

# THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

December 18, 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

### THE RISK OF BIRTH

*This is no time for a child to be born,  
With the earth betrayed by war & hate  
And a comet slashing the sky to warn  
That time runs out & the sun burns late.  
That was no time for a child to be born,  
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;  
Honor & truth were trampled to scorn—  
Yet here did the Savior make His home.  
When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth,  
And by a comet the sky is torn—  
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.*

-The Risk of Birth, Madeleine L'Engle

L'Engle's poem reminds me what we are really celebrating when we celebrate Christmas: Love. Namely, God's tenacious willingness to love you and me and every single person in all creation for all time. Without risk, what is love? I suspect without risk love is more noun than verb – not that nouns are bad, of course, but nouns would just sit there without verbs.

God loves us – love that risks our rejection, our inattention, our playing small with ornaments and stockings on mantles, sleepwalking through the miracle of God, who is quite literally putting skin in the game: a game God beckons us to play far past one glorious day of spectacle. The risk of birth means the loving message of the Divine Incarnation is bigger than just one person. Says Fr. Richard Rohr: *Jesus, the very flesh of God, is the ultimate character of all reality, including each one of us in community as the ongoing Body of Christ. Incarnation is the oldest Christian story. Through Christ, God is pouring God's self into all creation. To be Christian, then, is to see Christ in every thing.*

Would this be the season of seeking? Risking to see the naked truth? That God loves us, and risks heaven and earth to show us...

Flesh and blood,

*Jay*



# LECTIONARY

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A weekly set of Scripture readings.

## December 22

Isaiah 7:10-16 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7 • Matthew 1:18-25

## December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7 • Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14 • Luke 2:1-20

## December 29

Isaiah 63:7-9 • Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18 • Matthew 2:13-23

# ARTIST'S WAY

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This class will be facilitated by John Bukaty and based on Julia Cameron's, *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*.

Participants are invited to pursue creative activities, not necessarily as a profession but as an avenue to a deeper spirit and emotional healing. Join in for a time of conversation, as well as encouragement for our creative life together.

**January 15th – April 1st**  
**Wednesdays 6-7p,**  
**in the Friendship Room**

RSVP – [jay@raynenola.org](mailto:jay@raynenola.org)  
or (225)772-3550 (Jay's cell)

# OFFICE CLOSURES

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For Christmas, the church office will close on **Tuesday, December 24th at 1p** and reopen on **Monday, December 30th**.

For New Years, the church office will close on **December 31st at 1p** and reopen on **January 2nd**.

If you have an urgent need please contact Pastor Jay,  
[jay@raynenola.org](mailto:jay@raynenola.org) or (225)772-3550.

# YOUTH SMALL GROUPS

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**Sundays, beginning January 5**  
**Jr. High 3:30-5p**  
**Sr. High 5-7p**  
**Youth Room**

Our Youth Small Groups resume Sunday, January 5th. Jr. High (6th-8th) will continue their study: *re:Form* and Sr. High (9th-12th) will continue theirs, *The Good and Beautiful God*. Both studies are come as you can and open to all students.

# END OF THE YEAR GIVING

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Please note that all contributions for 2019 must be post marked by **December 31st**, or delivered to the office by **December 31st @ 1p**.

# SACRED 9 PROJECT CONCERT

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**January 5**  
**3p**  
**Sanctuary**

This will be a classical lecture recital of nineteenth century parlour songs, rally songs, minstrel songs, gospel songs, rescue mission songs, and hymns. Our Cora L is the most famous poet you've never heard of. Come hear beautiful music that is a vehicle for our poet. At the same time, let's consider, in our world of "cancel culture," what legacy she has (or deserves to have).

*Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.*

Sacred 9 Project offers beautiful music that helps us think about problematic parts of (especially) early American music in a different way.



*Celebrate*

**HOPE ♦ PEACE ♦ JOY ♦ LOVE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**  
**DECEMBER 24**



**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

## 22

### BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Sunday, December 22  
After Worship @ Fellowship Hall

## 24

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24  
5p, 7p, & 11p @ Sanctuary

## 24

### OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 24 @ 1p - December 27.  
Open December 30

## 31

### OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday December 31 @ 1p - January 1.  
Resumes normal hours on January 2

## 5

### YOUTH SMALL GROUPS

Sunday, January 5  
@ Youth Room  
3:30-5p (6th-8th)  
5-7p (9th-12th)

## 6

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 6  
6p @ Epiphany House

## 13

### MISSION & WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, January 13  
6p @ Library & Pastor's Office

## 15

### ARTIST'S WAY CLASS BEGINS

Wednesday, January 15  
6p @ Friendship Room

# **PRAYER LIST**



## **WE PRAY FOR HEALING OF**

**Roy Watts, Betty Wells,  
Richard Moore, Wells Beaty,  
Beth Sims, Cida Lancaster,  
Mary Herbert, Brett Buck, Ronald Seganik,  
Marjorie Lentini, Fletcher Cochran,  
Linda Levesque, Emily Chancellor,  
Robin O'Bannon, Barbara Everett  
Melissa & Judy Mastainich.**

