Door of Hope Monte Vista Street Elementary School | Operation Christmas Child**

- We support mission co-corkers throughout the world who are vetted through their sending organization.
- **Living Waters for the World** is dedicated to building with locally available materials and training the local population how to build and repair the systems.
- The Little Food Pantry was set up specifically to provide emergency food aid due to the economic crisis resulting from the Covid pandemic.
- We made the difficult decision to end long term support through Angel Families and converted those funds to our Benevolence Fund which provides emergency short term relief through food vouchers, transportation aid, tuition assistance and rental assistance as requested.



**Starting in September, 10-12th graders at Calvary will be invited to join a confirmation class on Zoom to go over our "Big God and Big Questions," confirmation curriculum designed by our PC USA denomination. If your teen would like to join, please reach out to Ashley at [ashley@cpcsouthpas.org](mailto:ashley@cpcsouthpas.org)**



This fall, Calvary youth will be studying the book of Genesis through the Echo The Story youth sketch journal. Join us each Monday from 4:30-5:30 pm on Zoom.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6759828821>



CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## MAKING SPACES

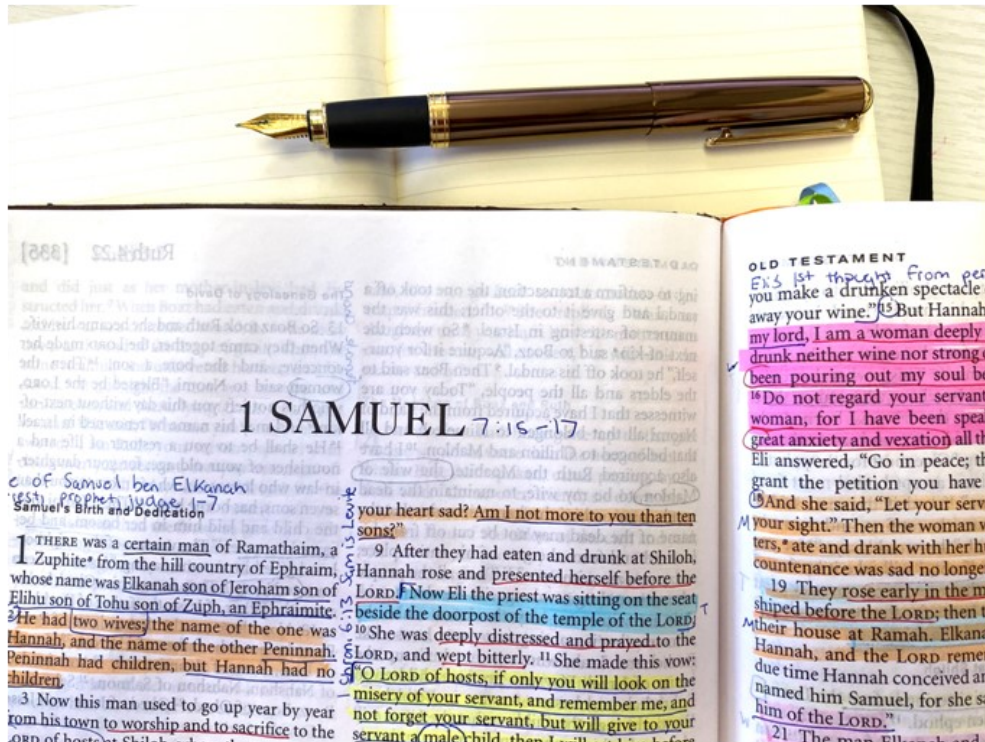
CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH,  
CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

### Making Spaces

In a time of tension and division, it is increasingly important that we make space for each other. Starting this week, we are calling our Wednesday Zoom fellowship group "Making Spaces" instead of "Church Chat" to set that intention. The term "making spaces" is inspired by Rev. Sarah Heath, a pastor in Costa Mesa who hosts a weekly podcast on making spaces for different ideas, inclusion, and deep reflection. We are excited to follow her example as we center our time of fellowship around similar themes.

# Why everyone should read through 1-2 Samuel

By Ashley Lynn Roque



This fall, I want to invite you to join me in reading through 1-2 Samuel. Instead of seeing this as the story of “a Man after God’s own Heart” you remember from Sunday School, I want to invite you to see these two books from a completely different perspective. When we study to the characters on the margin: Hannah, Samuel, Saul, Tamar, and the Witch of Endor, we find a completely rich and dynamic series of stories that serve to both inspire us and help us think critically.

I have outlined a reading plan that not only includes the two books, but corresponding psalms and passages in 1-2 Chronicles and 1-2 Kings. I hope you will join me in season to think deeply about what it means to trust God and remain faithful. We cannot control our circumstances but we can most assuredly control how we respond. May God find us faithful to the task of responding with conviction and grace this fall as we study God’s word with open hearts and open minds.

# 1-2 Samuel Reading Plan Fall 2020

*By Ashley Lynn Roque*

## **Week 1**

Ruth 1-2

Ruth 3-4

1 Samuel 1-2:10

1 Samuel 2:11-36

1 Samuel 3

*Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 2:1*

## **Week 6**

1 Samuel 23

Psalms 17

1 Samuel 24

Psalms 57

1 Samuel 25-26

*Memory Verse: Psalm 57:2*

## **Week 11**

2 Samuel 13

2 Samuel 14 – 15:12

2 Samuel 15:13-29

2 Samuel 15:30-31

Psalms 3

*Memory Verse: Psalm 3:5-6*

## **Week 2**

1 Samuel 4-5

1 Samuel 6-7:2

1 Samuel 7:3-17

1 Samuel 8

1 Samuel 9-10:8

*Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 8:7*

## **Week 7**

Psalms 7

1 Samuel 27-28

Psalms 16

1 Samuel 29-31

Psalms 4

*Memory Verse: Psalm 16:7-8*

## **Week 12**

2 Samuel 16:14- 17:29

2 Samuel 18

Psalms 10

2 Samuel 19:1-8

Psalms 122

*Memory Verses: Psalm 122:1*

## **Week 3**

1 Samuel 10:9-11:15

1 Samuel 12

1 Samuel 13:1-15a

1 Samuel 13:15b – 14:52

1 Samuel 15

*Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 12:21*

## **Week 8**

1 Chronicles 10:1-14

2 Samuel 1

2 Samuel 2 – 3

2 Samuel 4 - 5

Psalms 58 & 93

*Memory Verse: Psalm 93:1-2*

## **Week 13**

2 Samuel 19:9 – 43

2 Samuel 20

2 Samuel 21 & 1 Chronicles 20:4-8 &

Psalms 29

2 Samuel 22

*Memory Verses: Psalm 29:11*

## **Week 4**

1 Samuel 16

Psalms 39

1 Samuel 17

Psalms 9

1 Samuel 18

*Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 18:1*

## **Week 9**

2 Samuel 6

1 Chronicles 13:1-14

Psalms 97

1 Chronicles 16:7-43

2 Samuel 7 & 1 Chronicles 17:3-27

*Memory Verse: Psalm 97:11-12*

## **Week 14**

Psalms 18

Psalms 144

2 Samuel 23-24

Psalms 30

Psalms 33

*Memory Verse: Psalm 33:20-22*

## **Week 5**

1 Samuel 19

Psalms 8

1 Samuel 20

1 Samuel 21-22

Psalms 34 & 56

*Memory Passage: Psalm 8*

## **Week 10**

2 Samuel 8 - 10

2 Samuel 11

Psalms 51

2 Samuel 12

Psalms 6

*Memory Passage: Psalm 51*

Monte Vista Grove Homes  
*proudly invites you to*  
**THE VIRTUAL GROVE GALA**



*From Our Home to Yours*

Saturday  
**September 12, 2020**  
4:00 - 5:00 PM (PST)

*Free to attend*

*Please join us virtually in the comfort of your own home for an evening in support of Monte Vista Grove's mission to support senior adults — the most vulnerable among us — now more crucial than ever.*

Enjoy an online auction, raffle prizes, and a brief program led by longtime KNBC weathercaster **Fritz Coleman** in celebration of our frontline heroes and outstanding residents.

Visit [mvgh.org/gala](https://mvgh.org/gala) for details & registration (Free!)

# AUGUST FINANCIALS

August Budgeted Income \$16,066.67  
August Actual Income \$3,053.00  
August Budgeted Expense \$37,037.74  
August Actual Expense \$43,649.46  
August Food Bank Expenses: \$326.14

\*These amounts reflect the operating budget only. Income numbers are purely from Sunday offering. Investment and property numbers are not included.

## Calvary Presbyterian Church

1050 Fremont Avenue  
South Pasadena, CA 91030  
(626) 799-7148

The Rev. Millason Dailey  
[millason@cpcsouthpas.org](mailto:millason@cpcsouthpas.org)

Maribel Valadez  
Office Administrator  
[cpc.southpas@gmail.com](mailto:cpc.southpas@gmail.com)  
Office hours are remote only

Praise The LORD with us!  
Join us for Worship! Online, of  
course. Visit us at  
[www.cpcsouthpas.org/](http://www.cpcsouthpas.org/)  
[messages](#)

Every Sunday to see a new  
service!

