

# THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

March 17, 2020

## Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

3900 Saint Charles Ave New Orleans LA 70115 // 504.899.3431 // [www.raynenola.org](http://www.raynenola.org)



### PLEASE NOTE

The Rayne Community is moving online!

Worship will be live on Facebook at 10a on Sundays.

Our office staff is working remotely.

We will continue to communicate with you regularly through Newsletters, eNews, Facebook Posts, and updates to our website.

Please see the next page for frequently asked questions.

We are here for you.

**ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

### THROUGH CHAOS

*The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over... Genesis 1:1-2*

God conquered chaos, because the beginning of our story and all Story is not out of nothing, but out of *tohoov ve'vohoo* – confusion and void. God shapes the universe and you and me out of the swirling suck of gloom. Then to now, confusion threatens and beckons us to fear. And from the very beginning of time, we have trusted that the Creator break through chaos and conquers fear to form life through death and peace molded out of danger.

Rayne family, may the depth of God's power and re-creating mercy hold you this day. I have never sensed before the peace of being together even though we are apart. Connection out of the threat of disconnection. I trust that connection is the same source of Spirit that God swept over chaos ages ago.

Now more than ever, let us continue to shine the light of God's love and grace. **Doing no harm** – postponing all in-person activities and events for the foreseeable future. **Doing good** – shifting our presence online with Facebook Live worship, 10am, Sunday, and by caring for each other through emails and Zoom meetings, as well as through phone calls and texts; reaching out to our most vulnerable neighbors and family members. Only two in-person ministries will continue but with greatly adapted measures for caution: Crescent City Café and Rayne's Food Pantry. **Staying in love with God** – communing with our Savior in renewed ways and with each other in creative ways; finding how much has been taken for granted in my own life and maybe yours; discovering a pace not formed by busyness but mindful of the loving presence of Jesus Christ for our church family and our neighbors all around us.

Through chaos, creation comes. **God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw the light was good...** Genesis 1:3-4

May it be.

God, help it be.

*Jay*



# LECTIONARY

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A weekly set of Scripture readings.

## March 22

1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

## March 29

Ezekiel:37:1-14 • Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11 • John 11:1-45

# WORSHIP

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How will online worship work?

We will worship online together on **Facebook at 10a on Sundays**. To participate in worship, go to [www.facebook.com/raynenola.org](http://www.facebook.com/raynenola.org).

The service will be streamed live at 10a and then will be available for replay at anytime.



# PRAYER

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*May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country, let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.*

# CHURCHLIFE

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<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/memberlogin.aspx?sn=95677>

The above link is for setting up an account for those who want to use our Church App called ChurchLife. It gives you access to church members emails and phone numbers, if they have decided to make it public. It is a great way for us and our members to stay in contact with each other.

# ASSISTANCE

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If you need assistance, help with groceries or errands, we have church members who are willing and ready to help! Please contact Susie Vanderkuy or Carol Thiele to schedule. Their information is listed on the staff contact page.

If you are willing to help in this way, please let us know!

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

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Please continue to check your weekly emails from Elizabeth & Jacob.

If you'd like to receive these emails, which will include Sunday morning activities and online activities, please contact Elizabeth (for children) and Jacob (for youth).

# A NOTE ABOUT RECYCLING

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All recycling at Rayne is on hold until further notice. Please do not bring any Glass or Mardi Gras throws to Rayne at this time.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## → How do I participate in online worship?

We will worship online together on **Facebook** at **10a** on **Sundays**. To participate in worship, go to [www.facebook.com/raynenola.org](http://www.facebook.com/raynenola.org).

## → What is postponed?

All in-person worship and activities are postponed until further notice.

## → Can I still participate in my small group?

You can participate in a small group that is meeting virtually or via phone. Your small group leader will contact you with more information. If you are a leader and would like help setting up a virtual meeting please contact Pastor Marissa.

## → Can I still contribute to Rayne?

Absolutely, and thank you!

**You can mail your contribution to Rayne**  
(3900 Saint Charles Ave. New Orleans, LA 70115).  
**Or contribute online.**

You can do this by going to [www.raynenola.org/contribute](http://www.raynenola.org/contribute).

## → Where can I find updates?

We will be communicating with you through our Facebook, eNews, and website regularly.

## → Who do I contact if I have questions?

All Staff Contact Information is located on the next page.

If you have **general questions**, you can **call the church office** and leave a voicemail. We will be checking it regularly and having the appropriate staff member return your call.

If you have questions about **communications**, please contact **Pastor Marissa**. This includes: "I'm not receiving the eNews but I would like to", "I would like to set up a video conference for a church group", and more.

If you need help with **finances**, please contact **Ernest Lumpkins** or **Nancy Hopkins**.

If you need **assistance** with groceries or errands, please contact **Susie Vanderkuy** or **Carol Thiele**.

If you'd like to **visit** with your pastor or ask for **prayer**, contact **Pastor Jay**.

*Do not hesitate to contact us with a question, you are probably not the only person with that question!*

# RAYNE

## Mailing Address

3900 Saint Charles Ave.  
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## Phone

504-899-3431  
Please leave a voicemail.

# STAFF CONTACT

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## Allison Bunnell

Director of Children's Music

## Leonard Raybun

Chancel Choir Director

## Marcus St. Julien

Organist

## Marcus & Lucy Thompson

Building Maintenance & Custodians