

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

MAY 20, 2021

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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



THE NEXT STEPS

PLEASE NOTE

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

**PENTECOST
SUNDAY MAY 23RD

WEAR SOMETHING
RED!**

Also note: our office staff is working remotely.

The past year has been so full of personal and corporate decisions, often that we have had not enough information to make. No one has been immune to this liminal space of emergency meets long term problem. It has not been an easy year for any of us - but Rayne you have been supportive and kind. You have trusted us and each other. You have cared for your neighbor and sought to choose doing "no harm." You have done immense "good" in all the ways and places that you could - from staying home to wearing your masks. *This has brought your pastors great joy, pride, and comfort.*

We still have harm to avoid and good to do - but we are at a hopeful next step. I am so grateful for the wonderful work that the task force has done over this year and that they continue to do, helping us to navigate this unprecedented time.

The good news is Rayne as a community is coming to some more adjustments to how we care for one another as a community:

- Masks are still required for all on-site activities
- We will no longer be taking reservations
- We will sing as a congregation
- You are encouraged to sit with people with whom you're comfortable
- And Sunday School classes will resume on May 30th.

All of the details of what these things look like are on the next page. I find it a great joy that on Pentecost, a Sunday where we celebrate the Holy Spirit's activity in our lives we will get to sing together. I have found music to be a way that the Spirit moves in many of our hearts.

It is in that same Spirit of community that as we move forward into next steps that we must walk with great understanding. It is important that we carefully enact our guidelines so that those of us who may have not been to church in a year will be comfortable to do so. There are also many of us who step out, but still feel anxiety about where the world is today. Your consideration and compassion for others as we ease back into "the new normal" is so important. Thank you Rayne for continuing the good you have been doing.

One of your very grateful pastors,

Marissa

RAYNE'S GUIDELINES

On-site & Online Worship: 8:30a & 11a
Sunday School: 9:45-10:45a (beginning May 30th)
Services will take place in the Historic Sanctuary
and streamed on Facebook Live.

● PARTICIPATING ON-SITE

-**Masks:** You will be asked to wear a mask *properly* for on-site worship and activities. 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.

-**No Reservations:** we are no longer asking you to make reservations for worship. We will note your attendance as you arrive - we are so glad when you worship with us!

-**Arriving:** Please arrive ***no more than 20 minutes before Worship*** and enter through the St. Charles entrance (the Circle Drive). Please practice good hygiene: avoid touching your face, use the hand sanitizer that is available, and sneeze or cough into your elbow or mask. **The Sanctuary doors will not be opened until 20 minutes before Worship.**

-**Questions:** Before attending services, please ask yourself these questions. 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?

Do you have a cough?

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

-**Precautions:** Current precautions include: no passing of the offering plate and no physical gathering at the Red Steps (a Moment for Children). We will be cleaning frequently touched areas between services. We will practice social distancing. Please respect others, as we all have different comfortabilities and vaccination statuses.

-**Changes:** The guidelines will be updated regularly. We will be constantly assessing the current health risks. It is important for us to respond to new information and "do no harm."

● PARTICIPATING ONLINE

-**Worship:** We have continued opportunities for Worship Online. All on-site worship services will be streamed on Facebook Live. Go to www.facebook.com/raynenola.org to join us in Worship Online.

-**Sunday School Classes and Small Groups:** Please contact 899-3431 or shaun.darnall@raynenola.org if you're interested in attending a class online.

PRIMETIMERS

Join us Wednesday, May 26th,
at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Light lunch will be served
Cost: \$5 which includes a \$1 donation to
Luke's House
Speaker: Diane Saye

Diane is the director of the Southeast Louisiana Chapter of Ichiyo School and Master Instructor. She will be speaking about and demonstrating Ikebana, the Japanese Art of Flower Arranging.

RSVP: by contacting Susie or by calling
899-3431.

ORDINATION

Lenda Faye Matthews will be ordained as a Deacon in Full Connection in the United Methodist Church on Friday, May 21st at 6p.

Lenda Faye serves Rayne and the Parker People - we are grateful for her and celebrate her ministry.

If you'd like to watch, the "Celebration of Ministry" service will be streamed live at 6p on the Louisiana Conference website - www.la-umc.org - and on the Conference Facebook page - "Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church."

Lenda Faye will be leading us in worship on Sunday, May 23rd at 8:30a.
You are invited to bring her a note of celebration and blessing!



LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

May 23

Acts 2:1-21 - Psalm 104:24-35b
Romans 8:22-27 - John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30

Isaiah 6:1-8 - Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17 - John 3:1-17

SCHOOL FOR CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING

- "Creative Encounters: The Spirituality of Creativity" a weekly group for creatives of all types with C. Jaye Miller, Thursdays, 7-8p.
- "Encountering Creation" a monthly in-person meeting in Baton Rouge with Rev. Eric Fulcher, fourth Saturdays beginning May 22.

To join any of these opportunities email
SCL "Living School" -
livingschool12@gmail.com

J.J. WARREN

Mark your calendars:
Saturday, May 29th & Sunday, May 30th
Rayne will host author and advocate,
J.J. Warren, *Reclaiming Church:*
A Call to Action for Religious Rejects

Saturday's Session (onsite & online):
2p, Sanctuary

Warren shares the Gospel that welcomes all people and encourages the church to find intersections for peace with justice for all God's Children.

Zoom Link available: text Marissa
(318-564-4879)

Sunday's Worship (on-site & FB Live):
8:30a & 11:00a - J.J. Warren preaching



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sundays, 9:45a-10:45a
On-Site beginning May 30th.

Wilderness Class

Friendship Room (Room 108)

The Wilderness Class meets in a room off of the Fellowship Hall. They usually have six week studies with videos usually alternate between Bible/Jesus Curricula and Discipleship/Social Justice. Often our studies are built around movies and books by authors such as Barbara Brown Taylor and Marcus Borg. Leadership of the studies are shared between several class members. The Wilderness Class usually has a Crawfish Boil and a Christmas Party each year and enjoys contributing to special projects such as the Food Pantry.

Current Study: *Allegiance to Empire: Practices of Kingdom Citizenship* by The Work of the People - A video and discussion series about how the Christian community can serve the world and at the same time be faithful to God's vision of the Peaceable Kingdom.

Pastor's Class

Parsonage (1421 Constantinople St.)

This class meets with Pastor Jay, discussing the Scripture shared in Worship each week. It is a great opportunity to dive deeper and get more perspectives!

One in the Spirit

Library (Room 107)

This class studies contemporary Biblical theology as well as books by current authors. This class has a wide variety of ages and backgrounds - a place for everyone!

Current study: TBD May 30th. Come and vote - options include (but are not limited to...) Max Lucado or Brene Brown, Shiela Walsh, and Joan Halifa

FaithWorks

Parlor (Room 103)

This class utilizes a discussion format, as they study a variety of Bible-based works that often include personal spirituality and/or social justice issues. They explore issues related to bringing one's faith to bear in the workplace.

Current study: *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Bass

In *Freeing Jesus*, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

Children

The Education Building (Rooms 201 & 203)

Godly Play is back in the building! Children's Sunday School will meet on-site for ages 3 to 5th grade. Godly Play approach helps children to explore their faith through story and play!

Youth

Meet in the Youth Room (Room 219)

Our Youth Group is trying a new thing... We will walk to go eat breakfast outside and spend some quality time together. Students 6th through 12th grade are welcome!

FIX IT TEAM MINISTRY



The Rayne Fix It Team is still in business. Like everything else, we were impacted by the pandemic. Despite that, we were still able to do a few projects. As things start to return to some level of normalcy, we hope we can provide more help. The team provides assistance to members of Rayne Memorial that have the need for repairs of some kind but do not have the necessary skills or resources to get it done. A list of the type of services we can provide is at the end of this message. Members with a need may make a request even if their need is not on the list. We will evaluate each request to determine if we can help.

Rosemary Pic is the main coordinator for the requests. If you have a request, please contact her by email or phone (rpic5@aol.com, 504-813-5502). You can also call the church office and information will be relayed to Rosemary. She will find a volunteer to assist you. The volunteer will then contact you directly to plan and schedule the work.

The fix it team looks forward to assisting you.

If anyone wants to be added to the team, contact Joe Kowalewski at kowalewski1@cox.net. All volunteers welcome.

Examples of work offered include:

General labor

- Painting
- Minor brick repair
- Hang curtains
- Clean your dryer vent
- Change smoke detector batteries
- Hang pictures
- Move or discard heavy objects
- Clean windows
- Change shower curtains
- Power wash
- Change A.C. filters
- Shampoo carpets
- Change light bulbs that are hard to reach

Carpentry

- Drywall repair (hole in the wall)
- Fix sticking door
- Install shelves
- Repair kitchen cabinet
- Install safety bars
- Handicap access (will need owner to submit for permits)

Minor electrical repair

- Change light fixture
- Replace switch
- Install ceiling fan

Minor plumbing repairs

- Repair leak at a sink or drain
- Replace plumbing fixture (sink, faucet)

PRAYER LIST

**We pray for those in Lake Charles and Baton Rouge
who were effected by the recent flooding.**

We pray for healing of –

Martha Gatlin's son - John Bellew, Darien Mason, Sr., Tim Christy, Doris Billings, Sue Aspinwall, Jan Bugg, Richard Moore, Ray Cook, Mac Hyman, the Humphreys - Ann, Buel and Carol, Sylvia Frey, Dan Sikes, Kathy Martensen, Stephanie Stennett, Chuck Pate, Rick Hammontree, Jan Jeter, Andrew McLetchie, Kevin Horne, Barbara Everett and her daughter, Renee, Judy Mastainich, and Marilyn Miller's brother, David, and his spouse, Debbie.

We pray for comfort of –

Peggy in the loss of her husband, Richard Reed.



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).