

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

JULY 28, 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 8:45A & 11A**

Summer Office Hours

Monday:

9a-1p

Tuesday:

10a-2p

Wednesday:

12-5p

Thursday:

10a-2p

Friday:

Closed

THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY

*"...and everything that is hurt, everything that seemed to us harsh, shameful, maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged, is in Christ transformed and recognized as whole as lovely, and radiant in his sight we awaken as the Beloved in every last part of our body."
~ St Symeon the New Theologian (975 CE).*

Sometime around the turn of the 1st millenium, Symeon was caught up in a vision of light. While he was praying, deep into the night, brilliant light engulfed him. For the rest of Symeon's lifetime, he was known as one lit up by Divine radiance.

I'm sorry to report I've never beheld such illumination. Bless you, dear St. Symeon, for visions of radiant grandeur; no such glimpses for me. I have, however, been fortunate enough to feel a moment of complete lightness, when everything within me floated in grace. Once, at the tail end of a youth mission trip with my son and his church buds, we wrapped up our Appalachian Service Project with Communion. At first, I suspect I just assumed this was standard fare, the obligatory part of any youth trip. Required activity finale = the Lord's Supper. How else to end the week of blood, sweat and tears of roofing a few homes in the mountains outside Knoxville? About any youth director or minister knows - break bread, sip the cup. It's just that the ordinary melted, like butter, into extraordinary.

As I shared crumbles of bread with each young person, the more I experienced the deeper meaning of **company** - "together with bread" is the basic meaning of **companionship**. So when my son received the fluffy patch of bread from me, a spark of the Divine played in his eyes. When he said, "I forgive you, Dad," a moment marked a lifetime. Something like scales fell from my eyes. I floated away, even if my shoes didn't move from that old, wood floor.

Companionship - that's what Communion is all about - Jesus with us, us with Jesus, and not least, us with us...our kids included I do believe with all my heart. Companionship - that's what we'll share again this coming Sunday. Through 17 months of pandemic, come hell or high water, companionship is Christ's mark we share. His body broken, so that all our brokenness might be drawn back together, that we might be made whole again. Bread, I've recently read, is the universal cure for hunger; and even more, bread forms the center of our faith.

Crumby and so happy for it,

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.

GOOD SAMARTIAN VOLUNTEERS

Our Good Samaritan Ministry serves sack lunches at Mt. Zion UMC on Tuesdays. We need volunteers to donate sack lunches on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. You are asked to provide 40 sack lunches with a small bottle of water. If interested, contact Susie in the church office by calling 899-3431.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed at the Justice and Accountability Center (4035 Washington Ave.) on the third and fourth Wednesdays of each month during the afternoons & evenings.

These clinics provide important and free legal advice.

They need volunteers to help with non-legal related activities - such as helping people fill out forms - no law degree required!

If you're interested in volunteering, email Elizabeth Owen:
Elizabeth@JACLouisiana.org

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

August 1

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a - Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16 - John 6:24-35

August 8

2 Samuel 18:5-33 - Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 - John 6:35, 41-51

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!

FLOWERS

If you'd like to celebrate or remember an important occasion or person - a nice way is to donate the altar flowers for worship!

Flowers can be given in honor or memory of someone. They can also simply be for the glory of God!

If you'd like to purchase the flowers for a coming week, please contact Susie. You can call the office (899-3431) or by email (susie.vanderkuy@raynenola.org).

Flowers coordinated by Rayne cost \$55. And can be taken home after worship. You can also arrange your own or pick up an arrangement from your favorite florist!

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.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new class, all about asking what does it mean to be a disciple? And then doing it!

Beginning **August 22nd**,
from **9:45-10:45a**
In the **Wesley Room**.

This class is a work in progress to try something new - taking time to learn and to impact the world. Focusing on social justice issues such as racism, environmentalism, and poverty. If you'd like more information: email Pastor Marissa, marissa@raynenola.org.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation - a time of learning and the opportunity to enter into church membership - for our 6th & 7th graders.

Beginning January 2nd!

Contact Elizabeth (children@raynenola.org) for more information.

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.

- **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, Martha Gatlin, Darien Mason, Sr., Doris Billings, Sue Aspinwall, Richard Moore, Ray Cook, Mac Hyman, 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 pray for the safe travels of –

The youth group as they travel to Gulf Shores, AL to study God's word, and have some fun and relaxation!

Youth: Tomaso DiRe, Christian Pannagl, Sophia Maynard, Estella Holland, Cecilia Schutt, Maggie Lob, Audrey-Paige Colombo, and Siddiqa Faruki.

Adults: Jacob Nichols, James Comeaux, Marissa Horvath, and Shaun Darnall.

We share in the joy of –

Jacob Landry, who was featured in Gambit's 40 under 40 - class of 2021.

Lynn Coatney, who will receive the Integritas Vitae Award from Loyola University on August 13th.



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).