

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

JUNE 18, 2020

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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



PLEASE NOTE

The Rayne Community is still available online!

Worship is live on Facebook at 10a on Sundays.

www.facebook.com/raynenola.org/live

Our office staff is working remotely.

ON-SITE WORSHIP, RESUMING JULY 5TH.

SERVICES WILL BE AT 8:30A & 11:30A

HOW TO RESERVE A SEAT AND ALL THE DETAILS WILL BE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK!

Generally uncomfortable. That's how I felt Sunday; that's how I still feel. By every account I've heard or seen, our part in the Uptown Prayer Vigil & Interfaith Worship Service was quite well received. First off, I feel so grateful; so many of you, Rayne family, showed up with caring affirmations and donning loving faces (at least what I could see in our eyes above our masks). The prayer support of others unable to be present was astonishingly real too. Yet I am bumping into a deeper truth: the truth of my own discomfort; and I am finding my discomfort to be equally inspiring. I feel like there is something holy in it - the discomfort.

A young and hopeful man on the prayer walk came up alongside me and very graciously wondered, "When will we really address the issues? There's more than just this, right?," motioning his deep brown arms and hands toward the hundreds of others hiking the neutral ground. I felt it then, the discomfort of missing an opportunity to do more, to be more vulnerable, to engage deeper hurts and open wounds. When Rabbi Bauman was leading us so powerfully into the language of vidui (confession of sin), I felt it then too, the discomfort of wanting to embrace humility, while my ego and pride welled up within me. "What if some of these sins aren't really mine?" The discomfort rattled in my spirit. When we started planning action steps - more conversations about racial justice, more tangible ways to seek solidarity with African-American sisters and brothers in Christian expressions of justice - I felt it rise, that discomfort.

And I can not help but wonder: maybe this discomfort is the most intimate companion on our journey of faith? Not knowing fully the road ahead; seeking one small step at a time. I feel like I am teetering between just one faulty footfall to tumble straight on my face, and the hope of finding the surest of all footings - the path of Christ that leads to mercy and justice, forgiveness and peace.

What is the story of faith in scripture if not the invitation to encounter self-critical moments? Mystery and honesty, ambiguity and deeper trust run together to shape the language of salvation. Holy discomfort is leading me to new considerations, like the ones I am finding in the work of Robin DiAngelo. "The racial status quo is comfortable for white people, and we will not move forward in racial justice if we remain comfortable," she notes. "The key to moving forward is what we do with our discomfort." Or in the words of R. Bauman: "For the sin of valuing comfort over truth, I repent. I hear you..."

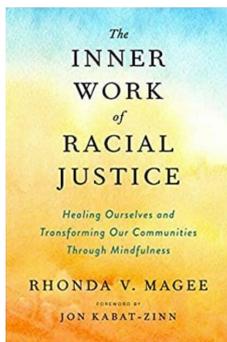
Jay

SENIOR SUNDAY

Graduating seniors get one more send off! This past Sunday was "Senior Sunday" for the youth group to honor the graduating seniors. Normally, this event would take place in a decorated youth room with dinner and snacks, but once again, another tradition altered by quarantine. Even with the location rerouted to Zoom, it was great to see Tomaso and Christian and to celebrate their graduation. They took turns sharing stories and memories of the youth group and growing up at Rayne.

Youth leaders presented the young men with gifts which could be useful in college. The gifts included: sponges, to clean up any messes they may make; measuring cups, because we know they will measure up to something great; a dry erase board, so they know some things can be changed; and candy and special graduation cookies to remind them to stay sweet. It was a fun filled hour for the youth group!

SCHOOL FOR CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING



New online study begins
Monday, June 29, 12-1:30p.

The Inner Work of Racial Justice

Centering prayer or meditation, check-ins, then sharing how the chapter impacts our own transformation.

Email for Zoom
link: William.thiele56@gmail.com

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

June 21

Genesis 21:8-21 • Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11 • Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Genesis 22:1-14 • Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23 • Matthew 10:40-42

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you, Rayne Family, for your continued support. Your generosity is beautiful! Due to the increase of need and restrictions of buying in bulk, **we still need your help!**

**Right now we are
running very low on:**
-Canned Vegetables
-Canned Fruits
-Pasta
-Peanut Butter (1lb jars)

Please leave your donations in the vestibule of the Epiphany House, 3924 St. Charles Avenue, then call or text Jacob Nichols 225-588-0560 after you have left your donation.

If you are unable to bring a physical donation, please consider contributing monetarily to the Food Pantry by mail or online.

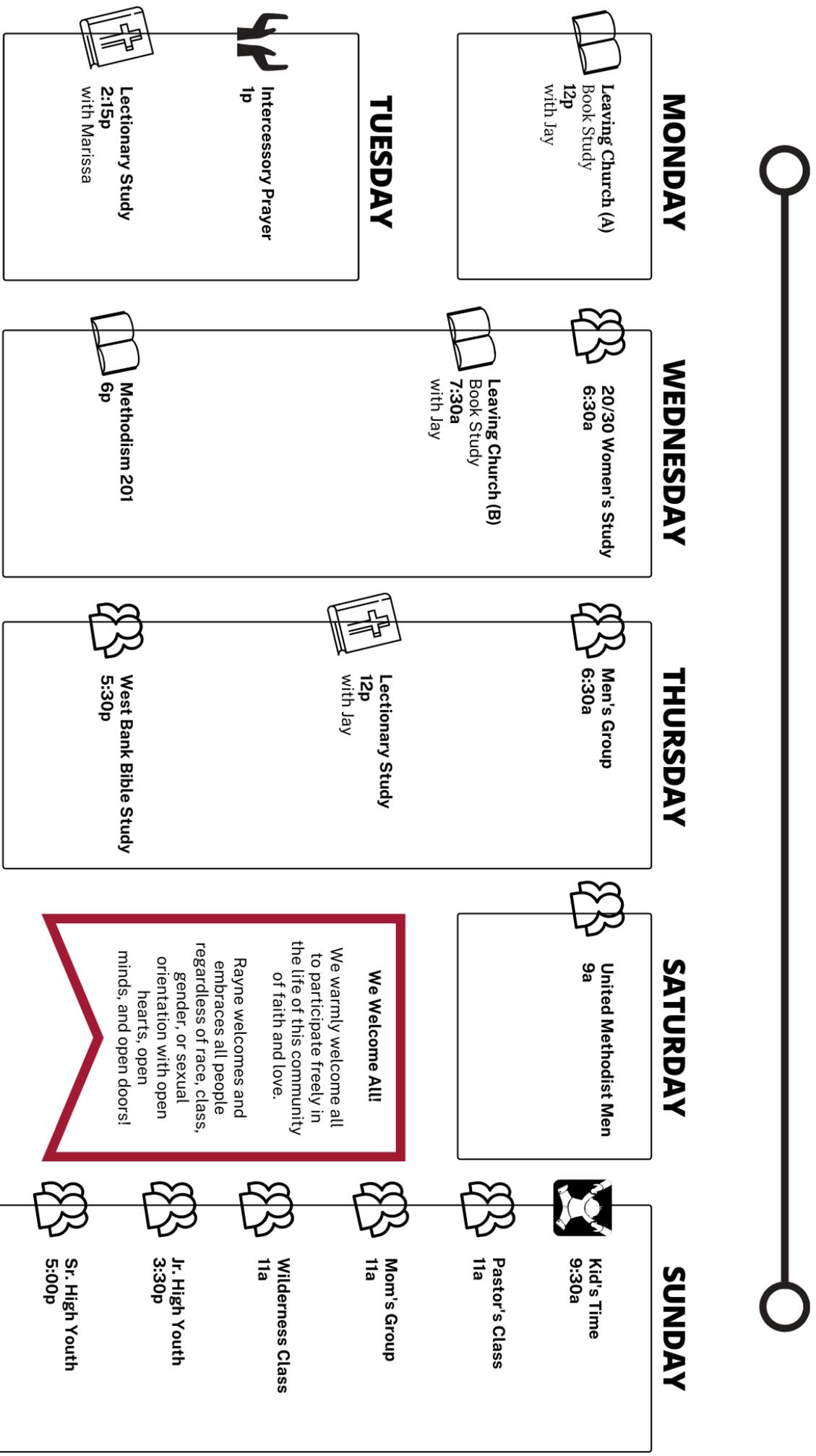
PRAYER VIGIL

All are welcome to a weekly prayer vigil organized by the Sunday Night Covenant Group **each Saturday at 1p.**

We meet in front of the **Sanctuary** and bring a chair to sit in a safe distance circle. We open with prayer and then share our thoughts or a poem, story, or Bible passage with the group. If you have any questions please contact Ann Meese, meeseann@gmail.com.

RAYNE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE



All classes are offered via Zoom

PRAYER LIST

We pray for healing of –

**Gibson Weidemann, Mike Murphy, Win Schibler,
Debbie Strickland, Melba Maleta and her sons Henry and Edward,
Kevin Horne, Dan & Jane Sikes, Rick Hammontree,
Robert Wilson, Jim Jeter, Andrew McLetchie, Ann Dalton,
Mary Herbert, Cida Lancaster, Ronald Sepanik, Marjorie Lentini,
Emily Chancellor, Robin O'Bannon, Barbara Everett & Judy Mastainich.**

We share in the grief of –

Shirley Watts in the loss of her Husband, Roy.

We share in the joy of –

**Libby and Mark Adams in the birth of their 3rd grandchild, Wynne
Palmer.**



PRAYER REQUESTS

James 4:8 reminds us, *“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”*

In this time of social distancing, comfort is found sensing the nearness of the Creator.

If you would like to share prayer requests,
email them to Pastor Marissa marissa@raynenola.org.
Or mail a note to the church addressed with "Attention: Marissa."

Please indicate if the request is public (shared in the newsletter)
or private (supplied to the Intercessory Prayer Group).