

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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



PLEASE NOTE

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

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

**ON-SITE WORSHIP
IN THE HISTORIC
SANCTUARY AT
8:30A & 11:30A.**

See page 3 for
guidelines and
information.

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

Also note: our office
staff is working
remotely.

The group was about to begin. Our Annual Conference's Racial Justice Initiative - a dozen or so UM ministers across our state - gathered to make plans for the coming months. One of Marissa and my colleagues, Rev. Leah Stevens Gaughan, was tasked with what feels like an obligatory prayer. The minister amid ministers volun-told to pray amid professional religionists. It's an unenviable spot. As if going through the motions, I noticed heads bowed amid our Zoom stratosphere. Then Leah started to speak. She mentioned this was not her prayer, at least not penned by her, but was still very much her prayer for our group, our meeting, our time together. The prayer Leah voiced was not at all what I was anticipating. It is, however, the prayer to which I am returning. Over and over the last week, I've been fixated. And I believe that is for the best, if not merely for the good.

Below, you'll see the prayer-poem I used last Sunday to begin our worship service. I feel like it's what I plan to use the remainder of the Lenten journey. Like Leah said, it's not a prayer I penned, but it is very much a prayer for our group, our season, our life together.

"Invitation to Brave Space," Micky ScottBey Jones

Together we will create brave space.
Because there is no such thing as a "safe space" –
We exist in the real world.
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love.
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be.
But
It will be our brave space together,
and
We will work on it side by side.

<https://onbeing.org/poetry/invitation-to-brave-space/>

Lord, help it be.

Jay

COVID-19 VACCINES

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 65 years of age
or older, are teachers, or are 55 with
certain pre-existing conditions who
have not yet received a vaccine should call
3-1-1 (504-658-2299) or go to
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!***

LUKE'S HOUSE PLANTING DAY

Come help install the native plant/pollinator
garden at Luke's House at 2023 Simon Bolivar,
Saturday, March 6th from 10:00a-1:00p.

Please bring your own shovels, trowels, gloves,
water, snacks. Masks required. The rain date will
be the following day, Sunday, March 7th.

Contact Wendy Rihner for info -
wrihner@gmail.com.

Sign Up Here:
<https://signup.com/go/wkMuHRW>



LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 ~ Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25 ~ Mark 8:31-38

March 7

Exodus 20:1-17 ~ Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 ~ John 2:13-22

WORSHIP

RESERVATIONS

It is helpful for us to know who is coming
to worship, when, and how
many will attend. We will restrict the
number of on-site worshippers so that
everyone in attendance can carefully
social distance inside our Sanctuary.
You may RSVP online via links in the
eNews or on our website. You can also
call the church office (899-3431).
Please make sure to leave your name,
number in your party and a phone
number. We will begin taking reservations
for the following Sunday
on Mondays at 7a until Saturday at 9a.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

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) all the information!

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

Pastor's Class

Sundays - 11a

Email jay@raynenola.org for the Zoom link.

Wilderness Class

Sundays - 11a

Currently involved in a Lenten Study
Email jean.ewing@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.

A GUIDE TO WORSHIP

Rayne will be offering three Worship services beginning **February 28th.**

On-site Worship: 8:30a & 11:30a

Online: 10a (Facebook Live)

A WORD FROM THE PASTORS...

We will offer on-site worship as of **February 28th.** For many of us who are considered high risk, continuing to participate in worship from home might be the best choice at this time. If you would like to join us in worship on-site, we encourage you to consider that even with precautions and adaptations, gathering in person still entails risk. Whichever mode of worship you choose, we support your decision.

We are grateful and humbled to be in ministry to and with you.

Let everything you do be done in love,

Jay & Marissa

WORSHIPING ON-SITE

-Masks: You will be asked to wear a mask **properly** for on-site worship. Our experts have helped us understand that masks save lives, yours and others. If you do not bring a mask, we will have plenty of masks available. Your mask should cover both your mouth and nose.

-Reservations: It is helpful for us to know who is coming to worship, when, and how many will attend. We will restrict the number of on-site worshippers so that everyone in attendance can carefully social distance inside our Sanctuary. You may RSVP online via links in the eNews or on our website. You can also call the church office (899-3431). Please make sure to leave your name, number in your party and a phone number. We will begin taking reservations for the following Sunday on Mondays at 7a until Saturday at 9a.

-Arriving: Please arrive **no more than 15 minutes before Worship** and enter through the St. Charles entrance (the Circle Drive). When you arrive your temperature may be taken. Please practice good hygiene: avoid touching your face, use the hand sanitizer that is available, and sneeze or cough into your elbow or mask.

-Questions: You will be asked these questions when you arrive. If the answer to any one of these is yes, then we ask that you worship with us from home on that day.

Do you have a current COVID 19 virus diagnosis?

Have you or anyone in your household had exposure to the COVID 19 virus in the past two weeks?

Do you have a cough?

Do you have or have you had a fever in the last 24 hours?

-Precautions: Current precautions include: no congregational singing, no passing of the offering plate, and no physical gathering at the Red Steps (a Moment for Children). Small groups, Sunday School Classes, and all youth and children activities will remain virtual for the time being. We will be cleaning frequently touched areas between services. We will practice social distancing.

-Departing: Worship will be around 30 minutes. Our ushers will dismiss the congregation by row. As we disperse, please continue to respect social distance and refrain from gathering in groups outside. We must all do our part to protect the health of each other.

-Changes: We will be constantly assessing the current health risks, making it possible that we may return to worshipping only from home or may implement other adaptations or precautions as information becomes available.

WORSHIPING ONLINE

We will have continued opportunities for Worship Online. For an extended worship experience with congregational singing and occasionally celebrating Communion, join us on Facebook at 10a.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for healing of –

**Ray Cook, Mac Hyman, Sylvia Frey, 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 -

Camille and Davis in the birth of their daughter, Lanier Isabelle Zaunbrecher.

We share in the grief of -

The Norris Family in the loss of Buetta "Bee" Norris.



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).