

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

JULY 14, 2021

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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



PLEASE NOTE

**HYBRID WORSHIP
(ON-SITE & ONLINE)
IN THE
SANCTUARY
AT 8:30A & 11A**

Beginning August 1,
the early service will take
place at 8:45a.

Summer Office Hours

Monday:

9a-1p

Tuesday:

10a-2p

Wednesday:

12-5p

Thursday:

10a-2p

Friday:

Closed

"HEAL YOU OF ALL ILLNESSES..."

Lots of talk about healing these days. Blame it all on the Gospel, I'd say. Over 75 times in the story of Jesus, the reporters are glad to share that it happens: a **healing**. Sometimes the other word is used - a cure. I don't mind saying I'm not as fond of that word. "Cure" sounds too certain for my taste. I'd like to think any cure offers healing, but not every healing promises a cure. I hope that makes good sense. In any event, as you've tuned in for our sermon series in Mark, we've already encountered the act of healing 10 times with a few more on our horizon.

Things got more intense last Sunday when we saw healing wasn't just in Jesus's bag of good deeds. In Mark 6, even the disciples get in on the action - **and they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them**. So that got us thinking: what does discipleship really mean to you and to me and to us anyway? Before you knew it, we were pretty much agreeing that one of the most significant marks of discipleship is...healing. All of which brings me again to this intersection, as I'm standing on the corner where reasons-to-hope meets calls-for-help. Would you please consider helping make healing happen?

Truly, you are already doing this where you work, where you live, and where you play. I've known for about 4 years - you are agents of healing. I'm just asking for permission to share the work at specific moments during a month or in regular intervals during the year. I believe sharing "Services of Healing" might be a faithful, fruitful act of discipleship in our church and amid our community. Those among us who are long-time Methodists know that we have access to 2 beautiful services in our tradition already (see The UM Book of Worship, pages 615-629). Other resources exist, of course, and the work of the Holy Spirit won't leave us empty.

What would it look like to host a service of healing once per month? About all we need is available space, some oil for anointing and hands to lay upon anyone interested...and I have it on authority we have plenty of each.

As you mull this over, I'll depart with one of the most important prayers we could share:

Almighty God, we pray that our sisters and brothers may be comforted in their suffering and made whole. When they are afraid, give them courage. When they feel weak, grant them your strength. When they are afflicted, afford them patience. When they are lost, offer them hope. When they are alone, move us to their side. And when death comes, open your arms to receive them. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen,

Jay

LOOKING FOR ARTISTS!

Calling All Artists - Mark Your Calendars!

The Annual Rayne Art Exhibit will be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons on September 18th & 19th in Fellowship Hall.

All you talented artists who desire to participate please let the United Methodist Men (UMM) know and they'll get you on their list. Contact Gary Prechter at 504-913-7527, Mike Murphy at 504-884-0630, or Mal McLetchie at 504-508-0010 to register and for more information.

ME + 3 FUNDRAISER

The annual Me+3 Brunch Fundraiser is here!

In Crescent City Cafe fashion, we're sharing meals with you the same way we share with our guests, so for this year, it's a to-go cafe. Come pick up breakfast, connect with the Cafe community again, and pay it forward. We'd love to see everyone!

A \$20 donation provides a meal for you and 3 future Cafe guests. Want to stay home and still support the Cafe? A \$20 no-show donation provides 4 future meals.

July 24th, To-Go Meals
Pick Up 9a-11a.

RSVP by going to www.crescentcitycafe.org and clicking the link to registration form!



CRESCENT CITY
C A F E

UPDATED EARLY SERVICE TIME

Our 8:30a service is moving 15 minutes forward...

So join us for worship at either **8:45a** or **11a** in the Sanctuary beginning **August 1st!**

Sunday School will remain at 9:45-10:45a!

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

July 18

2 Samuel 7:1-14a - Psalm 89:2-37
Ephesians 2:11-22 - Mark 6:30-34,53-36

July 25

2 Samuel 11:1-15 - Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21 - John 6:1-21

RACIAL HEALING ACTION STEPS

More than 2 dozen participants from our church recently concluded a study of *The Racial Healing Handbook*, by Anneliese Singh.

Rev. Lenda Faye Matthews and Pastor Jay co-facilitated this group. We're excited to share our efforts with our Rayne community of faith.

Over the next few months, we welcome our entire congregation to help us continue racial healing in our congregation and our neighborhoods: Some of the action steps ahead are:

- Service of Healing - August 15th - 8:45a and 11a worship - we plan to reflect, to remember and to reconcile the wounds of white supremacy and racism.
- Needs Assessment - we plan to listen better to our neighbors that are African American and to let their experiences form our decisions about community.
- Leadership Audit - we plan to discover ways within Rayne's leadership to use our influence to deepen racial healing in our congregation.
- First 72 Plus - we plan to support ways that end cycles of incarceration and encourage community engagement (<https://www.first72plus.org/our-vision-mission>).

If you would like to know more about our study or about ways to lend a hand, please contact Carol Thiele: carol.thiele@raynenola.org.

VBS WITH A TWIST

Be strong in the Lord this summer at Rayne!

July 11- August 8

Each Sunday during Children's Church & Sunday School in the Education building...
It's Vacation Bible Sunday School!

We will spend five Sundays focusing on different Bible characters who armor up with God. Teaching with crafts and science experiments will help us learn how God's love gives us the power to do amazing things!

3RD GRADE BIBLES

A tradition at Rayne is to give our 3rd graders their own Bible. We are so excited to encourage our children to explore God's word - a story of love and hope for all of God's people!

To reserve a Bible for your 3rd grader - email Elizabeth children@raynenola.org.

NOLA WESLEY WORK DAYS

The college ministry at Tulane and Loyola is about to kick off their fall semester! Offer a hand on one of their two upcoming work days!

July 31, August 21
8:30a-Noon-ish
7102 Freret St.

They will be painting, organizing/cleaning out kitchen cabinets, worship, programming and cafe supplies, some light yard work (weed removal, cleaning patio furniture).

There's something for all skill levels and any amount of time you can spend with us will help prepare the building for the fall semester.

Can't volunteer but want to support?
Drop off paint rollers, brushes, and drop cloths!

THE SCHOOL FOR CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING

- **Sundays at Twilight**

A new silent prayer vigil for the world. Each Sunday from 5:30-7:30p. Designed to be a come and go online prayer time in community.

- **Just Mercy**, by Bryan Stevenson

A free Zoom book study and discussion with Centering Prayer. **Mondays, Noon-1:30p**, beginning on July 19th.

- **Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World**, by John Philip Newell

A free Zoom book study and discussion with Centering Prayer. **Wednesdays, 11:30a-1p**.

- **Compassion Cultivation Training Classes**

Beginning Sunday, **August 8th, 1-3p** for 8 weeks. Cost: \$350 (partial scholarships available).

- **Centering Prayer Retreat**

Seeker to Sage: Journey to the Unknowable - a centering retreat via Zoom, August 20-22. Put it all on pause this summer by joining us online for a time of silence, peace, and centering with the gifted retreat leader, Susan Komis of Contemplative Outreach. Cost is \$39 with partial scholarships available.

For more information go to:
www.theschoolforcontemplativeliving.com.

To join one of these opportunities email the SCL by contacting William:
livingschool12@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

We pray for healing of –

Sylvia Murphy's sister - Mary Sandifer, Gary and Carol's daughter - Ashley Kennan, Martha Gatlin's son - John Bellew, Darien Mason, Sr., Tim Christy, Doris Billings, Sue Aspinwall, Richard Moore, Ray Cook, Mac Hyman, the Humphreys - Buel and Carol, Dan Sikes, Stephanie Stennett, Chuck Pate, Rick Hammontree, Andrew McLetchie, Barbara Everett and her daughter - Renee, Judy Mastainich, and Marilyn Miller's brother - David and his spouse Debbie.

We share in the grief of –

Carol, Buel, and David in the loss of their mother, Ann Humphreys.
Services took place on July 10th.

We share in the joy of –

Mable Thomas, the matriarch of 40 years to the local Delta Sigma Theta chapter, was recognized on her 95th birthday, as a Golden Life Member. We celebrate a wonderful life of impact on both the community and our congregation.



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

During this time of much change, 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).