

# THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

JANUARY 27, 2021

## Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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



## TO FEEL WHAT WE SEE

### 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.

Maybe it's just me, but I have a distinct impression it's true for so many of us. Deep into this fog we call the pandemic, I'm struggling some days more than others to connect what I'm seeing to what I'm actually feeling. The myriad Zoom encounters and FB Live worship services add up to lots and lots of seeing, but not always equal parts feeling. Know what I mean? You feel me (to turn the phrase)?

I noticed this the last several Sundays. Wondering what you're up to at 10am, as Jacob cues us to begin worship on FB Live, as Marcus begins playing the prelude, as Marissa and I amble up to the lectern and pulpit. Wondering if you're hanging in there as we try to invite a community into worship while not physically communing in worship. Wondering how you're feeling that very moment. Wondering what you've had for breakfast, how your morning is going, what the lines on your unmasked face might be saying.

The challenge is hardly new. How many weeks now have we sang, prayed, read scripture, preached the scripture and said, "Go in peace. Stand firm in your faith..."? Lately, though, I can share with you that while I'm seeing it all unfold, I don't necessarily connect so well the sights with the happenings - the deeper level feeling of spirit with Spirit, of bodies in the Body. I desperately don't want this to sound defeated or negative or in any way less faithful; so I apologize if it smells of loss or grief. I'll simply name that it's just the truth of my own feelings about missing you in the flesh and the sensation of you and me and us together past the envisioning and into the incarnating (I think that's actually a real word).

Robert Johnson (not the blues amazing blues guitarist, but the remarkable writer and therapist) observed once: "To be near something beautiful or precious but to be unable to experience it is the subtlest possible form of torture." Well, amen, dear brother. Amen. To this, Mark Nepo, responds: "In truth, worse than not seeing at all is seeing but not being touched by what we see." Yes, metaphorically. And as best I can confess, yes, literally too. Speaking of Nepo, I especially like this little story he shares and I feel like, maybe, just maybe, it applies well here and now for you and me and us:

*Once upon a time, a man built a home on a cliff by the sea,  
only to have a month-long fog roll in. The man cursed the place. Sold the home.  
By and by, the fog did clear. And that old place still offers a breathtaking view.*

Fogs shall come and fogs shall go. They roll right in around our heads and our hearts and our bodies too. Still, by quiet faith and God's great grace, we wait for them to clear.

Breath-taken,

*Jay*

# RAYNE CROSSES

For those who endured the immense grief which swept New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the rugged wooden cross which hangs in the Fellowship Hall of Rayne made from two of her fallen steeple timbers, has become a symbol of the unconquerable love of God, the promise of resurrection, and the possibility of a new beginning.

These lovely cross pendants, modeled after the Rayne cross, were designed by one of Magazine Street's most well-known artisans, India Stewart.

Rayne is making a special order of crosses for anyone who would like their own to cherish and as a powerful symbol of resurrection.

The crosses are \$25 each. For more information or to order, please contact Susie VanderKuy (899-3431 or [susie.vanderkuy@raynenola.org](mailto:susie.vanderkuy@raynenola.org)).



## WORSHIP

### 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

#### February 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

*A weekly set of Scripture readings.*

## January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ~ Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13 ~ Mark 1:21-28

## February 7

Isaiah 40:21-31 ~ Psalm 147  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 ~ Mark 1:29-39

## PSALM CHALLENGE

*Hey, did you know there's a psalm for that?*

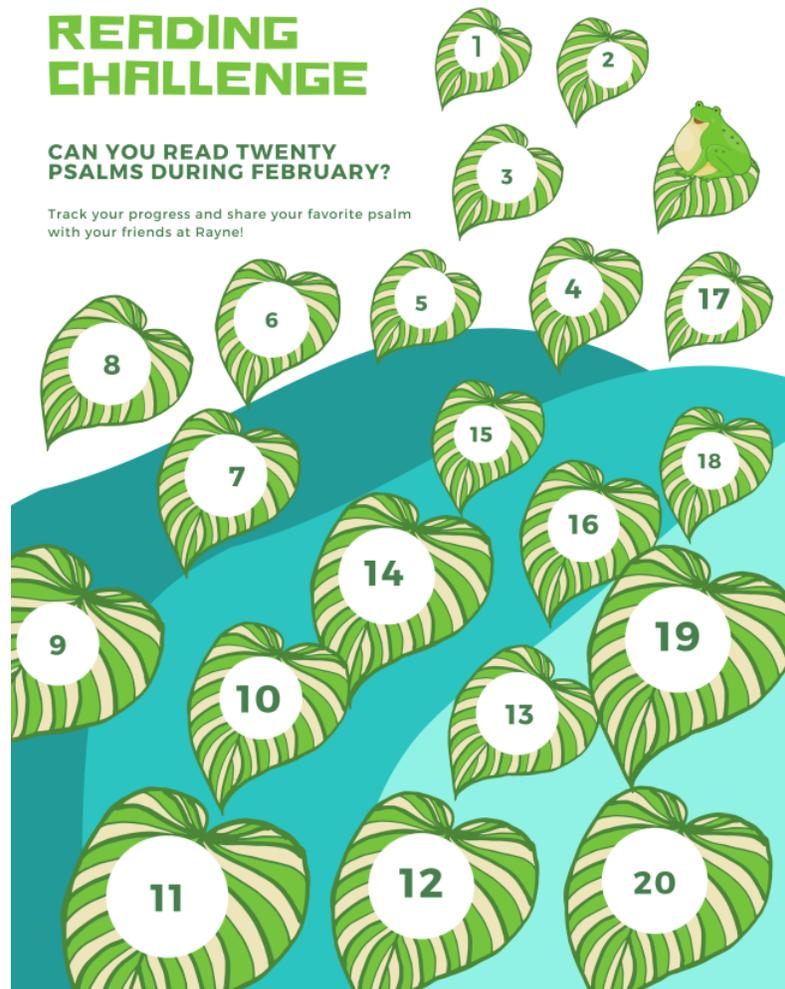
Our children's ministry will be participating in a Psalm Challenge - reading 20 psalms in the month of February!

Use the tracker below to participate or encourage someone else to participate!

## READING CHALLENGE

CAN YOU READ TWENTY PSALMS DURING FEBRUARY?

Track your progress and share your favorite psalm with your friends at Rayne!



# **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" -**

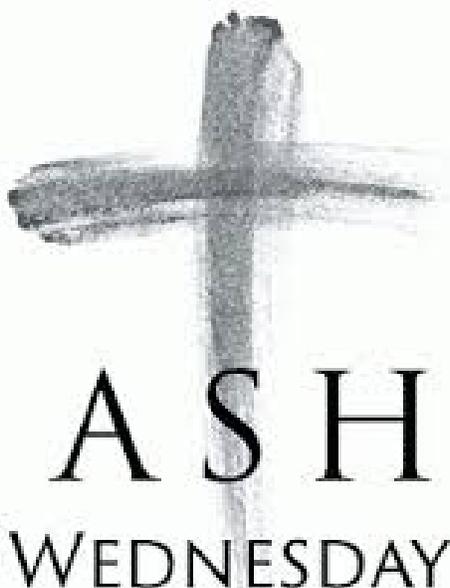
Plan to pick up the worship packet complete with ashes and printed worship service. Available from Sunday, February 14th to Wednesday, February 17th at Rayne's Epiphany House front porch. 3924 St. Charles Ave.

### **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 workaholism, 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, Debbie Strickland,  
Dan Sikes, Rick Hammontree, Jim Jeter,  
Andrew McLetchie, Robin O'Bannon, Kevin Horne,  
Barbara Everett & Judy Mastainich.**

We share in the joy of -

**June Willow, born to proud parents, Kevin and Hannah Hanegan.**



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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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).