

# THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

## Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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



## LOVE IN ACTION

### PLEASE NOTE

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP:

**ONLINE LIVE ON  
FACEBOOK AT 10A.**

**ON-SITE WORSHIP  
IS SUSPENDED  
UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE.**

[www.facebook.com/  
raynenola.org/live](http://www.facebook.com/raynenola.org/live)

**Please note:** our  
office staff is  
working remotely.

I'm learning. Our recent book study - Bishop Michael Curry's Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times - has fast become a living, breathing, working effort in my life. Thanks to Andee and Carol, I'm not only learning from the pages of Curry's clear insights and vibrant stories, I'm learning from them. Just this past week (by the way, you are more than welcome to join us), we poured over love - mainly this question: "Can love really change the world?" And I believe we are really trying to let love pour through us too so that, yes, love really can change our worlds.

Curry gets really practical too. He's not wispy or mirage-like, as if love is only, always "out there" but never realized, tasted, enjoyed. Playing off of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Curry lays out the groundwork for practicing the way of nonviolence in our community; he does this by walking through our daily commitments to love. As we are learning, "love in action" requires daily commitment, a regular check-in to order our lives as best we can in the light of Christ's love. Here's a brief framework of Bishop Curry's "rule of life" to shape our practices of love:

- A) Name 1 to 3 core values that you'd like to delve into deeper.** For example, that might mean listing "trust," "peace," "mercy." You choose.
- B) Utilize the value or values you've named to record vows that sum up the specific actions that would move you to use them daily.** This might look like: "I vow to spend 10 minutes when I wake up and 10 minutes when I go to bed to dwell on ways I've experienced peace today and ways I want to show peace tomorrow."
- C) Design your habits over the course of your experiences;** maybe read devotionals about your value or connect with other wise persons in whom you've felt the same value that you share. This feels like a way of "zooming out" or seeing a larger picture to develop your own practices of peace, for example.
- D) Schedule your time** - don't be afraid, says Curry, to create a daily or weekly calendar to fit your personal schedule in order to amplify your value or values. For instance, maybe schedule a weekly action that stretches the muscles of your pursuit for peace (again, only my example) by writing a letter to a family member with whom you've experienced some discord; or make a phone call to an old friend or acquaintance to pursue more peace within that relationship, perhaps to let go of old hurts or help relieve bygone tensions.

In any event, may the Holy Spirit guide you, me, us. Love is the way - I do believe that. Now, to act on it!

*Love, Jay*

# COVID-19 VACCINES

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New Orleans Health Department Provide  
COVID-19 Vaccines to NOLA Seniors

The New Orleans Health Department  
(NOHD) will be providing a limited number  
of doses of the COVID-19 vaccine  
**by appointment only.**

Residents who are 70 years of age or older  
who have not yet received a vaccine  
should call 3-1-1 (504-658-2299) or go to  
[ready.nola.gov/getvaccine](http://ready.nola.gov/getvaccine) to make an  
appointment. Participating residents will  
need to be able to arrange their own  
transportation or can schedule RTA  
paratransit if needed by calling 504-827-  
7433. The second dose appointment will be  
scheduled upon receipt of the first dose.

Having trouble making an appointment?  
Call Pastor Jay (225-772-3550) or Pastor  
Marissa (318-564-4879). If you're currently  
eligible, you will be partnered with a Rayne  
20/30 member who will contact you and  
help you get set up!

## WORSHIP

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### ONSITE WORSHIP SUSPENDED

Rayne has suspended our ON-SITE  
worship gatherings. Our 10a online  
service continues and we will notify you  
when our 8:30a and 11:30a services  
resume on-site.

Please continue to join us on Facebook  
Live at 10a as we worship together while  
apart.

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### COMMUNION

March 7 at 10a on Facebook Live

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.

## LECTIONARY

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*A weekly set of Scripture readings.*

### February 14

2 Kings 2:1-12 ~ Psalm 50  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 ~ Mark 9:2-9

### February 21

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 ~ Psalm 51  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 ~ Mark 6:1-6, 16-21

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Our financial statements from 2020 were  
emailed out last week! There was a hiccup with  
the software we use, so if you received two -  
your second email should be the correct  
statement! If you have any questions, concerns,  
or corrections - call 504-899-3431 or email  
Nancy ([nancy.hopkins@raynenola.org](mailto:nancy.hopkins@raynenola.org)).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

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Several of our Sunday School classes are  
currently meeting by Zoom. If your small group  
or class would like to be featured in the  
newsletter - email Marissa  
([marissa@raynenola.org](mailto:marissa@raynenola.org)) all the information!

No class is closed -  
all are excited to have you join!

#### Pastor's Class

Sundays - 11a

Email [jay@raynenola.org](mailto:jay@raynenola.org) for the Zoom link.

#### Wilderness Class

Sundays - 11a

Beginning a Lenten Study on February 21st  
Email [jean.ewing@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.ewing@yahoo.com) for the Zoom link.

## HAPPY MARDI GRAS AND VALENTINE'S DAY!

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# ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17th

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality.

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

Join our church family in this annual invitation to the Lenten journey.

## "Ashes to Go" -

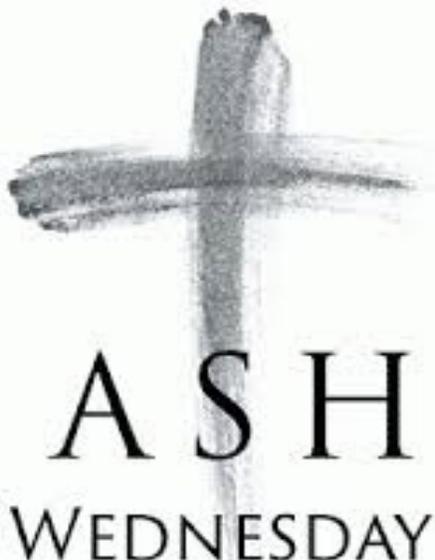
Plan to pick up the worship packet complete with ashes and printed worship service. Available from Sunday, February 14th to Wednesday, February 17th at Rayne's Epiphany House front porch. 3924 St. Charles Ave.

### 6a service available via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 846 9601 0975  
Passcode: 650661

### 6p service available via FB Live.

[www.facebook.com/raynenola.org/live](http://www.facebook.com/raynenola.org/live)



# LENTEN STUDIES

## *Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded, by Phuc Luu*

Before the forces of power and empire corroded the call of Christ, the influence of discipleship revolved around sharing the good news with the poor, the hurting and the powerless. My seminary colleague and friend, Rev. Phuc Luu recovers the initial vision of the Gospel. Four weeks, one hour discussion -

**Wednesdays March 10th - 31st @ noon**

**Sundays March 7th - 28th @ 3p**

**Facilitated by Pastor Jay**

**[jay@raynenola.org](mailto:jay@raynenola.org) to RSVP**

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## *Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today by Adam Hamilton*

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today? Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholicism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

**Wednesdays at 6p**

**February 24 through March 24**

**Facilitated by Pastor Marissa and Nancy**  
**[marissa@raynenola.org](mailto:marissa@raynenola.org) to RSVP**

There will be youth and children videos and activities offered along side this video in the weekly children and youth newsletters.

# PRAYER LIST

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We pray for healing of –

**Ray Cook, Mac Hyman, Sylvia Frey, Bee Norris,  
Stephanie Stennett, Chuck Pate, Dan Sikes,  
Rick Hammontree, Jim Jeter, Andrew McLetchie,  
Robin O'Bannon, Kevin Horne, Barbara Everett  
& Judy Mastainich.**

We share in the joy of -

**Whitney Blake, born to proud parents, Amanda and Grat Parsons.**



## **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](mailto: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).