

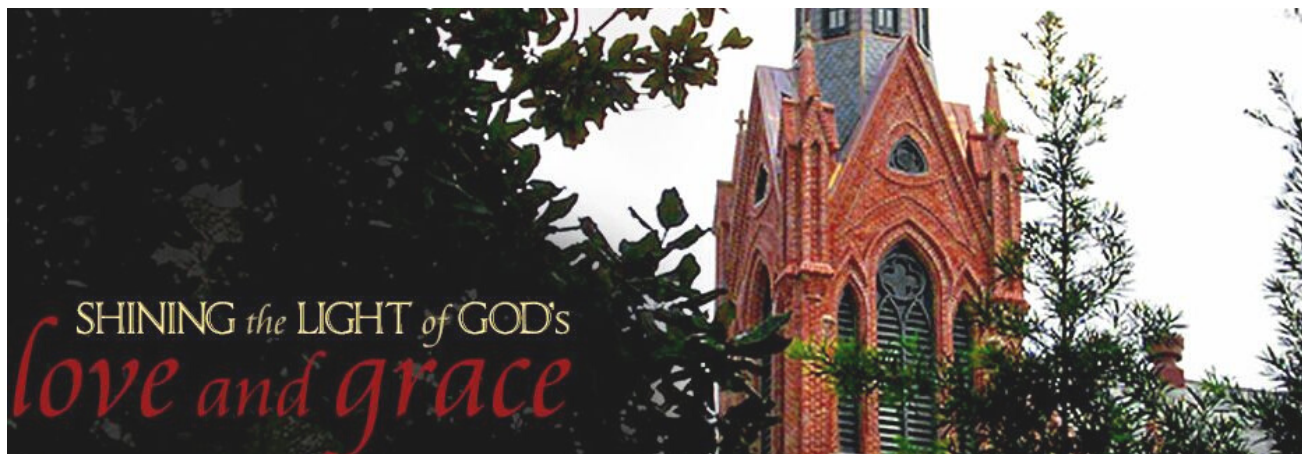
THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

JULY 9, 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, WILL NOT BE RESUMING JULY 19TH.

PLEASE SEE DETAILS INSIDE.

Please note: our office staff is working remotely.

In the flux and fluff of news cycles, I usually rise and fall like a buoy miles out in the ocean. Crest of wave, crash of wave. I can go from hopeful to hopeless in less than a minute. That kind of volatility does not seem to be at the invitation of Jesus. I was reminded of that this past week and, perhaps like you, I need the reminder.

The first such reminder was penned by a young woman, Austin Channing Brown, in her work, I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness. In it, Brown speaks a stabilizing word minus saccharine or pious platitudes: "I cannot hope in whiteness. I cannot hope in white people or white institutions or white America. I cannot hope in lawmakers or politicians, and I cannot hope even in pastors or missions statements. I cannot hope even in myself. I am no one's savior. Instead of waiting for the bright sunshine, I have learned to rest in the shadow of hope... Knowing that we may never see the realization of our dreams, and yet still showing up. Knowing that God is God and I am not. This is the cool place from where I demand a love that matters."

Speaking of love, I received this second reminder from a man many of us know and love, as we appreciate the twilight of his ministry and all the luminous stars that twinkle in his legacy. Rev. John Winn prays in a poem I tried to recite last Sunday:

O God,
too much of my life is consumed in hostility.
Yet, I am not comfortable with hate,
not my own or anyone else's.
I am learning that I cannot hate someone else
without loving myself less.

You have shown me how love
always wins and never loses,
always finds and never loses,
always saves and never loses.

Show me again how love can break through
any barrier, dissolve hate, and bring even
the lion and the lamb within me together.

Teach me to make love, all kinds,
and not hate, any kind.
In memory of the one
whose name is Love,
Amen

Rising,

Jay

BLOOD DRIVE

-- Cancelled --

Unfortunately, our blood drive on Sunday, July 19 is cancelled.

Please consider donating through the Ochsner Blood Bank. Make an appointment to give either by phone or online.

Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans
Blood Donor Center
1516 Jefferson Highway
(504) 842-3375

www.ochsner.org/giving/donate/ochsner-blood-bank

ONLINE SERIES: NOLA & POLICING

Together with Touro Synagogue, St. Charles Ave. Baptist, and the St. Charles Center for Faith + Action, Rayne will be participating in a 4 part series exploring the past, present, and future of Policing in New Orleans.

Mondays at 6p
Zoom

Week One (7/20/20):

A History of Policing

Week Two (7/27/20):

Consent Decrees & Reforms

Week Three (8/3/20):

Unbundling Services & Budgets

Week Four (8/10/20):

Imagination & Spirit for the Future

To register go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8128620460>
urpjktGtRFR2YdXpLP6gF4Jk0C9GfP?
fbclid=IwAR01hYTyodt4z1lcmz13PHj3wclV
Y-NlaT2dhVpc40lhtJVNGmWjyFW_RMQ

If you have questions about the series or would like help registering, please contact Pastor Jay (225-772-3550) or Pastor Marissa (318-564-4879).

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

July 12

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

July 19

Genesis 28:10-19a • Psalm 139
Romans 8:12-25 • Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

NEW BOOK STUDY

The first step to healing is to admit something hurts.

Join in our book study: White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism, by Robin DiAngelo.

This 5 part session, hosted by Pastor Jay, is available via Zoom for physically distanced gatherings. Purchase of the book is not required for the class. **Sundays in August at 2:30-3:30p & Mondays in August at noon - 1p.**

RSVP Pastor Jay -
jay@raynenola.org or 225-772-3550.

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.

ONSITE WORSHIP GATHERING UPDATE

Rayne's Task Force proposes postponement: no onsite gatherings until after citywide entry to PHASE 3.

As much as we desire to regather in Rayne's beautiful sanctuary to engage one another and to worship together, our priority remains focused on public health.

With the wisdom and guidance of so many physicians and health care professionals in our congregation and our Task Force, we believe our most faithful and fruitful course of action is to continue offering worship online - Facebook Live @ 10a.

Our church's offerings for spiritual formation (digital gatherings via Zoom) remain a wonderful way to connect in these days of pandemic. We hope and pray that you would consider joining in a Sunday School Class or a small group study (see Rayne's newsletter for regular updates). Pastor Marissa and Pastor Jay also welcome your questions or suggestions.

Online Worship

Facebook Live
Sundays @ 10a

facebook.com/raynenola.org/live

Pastoral and Congregational Care

Our pastors are available for life updates, prayers, and care.


















Jay: jay@raynenola.org
225-772-3550

Marissa: marissa@raynenola.org
318-564-4879

Small Groups on Zoom

If you're interested in joining a small group below, please email Shaun, shaun.darnall@raynenola.org or leave a voicemail at the church office. We would love to help you get connected in a new way!

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
 Kid's Time 9:30a  Pastor's Class 11a  Mom's Group 11a  Wilderness Class 11a  White Fragility (A)* Book Study 2:30p with Jay  Jr. High Youth 3:30p  Sr. High Youth 5:00p	 White Fragility (B)* Book Study 12p with Jay <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY</p>  Intercessory Prayer 1p  Lectionary Study 2:15p with Marissa  20/30 Women Book Study 6:30p	 20/30 Women's Study 6:30a  Methodism 201 6p	 Men's Group 6:30a  Lectionary Study 12p with Jay  West Bank Bible Study 5:30p	 United Methodist Men 9a <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>We Welcome All!</p> <p>We warmly welcome all to participate freely in the life of this community of faith and love.</p> <p>Rayne welcomes and embraces all people regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation with open hearts, open minds, and open doors!</p> </div>

*New Study beginning in August.

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,
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).