

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

November 20, 2019

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

3900 Saint Charles Ave New Orleans LA 70115 // 504.899.3431 // www.raynenola.org



WORSHIP

Sundays at 8:45a and 11:00a
in the **Historic Sanctuary**

OUR STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jay Hogewood

Senior Pastor

jay@raynenola.org

Rev. Marissa Teauseau

Associate Pastor

marissa@raynenola.org

Allison Bunnell

Director of Children's Music

Elizabeth Cheezem

Director of Children's Ministries

Shaun Darnall

Administrative Assistant

Nancy Hopkins

Lay Servant & Financial Secretary

Ernest Lumpkins

Business Manager

Teresa Magee

Rayne Early Childhood Program

C. Leonard Raybon

Director of Music

Marcus St. Julien

Organist

Carol Thiele

Secretary

Marcus Thompson

Building Maintenance

Susie VanderKuy

Secretary

ON THE GIVING OF THANKS

Sometimes I need help. This, admittedly, is a rather sad confession – that any one of us needs a primer on why or in what ways to give thanks. I say this with my brightest shine of discipleship fully twinkling; I mean, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ would necessarily mean we are a people who not only comprehend the enormity of what giving-thanks to God means, but also shows regularly fruitful ways of giving-thanks to God and people around us who share God with us.

But maybe it's not just me; maybe occasionally, each of us needs that "zoom out" moment, where we gain perspective and appreciate those many bright and beautiful episodes we've enjoyed the past year or so. As such, allow this to serve as a recharge to your batteries of thankfulness, a sort of Top 3 Ways to share thanks. And I thank *Greater Good Magazine* (from the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley, who knew?) for what follows:

- Write a letter of gratitude: "positive psychology" asserts such activities boost our health and receptivity of joy. Address a family member, a friend, a mentor that we may have overlooked. Deliver in person. Have tissues handy.
- Keep a gratitude journal: recording anything or anyone for which we are grateful is a proven way to focus on the good. Including "God moments" or the ways the Holy Spirit has pressed into our lives feels like an especially faithful exercise too.
- Savor: awareness in the moment, when blessings blow us over or just kiss our forehead, means we have the aptitude to drink in the experience.

And if nothing above scratches your itch, I humbly offer Mary Oliver's poem "Praying" to lift your soul and mine:

*it doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones, just
pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.*

Paying attention,

Jay

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

November 24

Jeremiah 23:1-6 • Luke 1:6988-79
Colossians 1:11-20 • Luke 23:33-43

December 1

Isaiah 2:1-5 • Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:36-44

BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

Sunday, December 15

9:30a-1p

Fellowship Hall

Come and eat a delicious pancake breakfast and if you'd like, take a picture with St. Nicholas. There will be activities for all ages!

St. Nicholas will be available for photos from 9:45-10:45a and 12-12:45p.

Tickets Prices

12 & up: \$6

Ages 3-11: \$3

2 & under: Free

Tickets go on sale starting December 8th. Proceeds benefit Rayne Ministries.

POINSETTIAS

A poinsettia may be placed on the altar during the season of Advent in memory or honor of a loved one. Each poinsettia is **\$10**. (Please note that \$2 from each flower will go towards shelter vouchers for those experiencing life without a home.)

The order forms can be found on last page of your Newsletter or in your bulletin on Sunday.

Forms can be placed in the offering plate with payment or brought to the church office by **4p on Monday, December 9.**

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 24th

8:45a & 11a Worship

Sanctuary

The holidays are a time where we not only give and get gifts, but also a time when we reflect on the things in our life for which we are thankful. As we practice gratitude and celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday, we invite you to consider making a donation to Rayne's Food Pantry.

Place your gift at the altar and it will be given to Rayne's Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is now a partner with Second Harvest but we still need to donate items to be given out in addition or in lieu of Second Harvest items (when a neighbor is not eligible to receive Second Harvest food).

Items needed:

Canned Fruits/Vegetables

Peanut Butter

Rice/Pasta

Canned Meat

Canned Meals: Such as Ravioli

Beans

*"This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."
2 Corinthians 9:11 (The Message).*

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

An uptown tradition! The 32nd Annual Uptown Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service is an opportunity to be in connection with Uptown faith communities and express our gratitude to God.

Tuesday, November 26th

6p

Touro Synagogue

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Sunday, December 1
12:15p
Epiphany House

If you're a part of our Prayer Shawl Ministry (or would like to be...) you're invited to spend some time together!

Bring a project and an item to share in a light lunch potluck - the church will provide dessert. We will eat, spend some time together, and bless our newest shawls.

MISSION MARKET

The Mission Committee's Mission Market is coming soon!

Sunday, December 8th
Fellowship Hall

*Baked goods and treats and
Alternate Giving Cards for sale.*

The Market supports Rayne's ministries and is a great opportunity to buy Christmas gifts (or something for yourself).

Alternative giving cards are Christmas Cards that you can gift and inside the card is a message explaining how a donation has been made in the recipient's honor to one of the ministries of Rayne. Alternative Giving Cards are available for Rayne's Food Pantry, Crescent City Cafe', Luke's House, NOLA Wesley Foundation, Good Samaritan Cook Team, Shelter Vouchers, Rayne Early Childhood Program, and The School for Contemplative Living.

Do you have baked goods to donate?
Donations of baked goods are needed. Before dropping your items off, please price them. Items can be dropped off at the church office during office hours between December 4th - 6th.

If you have questions please contact Nancy, Nancy.Hopkins@raynenola.org.

OFFICE CLOSURES

Thanksgiving is approaching!

The Church office will close starting November 27th at Noon and will reopen on December 2nd at 9a.

If any needs arise, please contact Pastor Jay or Pastor Marissa by an email or phone call.

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 8
Chapel
5-6p

The Children of Rayne present *The Sounds of Christmas*. Our Children have worked very hard to share the good news of Christmas with us. All are invited to come and hear Christmas in a new way!

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, December 22
10a-1p
Circle Drive

During this sacred time in the church, please help us in sharing the gift of life!

Sign up online:
www.signup.com/go/ZioQTdA

For questions or assistance signing up, call the office (899-3431) or email Susie (susie.vanderkuy@raynenola.org).

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to the Rayne Early Childhood Program for being placed on the *Honor Roll* for the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our RECP scored in the top percentage of programs.

**We are so very proud of this
wonderful program!**



CELEBRATE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WITH US AT RAYNE

DECEMBER 4

◆ Decorating Party ◆ 6p (Pizza at 5:30p) Fellowship Hall

As we approach Christmas, it is time to prepare our church! Many hands make light work as we decorate our beautiful space!

DECEMBER 15

◆ Breakfast with Saint Nicholas ◆ 9:30a-1p Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a Pancake Breakfast and get your picture taken with St. Nick! Tickets for sale beginning December 8. Activities for all ages!

DECEMBER 22

◆ Blood Drive ◆ 10a-1p Circle Drive

'Tis' the Season to give!
Give the gift of life by signing up today!

DECEMBER 8

◆ Nativity Carols ◆ 8:45a & 11a Historic Sanctuary

A unique offering, the otherworldly combination of harp and oboe will accompany the Rayne Chancel Choir in four carols by the celebrated composer, Stephen Paulus.

◆ Mission Market ◆ 9:45a-12:30p Fellowship Hall

An opportunity to buy some yummy baked goods and treats. Craft gifts and Alternate Giving Cards for sale.

◆ The Sounds of Christmas ◆ 5-6p Chapel

The Children of Rayne present a program that explores the sounds of Christmas. All are welcome to enjoy this presentation and hear Christmas in a new way.

DECEMBER 24

◆ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ◆

5p & 7p

A candlelight service with communion and music led by the Chancel Choir in the Historic Sanctuary.

11p

A service with communion and contemplation as we celebrate the incarnation with Word and Sacrament in the Historic Sanctuary.



A WEEK AT RAYNE

SUNDAY

- 8:45a Worship
- 10a Sunday School
- 11a Worship
- 3:30p Jr. High Youth
- 5p Sr. High Youth
- 5p Women's Covenant Group*

MONDAY

- 9a-5p Church Office Hours (M-Th)
- 1p Staff Meeting
- 6p Ministry Meetings
- 6:30p AA Meeting

TUESDAY

- 10a-12p Food Pantry
- 12p Women's Covenant Group
- 1p Intercessory Prayer Group
- 3p Good Samaritan (at Mt. Zion UMC)
- 5:30p Luke's House Medical Clinic
- 6:30p Covenant Group (off-site)

WEDNESDAY

- 5:30p Centering Prayer*
- 6p Children's Choir (seasonal)
- 6p Wednesday Classes (seasonal)
- 7p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7p Overeaters Anonymous Meeting

THURSDAY

- 6a Men's Bible Study (at La Boulangerie)
- 9:30a Sacred Yoga*
- 12p Gamblers Anonymous Meeting
- 3-5p Food Pantry
- 5:30p Luke's House Medical Clinic
- 6p West Bank Bible Study (@ Acme Truck)
- 7p Al-Anon/AA Meetings

FRIDAY

- 9a-12p Church Office Hours

*Notes activities at the Epiphany House

UPCOMING EVENTS

24 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Sunday, November 24
8:45a & 11a @ Sanctuary

26 INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 26
6p @ Touro Synagogue

27 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSURE

Wednesday, November 27 @ Noon
Thursday November 28
Friday, November 29

1 PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Sunday, December 1
12:15p @ Epiphany House

4 DECORATING PARTY

December 4
6p @ Fellowship Hall (5:30p for Pizza)

8 NATIVITY CAROLS

Sunday, December 8
8:45a & 11a @ Sanctuary

8 MISSION MARKET

Sunday, December 8
9:45a-12:30p @ Fellowship Hall

8 THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 8
5p @ Chapel

15 BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS

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9:30-1p @ Fellowship Hall

22 BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, December 22
10a-1p @ Circle Drive

PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR HEALING OF

Beth Sims, Cida Lancaster, Brett Buck, Ronald Sepanik, Marjorie Lentini, Fletcher Cochran, Linda Levesque, Emily Chancellor, Robin O'Bannon, Barbara Everett & Judy Mastainich.

WE SHARE IN THE GRIEF OF

The friends and family of **Jane Stennett**. Jane, a church and staff member of Rayne, died Tuesday. Jane faithfully served the PrimeTimer's and offered countless hours of pastoral care and love to our congregation.

Christmas Poinsettias

A poinsettia may be placed on the altar during this sacred season in memory or in honor of a loved one. Programs will be printed with the names of those in whose memory and honor the poinsettias have been given. Please enter all information as you would like it printed in the program. Each poinsettia is \$10.00 (Please note that \$2 from each flower will go towards shelter vouchers for those experiencing life without a home.)



Your Name _____ Phone _____

Circle one In Honor or In Memory

Name of Loved One _____ Quantity _____

Circle one In Honor or In Memory

Name of Loved One _____ Quantity _____

Please enter additional orders on the back side of this sheet.

Please place your order with payment in the offering today or bring to the church office by 4 pm on Monday, December 9. Thank you!