

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 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

All on-site activities and worship are postponed until the announcement of Phase 3 city-wide.

After the announcement, Rayne will select a date for limited and adapted on-site worship.

Please note: our office staff is working remotely.

PATTERNS OF PRAYER

I'm feeling it. Feeling the emotional drain of storms just passed and storms up ahead; sensing the anxiety rising from prolonged coronavirus responses and modifications made to our lives; experiencing the cumulative apprehension of national political division and violence, the peddling of fear and racial injustice. Amid the frenzy and bluster of anxiety, all the more I'm feeling the need to lean even deeper into the promise of God's presence.

I believe this is precisely what prayer offers us: a more profound trust in the hope God's presence offers - the promise that mercy and justice will be restored, that forgiveness and reconciliation will arise, and that God's love does win. Lesson six in prayer: there's nothing new under the sun. I find hope in this. Saints before us have laid out patterns that, when we feel most anxious, most aimless, we can lean into the tapestry of their faith... The wisdom of Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio says: "Prayer is the way to life because in prayer we are invited to change and to grow in love."

And the appeal of St. Francis himself feels just right in these moments.
May this be our prayer:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Amen.

Jay

NEW STUDY

-- **Methodism 101** --

**Wednesdays in September:
16th, 23rd and 30th
Via Zoom
from 6-7p**

A virus cannot stop us! Let's learn together. Our regular offering of "what United Methodists believe" is coming soon! Join in this small group to share the beauty of Christian formation in the legacy of Wesley.

Learn why we do church the way we do; why we have 2 sacraments; why we consider there's no justice like social justice.

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

WORSHIP

-- **Communion** --

**Sunday September 2nd
10a
Facebook Live**

All are welcome at this table. We are together in Spirit while apart physically.

Please have the elements available to you (bread, crackers, grape juice or other acceptable substitute) and plan to break bread with us.

To participate in worship go to:
facebook.com/raynenola.org/live

You do not need to have a Facebook Account to watch! Just click "not now" when it asks you to login (if you're on a mobile device, push the X in the top right hand corner of the login box).

-- **Archive of Services** --

Missed worship? Had technological troubles? You can participate any time! As soon as the service concludes it is available in totality on our Facebook Page.

All services are available **indefinitely** at
[Facebook.com/raynenola.org/live](https://facebook.com/raynenola.org/live)

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

September 6

Exodus 12:1-14 • Psalm 148-149
Romans 13:8-14 • Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Exodus 14:19-31 • Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12 • Matthew 18:21-35

HURRICANE LAURA RESPONSE

Pray

We should never underestimate the power of prayer. Let us hold individuals and churches in prayer as we know these church communities will be in the process of cleaning up and rebuilding.

Give

Recovery from Hurricane Laura will be a marathon, not a sprint. A great way to help is to support the relief monetarily if you can. Here are two ways you can do that:

1. The United Methodist Committee on Relief: umcor.org
2. The Louisiana Conference: la-umc.org/relief

Volunteer

The current drop off location for donated items is at Asbury UMC, Lafayette. Would you be interested in taking a load of donated items from the Rayne Community?

Also, when it is safe and helpful for us to do so, The Emergency Response Team (ERT) of the Louisiana Conference will have a call out for teams to deploy. If you have not been formally trained to be an ERT, you may still have a place on the team.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, contact Pastor Marissa, marissa@raynenola.org, 318-564-4879.

GOOD SAMARITAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Good Samaritan feeding ministry that takes place at Mt. Zion UMC is still serving our neighbors! The system has adapted and we need participation! If you are able to prepare the 40 sack lunches we hand out on Tuesdays - check the dates below!

An example of a sack lunch: a sandwich, a bag of chips, a cookie, and a bottle of water.

Call Susie VanderKuy for questions and more information - or to sign up!

Dates available:
9/22, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27

SCHOOL FOR CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING

Live Guided Meditations for calming and resilience building with William Thiele on **Thursdays at 12:30, 2:30, and 7p.**

Compassion Cultivation Training classes begin Wednesday, September 9, 5:30-7:30p.

For the information and Zoom links, email william.thiele56@gmail.com.

The Fierce Heart: Showing Up (and Resting) in Compassion in Times of Crisis

A Fall Compassion (Online) Retreat

We invite you to engage in the inner work of racial justice through contemplative practice, interactive exercises, group participation, rest, journaling, music, & brief didactics.

**September 26,
10a-4p**

Register Here:

fierceheartmoralleadership.eventbrite.com

The 11th Annual Contemplative Conference:
Cosmic Hope in a Time of Crisis

with Ilia Delio

Saturday, November 14

10a-2:30p

For registration and more information go to thescl.net

GLASS RECYCLING - UPDATE

Louisa Street
Monday & Saturday, 9a - 6p
3935 Louisa Street

Joliet Street
Wednesday, 9a - 6p
911 Joliet Street

Make sure you take off all tops, rinse out food products, and remove any non-glass pieces before coming (labels are ok). Don't forget to mask-up!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you for the ways you've helped us make that possible through your physical donations, the monetary donations, and to our dedicated volunteers!

Items that we frequently 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 want to have groceries delivered - send them to the Epiphany House and text Jacob! Rouses, Walmart, Winn-Dixie and more all deliver groceries!

DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Upper Room Devotional books are available for pick up in the Epiphany House Vestibule!

You don't need a key - just stop by and grab one to use in your daily devotional practice!

THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE OF THE UMC PRESENTS 30 DAYS OF ANTI-RACISM

It's not too late to start - follow your own schedule for 30 days!

What inspired this project: Campus minister Morgan Stafford has committed himself to live an anti-racist faith and life. "As a white man, I have learned that I've benefitted from racism, while people of color have been harmed. I believe that white Christians must take the lead to confront and dismantle racism. It's our job." To focus and make tangible his beliefs, Morgan spent the month of June doing at least one thing every day to listen to, learn from, do, and become more anti-racist, reporting his progress via social media. We at GCORR liked the idea and reached out to Morgan to share his story, what he accomplished, and how it's changed and enhanced his spiritual growth and his work with young people. As a result, GCORR invites white allies (and others) to spend the month of September doing 30 days of Anti-Racism.

30 days of ANTI-RACISM

SEPTEMBER 2020		1	2	3	4	5
		Pray about how God is calling you to act.	Draft your racial autobiography.	Participate in intercultural conversations.	Volunteer or donate in support of National Food Bank	Support diverse leadership.
6 Celebrate National Read-a-Book Day by purchasing an anti-racism resource.	7 Pray about how you can speak up about injustice this week.	8 Learn more about your local elections.	9 Engage in the difficult conversation.	10 Learn greetings and phrases in another language.	11 Be willing to be in the minority.	12 Support a local Black-owned business.
13 Listen to a preacher from a different cultural background than your own.	14 Plan to participate in an anti-racism demonstration.	15 Commit to continued learning in celebration of National Online Learning Day.	16 Engage in local community organizing.	17 Recognize racism in your community.	18 Find a mentor who is from a different cultural background than your own.	19 Learn about Hispanic Heritage Month.
20 Send your tithes or offering to a Black church.	21 Engage with and invest in young leaders dedicated to anti-racism work.	22 Celebrate National Voter Registration Day by registering to vote and helping another person to register.	23 Encourage an activist.	24 Support Black artists and musicians.	25 Amplify the voices of People of Color by inviting them as speakers at worship and other events.	26 Watch a documentary film or series about anti-racism.
27 Pray about how God is calling you to be more anti-racist.	28 Support non-profits engaged in the work of anti-racism.	29 Examine your implicit biases.	30 Commit to continuing the work of anti-racism in honor of National Love People Day.	 		
#30DaysAntiRacism						

For more resources: go to Gcorr.org/30-days-of-anti-racism

Day 1 - Pray about how God is calling you to act. Commit to beginning each day with prayer asking God to help you become more anti-racist and a stronger ally with People of Color in our community, our church, and our world. Review your calendar and plan your activities for the month.

Day 2 - Draft your racial autobiography. Journal about your own racial history. When was the first time you noticed racial differences? What did your parents and grandparents model in relationships with people of other races and cultures?

Day 3 - Participate in intercultural conversations. Find a discussion group or book club where inter-cultural or anti-racism conversations are happening and ask to join. Or start your own group.

Day 4 - Volunteer or donate in support of National Food Bank Day. Racial and class disparities result in Black and Latinx people being disproportionately impoverished. Give to or volunteer in a food bank serving communities of color in your area.

Day 5 - Support diverse leadership. Whether in local or national elections and from the school board to your church's leadership, the expertise and perspectives of People of Color are needed. Support greater racial equity in organizations you care about.

Day 6 - Celebrate National Read-a-Book Day by purchasing an anti-racism resource. A great suggestion is, *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. We also recommend *I Bring the Voices of My People* by Chanequa Walker-Barnes and Latino Americans and *The 500-Year Legacy That Shaped A Nation* by Ray Suarez.

Day 7 - Pray about how you can speak up about injustice this week. Again, ask for the Spirit's guidance to understand how you can disrupt institutional and systemic racism in your spheres of influence.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for healing of —

**Stephanie Stennett, Oliver Houck, Mary Brown,
Brenda Frey, Chuck Pate, Debbie Strickland,
Melba Maleta and her sons Henry and Edward,
Dan & Jane Sikes, Rick Hammontree,
Robert Wilson, Jim Jeter, Andrew McLetchie,
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).