

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

JULY 2, 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 available online!

Worship is live on Facebook at 10a on Sundays.

www.facebook.com/raynenola.org/live

ON-SITE WORSHIP, RESUMING JULY 19TH

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

Please note: our office staff is working remotely.

"SPIRITUAL FISHING"

That's the way the masterful devotional writer, Mark Nepo, describes it. Real living, observes Nepo, is taking the time - stillness, patience and willingness to drift - to haul in the deepest experiences of our lives. To learn from our past failures, to reflect deep within ourselves: "eating what swims below our surface lets us see with the perspective of the deep."

I'm finding this to be true in my encounter with White Fragility, a deep book by Robin DiAngelo. Even the mention of the title might have some impact; do you feel it? Defensive? A little edge of discomfort? I sure do... "But wait a minute here," I want to say, "I'm not fragile, not me, no indeed." But then I dig deeper, far beneath the surface of appearances and discover again my discomfort and anxiety when conversations touch upon my deeply internalized sense of superiority - the entitlements of my whiteness. And I feel it - the desire to protest: *But I have friends who are black. But I don't discriminate in my affections or my hopes for justice for all God's children.* My protestations are not evil in themselves necessarily, but don't they cover the depth of the real problem? That my whiteness and the white racial frame I've known all my living days are tied into the system of advantage based on the color of my skin and against the color of brown and black bodies all around us in America. To borrow a line from Nepo: this is what's eating at me these days and I invite you to consider it too. I want to see the perspective of the deep...

For her part, DiAngelo seeks to comfort as much as to convict: "White fragility is not weakness per se. In fact, it is a powerful means of white racial control and the protection of that advantage." How helpful some spiritual fishing might be - to examine the depths of my soul and maybe yours too; to practice the stillness, the patience and the willingness to drift deeper into Christ and his way of peace with justice, mercy and forgiveness. Where I am weak, he is strong. How I need Jesus's strength these days!

I'm grateful to share that our church will continue to partner with other Uptown congregations like Touro Synagogue, Temple Sinai, St. Charles Avenue Baptist, St. George's Episcopal and Trinity Episcopal. Together we plan to do some spiritual fishing - to grow in our awareness, to seek peace with justice and to help shape our community in the solidarity of God's lovingkindness. Which leads me to one last deep truth on which I need to hang: the culture of *woke* holds nothing to the culture of Christ's yoke, whose burden is light (Matthew 11:30). Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me, said Jesus (Matthew 11:6). I'm ready to put aside feeling offended or getting defensive. There is just so much grace yet to share.

Gone fishin'

Jay

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, July 19
10a-1p
Circle Drive

During this time of unknowns, please help us in sharing the gift of life!
Donations include an antibody test!

Sign up online: signup.com/go/FgMZCmB

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

COMMUNION

Sunday, July 5th
10a
Facebook Live

This Sunday we will gather for worship in our homes and gather together at Christ's table.

Please have the elements available to you (bread, crackers, grape juice or other acceptable substitute) and plan to break bread with us. All are welcome at this table. We are together in Spirit while apart physically.

RESERVATIONS FOR WORSHIP

We are tentatively returning to on-site worship on July 19th. We will take reservations one week at a time for now.

RSVPs will be accepted starting the Monday immediately before the coming Sunday. For example, the first available time to make a reservation is 7a on Monday, July 12th for worship on Sunday, July 19th.

You may RSVP online (forms.gle/CxuoBg4Kafiu9h6t8)

You can also call the church office (504-899-3431). Please make sure to leave your name, number in your party and a phone number. Please leave this information in a voicemail, as our office staff is working remotely.

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

July 5

Genesis 24:34-67 • Psalm 45:10-17
Romans 7:15-25a • Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12

Genesis 25:19-34 • Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11 • Matthew 13:2-9, 18-23

FOOD PANTRY

Great news! The Food Pantry Shelves are currently full! We also are adding another freezer to keep up with the increase in need!

Items we always need:

-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.

FLOWERS

If you'd like to celebrate or remember an important occasion or person - a nice way is to donate the altar flowers for worship!

Flowers can be given in honor or memory of someone. They can also simply be for the glory of God!

If you'd like to purchase the flowers for a coming week, please contact Susie. You can call the office and leave a message (899-3431) or by email (susie.vanderkuy@raynenola.org).

Flowers currently cost \$55.

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,
Cida Lancaster, Ronald Sepanik, Marjorie Lentini,
Emily Chancellor, Robin O'Bannon, Barbara Everett & Judy
Mastainich.**



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).