

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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



WHEN WAS I MOST LIKE JESUS?

Hi, I'm glad you asked. Short answer: when I was a soccer referee.

Not a very pious response, I'm afraid. Here's the thing: when I read that portion of Luke 4 - the one we reflected on the past couple Sundays (Luke 4:16-30) - I tried like crazy to think of a time when I felt inspired and really on a mission for a greater good, and when that effort cost me people liking me - yes, my personal golden calf; a time when I experienced authentic goodness tied to a task, yet ended up making about a hundred people really mad. It dawned on me as I sat with Mary Butler pulling for Connor at one of his soccer matches last Saturday.

About 10 years ago, I was in my first full season of reffing youth soccer in Baton Rouge. I love the game; I loved playing it long ago and coaching when my kiddos were younger. Then, there's being a referee. Honestly, 99% of the time it was great. I felt like I was kind of helping the smaller ones (U-9s, for example) as they learned the game; and felt like I was facilitating community with the older ones (like U-16s). Like the Jesters or the Fire academy teams here, Baton Rouge has the whole BRSC and BRSA thing. Well organized matches for players and coaches and referees. Highly talented teams. And, as I found out, exceedingly competitive parents, even biased towards their child's team.

So there I was, center ref of a U-13 girls club match. Before the impending pain, I vaguely remember it was one side from Thibodaux, one from Baton Rouge. Less than 20 seconds into the match, I whistle a clear penalty. In the box. So I call for a direct kick (a penalty kick), which means the shooter and the goalkeeper are one-on-one for a "free shot" from 12 yards away. She shoots. She scores. Thibodaux parents celebrate. BR parents criticize. Match remains tight. 1-0 Thibodaux. Until... 69' mark (last minute of their 70' match). Penalty. In the box. This time BR receives their due reward. She shoots. She scores. 1-1. Match is called. Draw. I called the match as best I could. The assistant referees (ARs) did too. A job well done.

Are any parents happy with our body of work? Any "y'all, nice match...thanks"? Ha. Right. Quite the opposite. Our church's PG rating means I can't share all that was shared. Here's the thing: the ARs and I were neither pro Baton Rouge nor anti Thibodaux. We weren't for one side or against the other. We walk off the field and I look over at the players. To a person, they were in no way disappointed or visibly angered. They did their work; they were sweating, talking, sipping powerades. They played hard and played well. They had their mission. And we did too. I loved that moment. And that's it - the closest to Jesus I've felt.

The mission is the main thing. Harsh critiques shall come and go. But the mission will go on. We choose - participate or spectate, encourage or discourage. Win, lose or draw. All we can be measured on is how we advance the mission, along with our willingness to put ourselves out there for Jesus and his greater purpose.

Drawn,

Jay

PLEASE NOTE

**HYBRID WORSHIP
(ON-SITE & ONLINE)
IN THE SANCTUARY
SUNDAYS
AT 8:45A & 11A**

**MARDI GRAS
WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
FEBRUARY 20 & 27
ONE WORSHIP
SERVICE AT 10A**

*Due to hurricane damage, for the foreseeable time please email or call and leave a message to make an appointment. Office hours may vary and currently our offices are located in the Educational Wing. We cannot hear or respond to the bell at the Pitt Street door, please call instead.

MARDI GRAS WORSHIP TIMES



Worship times must be altered on **Sundays February 20th and 27th** due to parades on St. Charles Avenue. Both Sundays will feature one service at **10a**. There will be no Nursery or Children's Church on these Sundays.

February 20th will be **Confirmation Sunday** and **February 27th** will be our **Annual Jazz Sunday** featuring the Michael Foster Project!



MARDI GRAS HOSPITALITY SUITE

Congratulations Rayne Youth!

Passes for our Hospitality Suite is sold out for every day of Mardi Gras!!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It marks the beginning of a period of reflection and penance. In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was traditionally a sign of one's sorrow for having committed sins. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marked the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ. With these ashes, a pastor offers a mark of a cross on the forehead of worshipers as an outward symbol of the recognition of our mortal reality and our willingness for transformation during the lenten season.

Wednesday, March 2

6a

Chapel @ Rayne

Noon

**Sanctuary @ Mt. Zion UMC
2722 Louisiana Ave.**

6p

Sanctuary @ Rayne

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

February 6

Isaiah 6:1-13 - Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - Luke 5:1-11

February 13

Jeremiah 17:5-10 - Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 - Luke 6:17-26

PRIMETIMERS LUNCHEON

Save the date for our next luncheon!

**Wednesday, February 16th
Noon
Epiphany House**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Thank you for giving to Rayne! The End-of-Year Giving Statements will be going out shortly. The way in which you receive your bi-weekly newsletter is how you will receive your giving statement (for example if by mail - you will receive your statement by mail). If you have any questions, concerns, or corrections - call 504-899-3431 or email Nancy (nancy.hopkins@raynenola.org).

COVID TESTING

Rayne is excited to host a Curative van offering no cost, appointment optional COVID-19 testing available in our Circle Drive!

**Monday-Friday
8a - 4:30p**

Appointments required:
make an appointment by going to
cur.tv/raynenola



IT'S REDISTRICTING TIME!

With the completion of the 2020 Census comes the process by which governments redraw political maps.

WHY DO THEY DO THIS?

Because populations change and political districts must reflect the changes in their populations accurately and fairly.

HOW DO THEY DO THIS?

Using public input, census data and experts, new district maps are voted on by the legislature.

The Faith in Action Social Justice Sunday School class is supporting congressional and state legislature maps which add a second majority-minority district, or a district where one or more racial, ethnic, and/or religious minorities make up most of the local population.

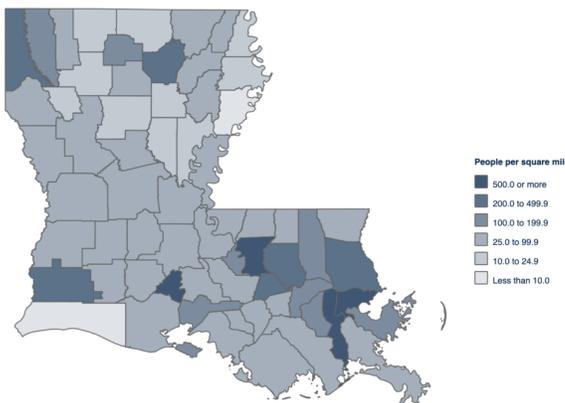
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

How district maps are drawn impacts who represents you in local and federal governments, and significantly influences how elected officials respond to a community's needs, such as economic opportunity, healthcare, schools, and more. Considering one-third of Louisiana's population is Black, adding an additional majority-minority district ensures our Black communities are fairly and equitably represented.

To learn more about redistricting, Power Redistricting Mini-Guides are available at church (in the hallway outside the kitchen) and the Epiphany House (inside the vestibule).

The **Faith in Action Social Justice Sunday School Class** meets at the Epiphany House on Sundays at 9:45a. Members can participate on-site or online and new participants are always welcome! We chose Voting Rights as our first subject of study; in particular, the federally required "Redistricting", which happens once every ten years using Census data collected the previous year (2020).

Population Density in Louisiana Counties: 2020



If you are interested in expressing your faith by actively seeking social justice for all, please contact: Valerie Menowsky (Vmenowsky@gmail.com) or Marissa Teauseau Horvath (marissa@raynenola.org).

PRAYER LIST

We pray for healing of –

Jim Jeter, Ray Cook, Martha Gatlin's Son,
Betty Gerstner, Richard Moore, Diane Peck,
Judy Mastainich, Stephanie Stennett, Banks Duke,
Chuck Pate, Andrew McLetchie, and Barbara Everett.

Our 2022 Confirmands –

Ryan, Maggie, Drew, Esther, Charlie, Jack, Weeks, Cecilia, Anna Kate,
Matthew, Maryn, Alex, Anneliese, and Edwin.

We share in the grief of –

The family and friends of Judson Bowers in their loss.



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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).

**If you would like to join the Intercessory Prayer Group,
we meet online and onsite, Mondays at 11a. For more information, contact Marissa.**